



HI: 57  
LO: 29

# THE Commonwealth TIMES

THURSDAY  
January 17, 2002

Vol. 36, No. 1

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

## Shooter kills 3 at law school

Olivia Lloyd  
CT NEWS EDITOR

A student brandishing a .38-caliber pistol opened fire in a law school in rural southwest Virginia yesterday, killing three people and critically wounding three others.

"Among the three people who were killed the dean of the law school, Anthony Sutin, is among them," a spokeswoman for Gov. Mark R. Warner said.

The shooting occurred around 1 p.m. at the Appalachian School of Law located in Grundy when a male student believed to be upset about his grades "executed" at point blank range Dean Sutin, a former acting assistant attorney general for legislative affairs, and associate professor Thomas Blackwell in their offices.

The gunman then went into a student common area and opened fire killing one woman and injuring three others. One woman was shot in the chest and two others were shot in the back and abdomen. All three wounded students were taken to Buchanan General Hospital said the spokeswoman.

Four male students tackled the alleged assailant as he attempted to leave the building. He is now in police custody.

Dr. Jack Briggs, the Buchanan County coroner and physician on the scene, described the gunman as a Nigerian in his early 40s who had been treated by Briggs for stress about six months ago.

"The student who did this was a foreign student who had difficulty during his first year and had flunked out," Briggs said. "I think they were getting ready to tell him

**SHOOTING** continued on page 3



Gov. Mark R. Warner

## Weekend fire damages Hibbs

Holly Hobbs and Olivia Lloyd  
CT NEWS EDITORS

A fire that broke out on the second floor of the Hibbs building has uprooted 1,087 students and scores of faculty and staff members from their normal classrooms and offices and has dispersed them throughout the academic campus.

Preliminary estimates have placed the total damages caused by the fire, which began shortly after 7 p.m. Saturday, between \$200,000 and \$250,000, according to Edwin E. Blanks, VCU vice provost for academic administration.

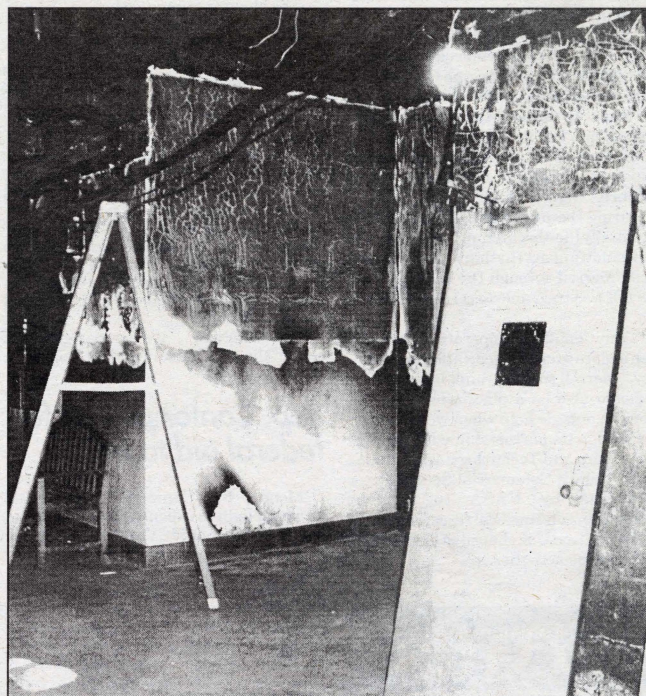
"We were very fortunate that the fire was pretty much contained to the second floor," Blanks said, but the third and fourth floors also sustained some water and smoke damage as well.

With its blackened walls and pungent odor, Blanks said parts of the second floor smell and look "almost like burned oil."

Investigators on the scene Saturday allowed maintenance workers to begin cleaning the building about 11 p.m. that night, Blanks said. Two construction firms have been contracted to perform additional cleanup and make repairs, which could take at least a month to complete.

Dr. Janet Winston, an assistant English professor, was in her third floor office when the fire alarm sounded.

"At one point you couldn't see lights on the second floor because of the smoke," Winston said, adding that she could see flames flickering through the second



Candice Anderson

The Hibbs fire dislocated more than 1,000 students set to attend classes in room 203. Repairs could take at least a month.

**FIRE** continued on page 3

## Warner's take: Virginia's budget lacks vision

### Democrat calls for 'top-to-bottom review' of state finances

Ty Bowers  
CT EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A lack of long-term vision and shoddy budgeting are to blame for Virginia's current \$1.3-billion revenue shortfall, Gov. Mark R. Warner told area business leaders and reporters three days before his inauguration.

"It's not simply a problem that will be corrected by economic recovery," Virginia's 69th governor—the first Democrat to hold office since 1993—said of the state's financial crisis.

And economists and business leaders agree that the problem will likely get much worse before it gets better.

Warner served as the chairman of last week's economic roundtable at VCU's Meet-

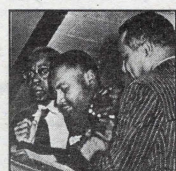
ing Center on Floyd Avenue, which advanced a bleak picture of the state's economic health for the next few years.

The state's revenue dip could exceed \$3.5 billion in the next 2 1/2 years—a fiscal disaster Warner blamed solely on the budgeting practices of his Republican predecessor, Gov. Jim Gilmore. The multimillionaire venture capitalist also noted what he called a severe "structural imbalance" in the state's budgeting process as a factor in its current economic situation.

During a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation, Warner rifled through a three-page list of tax credits, deductions and cuts enacted by state lawmakers since 1994 that have reduced revenues by as much as \$600 million annually.

Compounding the problem, Warner said, annual state spending has increased by

**WARNER** continued on page 4



Remembering the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Other  
News

PAGE 6



**Spectrum:** Unrivaled rockability  
PAGE 13

Op/Ed: PAGE 11  
Sports: PAGE 15  
Crossword: PAGE 14

**FREE CLASSIFIEDS!** See page 4

# IN BRIEF

## MCV pulls off Internet anesthesiology

The first-known anesthesiology via the Internet took place Dec. 4 between several anesthesiologists stationed at MCV and Dr. Ronald C. Merrell, chairman of surgery at VCU's School of Medicine, stationed in Sucua, Ecuador.

Using a delivery truck as a mobile operating room, Merrell removed a woman's gall bladder while Dr. Lynne C. Gehr, the anesthesiologist, monitored her breathing and heart rhythms on a desktop computer more than 3,000 miles away.

"It was helpful and exhilarating to participate in the procedure from such a great distance," Gehr said.

During the procedure, Gehr noticed a potentially life-threatening irregularity in the woman's heart rhythm and was able to notify Merrell through the Internet link. Merrell was then able to correct the problem.

"Traditionally, the operating room has been a place to expect dedication and accuracy," Merrell said. "I think in the future it should also be a place where we can summon outside help when we need it."

Through its partnership with Medical Informatics and Technology Applications Consortium, a Commercial Space Center sponsored by NASA to conduct telemedicine and medical research, VCU's MCV is the lead U.S. clinical site for NASA's telemedicine activities.

## Plan would aid state colleges, buildings

This past week, two of the legislator's budget-writers sponsored a \$1.6 billion package to build or renovate colleges and other state buildings. The package also includes the purchase of park lands.

The blueprint proposed by Sen. John H. Chichester, R-Stafford, and Del. Vincent F. Callahan Jr., R-Fairfax, would pull directly from the state's total tax collections, using a cash or debt of up to \$250 million each year for planned projects.

Although college presidents and business groups praise the plan, Gov. Mark R. Warner said it "can only be considered in the context of how we will jointly address the enormous challenges of the current and future biennial budgets."

Accordingly, some of the projects included in the Callahan-Chichester plan reflect VCU directly. The plan proposes a \$10 million Massie Cancer Center addition and \$23 million for Phase II of the Medical Sciences Building.

"I'm delighted ... it's a very significant shot in the arm," said President Eugene P. Trani.

## Rep. Cantor pushes for federal aid to MCV

Monday Eric Cantor, R-Virginia, said he would fight to expand federal resources to guarantee that MCV is ready to handle victims of biological and chemical terrorism.

"In our fight to secure our homeland in the face of a biological or chemical attack, nothing is more important than ensuring the preparedness of our health care system," Cantor said during a visit to MCV. "Enhancing readiness and response capability is essential to avoid a health care crisis."

Members of Cantor's Congressional Safety and Security Council, which was created in November to identify terrorism targets in Virginia's Seventh District, were also on site. The 26-member council is preparing recommendations to submit to President Bush's director of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge.

"The VCU Health System is relied upon heavily as the primary hub in Central Virginia for health care support and related logistical activity during a nuclear, biological and chemical terrorist attack," said Dr. Sheldon M. Retchin, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of the VCU Health System.

## VSU told to reduce size of new housing project

Chesterfield County officials recommended that Virginia State University scale back its proposed housing project during the Chesterfield Planning Commission meeting last night.

VSU sought the approval of the commission for the construction of student apartments in Ettrick. The apartments were to house more than 500 VSU students, which would reduce the current housing shortage the college is experiencing.

"I am very supportive of Virginia State's need for quality student housing. I just don't think this site is appropriate for 528 students," said Commissioner Harry

Marsh, whose district includes the proposed complex. "I believe the numbers are just too great."

Marsh suggested limiting the project to 250 students and reducing the number of stories from three to two. The commission also requested that the wetlands on the property remain undisturbed. The matter will now be sent to the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors for a final vote.

VSU officials said they were disappointed by the decision.

"There are in excess of 1,500 full-time Virginia State students now residing in a variety of off-campus residence halls," said Robertlyne Cherfils, president of VSU's student government association. "The proposed apartments will give them one step out the door to an independent life and will be important as they complete their studies."

## Bring your resume, suit and a job-worthy smile

The Mass Communications Internship Fair kicks off next Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the VCU Student Commons Commonwealth Ballroom.

More than 30 providers will set up tables and accept resumes from interested students in all the Mass Communication branches — public relations, advertising, broadcast and news editorial.

Additional information will be distributed via a registration table concerning providers unable to attend the fair.

Providers include: Style Weekly, the Better Business Bureau, the United Way, NBC12, WRIC TV8, UPN65, the Virginia Film Office and the YMCA.

## New Library to open on MCV campus

Patients and the general public will soon be able to find out more about their health when the new VCU Health System Community Health Education Center opens in mid-February.

The center will supply information in an easy-to-read, or layperson, manner to anyone who wants to know more about their diagnosis, a specific disease or how to spell some of the medical terminology.

It will be located on the ground floor of the Gateway Building on the MCV campus. CHEC will also provide research books, computer terminals, videos and anatomically correct dolls for children.

Volunteers from the MCV Hospital Auxiliary, who are familiar with medical terminology, will staff the center and be available to help patients and their families find information.

— DIONNE WAUGH

## Local police could remove unsafe vehicles

Specially trained, local law enforcement officers could help remove unsafe vehicles from the state's highways, said Sen. Madison E. Marye, D-Shawsville.

"In Southwest Virginia ... there just aren't enough state police officers to go around, particularly to cover the rural counties," Marye said. "This bill would provide another law enforcement tool for local deputies who complete the necessary training."

The measure, now ready to go to the full Senate, calls for local police officers to conduct safety inspections of vehicles all over Virginia. Instead of the state police, these local officers would ensure that unsafe vehicles likely to cause accidents or breakdowns would be removed from the roads.

In some places, including Harrisonburg, Fairfax, Roanoke and Henrico County, local officers already conduct out-of-service inspections. If Marye's bill becomes law, any town, city or county in Virginia could provide the necessary inspection training for its officers.

## Traffic-signal program set for Blacksburg, Fredericksburg

The Senate Transportation Committee sent a bill to the full Senate that would permit Blacksburg and Fredericksburg to use a "photo-red" traffic-light-signal enforcement program.

"The town of Blacksburg is doing research with VDOT and Virginia Tech to study traffic flow and traffic behaviors," said Sen. Madison E. Marye, D-Shawsville, who sponsored the measure. "It would be our best chance to test the effectiveness of photo-red."

As part of the photo-monitoring traffic program, the city would post signs notifying citizens of cameras and monitoring equipment above traffic lights. Local law enforcement officers would need to certify traffic violations, as the systems would not record images of vehicles that legally pass through intersections.

The committee approved the tentative program, with Sens. Malford W. Trumbo, R-Fincastle, and Stephen D. Newman, R-Lynchburg, voting against the bill.

## Golf carts on Colonial Beach highways?

Golf carts could become as common as cars on Colonial Beach highways if a bill patroned by Sen. John H. Chichester, R-Fredericksburg, becomes law. The measure left the Senate Transportation Committee last week and is headed to the chamber floor.

"What the town council has asked me to do ... is to allow them to be able to use golf carts ... on the streets, which are narrow in Colonial Beach," Chichester said, noting that the town has a 25-mph speed limit.

The bill provides for the town council to place limits on the operation of golf carts.

"We have very few traffic accidents," said Courtlandt A. Turner, Colonial Beach police chief. "I think that it would probably be a very peaceful idea."

The town's geographical location, speed limit and full-time police department, he said, make the use of golf carts ideal for the area.

### THE Commonwealth TIMES

**Ty Bowers**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**Holly Clark**

MANAGING EDITOR

**John Messiter**

BUSINESS MANAGER

**Michael Fisher**

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

**Olivia Lloyd**

NEWS EDITOR

**Holly Hobbs**

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

**Derek Stamey**

SPORTS EDITOR

**Michael Powell**

ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

**vacant**

SPECTRUM EDITOR

**vacant**

ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

**Carl T. Holscher**

PRODUCTION CHIEF

**vacant**

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

OFFICE LOCATED IN ROOM 1146, T. EDWARD TEMPLE BUILDING  
PHONE: 828-1058

*The following are news briefs compiled by the Capital News Service, a VCU-based news service provider for community newspapers throughout Virginia.*

# NEWS

## SHOOTING continued from page 1



Sutin

that he had not made the grade this year."

Gov. Warner, who had previously served on the school's board, said, "My heart goes out to the school and the community. I know that such a close-knit community will feel such a tragedy especially deeply."

A memorial service will be held at noon Wednesday at Grundy Baptist Church, said a school spokesperson via a press release.

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft said his "thoughts and prayers go out to Mr. Sutin's wife, Marga-

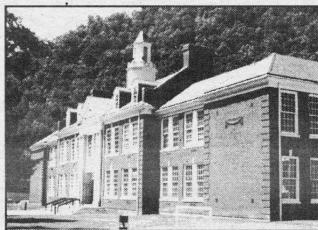
ret, their two children and all of their family and friends. The entire Department of Justice is mourning the loss of a dedicated public servant who served the Department of Justice with distinction, integrity and honor."

U.S. Senator George Allen, R-VA, and Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore both issued statements expressing their great sadness over yesterday's tragedy.

State Del. Jackie Stump of Grundy said, fighting back the tears, "You read about it in other areas, but when it comes home it really hurts."



Blackwell



ABOVE: Grundy is a six-hour drive from Richmond.

LEFT: Gov. Mark R. Warner is a former board member of the Appalachian School of Law. (Photos from news sources)

## FIRE continued from page 1

floor windows as she and several food service workers from the dining hall fled the building to await the arrival of firefighters and police.

Brian Ohlinger, assistant vice president for facilities management, said the fire started next to a telephone closet on the north end of the building. Its cause remains under investigation. Offices on the second floor used by the College of Humanities and Sciences received little damage, Ohlinger said, because their doors were closed.

Nearby classroom 203, however, was heavily damaged when smoke and flames poured through its open doors. More than a dozen classes that were to be held in that room have been relocated to the Business building's auditorium. A decision will be made tomorrow if classes will return to the room.

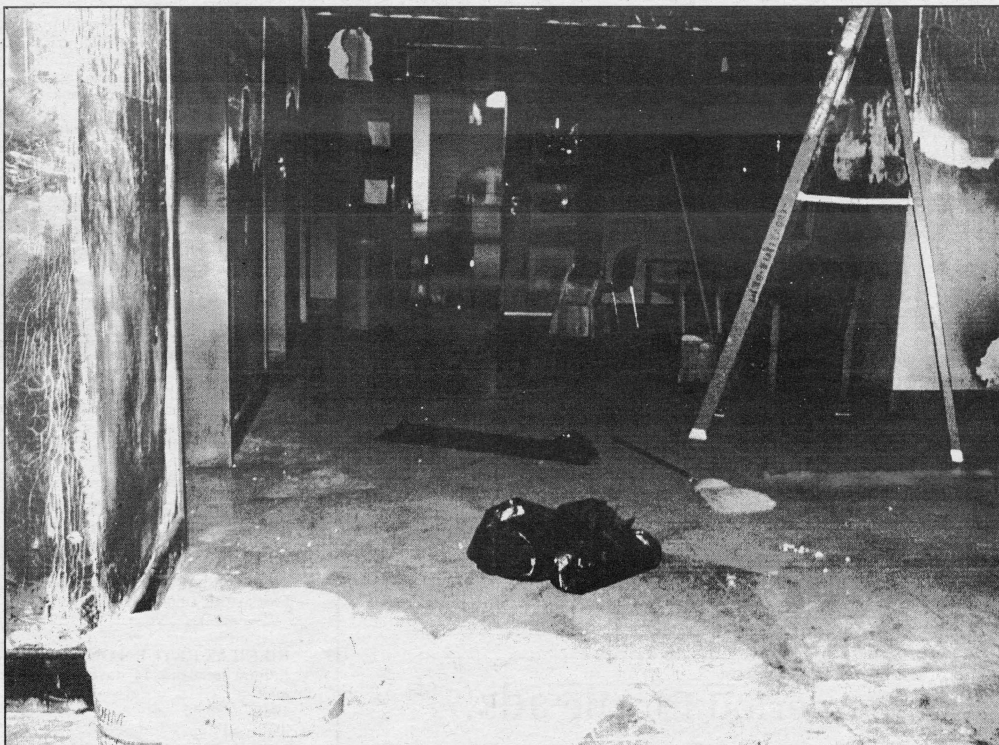
Administration officials, however, are leaning towards counting the damaged room, which can hold 125 students, as a "total loss" for the semester, Blanks said.

Dr. John Borgard, the college's associate dean, reported that the building's offices' walls have already been repainted, but phone service will likely be cut off until next week. While repairs are being made, the faculty and staff are maintaining offices in the Commons.

About 90 percent of the second-floor damage can be attributed to smoke.

Winston said she saw no sprinklers go off as the smoke detectors sounded. The only sprinklers in Hibbs are located in the dining areas.

Rick Farthing, chief engineer for the state fire marshal's office, said a statewide fire code was adopted in 1996 and requires sprinklers in all new buildings. The new requirements, however, are not retroactive, he said.



Candice Anderson

Brian Ohlinger, assistant vice president for facilities management, said the fire started next to a telephone closet on the north end of the building. Its cause remains under investigation.

This code does not apply to Hibbs, which was built in the 1960s.

Freshman Jon Lofgren said rumors spread like wildfire among some students

earlier this week.

Talk of Hibbs' complete destruction occasioned some conversations, Lofgren said.

"I believe an e-mail to the students

would have eliminated a lot of the stories and would have given students a clear picture of what happened," Lofgren said.

— TY BOWERS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

**NOSE FOR NEWS? Apply to be a staff writer. Call 828-1058, or e-mail [ctvcu@hotmail.com](mailto:ctvcu@hotmail.com).**

**WARNER**

continued from page 1

\$1.9 million each year for the last several years.

"What we're looking at here is a problem that just doesn't go away," Warner said. "First and foremost let us do no more harm" by avoiding new tax cuts, continuing old ones and signing off on new spending initiatives as well.

Lawmakers' likely remedies for the state budget woes would include several one-time fixes, such as dipping into its rainy-day fund or tobacco settlement moneys as well as possible layoffs for state employees.

Warner's action plan, he said, also will include a "top-to-bottom" review of the structure and function of state government and the ways in which it conducts business. The incoming administration plans to submit legislation that would provide for budget proposals featuring up to a five-year outlook, rather than the current biennium plans.

Business leaders attending the presentation agreed with Warner's approach.

"We need a vision for this state. We need to ask ourselves what this state wants to be?" said John O. "Dubby" Wynne, president and chief executive officer of Norfolk-based Landmark Communications.

"This is a time when everything should be put on the table. Business is ready to help you in any way it can," Wynne added.

Virginia, by no means, is the only state facing tough financial decisions in the year to come. Thirty-nine states will endure budget shortfalls this year and will make nearly \$50 billion in cuts, according to statistics presented by Scott M. Pattison, executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers and former Virginia budget director.

"Revenues are declining in virtually every state," Pattison said. "Unfortunately, Virginia does fall as one of the worst states. Virginia is facing a very serious budget situation...that involves a lot of tough

**Higher Education****Major Higher Education Budget Adjustments**

Increases	In Millions
2% Faculty Salary Increase	\$46.5
Student Financial Aid	\$12.7
Operation of New Facilities	\$11.4
Microelectronics Initiative	\$2.0
Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund Bonds	\$25.0
Norfolk State Univ. and Virginia State Univ.	\$16.2
Other Institution Specific	\$2.5
Decreases	
Across-the-Board 6% GF Reduction	(\$165.7)
GF Reduction Tied to Tuition Plan	(\$133.2)

choices for a long period of time."

This year, Pennsylvania expects a \$622-million drop in revenues and Nebraska will budget for \$50 million less. California may have to cut the most from its budget to make up for a \$12-billion loss—the nation's worst.

Richmond economist Christine Chmura, however, noted that Virginia's economic recovery already has begun to grow after bottoming out late last year. Nearly 29,000 jobs have been lost since the recession began—much less than the job losses the state experienced during the last recession

in the early 1990s.

But, full economic recovery to pre-2001 levels could take two to three years, Chmura said, emphasizing that employment will remain low "for some time."

J. Alfred Broadus Jr., president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, told the group that even though consumer spending remains strong, business investment and spending remains weak.

Warner listened intently to each presentation, remaining expressionless and quickly jotting down notes. Several other attendees sat silently throughout, often

grimacing when shown statistics that forecast the state's dire financial situation.

Paul W. Timmreck, VCU's senior vice president of finance and administration, offered attendees some glimmer of hope during the two-hour affair. Timmreck, who served as state secretary of finance under Governors Wilder and Allen helped to guide budget writers through the last major recession.

"We did learn a very important lesson: nothing lasts forever," he said. "We can use this period to lay the groundwork for a better Virginia in the future."

Timmreck and VCU President Eugene P. Trani, who also attended the event, cautioned against immediately looking for extra revenues in the outlays for the state's public colleges and universities, which suffered during last year's failed budgeting efforts.

"We took big hits in the early 1990s," Trani said, "but I think we've got (a governor) who believes in higher education. I'm very optimistic for the next four years."

Warners similarly tried to paint a brighter picture at the gathering by saying that the current situation presents a "real opportunity" to effect true change in Virginia government.

Though Warner provided no specifics on how he intended to approach his work on the budget with legislators, he said he hoped that "we can at least agree on the size of the problem."

Delceno C. Miles, chairwoman of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, estimated that about 62 percent of the state's biennium budget is devoted to aid to localities.

"All the answers aren't going to come from Richmond," Miles said, alluding to Warner's campaign pledge to promote regional cooperation as a solution to budget inequities.

**CLASSIFIED!**

submit to 1149 temple building, commonwealth times.

free for students.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

text: \_\_\_\_\_

time period for the ads. \_\_\_\_\_

where would you like to pick up  
the commonwealth times? \_\_\_\_\_what issues would  
you like covered? \_\_\_\_\_

on first come first serve basis \*We reserve the right to reject any objectionable ad.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

#1 Spring Break Vacations!  
Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, & Florida!  
Best Parties, Best Hotels, Best Prices!  
Space is limited! Hurry up & Book Now!  
1-800-234-7007  
www.endlesssummertours.com

**EARN \$1000 FOR YOUR GROUP**

Work on campus to raise money for you  
student group or organization. Make your  
own schedule and earn \$5 per application.  
Please Call 1-800-808-7450

**FILE TAX RETURN ONLINE**

Refund in about 14 days with direct  
deposit  
1040EZ-\$9.95  
1040A-\$14.95  
Log onto www.1040.com/ctstax

Acapulco, Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, Florida

Last Minute  
Specials...  
Save up to  
\$100 per person!  
Group Organizers  
Travel Free  
Call for Details!

**SPRING  
BREAK!**

2002

800-648-4849  
www.ststravel.com

800.367.1252

**SPRINGBREAK** direct .COM

www.springbreakdirect.com

**PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!**

# Warner unveils his view for state

George Templeton  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

After taking the helm as Governor of Virginia, Mark Warner promised a long-term vision to ensure the commonwealth's financial integrity and asked that partisan differences be put aside for the good of the commonwealth.

"Mr. Speaker and Mr. President Pro Tem of the Senate," the new governor said Saturday, "on behalf of all Virginians, I extend to you the hand of friendship and cooperation."

Warner then shook hands with Delegate S. Vance Wilkins, R-Amherst, and Sen. John Chichester, R-Stafford.

Much like his campaign, Warner's speech focused on getting the commonwealth's house in order and improving education.

"We will rebuild the financial structure of state government," he said, "with openness, accountability, vision and plain old straight talk."

Facing a \$1.3 billion budget deficit for this fiscal year, Warner promised a change in the legislature.

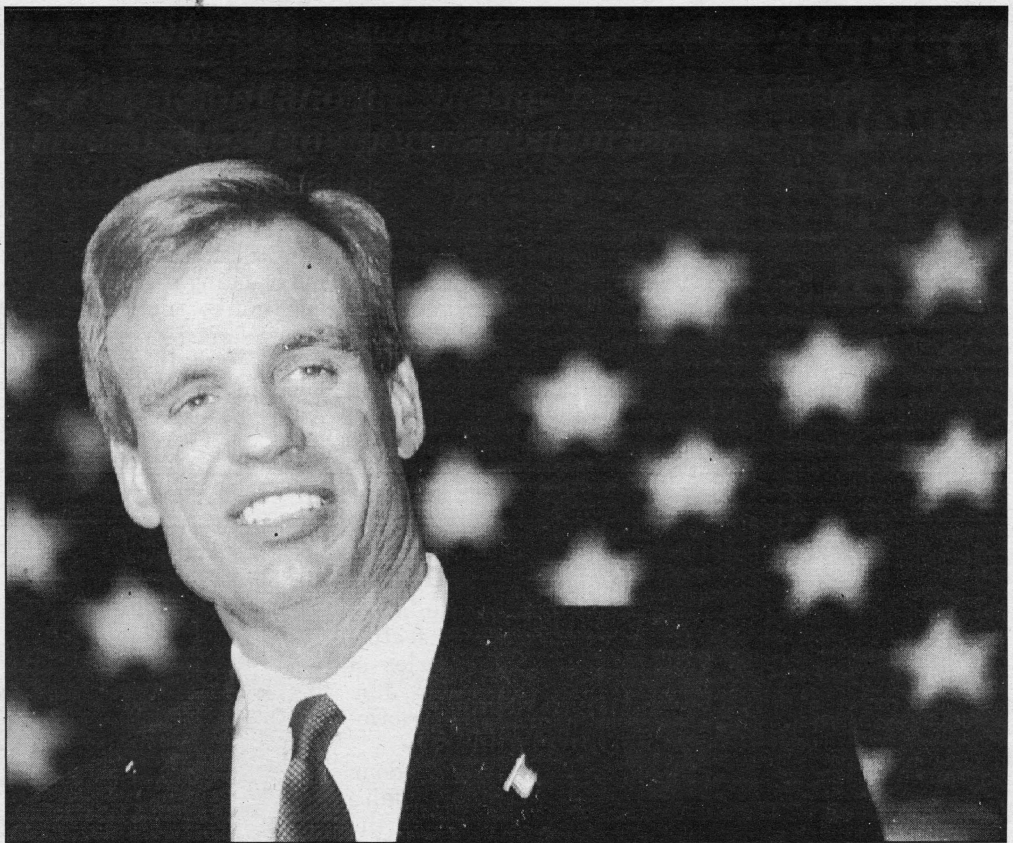
"In any revolution, there must be a first shot fired," he said. "Let us begin by changing the way we do business in Richmond."

While teachers didn't see any raises during Republican Gov. Jim Gilmore's term, Warner said he consistently would seek to strengthen the schools and reward Virginia's teachers for a job well done.

Darren Caumont, a James Madison University student from Falls Church, said Warner's position on education impressed him.

"Kind of like his platform on education," Caumont said. "Equality throughout the education system for everyone and not just the people who need it more than others."

Warner, a multimillionaire who made his fortune in telecommunications, pledged



file photo

**Warner, a multimillionaire who made his fortune in telecommunications, pledged to pursue economic growth for all parts of the state.**

to pursue economic growth for all parts of the state and to encourage Virginia's entrepreneurs.

The new governor, the first from Northern Virginia since Democrat Charles Robb served from 1982-86, also promised to honor state government employees.

"We will make Virginia's public employees full partners in our efforts to move the commonwealth forward," Warner said.

In a veiled criticism toward the Republican administrations of Gilmore and George Allen, now a U.S. senator, Warner said Virginia "is becoming a state of cul-de-

sacs with ignored cities and forgotten small towns."

He then identified other problems facing Virginia: clogged roads and unfinished construction projects, rural communities with economic difficulties, overcrowded and underfunded schools plus the notorious troubles with the budget.

"We can do better," the newly installed governor pronounced. "And, my fellow Virginians, we will do better."

Warner's "One Virginia, One Future" theme, a centerpiece to his victorious campaign for governor, resonated with the

inaugural crowd on Capital Square.

"What it means to me is that he is going to keep his commitment he made during the campaign to work in a bipartisan way to try to solve the fiscal problems we have in this state," said Rick Howell, a Lynchburg College student who worked on the Warner campaign.

Reginald Woodhouse, a Virginia Beach minister, agreed with that assessment.

"We're all one Virginia — all working together for one common goal — to make Virginia the best state in the nation."

## Speaker urges lawmakers to plan for the state's future

George Templeton  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

After Delegate S. Vance Wilkins, R-Amherst, unanimously was re-elected as speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates at its opening session, he urged his fellow lawmakers to plan for the future instead of relying on "pure blind luck" to fix the commonwealth's problems.

The speaker immediately changed the House committee system by reducing the number of committees from 18 to 14.

"The most committees any Democrat has is three and only 16 Republicans are on four," Wilkins later said. "All committees are back down to 22 (delegates) except for only a couple of them."

Wilkins used this streamlining to flex

his political muscle, stripping Delegate Robert S. Bloxom, R-Accomack, of his chairmanship on the Labor and Commerce Committee while simultaneously tossing him off the powerful Appropriations Committee that cost him a subcommittee chairmanship.

The speaker also made history by appointing Beverly J. Sherwood, R-Winchester, the chairwoman of the Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee. Sherwood is the first woman to chair a committee in the House of Delegates.

Wilkins consistently warned the legislators that they could not continue to rely on the good fortune that gave Virginia its boom economy of the 1990s.

"It was pure blind luck that we had the economic development we had in the '90s,"

Wilkins said. "It was luck we had Washington as our northern border. It wasn't because of our foresight."

Wilkins said that the lawmakers in both chambers must begin now to develop a plan to produce future economic prosperity, to have more efficient government, to fix transportation problems and to improve education throughout the commonwealth.

"We must plan for the future and we must make the necessary investment," the speaker said, calling on the delegates to seek two long-range goals: ensure that the state has a million acres of open space by 2007 and ensure that 95 percent of its children are able to read at the appropriate level by the third grade within the next five years.

"It's up to us," Wilkins said. "Governors come and go every four years. We now have 17 members in this House with 20 or more years of experience. If there is to be a vision, it will have to come from the (this) legislature."

The speaker then requested that all House members identify and write down specific, measurable goals for Virginia that will be considered by a specially appointed task force. That group, he said, will create the House's vision for the future and will work with the Senate leadership.

Looking around the chamber filled with the newly elected and installed delegates as well as those re-elected to the state legislature, Wilkins told the 100-member House to "roll up our sleeves and get to work."

# Who is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?



SeattleTimes.com

## FAMILY LIFE

- Born Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Ga.
- First son and second child of the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King
- Two other siblings, Christine King Farris and the Rev. Alfred Daniel Williams King
- Married Coretta Scott on June 18, 1953 in Marion, Ala.
- Couple had four children

## CIVIL RIGHTS INVOLVEMENT

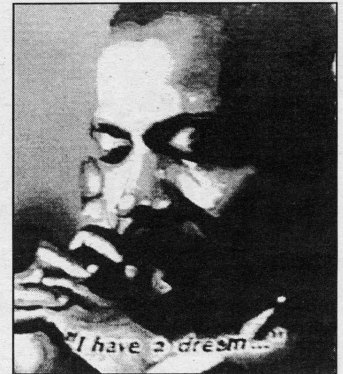
- President of the Montgomery Improvement Association, responsible for the Montgomery bus boycott
- Arrested 30 times for participation in civil rights activities
- Founder and president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1957 to 1968
- Vice president of the national Sunday School and Baptist Teaching Union Congress of the National Baptist Convention
- Presented numerous speeches and lectures on Civil Rights and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

## EDUCATION

- Advanced to Morehouse College after his junior year in high school at the age of 15
- Received honorary degrees from numerous colleges and universities in the United States including Howard University, Boston University and Yale University
- Entered the Christian ministry and was ordained in February 1948 at the age of 19

## AWARDS

- Received hundreds of awards including the Rosa L. Parks Award and the John Dewey Award
- Selected one of the most outstanding personalities of the year by Time in 1957
- Named American of the Decade by Laundry, Dry Cleaning and Die Workers International Union in 1963



SeattleTimes.com

## WHAT'S VCU DOING?

- "Martin and Me," a theatrical performance featuring recorded memories of those affected by King, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.
- "Sing Out for Freedom, Pray for Peace," an interfaith concert performed by the Black Awakening Choir along with more than a dozen area choirs, Jan. 27, at 4 p.m. at Congregation Beth Ahabah, 1117 W. Franklin St.
- VCU Libraries Black History month Web site — [www.library.vcu.edu/guides/blackhistory.html](http://www.library.vcu.edu/guides/blackhistory.html)

## DEATH

- Shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968, by James Earl Ray



SeattleTimes.com

**ATTENTION!**

**ATTENTION!**

**ATTENTION!**

Now is the time to apply for May 2002 Graduation. Applications are available in Founder's Hall, Rm. 104 at the Student Services counter. Applications are due to advisors by **January 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions please contact the Graduation Office at 828-1917.

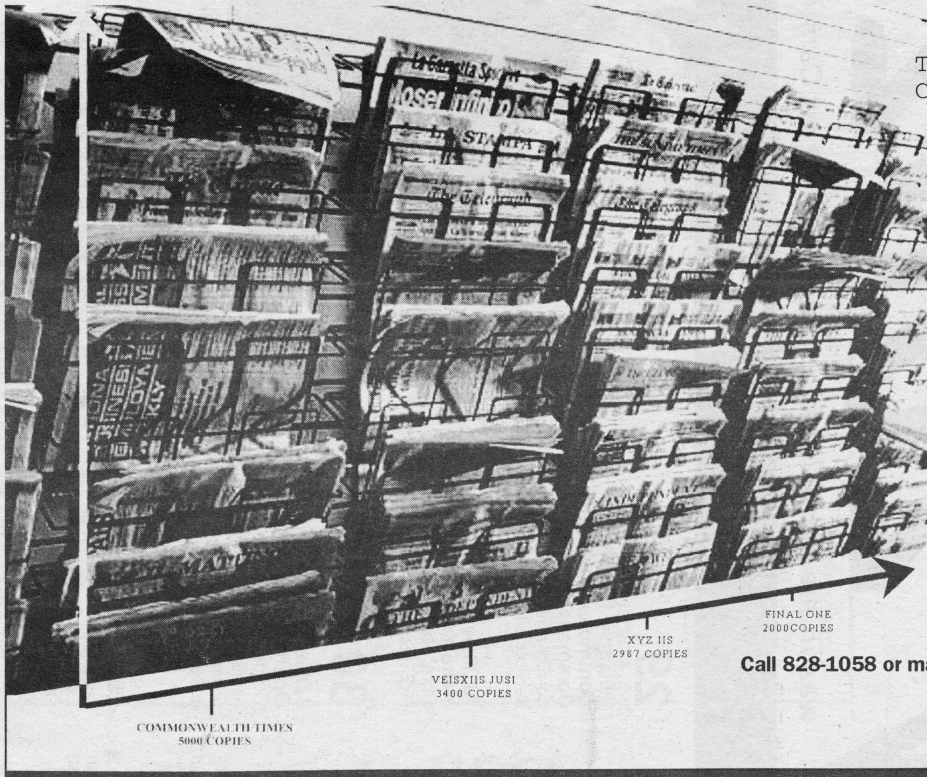
**APPLY TODAY!**

**APPLY TODAY!**

**APPLY TODAY!**

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation, or disability.

# WORK FOR THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES



Title: **Circulation Director**  
Contact: **John Messiter**

Description:

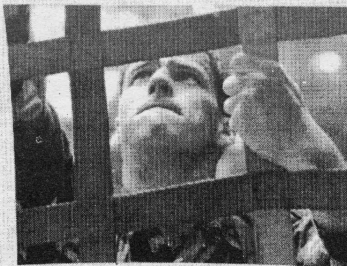
Must provide own transportation.

Deliver The Commonwealth Times in a timely manner each publication date.

Ensure the distribution sites are maintained and have the appropriate racks.

Return extra issues for recycling and report the statistical data to the business manager.

Call 828-1058 or mail resume to [messiterjc@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:messiterjc@mail1.vcu.edu)



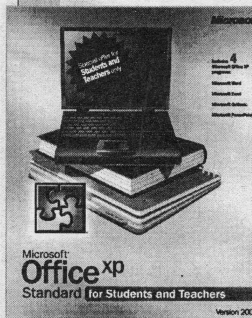
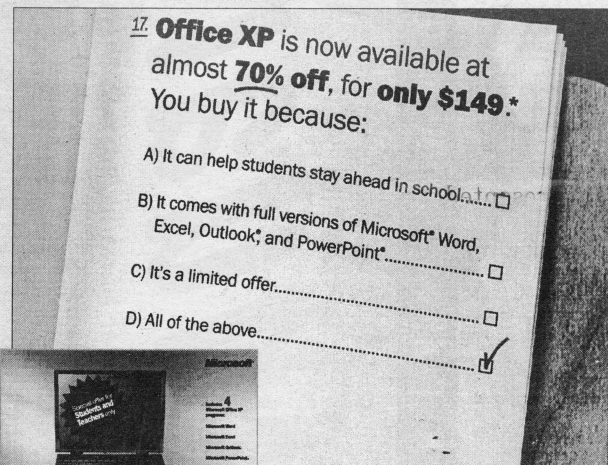
after this, the corporate  
ladder will be a piece of  
**[cake]**.

In the course of facing challenges like this, you'll learn how to think on your feet. Stay cool under pressure. Take charge. Talk to an Army ROTC rep. You'll find there's nothing like a little climbing to help prepare you for getting to the top.



**ARMY ROTC** Unlike any other college course you can take.

Contact the ROTC Department at 828-1368



**Microsoft® Office XP Standard for Students and Teachers** is now available at a special low price. With all the tools to help students get more done, faster and easier. It's a no-brainer. Buy it today at one of the retailers below.

[microsoft.com/office/forstudents](http://microsoft.com/office/forstudents)

Microsoft

Office  
DEPOT  
OfficeMax

COMPU  
USA

WAL  
MART

TARGET

Fry's  
GameStop

STAPLES

BEST  
BUY

MICRO  
CENTRE

\*Reseller prices may vary. To use this product, you must be a Qualified Educational User (QEU). See product box for details. Good in the United States only, while supplies last. Limit one copy per QEU. Not for business or commercial use. © 2001 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft, Outlook, PowerPoint, and the Office logo are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. The names and logos of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

# January 2002

*"In the depths of winter I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer."* - Albert Camus

## EVENTS

14

7:30 pm  
**VCU vs. Delaware**  
Siegel Center  
Men's Basketball. Free with VCUCard. Watch for announcements about post-game specials!

15

9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Commuter CoffeeBRAKE!**  
Commons Lobby  
Co-sponsored by Off Campus Student Services, VCU Dining and VCUCard.

18

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
**Register to Play!**  
Break Point  
Show your schedule of classes with your VCUCard and get one free hour of pool, table tennis, darts or two video game tokens!



19

8:00 pm  
Richmond Forum presents  
**"The God Squad"**  
Landmark Theater  
Rabbi Gellman and Monsignor Thomas Hartman will offer insights into some of today's most astonishing questions in a presentation entitled "Faith & Values." Special performances by the Richmond Boys Choir. Tickets are \$25. For more information call (804)330-3993.

10:00 pm  
**SWOON**

Chopstix in Carytown  
Local band Swoon plays at Chopstix in Carytown. \$3 per person. Call (804)358-7027.

20

2:00 pm  
**Dressed for Success in the 1890's**  
Maymont Nature and Visitor Center  
See the styles that made the man and woman in the 1890's in a fashion show at Maymont. \$6 per person. Call (804)358-7166 x329.

21

**Key Phrase Week**  
in the Break Point Games Room  
Say the posted Key Phrase and get a free hour of pool, table tennis, darts or two free video game tokens. Break Point is located on the lower level of the University Student Com-

29

9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Commuter CoffeeBRAKE!**  
Commons Lobby  
Co-sponsored by Off Campus Student Services and Parking & Transportation.

10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Make Your Own Video**  
Common Ground  
FREE! Sponsored by APB.

30

8:00 pm 0 11:00 pm  
**Open Mic Night**  
Commonwealth Ballroom  
Sponsored by APB. Non-students must be a guest of a VCU student with VCUCard. Two guest limit per each VCUCard.

8:00 pm  
**Ladysmith Black Mambazo**  
Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts  
Experience South African song and dance with Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Best known for their work on Paul Simon's "Graceland." Tickets can be purchased by calling the Carpenter Center at (804)649-0577.

**Next Month...**

## FILMS



Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back

Free movies every weekend? Yes, it's true! All films are sponsored by APB Films Committee and are free with your VCUCard. Non-students must be a guest of a VCU student with VCUCard. Two guest limit per each VCUCard.

18

9:00 pm  
**Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back**  
Commons Theater

# January 2002

"In the depths of winter I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer." - Albert Camus

## EVENTS

14

7:30 pm  
**VCU vs. Delaware**  
Siegel Center  
Men's Basketball. Free with VCUCard. Watch for announcements about post-game specials!

15

9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Commuter CoffeeBRAKE!**  
Commons Lobby  
Co-sponsored by Off Campus Student Services, VCU Dining and VCUCard.

18

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
**Register to Play!**  
Break Point  
Show your schedule of classes with your VCUCard and get one free hour of pool, table tennis, darts or two video game tokens!



## FIRST FRIDAY

January 18<sup>th</sup>

6 pm - 9 pm  
**Commons Lobby**  
University Student Commons

Every first Friday of the semester the Commons welcomes students with a night of fun and entertainment! Begin this semester with a cruise to a tropical paradise! Enjoy food, music games and more! Relax with a free chair massage and mocktail or get active and catch a wave on the mechanical surfboard. Try a few holes of virtual golf or create an Under the Sea Art masterpiece. Then dance the night away at the First Friday Dance! It'll be a tropical trip to remember!

**First Friday Dance**  
9 pm - 12 midnight  
Commonwealth Ballroom  
Mix, mingle and meet fellow VCU students at the first dance of the semester! Free with VCUCard. Non-students must be a guest of a VCU student with VCUCard. Two guest limit per each VCUCard.

19

8:00 pm  
Richmond Forum presents  
**"The God Squad"**  
Landmark Theater  
Rabbi Gellman and Monsignor Thomas Hartman will offer insights into some of today's most astonishing questions in a presentation entitled "Faith & Values." Special performances by the Richmond Boys Choir. Tickets are \$25. For more information call (804)330-3993.



10:00 pm

**SWOON**  
Chopstix in Carytown  
Local band Swoon plays at Chopstix in Carytown. \$3 per person. Call (804)358-7027.



20

2:00 pm  
**Dressed for Success in the 1890's**  
Maymont Nature and Visitor Center  
See the styles that made the man and woman in the 1890's in a fashion show at Maymont. \$6 per person. Call (804)358-7166 x329.



21

**Key Phrase Week**  
in the Break Point Games Room  
Say the posted Key Phrase and get a free hour of pool, table tennis, darts or two free video game tokens. Break Point is located on the lower level of the University Student Commons.

22

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
**Coffeehouse**  
Common Ground  
FREE! Sponsored by APB Mosaic Committee

23

7:30 pm  
**VCU vs. George Mason**  
Siegel Center  
Men's Basketball. Free with VCUCard. Watch for announcements about post-game specials!

24 - 26

**Join a Sorority!**  
**Panhellenic Recruitment**  
**Weekend**

Registration deadline is Thursday, January 24 at 3PM. For application information contact the Student Activities Center at (804)828-3648.

26

7:30 pm  
**VCU vs. UNC Wilmington**  
Siegel Center  
Men's Basketball. Free with VCUCard. Watch for announcements about post-game specials!

29

9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Commuter CoffeeBRAKE!**  
Commons Lobby  
Co-sponsored by Off Campus Student Services and Parking & Transportation.

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Make Your Own Video**  
Common Ground  
FREE! Sponsored by APB.

30

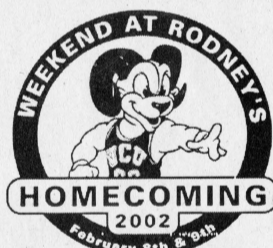
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
**Open Mic Night**  
Commonwealth Ballroom  
Sponsored by APB. Non-students must be a guest of a VCU student with VCUCard. Two guest limit per each VCUCard.

8:00 pm

**Ladysmith Black Mambazo**  
Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts  
Experience South African song and dance with Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Best known for their work on Paul Simon's "Graceland." Tickets can be purchased by calling the Carpenter Center at (804)649-0577.



## Next Month...



Feb. 8 - 9

**Homecoming:**  
**Weekend at Rodney's**  
Homecoming is reborn at VCU. Women's Game and Spirit Rally on Friday night. Pre-game and post game parties serves as the start and finish to victory over ODU. Watch for details on the homecoming website! <http://www.students.vcu.edu/activities/homecoming.html>

Feb. 15

9 am - 5 pm  
**Virginia Student Leadership Conference**  
University Student Commons  
Super Leaders! Uniting Campus, Uniting the World! For registration information contact Felicia Keelen at (804) 828-6500.

## FILMS



Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back

Free movies every weekend? Yes, it's true! All films are sponsored by APB Films Committee and are free with your VCUCard. Non-students must be a guest of a VCU student with VCUCard. Two guest limit per each VCUCard.

18

9:00 pm  
**Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back**  
Commons Theater

19

7:00 pm  
**Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back**  
Commons Theater

25

7:00 pm  
**The One**  
Commons Theater

9:30 pm  
**The Last Castle**  
Commons Theater

26

7:00 pm  
**The Last Castle**  
Commons Theater

9:30 pm  
**The One**  
Commons Theater

# VCU Life is good here!

# January 18<sup>th</sup>

6 pm - 9 pm

**Commons Lobby**

University Student Commons

Every first Friday of the semester the Commons welcomes students with a night of fun and entertainment! Begin this semester with a cruise to a tropical paradise! Enjoy food, music games and more! Relax with a free chair massage and mocktail or get active and catch a wave on the mechanical surfboard. Try a few holes of virtual golf or create an Under the Sea Art masterpiece. Then dance the night away at the First Friday Dance! It'll be a tropical trip to remember!

## First Friday Dance

9 pm - 12 midnight

Commonwealth Ballroom

Mix, mingle and meet fellow VCU students at the first dance of the semester! Free with VCUCard. Non-students must be a guest of a VCU student with VCUCard. Two guest limit per each VCUCard.

mons.

# 22

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

**Coffeehouse**

Common Ground

FREE! Sponsored by APB Mosaic Committee

# 23

7:30 pm

**VCU vs. George Mason**

Siegel Center

Men's Basketball. Free with VCUCard. Watch for announcements about post-game specials!

# 24 - 26

**Join a Sorority!**

**Panhellenic Recruitment**

**Weekend**

Registration deadline is Thursday, January 24 at 3PM. For application information contact the Student Activities Center at (804)828-3648.

# 26

7:30 pm

**VCU vs. UNC Wilmington**

Siegel Center

Men's Basketball. Free with VCUCard. Watch for announcements about post-game specials!



## Feb. 8 - 9

**Homecoming:**

**Weekend at Rodney's**

Homecoming is reborn at VCU. Women's Game and Spirit Rally on Friday night. Pre-game and post game parties serves as the start and finish to victory over ODU. Watch for details on the homecoming website! <http://www.students.vcu.edu/activities/homecoming.html>

## Feb. 15

9 am - 5 pm

**Virginia Student**

**Leadership Conference**

University Student Commons

Super Leaders! Uniting Campus, Uniting the World! For registration information contact Felicia Keelen at (804) 828-6500.

# 19

7:00 pm

**Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back**

Commons Theater

# 25

7:00 pm

**The One**

Commons Theater

9:30 pm

**The Last Castle**

Commons Theater

# 26

7:00 pm

**The Last Castle**

Commons Theater

9:30 pm

**The One**

Commons Theater

# VCU *Life is good here!*

Published by University Student Commons & Activities, Division of Student Affairs. All events and times subject to change. VCU is an EEO/AA institution. If you need special accommodation to participate in a university sponsored event due to a disability, contact staff at (804)828-6500. For assistance with non-university event, contact the listed sponsor.



Indicates non-university,  
Richmond area event.

# SMOKERS CAN EARN \$\$\$

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

**Call 225-3562**

**Monday – Friday  
8am – 3pm**

**for more detailed information**

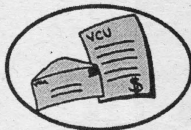
This study will be conducted in McGuire Hall on VCU's Medical Campus

Principal Investigator: Thomas Eissenberg, Ph.D.

V i r g i n i a   C o m m o n w e a l t h   U n i v e r s i t y



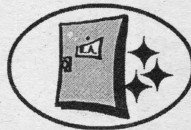
Value of a  
Single Room:  
**\$3,900**



Value of Stipend:  
**\$1,000**



Phone Charges:  
**\$161**



Gaining Leadership  
Experience:  
**PRICELESS**

## BECOME A RESIDENT ASSISTANT

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Thursday	Jan. 17	4 pm	Cabaniss Piano Lounge
Friday	Jan. 18	4 pm	W. Broad Conference Room
Monday	Jan. 21	7 pm	Johnson Hall
Tuesday	Jan. 22	7 pm	Rhoads Hall
Wednesday	Jan. 23	6 pm	GRC Community Room
Thursday	Jan. 24	6 pm	Bear Lounge
		7 pm	W. Grace Lounge

\* All Applicants Must Attend  
an Information Session

### Qualifications:

- Sophomore Standing • Minimum 2.2 GPA
- Cannot be on Academic Probation

Applications are available in Gladding Residence Center  
Ste. 159 or online at [www.student.vcu.edu/housing/ra](http://www.student.vcu.edu/housing/ra)

**If you have any questions please contact  
Housing and Residence Education  
159 Gladding Residence Center, 828-7666**

Virginia Commonwealth University does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, color,  
national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran in  
education programs and activities and admission to such programs or in employment at the University.

**Master the  
Possibilities.**



Division of Student Affairs  
University Housing  
and Residence Education

# OPINION

## Spending wisely?

State Sen. John Chichester, R-Fredericksburg, and Del. Vincent Callahan, R-McLean, are proposing a plan that would allocate \$1.6 billion to construct or renovate state buildings, which would include all state colleges and universities. In fact, the plan would make \$1.2 billion available to the schools.

According to news reports, Eugene P. Trani, VCU's president, says the \$100 million that VCU would receive from the proposed plan would go to engineering, technology and life science projects.

Upgrades in technology would be beneficial to this university, but only if the upgrades were evenly distributed.

As far as funneling more money into the engineering school and life sciences initiative, maybe the university should consider fixing departments that have brought this institution to where it is today. VCU is not exclusively an engineering school or a national front-runner in the field of life sciences.

The "if you build it, prestige will come" attitude of the current administration needs to stop. A bunch of shiny new buildings, parking decks and arenas are not going to bring prestige and honor to this institution. Nationally recognized professors, department administrators and academic programs will.

Bear in mind that the University of Virginia does not find it necessary to build a shiny new building every year to attract the best students and faculty. In fact, its top students on the much-coveted "Lawn," in rooms just large enough for a bed and desk. The students share bathrooms that are only accessible by going outside.

If Chichester and Callahan's plan were passed, it would be interesting to see what the colleges and universities of Virginia do with the allotted funds. Will VCU be like a kid in a toy store, or will it have enough sense to think before it spends. Before President Trani and the rest of this administration considers how they might spend these proposed funds, maybe they should consider what this university really needs — not what they want.

**V**CU President Eugene P. Trani told the Richmond Times-Dispatch Jan. 15: Schools with satellite campuses need to "justify themselves" and not merely "expand for the sake of expansion."

## Oh Really?

The proposed Fairfax Inova satellite campus and renovations in the Commons are necessary expansions?



## ROBB CROCKER • Parking remains a pain

Traffic, parking in the Fan — is Richmond making it worse?

If you live in the Fan, commute to VCU or endure the endless search for parking, you may have noticed a few changes over the winter break. For one, four-way stop signs have popped up on various thoroughways in the Fan, courtesy of the city of Richmond (resulting from pressure from various organizations including the Fan District Association).

If you take some of the side streets in the Fan like Floyd Avenue to avoid the lights on Main and Cary Streets, expect to add a few minutes to your commute. Although the four-way stops are a pain in the neck, the reasoning is sensible. Because people do tend to speed down the various side streets in the Fan, pedestrian safety was at risk. So, for the most part, I can agree with the city's decision to add the additional stop signs.

For those of you who live on or near Cary Street corridor of campus, I'm sure you have witnessed or have been affected by the gas line replacement that has snarled traffic and made parking for commuters and residents alike a new adventure.

What boggles me is why didn't the city attempt to work around VCU's schedule? There were four weeks that the city could have done the work while students were away on winter break (even if you take out one week for Christmas and one week for New Years, that still would have left two weeks to do the work). As a result, the city has caused more traffic and parking head-

aches for commuters during the first week of the semester, which is traditionally the busiest as far as parking and traffic. In addition, construction in the middle of campus on Main Street is also being conducted eliminating 10 to 15 additional potential parking spots.

According to Jackie Johnson, spokesperson for the Department of Works, representatives from VCU and the Fan District Association were consulted when the construction schedule was made. After further investigating, I found that the Public Works Department was grossly misinformed.

According to Ed Andrews, a member of the Fan District Association (FDA), the FDA had not been consulted in scheduling the construction. In addition, no one from VCU was able to confirm whether or not the school had been consulted as well. So basically, no one wants to admit fault but I'm sure when the project is done, everyone will want to take credit.

In addition to the traffic issues, residents on the 1200 block of Cary Street had their gas shut off on January 15. Not a big deal, right? Unless you get a notice less than 24 hours before this happens and one house reported that there gas was improperly restore, leaving the residents without heat for over 24 hours. The Department of Works says that all landlords were informed that there would be a disruption of service but when I investigated this claim further, I found that again, the department was misinformed.

## AMUL MADAN • Reflections

As I reflect on 2001, I realize that although there were a few new buildings that debuted last year here on campus and Mark Warner became the governor Virginia, nothing really brought about change like the 9-11 attacks.

The Life Science building, the Sports Medicine building and a pair of residence halls — West Grace Dorms and the West Broad Apartment complex were unveiled. The most heralded of all of those is, of course, the Life Science building. Named for President and Mrs. Trani, the Life Science building sports new classrooms and auditoriums, featuring plush seats (as opposed to those uncomfortable seats in the Temple lecture rooms).

There was a changing of the guard in the governor's mansion as Mark Warner, a democrat, replaced outgoing GOP governor Jim Gilmore this week. Upon taking office, Warner immediately proposed an eight-percent cumulative cut in state agency budgets by mid-2004.

The effects of 9-11 here on campus were gigantic. There was a unique sense of togetherness, one unseen since I first arrived at VCU in the fall of 2000. The campus' attitude had changed, much like the way the nation's after the attacks.

The past year here was filled with tragedy and also relief. Finally there is a new lecture building on campus (something that we have needed for quite sometime). All students need is a new business building WITH windows in the classrooms, instead of making students sweat while sitting through a class. One can only hope that in this New Year, there will be more happiness than disasters on campus.

## THE Commonwealth TIMES

**Ty Bowers**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

**Robb Crocker**  
EDITORIAL EDITOR

**Amul Madan**  
WRITER

**Emily Liu**  
WRITER

**Patty Robbins**  
WRITER

**Mike Talley**  
CARTOONIST

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.

CTE-mail: CTVCU@hotmail.com. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: Room 1149, T. Edward Temple Building.

**SOUND OFF! E-mail letters to the editor, ctvcu@hotmail.com**

## EMILY LIU: A place for dread locks in the professional world?

Is there a place for dread locks in the professional world?

Three and a half months from now, a friend of mine will be shaving her entire head so that she will no longer have unruly dreadlocks sprouting as she pleases. This does not surprise the average VCU student, as dreadlocks and shaved heads are quite abundant amongst our student population, along with piercings, tattoos and a rainbow array of colored manes. Nonetheless, this will not be an action that she willfully chooses to take, due to the fact that she has decided in her academic career to become a physical therapist at our own MCV, whose hospital does not allow dreadlocked interns even in a city like Richmond.

**"Intelligence, ability, talent and knowledge have never discriminated against any population on the face of this earth."**

The point being that dreadlocks and facial piercings are unquestionably taboo in the medical profession, but why? Is it because we as society are yet unable to relinquish ourselves of the stereotypes we imprint on others? Are we still that caught up with outer appearances that people should feel mistrust or anxiety towards a medical professional wearing a particular item of jewelry (be it on his/her face) or a particular style of hair? Intelligence, ability, talent and knowledge have never discriminated against any population on the

face of this earth, so why do we continue to believe that they do?

In spite of the many battles we have fought in our history vis-à-vis work-related prejudice against women and minorities, particularly back in the 1970s, decades later it seems that we still have failed to conquer the fundamental problem - which is our inability to conceive certain notions about an individual beyond the image that is formed on the retina as we witness those that are in our plain sight. For example, to some it seems almost unfathomable that a person with dyed blue hair and a lip ring could possibly have earned an M.D. and is now working in a hospital successfully treating patients on a daily basis. Can we really say that in placing two physicians at random side-by-side we know which one is more qualified or more skilled by looks alone?

Some may contend that piercings, tattoos and dreadlocks are "unprofessional." This would be a valid argument, except when was it that diversity was labeled "unprofessional?" When we place limitations such as these on people, at the same

time we seize their liberty to be a unique individual. And if we are not, as a society, moving in the direction of increased diversification, then would we instead be moving towards increased uniformity? The word "uniformity" itself conjures up dreadful illusions of clones and the idea of monotony.

Perhaps it is the older generation, those that have lived to see so many transformations and developments in our society with regard to a variety of forms of discrimination, that have yet to relieve themselves of an old-fashioned mindset that has remained ignorant to the multicultural, diverse nature this country was founded upon. Because of these individuals then, should we continue to breed the same habit of superficiality in our upcoming generations?

**Look for Emily Liu's column each week.**

### Martin and Me

A theatrical performance that brings Martin Luther King Jr. to life for the hip-hop generation



Actor James Chapman

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2002 • 7 p.m.  
VCU's Performing Arts Center, 922 Park Ave.  
Parking available at 1111 W. Broad St.

Free and open to the public

For information about special accommodations call VCU's Office of Community Programs at 828-8824.

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University

Virginia Commonwealth University

# AD BUDGET

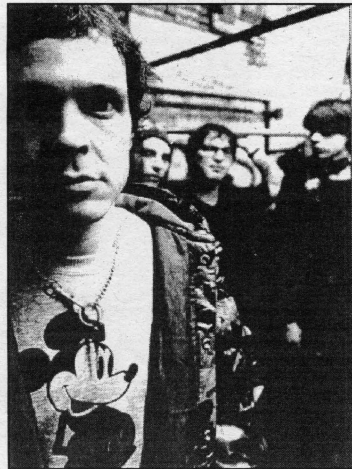
**Student organizations: We will tear 25% off your ad price.**

**Call today to place your ad: 828 1058  
COMMONWEALTH TIMES**

# SPECTRUM



## Music Review



## Rival Schools: Unrivaled Rockability

**Kent Brockwell**  
PHOTO EDITOR

The first day of classes are characteristically boring, drawn out processes involving many long lines and a lot of frustration.

But this year a Monday night show at Alley Katz offered a chance for students to relieve the stress of their first day back to the grind.

Rival Schools, Burning Brides and Solea performed an 8 p.m. show at the Shockoe

hard metal feeling spread quickly throughout the crowd.

The Philadelphia-based band was well received during its Richmond debut. Their music is similar to Sebadoh however original and full of depressed energy.

Melanie Campbell, bassist for the Brides, experienced "a very cool vibe from Alley Katz."

Burning Brides is planning to work on their new album in March which will be released next fall.

As the members of the Burning Brides packed up their gear and headed for the bar, Rival Schools (Island Records) took the stage as the headline band for the evening.

The Monday night performance was another stop on Rival School's debut album release tour.

The album, *United By Fate*, has created much interest in the New York City metal/punk group that consists of former members of Quicksand and CIV. Rival Schools started their set with a guitar solo that ventured deep into the realm of psychedelia.

The mind-altering solo from Ian Love led into a long night of non-stop rock that kept over 200 fans singing along and feeling good. Sam Siegler, drummer for Rival Schools, said he "didn't expect the [size of the] crowd for a Monday night show."

Walter Schreifels, lead vocals, said the show was "inspirational" and was a good boost for the remainder of their U.S. tour and upcoming European tour.

Schreifels also said, "Richmond is a good time. I have great feelings about this town."

After the completion of their European tour, Rival Schools might return to the Richmond area for a show in the late spring.

**"Rival Schools started their set with a guitar solo that ventured deep into the realm of psychedelia. The mind-altering solo from Ian Love led into a long night of non-stop rock that kept over 200 fans singing along and feeling good."**

Bottom venue that served up a great night of solid alternative rock for the eager crowd. Solea opened with a crowd-pleasing set for their final night touring with Rival Schools.

Garrett Klahn of Solea said Monday night's performance was only their fifth performance as a group.

Klahn said the audiences from previous shows were quite receptive of his relatively new band.

"As long as I see a bunch of people out there smiling, it is alright with us," Klahn said.

Burning Brides (File 13 Records) kicked off the second part of the show with some mean bass lines and high-energy riffs. The

## VCU's Unsung Heroes

BY TOM NETHERLAND

Anxiety attacks. Sweat pours. Belly aches. Graduation nears and you know — you just know — that something may go wrong. Check that, something will go wrong.

VCU students receive grades and must successfully complete a given number of courses to compile a given number of credits before graduation becomes reality. Problems sometimes arise, especially when students encounter errant grades or borderline school suspensions.

But, Barbara Wirt helps make sure these students march along in straight lines. That's quite a service.

Yet few of us know her. "I'm coordinator of academic gradings and stats," the native Richmonder said from her tiny office in Founders Hall. "My job is distributing grade sheets, getting 'em back in and getting the grades loaded into the records."

Wirt also sends suspension letters to students and manages grade changes. Subsequently, she occasionally fields calls from irate parents or students.

"I listen, let 'em blow off their steam and then I'll say, 'Let me tell you what you've got to do to solve this problem.' If I can solve it, I try to solve it. A lot of times you just can't."

Think of her as one of many spark plugs in the engine named VCU. She's under the hood and behind the scenes, helping to ensure that VCU purrs like the little engine that could.

Edwin E. Blanks, vice provost for academic administration, has known Wirt for years.

"She's very diligent, especially when it comes to supporting students," he said. "She is truly on of the spark plugs of an engine. It would still run without them, but it wouldn't function properly."

This one spark plug sure handles a lot of traffic. Every student receives grades. Let's say 25,000 students attended VCU last fall and each averaged four courses. That's four final grades per student.

And 100,000 grades for Wirt. She loads each grade for each student into VCU's system via her computer. Then for accuracy's sake, she double-checks them, thereby doubling her work.

"She's not the quarterback, but she is the right guard," Blanks said via analogy. "She is just like a good starting offensive guard. She's in there doing a most valuable job."

With little recognition. "There's a level of efficiency there that you don't find in many people," Blanks said.

Married 37 years, the mother of two and grandmother of two adores her job. But she has a life beyond VCU. Snippets of her life dot a bulletin board behind her.

On it pictures of her husband and children mix among several dozen shots of her beloved Labrador retrievers.

"I've trained obedience for about 15 years and now we raise Labradors," Wirt said.

In the past, she's trained Great Danes and Springer spaniels. She currently owns two Labs.

"We name all our dogs after car parts," Wirt said, smiling wide. "The two we have now are named Lug Nut and Hub-cap. Lug is the father of Hub."

When not training dogs, Wirt loves to

read novels. Her favorite author: James Patterson, a renown mystery and thriller writer.

"He's good. I'm getting ready to read his 'Violets are Blue' now," said Wirt. "It's sitting right there just waiting for me to get into it, but I want to wait until I can sit down and read the whole thing."

With her demanding, hectic and fast-paced job, it's no wonder Wirt chose Patterson as her favorite author. She doesn't have time to read long-winded passages.

"I like James Patterson because his chapters are really short," she said, eyes dancing. "You can just fly through it."

Does Wirt fly. Oh, not like Superman — though some would swear she's something of a superhero. No, she and her husband love traveling.

Through the years they've seen much of the world. Stops along their journey through life include such foreign locales as Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey. Domestically, they've made way to Alaska and San Francisco.

"We try to take a big trip every year," Wirt said. "My favorite place was Africa."

It wasn't that beautiful because it hadn't rained for about four months, but seeing those big animals on a safari close up was something.

Wirt's something too. Later this year she'll mark 25 years with VCU, the last 20 employed full-time. During that time, she's calmed numerous pounding hearts of students on the brink — even some who've long since left VCU.

One day in fall '98, Wirt said she took a call from a Virgin Islands resident. He had registered for classes, but moved before attending them and neglected to drop the courses. Consequently, VCU's collections department mailed him a hefty bill. He informed Wirt of its impossibility since he lived in the Virgin Islands during the effected time.

So he faxed Wirt proof. "He wasn't here, but he was billed because the registration was still there so I dropped it," she said. "As long as they can verify that they weren't here I can drop them unless they have financial aid."

While being interviewed for this column, Wirt was interrupted by an anxious former VCU student. She'd received a suspension letter for having flunked a series of courses last fall. She provided Wirt with written evidence that she instead had attended J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College.

Wirt wheeled around to her computer and several keystrokes and minutes later, the poor grades disappeared.

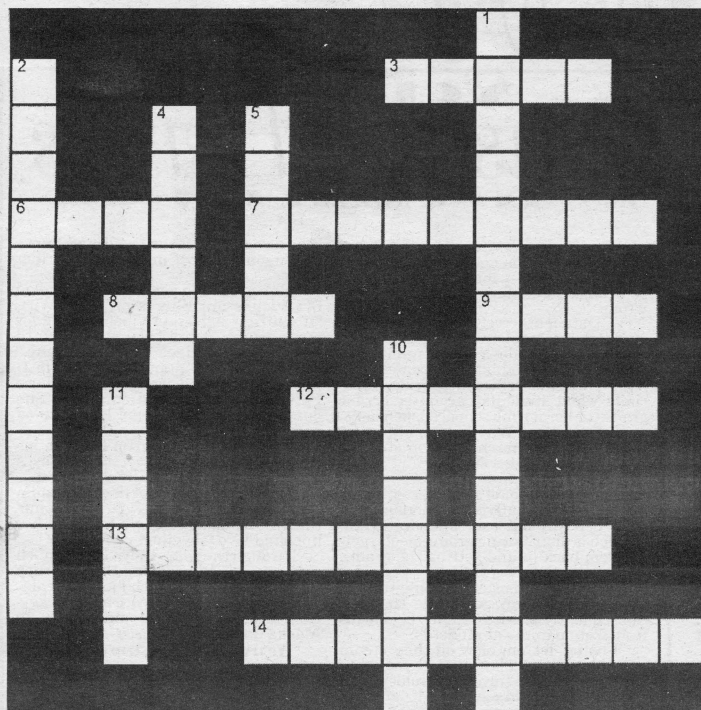
"Thank you so much," the relieved former VCU student said, visibly breathing easier.

Another student saved. "The only aspect that I don't enjoy dealing with is parents or relatives of deceased students," Wirt said, adding that if a student dies during the semester, the courses can be dropped once Wirt has seen an obituary or death certificate.

"It just gives me chills when they (parents) call," she said. "To me I feel like it's my own child. I feel like those students are my children."

## Write for Spectrum! Contact Ty or Holly at 828-1058

# TEST YOUR METTLE



## Across

3. Big chief
6. The worm band from VCU
7. Tops Down
8. Not coke
9. Angry goats
12. The windy hangout
13. Mooshy craniums
14. A windy exit

## Down

1. Former Mosque
2. Stevens Recreations
4. Marky Mark
5. A building without a second floor
10. The newbies
11. A scholastic shrine

**IS YOUR BRAIN  
STILL ON  
WINTER BREAK?**

**We can help!**

**Check out our website  
to see how we can help  
you cut corners to  
succeed!**

[sony.com/Slackers/termpaperblues](http://sony.com/Slackers/termpaperblues)

**SKI AS MUCH AS YOU CAN FOR THE PRICE OF 4!**

## Get More "Free" From Your Free Time!



If you're the kind of person that would ski every day if you could, well, now you can! Our *Ski & Ride Pass* lets you ski and ride as much as you can for the price of four!

### Ski & Ride Pass \$129\*

Best of all, with direct-to-the-lift access, 100% snowmaking and the Mid-Atlantic's newest and fastest high-speed lift, *The Blue Ridge Express*, you'll get in more downhill runs than you ever thought possible. So get your ski & ride pass today and spend all your winter free time more wisely! Call for your *Ski & Ride Pass* today!

\*Pass is valid Sunday 12:30 pm through Friday night, excluding ski holidays. Pass is valid daily after 3/10/02. Weekends and ski holidays, pass holders receive \$5 lift ticket discount.

**Wintergreen Resort**  
434-325-8165

[www.WintergreenResort.com](http://www.WintergreenResort.com)

## The Plunge -- Virginia's Biggest and Best Tubing Park!

Get your thrills on our tubing mountain with over 100 feet of verticle drop over the distance of three football fields!

Virginia Commonwealth University

# It's Working Out

## More Energy, Less Stress, and a Great Body!

### Cary Street Fitness Center

has all new equipment and air conditioning!

**NEW  
HOURS!**

Monday–Thursday 11 am – 11 pm

Friday 11 am – 7 pm

Saturday & Sunday 11 am – 3 pm

### Cary Street Recreation Complex

911 W. Cary St. • 828-6219

The fitness equipment is ready for you.

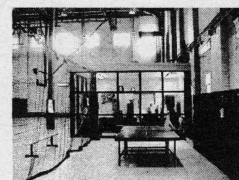
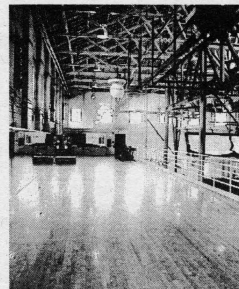
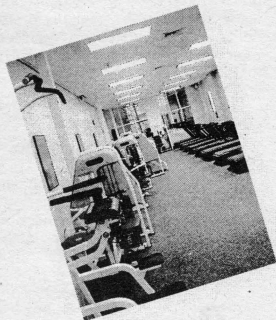
For more information contact Jennifer Chapman  
at 804-827-0318 or check online  
at [www.students.vcu.edu/recsports](http://www.students.vcu.edu/recsports)

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran's status, political affiliation, or disability.



Recreational Sports  
Division of Student Affairs

**Cary Street Fitness Center**



## Rams over Blue Hens

**Bobby Parks**  
CT STAFF WRITER

The undermanned VCU men's basketball team pulled out a double-digit, 68-57, victory Monday night against the University of Delaware Blue Hens at the Alltel Pavilion at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

Willie Taylor and Josh Clark were both suspended one game for their actions in the Jan. 12 game against William & Mary. Both Taylor and Clark were involved in a scuffle.

The Rams (11-6, 3-3 CAA) lost two straight games and four of their last five. The sole victory came at home against James Madison University during this stretch.

With 19:15 left in the second half, L.F. Likholitov scored the Rams' first basket to take a quick 34-33 lead. A three-pointer by Antoine Willie gave the Rams a 39-37 edge over the Blue Hens with 17:05 left in the game. The Rams would not relinquish the lead. Willie's three-pointer was the start of a 12-0 Rams run that would put the team up 48-37 at the 12:23 mark.

The Blue Hens would cut the deficit to eight, 50-42, with 10:27 left in the game, but the Rams quickly extended their lead to 51-57-42—with 7:28 left. The Rams would slowly creep up to their largest lead of the night, 17, with 3:56 left in the game, leading 63-46. Domic Jones contributed six points during this stretch for the Rams.

The Blue Hens would not be deterred, and closed the gap to nine points with 1:52 left in the game with a 9-1 run. David Lunn had four points in this run. The rest of the game consisted of foul shooting by both teams.

The first half started off very quickly for the Rams, with Konstantin Nesterov and Josh Graham both shooting three-pointers. The 6-0 lead wouldn't last long though as the Blue Hens went on an incredible 21-2 run to eventually take the lead 21-8 at the 10:07 mark in the first half. Ryan Iversen had two three-pointers in the run and Maurice Sessoms added four. Dave Hindenlang also contributed two points.

The Rams would use a 5-0 run to cut the deficit to eight—21-13—with 8:56 left in the half. A three-pointer by Vohn Hunter and a two-pointer by Austen Rowland gave the Blue Hens a 26-17 lead, before the Rams went on an 8-0 run to cut the lead to one, 26-25 with 4:54 left. Jones had four of the points for the Rams. The rest of the half would show the teams exchanging baskets to give the Blue Hens a 33-32 lead at the half.

"That was a great win," VCU coach Mack McCarthy said after the game. "I thought we really defended them well." McCarthy continued by saying, "it was really important" to get the win. "You can't let those losses mount up to be a contender."

Blue Hens' coach David Henderson said his players competed well, but "we were just outmanned tonight." Henderson also expressed his belief that VCU is the most talented team in the CAA at the moment.

The Rams play Saturday night at Old Dominion University. The next home game is Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. against George Mason University.

## Austgulen CAA Player of the Week



Austgulen

VCU Sports

V C U women's basketball player, Kristine Austgulen, was named the Colonial Athletic Association's women's basketball Player of the Week.

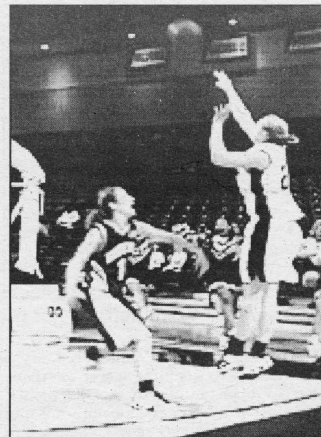
This is Austgulen's second Player of the Week award.

The decision came after Austgulen led the Rams to victories over conference opponents Drexel and Hofstra over the weekend.

In the two wins, Austgulen averaged 26.0 points, 6.0 rebounds and scored 77.8 percent from the field. She made a game-high 24 points for the Rams Jan. 11 ousting Drexel to a 89-75 victory. The junior forward shot a career best 28 points (11-of-14) in VCU's 70-63 win over Hofstra Jan. 13.

Austgulen has started all 15 games this season. She also leads VCU point-wise and ranks among the CAA leaders in scoring an average of 15.7 points per game, rebounding 8.1 rpg. and .500 percentage.

—Compiled from news sources



VCU Sports

Austgulen in action

**Congratulations  
Kristine  
Austgulen!**

# 2001: Superlatives

**Professional Athlete of the Year:** Barry Bonds. 73 homeruns in a single season? The highest slugging percentage ever? Whether you like him or hate him, you can't deny the numbers.

**College Athlete of the Year:** Julius Peppers. Scored 21 points and grabbed 7 boards in NCAA tournament game. Removed quarterbacks' heads from their bodies in football. 6 foot 6 inches, 285 pounds. 4.6 forty-yard dash speed. Benches a Buick. You gonna argue?

**Most Overrated:** Anna Kournikova. If only her tennis game was as good as her magazine covers. But then again, she does carry a nice racket.....

**Bonehead Award:** Nate Newton. Arrested for possession of over 200 pounds of marijuana. A couple of weeks later, arrested with over 150 pounds of marijuana. Newton pled innocent claiming it was Michael Irvin's car he was driving.

**Best Scowl in Sports:** John Gruden. Besides his nickname being "Chucky," he can burn holes in a kicker's chest from 50 yards. "Just

scowl, baby."

**Worst Diet:** David Wells. Despite a large contract from the White Sox, Wells consumed and consumed until he looked like the Michelin man. Then he started pitching like it.

**Biggest Tease:** Virginia Tech football. After two consecutive seasons of overwhelming junior varsity opponents, Tech came back down to earth where they belonged.

**Biggest Sweater:** Tie between Gary Williams of Maryland and Pete Gillen of Virginia. Put these two together in a sauna and we'll have to round up two of a kind for the ark.

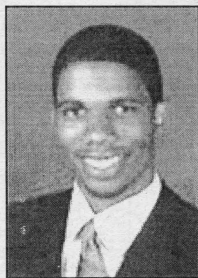
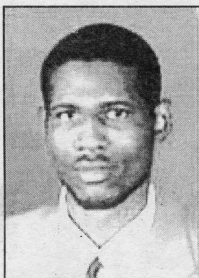
**Hit the Road:** After what seemed like 20 years, Shane Battier graduated from Duke. Now he moves on to the NBA where he will disappear into mediocrity, along with the rest of all of Duke's "superstars."

**Worst Performance:** Super Bowl Halftime. Aerosmith and N'Sync? That's like putting Mike Tyson in the ring with Pee Wee Herman. But at least Britney stopped by, and like with most of her videos, I just pressed mute.

— Compiled from news sources

# Coach suspends Taylor and Clark

V C U men's basketball players, Willie Taylor and Josh Clark, missed Monday night's 68-57 win over Delaware. The two juniors served a one game suspension imposed by head coach Mack McCarthy for their conduct



Clark (left) Taylor (right) sit out

VCU Sports

flagrant technical before throwing him out.

"Willie and Josh's reaction to an incident in a physically competitive game was unacceptable," Coach McCarthy said. "Both Willie and Josh understand that

their behavior was not appropriate, regardless of the circumstances.

"Both players acknowledge that their actions were embarrassing to themselves, the program, and the University. And they are sorry that this occurred."

at their behavior was not appropriate, regardless of the circumstances.

"Both players acknowledge that their actions were embarrassing to themselves, the program and the University, and they are sorry that this occurred."

— Compiled from news sources

in the Jan. 12 game at William & Mary.

Taylor, VCU's leading scorer, averages 18.8 points per game a total of 300 points; and started all 16 games before missing Delaware. Clark averages 3.5 points and 5.1 rebounds, and has played in all 16 games as a reserve.

In the 81-92 loss to W&M, Clark received two technical fouls and was ejected after a shouting match with W&M's Zeb Cobe. Clark and Cobe argued after battling for position near the foul line.

Referee Brian Kersey threw Taylor out of the game after Taylor made contact with the official. Kersey assessed Taylor with a

# Two lady Rams score All-District

Two players of VCU's women's soccer team were named to the Verizon Academic All-District III team for the 2001 season.

Sophomores Leah Robinson and Prue Cormie were the members selected. Robinson was named to the All-District III first team unit and will be placed on the national Academic All-American ballot. Cormie received second-team honors.

Midfielder Robinson scored two goals and four assists this during 2001 season. A biology major, she has a 3.89 grade point average. Robinson is the only player in VCU soccer program to be chosen to the All-CAA first team twice.

Defender Cormie was named the CAA Co-Defender of the Year and a first-team All-CAA honoree this past season. As an interdisciplinary studies major, Cormie has a 3.91 GPA. Also in 2001, she was placed on the first team All-State and third team All-Mid Atlantic Region.

— Compiled from news sources

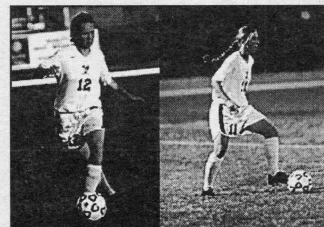


Photo: VCU Sports

Robinson and Cormie voted to Academic All-District III Team

## Support your team!

### Sports Schedule for Jan. 17-20

Thursday, Jan. 17  
Women's Basketball (H) vs. Towson, 7pm

Friday, Jan. 18  
Men's Basketball (A) vs. Old Dominion

Sunday, Jan. 20  
Women's Basketball (H) vs. George Mason, 2pm

## Brain cell Count

The sports crew here at the Commonwealth Times are inviting you, the students, to express your opinions about the athletics involving our University. In each Monday issue, there will be a forum for students to write and discuss their feelings. So feel free to write anything, just keep it clean.

**This Week's Question:** Should VCU Have a Football Team?

All responses can be emailed to [s2dlstam@atlas.vcu.edu](mailto:s2dlstam@atlas.vcu.edu)

We reserve the right to edit any comments.

## Out of Bounds

Derek Stamey  
CT Sports Editor

"Road Warriors We Are Not....."

Upon finishing my final exam for the Fall semester, I began pondering the likelihood of a possible winning streak for the greatly talented men's basketball team of VCU. There they were, sitting 1-0 in CAA conference play, resting snugly at 9-2 overall, which quite easily could have been 11-0 or 10-1. But loses to Big 10 member Northwestern and Conference USA resident Tulane was acceptable. Even tolerable.

What isn't tolerable is losing so easily on the road. And losing again. And again. And again. The Rams, simply put, are not road warriors. They quite obviously don't show up to play when the ball is in the other court. Some even wonder if they should get off the bus at all. Losing to teams like Wagner, Hofstra, and ugh... William & Mary is embarrassing. Not to mention embarrassing our school at William & Mary with second half tirades that left our team without two of its most important cogs in the wheel, flashy junior swingman Willie Taylor and solid defender Josh Clark. The tirades were bad enough but losing to a team with considerably less talent as William & Mary is purely unacceptable.

The road to the NCAA is paved with steady home court play and winning consistently on the road in your own conference. This is increasingly the case when occupying a spot in the CAA, which obviously can't be confused with the ACC, SEC, or Big East. The games played and lost over the holidays were important to solidify VCU's place among the best of the CAA. Needless to say we didn't step up to the challenge and we will pay when tournament time comes.

Instead of building upon the first half of the season's success, the guys regressed to the middle of the pack. It doesn't get any easier. Mirroring last year's schedule, VCU ends the season with a tough stretch of road games that could all end up with ugly losses, further throwing the Rams down the pecking order of the CAA. The hole is dug for the Rams. It's their choice whether they finish digging it and lie in their graves or fill the hole in and dance the night away.