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# THE Commonwealth TIMES

MONDAY  
January 28, 2002

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The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

## Professor authors book on women and slavery

Joy Shepperson  
CT STAFF WRITER

Women, slavery and the French Caribbean are a combination of topics seldom found together. These intriguing subjects serve as the focus of "Women in Slavery in the French Antilles," a new book written by Bernard Moitt. An associate professor of history at VCU, he completed the book after 10 years of combined research and writing.

According to Moitt, the inspiration for the book came from an astute concern over how women were ignored by scholars when it came to their historical contribution towards the abolishment of the institution of slavery in the Caribbean.

Moitt stated that women slaves in the Caribbean played a profound role in the eventual emancipation in the French West Indies. However, in the past, books and other documents on the subject failed to explore that aspect.

"I had to bring the stories of these women to light," he said adding that he felt a sense of achievement and pride while writing the book.

"I was writing about people whose story needed to be heard," he explained.

While conducting research for the book, Moitt said he experienced problems acquiring information.

There was a lack of information on my research topic, Moitt said, while there was a vast amount of information on other aspects of the Caribbean culture.

Finding only bits and pieces about slave women within several books, Moitt had the difficult task of combining the information with his own knowledge in

order to author an entire book.

"It had to be done," Moitt said. "I never thought about giving up."

According to Edward Cox, a Caribbean historian at Rice University in Texas, Moitt's 10 years paid off.

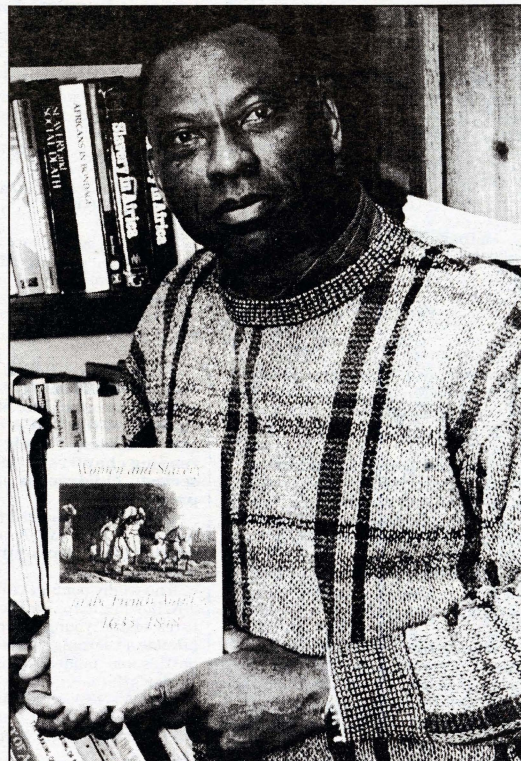
"The scholarship in this well-written books explains that slave women had major involvement in the uprisings and undoubtedly played a role in hastening the process of emancipation in the French West Indies," Cox said.

Moitt, a native of Antigua, an island country in the Caribbean Sea, attended York University in Canada, where he earned his undergraduate degrees in French and political science. He earned his master's degree in history from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland and his doctorate from the University of Toronto.

He hopes that those who read his book will take away "the fortitude and strength of the women."

"[I want them to know that] nothing can be so terrible that you can't surmount it," Moitt said. "Slave women left a legacy that you can profit from."

Moitt teaches courses on African and Caribbean history and Slavery in Africa and the Americas at VCU. He also participates in a study-abroad program to Barbados that is open to all majors.



Kent Brockwell

Bernard Moitt worked 10 years to create his book, *Women in Slavery in the French Antilles*.

## Ten Commandments bill draws opposition

Geoffrey Rowland  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

The line separating church and state could continue to blur depending on whether a bill that would allow schools to post the Ten Commandments becomes law.

Under this measure, sponsored by Delegate L. Scott Lingamfelter, local school boards would vote on whether to post the commandments in schools.

"Each school's board can decide for itself," Lingamfelter said. "It must be primarily secular and not religious. This

bill helps reflect national law and belief."

If accepted by school boards, the commandments would be posted in accordance to guidelines that will be set by the Board of Education and the Office of the Attorney General.

These guidelines will include federal and state court decisions about the appropriate presentation of the Ten Commandments in public schools. For example, in the 1971 case *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, the Supreme Court used three tests to determine if an action violated the First Amendment's religion clause.

Under this decision, the display of the Ten Command-

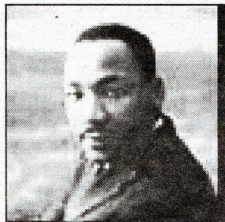
ments must have a secular purpose, must not advance or inhibit religion and must not foster "excessive governmental entanglement" with religion.

The bill is currently before the House Courts of Justice Committee, and many of the delegates remain unsure about the issue.

"It raises some constitutional question marks as it sits now," Delegate Ryan T. McDougle, R-Mechanicsville, said. "They are apparently making some substitutes (in the language). I personally believe in the Ten Commandments, but I want to make sure that we uphold the constitution."

Opponents of this bill say it is a direct violation of the First Amendment in the U.S. Constitution, pointing out that the Supreme Court ruled against such mea-

COMMANDMENT continued to page 5



Martin  
& Me  
PAGE 9



The men's  
tennis battles  
Georgetown.  
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FREE CLASSIFIEDS!  
SEE PAGE 4

# IN BRIEF

## CALENDAR

**Monday  
Jan. 28**

**"Beauty and the Beast"** performs live at the Landmark Theatre until Feb. 3. For ticket information call (804) 262-8100.

**Tuesday  
Jan. 29**

**Delbert McClintone** performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere. Tickets \$35.

**Wednesday  
Jan. 30**

**Share your talent or lack of it** with Open Mic Night in the Commonwealth Ballroom from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**South African song and dance** with Ladysmith Black Mambazo, 8 p.m. at the Carpenter Center. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Carpenter Center at (804) 649-0577.

**NAACP meeting** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the University Student Commons Capital Ballroom D.

**On-Campus Interviews/Career Connections** available 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Student Commons Room 130. Get connected with employers visiting the VCU campus.

**The Charlatans UK** perform with Starsailor at the 9:30 Club. Tickets are \$15.

**Aaron Carter** performs at the Patriot Center at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35.50.

**Thursday  
Jan. 31**

**Art After Hours** series at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. every Thursday night through Feb. 28. The series showcases live blues and jazz, wine tasting, gallery tours, poetry readings and more. Tickets are \$10 for a single night of entertainment. For ticket info call (804) 340-1405.

**On-Campus Interviews/Career Connections** available 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Student Commons Room 130. Get connected with employers visiting the VCU campus.

THE **Commonwealth  
TIMES**

VCU President Eugene Trani describes the budget cuts for all state agencies as "very serious."

In an e-mail, Trani said that Gov. Mark Warner recommended capping tuition increases at 5 percent. Former Gov. Jim Gilmore proposed an increase of 8 percent, which Trani said would have allotted VCU more money for offsetting state cuts.

Trani said the proposed cuts to the budget and the "likely" increase of tuition would mean a reduction of \$5.3 million in spending this fiscal year and a reduction of \$14.3 million in spending in each of the next two fiscal years.

Warner recommended the postponement of fall 2002 salary increases for faculty and staff.

Trani said budget cuts would also affect student financial aid by cutting 20 percent off the proposed increase for student financial aid.

"There will be enormously trying times involving difficult decisions," Trani said.

**Penryn Fire Police Capt. Robert Fichthorn said an eight-member force voted unanimously to boycott the 20th running of the YMCA triathlon after the Lancaster Family YMCA began reading chapters of the Harry Potter series to children in an after-school program.**

Fichthorn challenged the religious integrity of the YMCA and questioned whether it was "serving the will of God" in using the books.

The wildly popular children's books by J.K. Rowling chronicle the fictional adventures of the young Harry Potter as he attends a boarding school for wizards and battles his nemesis, the evil sorcerer Voldemort.

YMCA's executive director, Michael Carr, said the boycott would not stop 600 plus triathletes from participating in the race.

Township Supervisor Ronald Krause said the YMCA might have to hire police for another community to direct traffic for the race, which includes a swim meet, a bicycle race and a run. Penryn is a small community located about 60 miles west of Philadelphia, PA.

**"I never thought this night would come off as a racially offensive event," said Rebecca Boone, president of East Carolina University chapter of Gamma Chi Epsilon.**

Sorority girls dressed in baggy sweatshirts, sweatpants with one pant leg up and winter hats for their second annual "thug night."

"Thug night" was greeted with about 30 minority students with questions and concerns about the party.

"Is that what you want to represent, a hoodlum, someone who commits crimes?" sophomore Knick Dixon asked sorority members.

Boone said no. Senior Tanea Mardins, president of the National PanHellenic Council, said the minorities present were there to break down racial stereotypes.

Boone said "thug night" would be disbanded from the sorority's traditions.

Junior Tiffany Ray said, "I'm shocked it went this smoothly, especially by the way we came in. They came at us with an apology and we came back [at the sorority] with an understanding."

ties win one of the top ten slots of PETA's national survey of dining hall cuisine.

PETA used criteria such as the variety of vegan entrees offered, how receptive the programs were to student requests and the overall nutritional quality and taste of the food prepared.

Other schools in PETA's top 10 list include: New York University, the University of California-San Cruz, Columbia University, Indiana University, the College of Wooster, Vassar College, Smith College, Elmira College and Bowdoin College.

**ODU's new smoking policy prohibits its smoking within 20 feet of the entrance to any university owned building.**

The policy also forbids smoking within any enclosed courtyard and in any outdoor athletic facility, which are enclosed by fences. The new policy also prohibits smoking in any of the university owned vehicles. Both the Faculty and Student senates approved the policy.

Dr. Dana Burnett, vice president of Student Services, who brought the new policy to ODU, said that it is not the university's intention to limit the freedoms of smokers, but to free non-smokers of the hovering cloud that exists near buildings.

"It's a matter of good health," Burnett said.

Student Body President Phillip Newallo said the feedback he has received from smokers has been largely negative.

Junior Josh Podesta said he understands the want for non-smokers to have smoke free zones.

"I think it's fine as long as there's somewhere for us to smoke when it rains," he said.

**Prince Moulay Hichman of Morocco moves to New Jersey to put an end to "an unhealthy tension" in the royal family.**

Hichman, 37, is a first cousin to King Mohammed VI and second in line to the throne.

He, his wife and two young daughters live in a two story stone house set on 1.24 acres in Princeton.

The prince's troubles at home began last year. After a trip to Paris in May -he wrote a front-page article for the French daily Le Monde stating that the king had too much power and urged a public debate in Morocco on the role of the monarch.

The Moroccan press nicknamed him "the red prince" for his liberal political leanings. Hichman said "officials of the Moroccan security machine" began tracking him and tried to silence his calls for political reform.

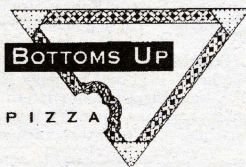
A nephew of former King Hassan II, the prince is widely considered to have had aspirations to the throne when Hassan died in 1999 and the title was passed on to his son, Mohammed VI. The current issue of Jeune Afrique magazine features the prince in a front-page story titled "The Man Who Wanted to Be King."

Commenting on his relationship with the current king, Hichman said, "I remain very respectful and attached to him personally and the whole royal family, which must stay unified to maintain their role as a model [to society]."

When asked if he planned to return to Morocco to attend the spring wedding of the young king, the prince said, "If I am invited, I will go with the greatest pleasure."

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Virginia Tech dining facili-

# NEWS

## Seniors struggle to find employment; Laid-off workers beat students to punch

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MUNCIE, Ind. — During his second job interview, Ball State University senior Tim Bodnar acted as a travel agent to sell his prospective employers a travel package. Not an easy assignment with the current travel fears.

In reality though, Bodnar was doing something much more difficult. He was selling himself and competing for a job in a market plagued by recession.

The recent economic recession has left many upcoming graduates unsure about their futures. According to Bodnar, a finance major, they must now compete for fewer openings against older, more experienced applicants who have been laid off.

"Not many people are looking to hire you unless you are on the dean's list every semester and Johnny All-American," Bodnar said.

According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employees, hiring for 2002 graduates will be down 20 percent compared to 2001 graduates. Camille Luckenbaugh, employment information manager of the NACE, said she blamed the drop partly on a lack of production and manufacturing demand. Businesses have fewer orders and therefore place fewer orders for employees.

According to Larry Beck, associate di-

rector of the Ball State Career Center, companies are taking a wait-and-see attitude with hiring.

As a result, Beck said, students need to become their own career agents and market themselves more aggressively.

"Employers want to know what students can do for them," Beck said. "They don't always want to hear students tell them how wonderful it would be for the student to be able to work for their company."

Seniors can no longer wait for recruiters to approach them like they could two years ago, Bodnar said. Instead, he is using the Internet to seek them out.

Bodnar said he has recently employed a site that lists around 400 employers in Chicago and Indianapolis. He picked his 10 favorite companies from each city and has sent resumes to them.

Ultimately though, Bodnar said, his most promising possibility has come from old-fashioned networking.

As the former president of the financial management association, Bodnar spoke with a representative of American Express Financial Advisers at an FMA meeting. The conversation eventually resulted in two interviews, and Bodnar said he has scheduled two more with the same company.

He began his job hunt in December, and

he said he expects the search to continue for up to another four months. According to Beck, seniors could spend up to 12 months searching for jobs, depending on their willingness to move and take different offers.

To avoid post-graduation unemployment, Beck said students should get started in the job search as soon as possible and build it into their weekly schedule. Beck said to gain related career experience, including internships, early. He also said attending campus and regional job fairs, networking through professional clubs and using Web sites such as monstertrak.com are helpful.

Bodnar said he puts eight extra hours a week toward his job search and compares it to having two extra classes.

"It sucks," he said. "You worry more about finding a job than you do about classes because that's why you go to school — to find a job."

Bodnar's worry is not unfounded. The job market for financial services ranks among the worst according to Luckenbaugh. Communications and auto industries also rank low, while engineering, accounting and government jobs rank highly, Luckenbaugh said, citing a survey from NACE.

The airline and travel industry has been hit hard by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to Beck. He said, however, that

the attacks have been used as a corporate scapegoat for poor economic performance.

According to a NACE survey in October, 66.5 percent of employers said the attacks would have no effect on their college recruiting plans for the year.

Sept. 11, however, did alter the way businesses contact students, Luckenbaugh said. Many recruiters, she said, have limited air travel and are making fewer campus visits. This makes it necessary to find alternate ways to contact students. Recruiters are using more phone interviews, more teleconferences and more Web-based methods, the NACE reported.

Jeff Fouts, financial adviser for the Frontier Financial Consultants Inc. in Muncie, said the job market should start turning around by this fall. He said manufacturing earnings are already starting to make a comeback and that people are starting to build and buy homes again. Unfortunately, he said, the public is still cautious and slow to invest. Fouts said he blames this on the media.

"A lot of the information that's out there for the general public is spun, and the public isn't as aware as they ought to be," he said.

According to Fouts, when people become more informed, they will invest more, and the job market should make a turnaround.

## Ecstasy bill faces scrutiny on Capitol Hill

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DAVIS, Calif. — The Ecstasy Prevention Act of 2001, introduced to the U.S. Senate floor by Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.), is currently under fire from civil liberties organizations.

A report issued by the Center for Cognitive Liberty and Ethics, a nonprofit organization working to protect fundamental civil liberties, finds that the Ecstasy Prevention Act unconstitutionally profiles people attending "raves," or electronic dance parties, and misappropriates federal funds to communities willing to outlaw these raves.

The bill passed the Senate on Dec. 20 as part of the Justice Authorization Bill, HR-2215. It is now in conference with the House of Representatives.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, MDMA, commonly known as Ecstasy, stimulates the release of the neurotransmitter serotonin from brain neurons, producing a high that lasts from several minutes to an hour. MDMA can produce stimulant effects such as an enhanced sense of pleasure and self-confidence and increased energy. Its psychedelic effects include feelings of peacefulness, acceptance and empathy.

"This is more of an education piece to go after the users," said Tandy Barrett, Graham's legislative assistant. "There's a misperception that Ecstasy is safe. This bill will require a test by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to outline the serious health risk that this drug could have, even from just one use."

According to Sen. Graham's Web site, the apparent harmlessness of the drug has led to its pervasiveness

"In part, Ecstasy use is rising because teen-agers believe it is a safe way to get high and remain energized through late-night parties known as 'raves,' ... Nothing can be further from the truth. Ecstasy can cause brain damage, potentially fatal dehydration and overheating and can precipitate heart attacks or strokes."

— Sen. Bob Graham

in American life today.

"In part, Ecstasy use is rising because teen-agers believe it is a safe way to get high and remain energized through late-night parties known as 'raves,'" the Web site said. "Nothing can be further from the truth. Ecstasy can cause brain damage, potentially fatal dehydration and overheating and can precipitate heart attacks or strokes. In Florida alone last year, there were 25 deaths in which MDMA or a variant thereof was listed as a cause of death."

The CCLE disagrees with this sentiment, as they feel that people have the right to control their own minds.

"In one way it's trying to target people who are using Ecstasy based on their lifestyle," said Richard Glen Boire, attorney and author of the report. "Raves are the hotbed for Ecstasy use. It's not like marijuana where there's a telltale odor, or heroin, where people have marks on their

arms to indicate usage. It's really hard for cops to tell who's been using this drug and they rely on profiling to determine who's been using it."

Boire feels that these harmful effects can be avoided with responsible use of the drug.

"I believe that, fundamentally, an adult has the right to control his or her own consciousness," Boire said. "The basis of human autonomy is that you have the right to make your own decisions, and that includes responsibly altering your consciousness with the use of any drug, technique or technology."

The CCLE feels that there are already so many mind-altering drugs that are legal and that this bill is an inappropriate use of government power to punish responsible users of Ecstasy.

"People have a strange view of drugs in our society," Boire said. "They ignore how pervasive they are. The government is allowing people to alter their consciousness with other drugs like alcohol, nicotine and caffeine."

Under this act, people are being targeted just on the fact that they are attending raves and it doesn't have anything to do with their behavior. It's just the fact that you're taking this drug they don't approve of."

Supporters of the bill insist that there aren't any unconstitutional profiling techniques being employed, as well as no efforts to shut down electronic dance parties.

"The bill is by no means targeting raves; we're just trying to help the communities that agreed to take initiative over the drug," Barrett said. "We want to give them the resources they need and encourage other communities to take initiative as well."

# Lt. Gov. Hager reflects on term

**Geoffrey Rowland**  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Former Lt. Gov. John Hager said he remains positive not only about the accomplishments of former Gov. Jim Gilmore's administration but also about his four years of service to Virginians.

"I enjoyed being lieutenant governor," Hager said. "It was a great run. I feel that we were able to open up to the people. We let the (common) people feel that they had officials they could call for help. We would listen to them, and we heard a wide variety of problems from real people."

Now the commonwealth's anti-terrorism czar, Hager listed some of the transportation and safe-driving bills he supported during his legislative tenure.

"One of our goals was to improve safe driving in the commonwealth," Hager said, adding that he supported a bill that the General Assembly passed each of his four years as the Senate's leader.

While Hager said he finds himself content with changes made during Gilmore's administration, he cites a few left undone.

"A lot of things you would like to accomplish cannot be accomplished because of funding," he said. "The government runs just like a business and (money) is not always there for things."

"I went on a couple of trade missions, and they were good for Virginia. I think that maybe I would go on a couple more of those if I could. Also, I think that I would have to become more involved in the efficiency of government... there is still more

that could be done."

For instance, Hager said he wishes he had successfully helped people with disabilities more often during his term.



Hager

Olivia Lloyd / Capital News Service

"A lot of things get cut because of funding, and (disability legislation) seemed to be one of them," he said. "We did do a few things (in disabilities), but I believe that there were a few more things that could have been done."

Nonetheless, Hager said he always will remember being in the Senate, which had a 50-50 party split during his reign, and he cast the tie-breaking vote on some issues.

"I definitely feel that some of the (legislative impact) I had was in the tie-breaking votes I had in the Senate that helped pass a few things. I was the vote on getting party identification listed on voters' ballots and getting lottery profits sent to (public) colleges."

Though Hager last year sought the Republican nomination for governor, he candidly faced his defeat when Mark Earley, the attorney general during Gilmore's administration, won the nomination at the state party convention.

"We lost fair and square," Hager said. "I think that I could have run a formidable campaign. We had a lot of grassroots support, but some members of the party wanted (Earley) and they nominated him."

Hager may no longer serve the commonwealth as its lieutenant governor, but he's still a part of its political scene. He's eager to continue helping Virginians as Gov. Mark Warner's leader for homeland security.

His appointment as the assistant to the governor for commonwealth preparedness resulted from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center Twin Towers. Virginians lost family members, jobs, businesses and money from the terrorist airplane crash into the Pentagon.

"I think that terrorism is a 21<sup>st</sup> century threat," Hager said, "and we need 21<sup>st</sup> century answers. I am very excited to be working with (Warner's) administration. I think that I can make a contribution and help keep Virginia as updated as possible."

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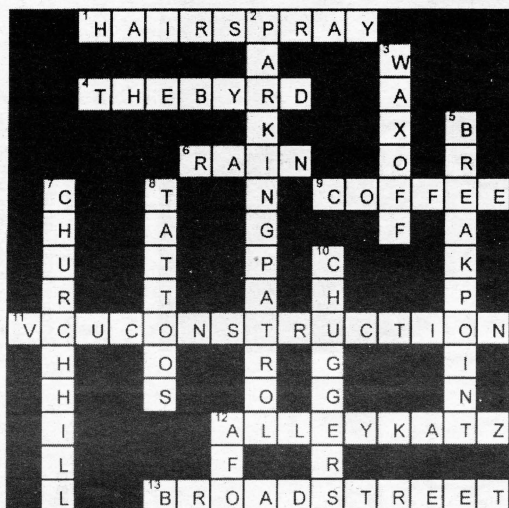
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## Crossword puzzle answers for January 24, 2002

**COMMANDMENT** continued from page 1

tures in the past. In the 1980 case of *Stone v. Graham*, the Supreme Court struck down a Kentucky law that required public schools to post the Ten Commandments in classrooms. The Supreme Court ruled that the measure contained no secular purpose.

"You do not want to open up this can of worms," said Michael Allen Wolf, a professor of history and law at the University of Richmond. "Public schools are educational institutions and should not be used to (push) religious views upon others."

Even if the House passes the bill, it would not become law without the approval of the Senate and the govern-

nor. Some senators said they believe the bill could be a useful tool in giving localities more say about how to run their communities.

"I am for any bill that gives more say to localities," Sen. Bill Bolling, R-Hanover, said. "I am not sure of the exact literature of the bill, but I think that if it got through (to the Senate), that I would be inclined to vote for it."

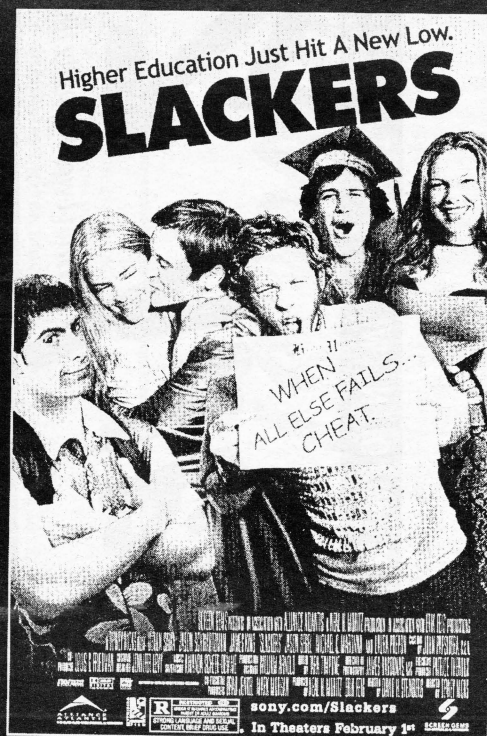
Lingamfelter said the bill has been crafted with care.

The House Courts of Justice Committee put the bill on hold until more members could review the Supreme Court's decision in *Stone v. Graham*. The bill will be presented to the committee again next week.

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# February 2002

*"What I would really like said about me is that I dared to love."  
- Maya Angelou*

## EVENTS

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**4**

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

**5**

12 noon - 2:00 pm  
**Noon Time Jazz Series**  
Common Ground  
Free! Sponsored by APB Concerts

**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.

8:00 pm  
**Ludacris in Concert**  
Siegel Center  
Tickets are \$15 for VCU students with  
VCUCard and \$25 for general public. Call 828-  
7267 for information.

**19**

9:00 am - 11:00 am  
**Commuter CoffeeBRAKE!**  
Commons Lobby  
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Services and Parking & Transportation.

**21 - 24**

## Body Awareness Week



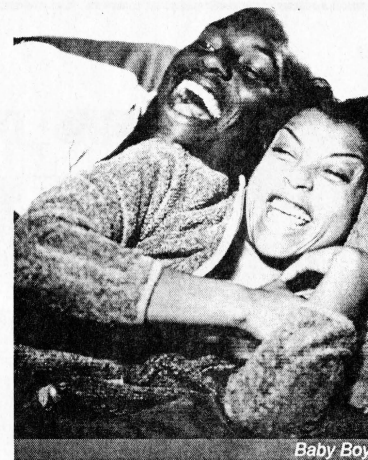
February 25<sup>th</sup> - March 6<sup>th</sup>  
For a complete calendar of events visit  
[www.students.vcu.edu/health/  
bodyawareness](http://www.students.vcu.edu/health/bodyawareness)

**26**

**The Body Fair**  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Commons Lobby  
Get a FREE 5-minute massage, make a Stress  
Balloon, learn about campus resources, eat  
some free food, and just have fun! Part of  
Body Awareness Week (see above)

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
**Lecture: The Grateful Dead**  
Business Building Auditorium  
Dennis McNally, biographer and publicist for  
the Grateful Dead, author "A Long Strange  
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## FILMS



*Baby Boy*

All films are sponsored by APB Films  
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and are shown each weekend in the  
Commons Theater. Non-students must be  
a guest of a VCU student with VCUCard. Two  
guest limit per each VCUCard.

# February 2002

"What I would really like said about me is that I dared to love."  
- Maya Angelou

## EVENTS

**February is Black History Month.**  
For event information, visit  
[www.students.vcu.edu/omsa/bhm/](http://www.students.vcu.edu/omsa/bhm/)

**3**

**8-Ball Tournament**  
in the Break Point Games Room  
Register in Break Point. \$2.50 registration fee.  
Call 828-1981 for information.

**4**

9:00 am - 11:00 am  
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Commons Lobby  
Co-sponsored by Off Campus Student  
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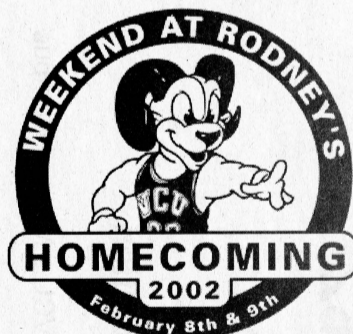
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Free! Sponsored by APB Concerts

**8 - 9**

**Homecoming:  
Weekend at Rodney's**  
See description below.

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**Valentine's Day Special**  
Break Point Games Room  
Bring a date to Break Point in the Commons  
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darts or two free tokens.



### Spirit Competition

Show your school spirit by having your organization, residence hall floor or student group participate in the Homecoming Spirit Competition. Contact Felicia Keelen, at [fkeelen@vcu.edu](mailto:fkeelen@vcu.edu) or 828-6500 for details.

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Siegel Center

Prize valued at \$250 will be given away during the game.

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Services and Parking & Transportation.

**21 - 24**

**Maymont Flower & Garden Show**  
Richmond Convention Center  
This popular garden show moves into the dazzling new Richmond Center Ballroom. Convention Center is located on the corner of 5th and Broad Streets. For information call 804-358-7166 for times and admission prices.

**25**

1:00 pm  
**Virginia Campus Compact Kick-off**  
Berkely Hotel, 1200 E. Cary Street  
Come and join national and state leaders, college and university presidents, staff, and students to celebrate the official launching of Virginia Campus Compact, a non profit organization who's mission is to build and sustain a coalition of institutions of higher education committed to active engagement with their communities. RSVP's are requested by February 4, 2002. For more information and to RSVP, call (804)289-8989.

<http://www.students.vcu.edu/activities/homecoming.html>

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**Homecoming Pep Rally**  
Siegel Center  
Activities include a Slam Dunk contest, pep rally with music from 106.5 The Beat and performances by Mello D & The Rados and Carbon Leaf.

Prices include admission to Basketball game and Pep Rally. Free to VCU Students with Valid ID, \$5 Adults, \$3 for youth ages 17 and under, senior citizens and VCU Faculty and staff. Limited number tickets will be available after the Women's Basketball game, so come out early, enjoy the game and stay for the Pep Rally.

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Dennis McNally, biographer and publicist for the Grateful Dead, author "A Long Strange Trip." FREE! Sponsored by APB Lectures Committee

7:00 pm  
**Tom Feelings**  
author of The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo  
A Black History Month presentation. For location and details call 828-6672 or check the website listed on this calendar.

**27**

**Slim Hopes: Advertising and the Obsession with Thinness.**  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Business Building Auditorium.  
Video and discussion. Part of Body Awareness Week (see above).

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
**Open Mic**  
Commonwealth Ballroom  
Free with VCU Card\*  
Sponsored by APB Expressions Showcase

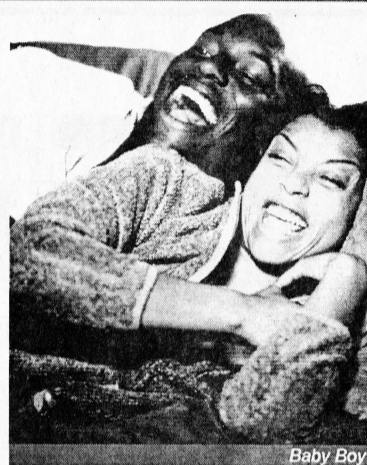
### Saturday, February 9

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
**Pre-Game Tailgate Party**  
Check the website for details.

6:45pm  
**Pep "Parade"**  
Pep Band leads crowd to Siegel Center for Game

7:30pm  
**Men's Basketball**  
**Rams vs. Old Dominion**  
Siegel Center  
Adult Reserved seats are \$12. For youth or group ticket prices, call the VCU Ticket office at 828-726.

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- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b>  | 7:00 pm: O<br>9:30 pm: <b>Baby Boy</b>                                |
| <b>2</b>  | 7:00 pm: <b>Baby Boy</b><br>9:30 pm: O                                |
| <b>8</b>  | 8:00 pm: <b>Training Day</b>  |
| <b>9</b>  | 8:00 pm: <b>Training Day</b>  |
| <b>15</b> | 8:00 pm: <b>Two Can Play At That Game</b>                             |
| <b>16</b> | 7:00 pm: <b>Two Can Play At That Game</b>                             |
| <b>22</b> | 7:00 pm: <b>Higher Learning</b><br>9:30 pm: <b>American History X</b> |
| <b>23</b> | 7:00 pm: <b>American History X</b><br>9:30 pm: <b>Higher Learning</b> |

### Post Game Activities

After the game, take advantage of VCU night at designated area clubs. Check back later for details.

**For more information contact:**  
VCU Athletic Department: 828-7000  
Commons & Activities: 828-6500  
Student Activities Center: 828-3648

**For basketball game ticket information contact:** VCU Ticket office at 828-7267

Homecoming 2002: Weekend at Rodney's is coordinated by the Homecoming Planning Committee, VCU Athletics Department and University Student Commons & Activities.

# VCU Life is good here!

Common Ground  
Free! Sponsored by APB Concerts

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**VCU** *Life is good here!*

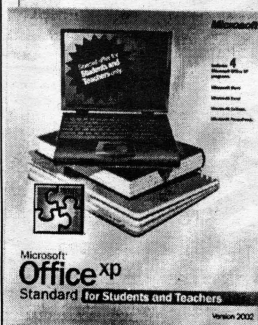
Published by University Student Commons & Activities, Division of Student Affairs. All events and times subject to change. VCU is an EEO/AA institution. If you need special accommodation to participate in a university sponsored event due to a disability, contact staff at (804)828-6500. For assistance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



Indicates non-university,  
Richmond area event.

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**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.

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

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

# 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.

# Reliving the dream, 'Martin & Me'

**Kelly Pruitt**  
CT STAFF WRITER

James Chapmyn doesn't celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday every third Monday in January. He celebrates it all year long.

On Wednesday night, Chapmyn brought his theatrical performance, "Martin & Me," to the VCU Performing Arts Center. The performance portrays the inspirational and controversial life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through the memories people have shared about the impact of his life and death.

"I thought it was going to be one big history lesson with just factual information," said Jessica Staton, a sophomore at VCU, "but there was comedy and drama with all the different stories. It was very emotional."

With the help of actor Donny Monaco, Chapmyn transforms himself into characters that have all been affected by King. He tells the story of everyone from a young boy not knowing his place in society to an old woman participating in picket lines and demonstrations until her dying day.

"The play is autobiographical in nature," Chapmyn said, who celebrated his eighth birthday three days after King was shot. "It tells a story not based on facts of the experts, but on emotional responses."

Founder of the multidisciplinary arts group, Chapmyn Spoken Word, Chapmyn has written several books and the off-Broad-

way play, "Our Black Men are Dying and Nobody Seems to Care."

He is also a minister, an AIDS activist, an educator, a community organizer and a columnist. He has taken "Martin & Me" to over 1,000 college campuses around the country.

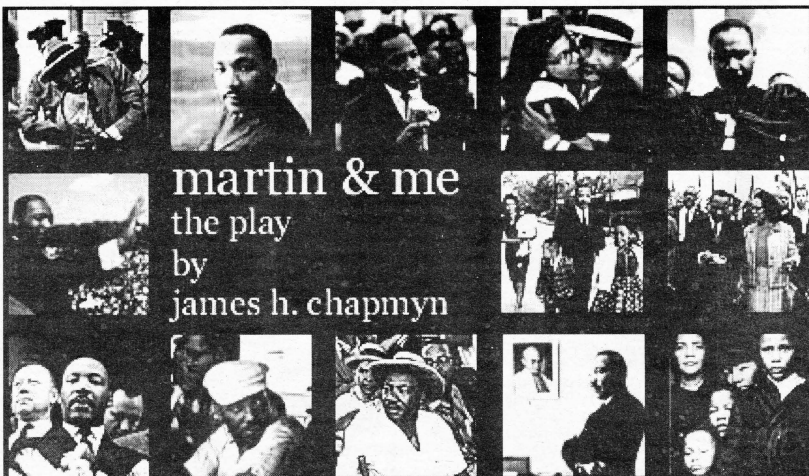
According to Chapmyn, too many people don't realize the effects King had on history.

"Martin is not a day, or a building, or a street," Chapmyn said, "Martin is here in our memories and in our actions, calling us to change the world."

From the shouts and "amens" of the audience Wednesday night, King's presence was alive and vibrant in the auditorium.

"This is something we all needed to hear," said Bismark Agbemble, a junior at VCU. "He really embraced the moment. I wish more people would have come out to see it."

After the performance, Chapmyn and Monaco held a question and answer session with the audience. Chapmyn ad-



Courtesy of www.chapmyn.com

ressed questions dealing with fighting racism today, the role of America's youth and opposing the labels society has placed on the races. If there is one thing Chapmyn wanted people to learn from "Martin & Me" it's that there is work to be done.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was a man, a person like us," Chapmyn said. "We are each capable of remarkable things."

**M**artin & Me is a traveling spoken word show that was recently at the VCU Performing Arts Center.

 **TOYOTA**

## Celica— The Inside Story

On the outside, it's easy to see that Celica is race-track inspired. But the real excitement is on the inside...under the hood. Take the Celica GT-S...Toyota worked with Yamaha to build a 180 HP engine redlined at 7800 RPM...equipped it with Variable Valve Timing with intelligence...a computer that constantly monitors and retunes your engine for maximum performance...a cam with two sets of lobes to provide two ranges of valve lift and duration for more usable horsepower. There's direct ignition for greater reliability...iridium-tipped spark plugs for reduced maintenance...a stainless steel exhaust manifold...a water-cooled oil cooler. And mated with Toyota's 4-speed electronically-controlled automatic "Sportshift", you get transmission shift switches on the steering wheel...just like Formula 1 race cars. Sweet.



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

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# OPINION

## CASEY DEVERS Sex Has No Place At VMI

As of Monday, Jan 14, the state-supported Virginia Military Institute instated a new policy that requires cadets who are married, become pregnant, or impregnate someone to leave the school.

All you feminists out there, before you jump the gun, calm down. The Washington-based Women's Law Center is doing enough ranting and raving for all of you.

Depending on how you look at this new policy, it may seem unconstitutional or sexist but the bottom line here is what it's enforcing. This new policy is enforcing responsibility for one's actions.

There is nothing new about the marriage policy at VMI, it's always been the same but has always been seen as a "don't ask, don't tell" situation.

The only thing concerning this aspect of the new VMI policy is that maybe now it will be enforced.

According to school officials, cadets would be allowed to finish the semester in which the marriage or parenthood was discovered and the policy will not be enforced retroactively.

The new policy also allows a student to reapply for admission. According to the Associated Press, Kent Willis, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, said the policy could face a legal challenge. Of course it will, every time these days faces a legal challenge.

I applaud VMI for being gutsy enough to instate this policy. Too many people, institutions, or what have you, are too afraid of being sued by someone to make changes whether the changes are needed or deserved.

According to the AP, the Women's Law Center said the rule violates federal laws banning discrimination against pregnant women in academic programs.

I'm sorry but last time I checked, VMI was not just an academic program. Besides, what woman would actually want to continue as a VMI cadet while pregnant?

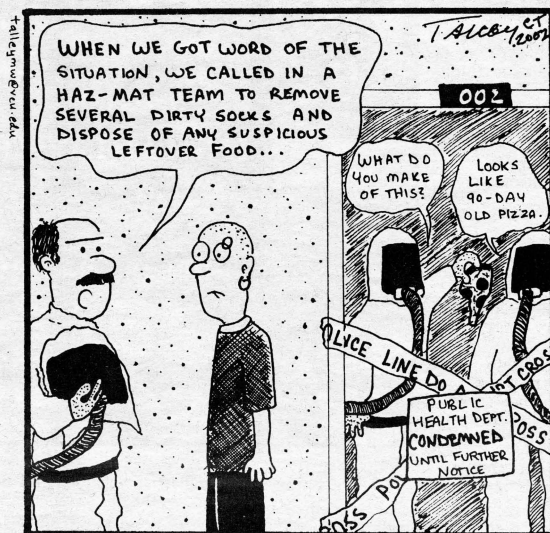
As for the policy being enforced for the male cadets as well, I applaud VMI even more enthusiastically. It is so easy for some men (notice I said some not all) to avoid responsibility for their actions when impregnating a woman.

Men don't have to deal with pregnancy the way women do and although nature cannot be changed so that things even out, I'm glad places like VMI are trying to balance them.

I would support the Women's Law Center if they were defending a policy like that. If it were instated at a place like VCU, I believe it would be discriminatory.

VMI is obviously not a regular academic school like VCU and should not be treated the same way in my opinion.

It seems to me that if a woman is passionate enough about the military to apply and enroll at a school like VMI, then she should be smart enough to not get pregnant. It's not that difficult.



THE TRUTH ABOUT MEN'S DORMS...

## AMUL MADAN • First Day Goof Up

As the first week of classes came to a close last week, I found myself thinking back to Tuesday and what happened in my first class of the day.

You see, ladies and gentlemen, what I'm about to tell you isn't at all gross. Rather, it's something that I'm sure all of you reading my column will experience (if you haven't experienced it already).

When I stepped into room 2119 in the Business Building on Tuesday morning, I found that the class was already full of students. Now, I certainly expected this—after all, it was the first day of class. What happened next, however, was totally out of the ordinary and something that I had not experienced up until that time.

Apparently, room 2119 was double-booked—I guessed it was a mistake of some kind and as a result, I, along with the other students involved, were the victims.

My calculus professor came in and thought that the students that were there were all taking calculus—until he saw another professor in the room. It was later discovered that part of a small business management class was in the room. In addition the rest of class was in the classroom that calculus was supposed to be held in—room 5162.

While all those involved, including myself, got a nice laugh out of it—it begs the question: are there are enough classrooms in the Business Building to hold all classes at their assigned times.

On a personal note, I wonder if a double booking has ever happened before.

If there aren't enough classrooms to

hold classes in (and thus, some classes get double booked), shouldn't VCU do something about it?

Perhaps start on plans for a new business building? It would certainly make sense.

I recommend that they should make a new business building along with the start of Phase 3 in the Student Commons (or start on it during the summer, have it done by next winter). It wouldn't hurt that the new business building should have windows (the current one, as most of you know, doesn't have windows. What were the builders thinking back then when they built the Business Building? The students need to breathe!!).

Something should be done soon about the Business Building. Granted, the double booking was probably a goof up but there aren't any windows and something should be done to fix that shortcoming (opening the door only does so much). If not, then the professors and, more importantly, the students will suffer.

Do  
You  
Agree?

## EMILY LIU Teaching & Technology

As the new Spring semester befalls us and we begin to accustom ourselves to the classroom environments we are assigned to be in, it is painfully obvious that many of our professors have a bit of adjusting to do for themselves. Apparently the switches which control the sometimes six black-board units in a single lecture hall can be mildly confusing, not to mention the recurring frustration that stems from the remaining switches used to control the several sections of overhead ceiling lights.

Proper adjustment of these classroom elements is not taken lightly either. Otherwise, lecturers are left vulnerable to the wrath of overachieving students—who insist upon acquiring meticulous notes, whether the information presented is required of them or not for the upcoming exam. In addition, lecturers are left vulnerable to the students seated in the last rows who quite simply enjoy the sound of their own complaining in the acoustical atmosphere of a lecture hall.

This brings us to the essential question: when did the teaching itself become less complex and difficult than the teaching tools involved? At this critical point in technology when new tools are just beginning to be introduced into the learning environment and the use of these tools may be considered "inefficient," it is hard not to wonder whether valuable time is being wasted for students in a class—all in the name of modernism.

By no means is this a challenge to innovation in the educational realm, however it is clear that sacrifices have been made for it—whether they are a substantial or trifling few minutes left unaccounted for. The crux of the matter being that it is essential for educators to consider the benefits and detriments of these tools to the actual process of learning. It seems quite necessary for one to weigh out first and foremost, the needs of the students.

THE Commonwealth  
TIMES

Ty Bowers  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Robb Crocker  
EDITORIAL EDITOR

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 at [ctvcu@hotmail.com](mailto:ctvcu@hotmail.com)

# SPORTS

## Late-game heroics spur Ram victory

**Bobby Parks**  
CT SPORTS WRITER

The VCU men's basketball team overcame a double-digit deficit Saturday night against the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Seahawks at the Alltel Pavilion to win their fourth straight CAA game, 74-68.

The game was played before the largest home crowd of the year, 7,052 fans.

The Seahawks (12-7, 7-2 CAA) went up 11 points in the second half to 49-38 with 14:57 left in the game.

The Rams, however, would take the lead at the 7:25 mark in the half, 61-59. Josh Clark contributed four points in this Rams run and Domenic Jones hit a key three-pointer. Brandon Clifford came up big for the Seahawks, hitting a three-pointer with 7:04 left in the game to give his team a 62-61 edge.

Baskets by Clark and Josh Graham would give the Rams a critical three point lead, 65-62, with five minutes left to play. The Seahawks would only be able to close their point difference to one point in the last minutes of the game, as the Rams went on to win by six points.

Five Rams' players scored in double digits in the game. Jones led the way with 16 points. Taylor and Willie would each come up with 14 and Graham and Clark would have 12 points each. Likholitov ended his streak of three-straight double-doubles, ending with six points and seven rebounds.

The Seahawks had two double-digit scorers: Callahan had 20 and Blizzard added 16.

This was a key victory for the Rams as they move into a second-place tie with Drexel University, just one game behind UNC Wilmington.

The win snapped a three-game win streak by the Seahawks.

"Tonight was just a real battle," VCU coach Mack McCarthy said after the game. "I think our guys battle to the end most of the time," McCarthy said, "It's a great crowd. When it's packed, it's unbelievable."

McCarthy downplayed the importance of the game, saying "we're a little bit closer than we were" in terms of the CAA race.

Commenting on the 11-point deficit in the second half, Josh Graham said, "We always stayed together. We were concerned, but it's all about keeping your head."

UNC Wilmington coach Jerry Wainwright said the Seahawks' lack of offensive rebounding, their unforced turnovers and not connecting on enough free-throws were major factors in their loss.

"Things can happen fast when you don't rebound the ball," Wainwright said.

"You have to play really good to win on the road," Wainwright continued. "VCU's a high-level team and they deserved to win."

The next home game for the Rams is Saturday, Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. against CAA rival Drexel.

## Men's tennis looks to regain clout with weekend wins

**Mike Powell**

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Two years ago the men's tennis program at VCU was a national powerhouse.

The Rams, coached by Paul Kostin, made their eighth straight appearance in the NCAA tournament and advanced to the final match against perennial collegiate tennis power Stanford. Despite losing 4-0 to the Cardinals, VCU's second place season is the highest national finish ever for any athletic program at the university.

This year, the challenge faced by Kostin's team is two-fold: living up to higher expectations and replacing All-American Daniel Andersson, who was 144-35 during his four seasons at VCU, and third-ranked singles player Jose Sanchez, who was ranked 58th in the country at the end of his senior season.

"This is a rebuilding year," said Kostin, who was named the 2000 College Coach of the Year by the United States Professional Tennis Association. "We lost one of the top players in the country and our number three player. You just don't replace two players like that overnight."

But Kostin does have senior Frank Moser back for one more year. Moser, an All-American who was ranked as high as sixth nationally last season and finished 19th, will step up into Andersson's spot after playing at second place most of last year.

"I have a lot of confidence in him," Kostin said of his only senior. "He was a good leader as a junior and I expect him to continue in that role for us."

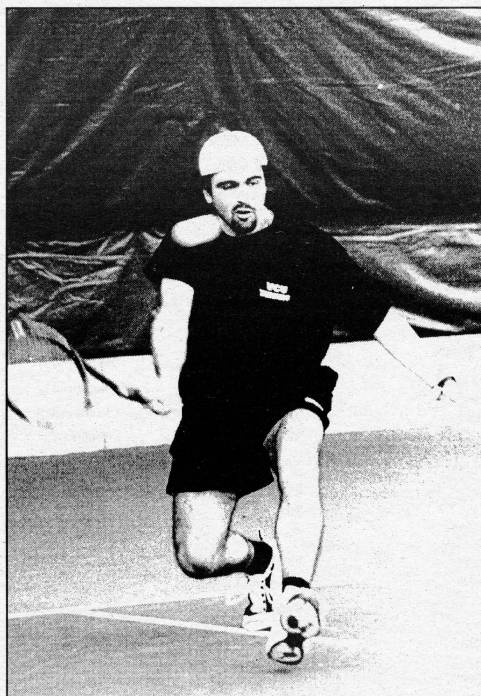
Pushing Moser for the top spot in the Rams' lineup is newcomer Florian Marquardt, who, according to Kostin, "has the potential to play some great tennis." Marquardt, ranked 45th in preseason rankings, teamed with Moser to capture the doubles title at the ITA Intercollegiate Clay Court Championships, the first leg of the ITA grand slam. The win marks the first grand slam doubles title and the third grand slam title overall in Virginia Commonwealth men's tennis history. Moser and Marquardt are ranked 12th in the ITA preseason doubles rankings.

Juniors Fernando Sanchez and Mattias Hoglund and sophomore Mats Norin also return from last season and should fill out the top five for the Rams.

Sanchez was named the Colonial Athletic Association Rookie of the Year and second team all-CAA after compiling a fourth-place record of 26-3. He also made the all-CAA second team in doubles with partner Jose Sanchez. Hoglund, the sixth-ranked player last season, was a first team all-CAA selection and posted a 27-11 mark. Norin also received second team all-CAA honors fifth-ranked 25-10 performance last year.

Local product Matt Hopke of Richmond and newcomers Daniel Casquero and Ruben Zrihen are expected to compete for playing time in the lower rankings.

The team's next match-up is Feb. 2 versus Princeton at the Thalhimer Tennis Center.



VCU's Pedro Nieto sends a forehand shot to his Georgetown University opponent in Sunday's match.

Kent Brockwell

## VCU cleans house at weekend invitational

The Men's Tennis team, ranked 39th in the ITA, played an impressive three days of tennis in the VCU 4-1 invitation tournament this past weekend. The numerous schools that arrived to play were: Navy, Radford University, Georgetown University, James Madison University, Cornell University, University of Richmond, Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University.

In the tournament, held in the Thalhimer Tennis Center, the Rams defeated U of R 5-0 in the tournament's first match.

Pedro Nieto, Julien Lousao, Fernando Sanchez and Daniel Casquero each won their singles matches, with all but Casquero winning in straight sets.

Martin Ott and Mats Norin won the doubles, also in straight sets.

**VCU 5, University of Richmond 0**

### Singles

1. Pedro Nieto (VCU) def. Niki Doll (UR) — 6-1, 6-2
2. Julien Lousao (VCU) def. Dan Scrafford (UR) - 6-4, 6-0
3. Fernando Sanchez (VCU) def. Matt

Cabana (UR) -6-0, 6-2

4. Daniel Casquero (VCU) def. Derek Schwandt (UR) - 6-3, 4-6, 7-6

### Doubles

1. Mats Norin/Martin Ott (VCU) def. Tim Hadsel-Mares/David Donn (UR) - 6-2, 6-3

Continuing their winning streak, the Rams defeated Radford with another brilliant score of 5-0 at the end of the first day tournament.

### Saturday's finishes:

- Navy def. Radford, 5-0  
Cornell def. U of R, 5-0  
Radford def. Georgetown, 3-2  
**VCU def. Cornell, 5-0**  
Richmond def. James Madison, 4-1

— MIKE POWELL



# Recreational Sports

## Fitness Programs

Virginia Commonwealth University

### Division of Student Affairs

[www.students.vcu.edu/recreports](http://www.students.vcu.edu/recreports)

#### Siegel Center Classes by Day & Time

Class	Day	Time	Teacher
Gentle Yoga	Monday	9:00am-10:00am	Melody Wissekerke
Step	Monday	10:00am-11:00am	Blair Bodie
Yoga	Monday	12:00pm-1:00pm	George Winder
Cycle Reebok	Monday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Dr. Eric West
Combo Karate	Monday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Tien Mai
Pilates	Monday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Blair Bodie
Capoeira	Monday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Jason Absher
Yoga	Tuesday	12:00pm-1:00pm	Melody Wissekerke
Aerobic Dance	Tuesday	1:00pm-2:00pm	Blair Bodie
Cycle Reebok	Tuesday	2:00pm-3:00pm	Marq McKenney
Yoga	Tuesday	4:00pm-5:00pm	George Winder
Step	Tuesday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Dr. Eric West
Cycle Reebok	Tuesday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Greg Wittwer
Abs	Tuesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Eric & Jake
Tae Kwon Do	Tuesday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Andrew Herdon
Step	Wednesday	10:00am-11:00am	Blair Bodie
Yoga	Wednesday	4:00pm-5:00pm	Melody Wissekerke
Cycle Reebok	Wednesday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Eric & Greg
Cardio Kickboxing	Wednesday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Andrew Herdon
Swing I	Wednesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Shawn & Cindy
Swing II	Wednesday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Shawn & Cindy
Yoga	Thursday	10:30am-11:30am	Melody Wissekerke
Boxing Circuit	Thursday	3:30pm-4:30pm	Marq McKenney
Step	Thursday	4:30pm-5:30pm	Elena Rushing
Boot Camp	Thursday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Eric & Jake
Hip Hop	Thursday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Suzanne Lynch
Tae Kwon Do	Thursday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Andrew Herdon
Cardio Kickboxing	Friday	4:00pm-5:00pm	Andrew Herdon
Abs	Friday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Jake Glover
Cycle Reebok	Sunday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Beth DeGarmo
Boxing Circuit	Sunday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Jake Glover
Abs	Sunday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Jake Glover

#### MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center Classes by Day & Time

Class	Day	Time	Teacher
Cycle Reebok	Monday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Rebecca Farley
Cardio Kickboxing	Monday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Rebecca Farley
Strengthen & Stretch	Tuesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Rebecca Farley
Cycle Reebok	Wednesday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Beth DeGarmo
Cycle Reebok	Thursday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Rebecca Farley
Strengthen & Stretch	Thursday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Rebecca Farley

#### Cary Street Recreational Complex Classes by Day & Time

Class	Day	Time	Teacher
Cycle Reebok	Monday	5:00pm-6:00pm	Beth DeGarmo
Cycle Reebok	Monday	6:00pm-7:00pm	Greg Wittwer
Hip Hop	Monday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Suzanne Lynch
Kung Fu	Tuesday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Alex Huynh
Combo Karate (Rcq BI Court	Tuesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Tien Mai
Hip Hop	Wednesday	7:00pm-8:00pm	Suzanne Lynch
Abs	Wednesday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Jake Glover
Kung Fu	Thursday	8:00pm-9:00pm	Alex Huynh

Passes must be purchased at the the Stuart C. Siegel Center Recreational Sports or MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center, but can be used at any of the three Recreational Sports Facilities.

*Classes are subject to change*