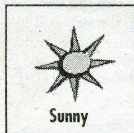




The Valentine's



Day Issue



HI 47

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THE **Commonwealth** TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

THURSDAY
February 14, 2002

Vol. 36, No. 8

Love. [luv] *n* a strong liking for someone or something; a passionate affection for another person; the object of such affection

— *Webster's New Dictionary*

A DAY FOR LOVE

Ty Bowers • CT Executive Editor

Cards, candy, roses, stuffed animals, dinners for two, champagne. Valentine's Day is marketed as a couples' holiday, but its roots are centuries old.

Much of St. Valentine's Day's history is mysterious — a series of romantic and tragic legends with little hard evidence to back it up.

According to one legend, Valentine — a priest imprisoned and sentenced to death for defying Roman Emperor Claudius II — fell in love with a young girl who may have been his jailor's daughter.

Shortly before being put to death, he allegedly penned a letter to his young love, which he signed, "From your Valentine."

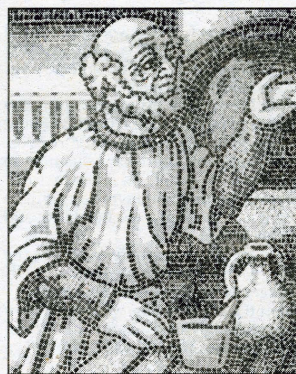
Many historians believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February because of the Catholic Church's efforts around the second century incorporate certain pagan traditions of the Lupercalia festival into its Christian practices.

February was celebrated as the start of spring by the ancient Romans and was billed as their time of purification. Lupercalia was the Romans' fertility festival, which began on the ides of February, or Feb. 15.

In the centuries since, February has remained a month for love.

In 498 A.D., Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 St. Valentine's Day after the lusty martyr. Later, in the Middle Ages, the French and English added to the day's purpose, for they believed February was the start of birds' mating season. They designated the day as one for romance as well.

Now, romance has become an industry. But love is nothing new.



St. Valentine



photo illustration: Ty Bowers

Lawmakers try to tackle identity theft

Mason Payne
CT STAFF WRITER

Since Sept. 11, Americans have shown a greater willingness to allow increases in state controlled security measures. According to a Gallup poll, 47 percent of Americans would support the government taking necessary steps to prevent terrorism, even if it meant basic civil liberties would be violated.

The patriot bill, now law, is an expansion of law enforcement rights to pursue personal information and eases restrictions on the procedures to do so.

While President George W. Bush has stated he does not believe a national ID card is necessary, legislators are working to strengthen the databases that hold personal information. Legislation by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., would give the Department of Motor Vehicles access to personal information held by Immigration and Naturalization Services, Social Security Administration and other databases.

Similar bills are being reviewed with the intent of preventing identity theft. Such bills could stop the practice of including a person's social security number on driver's licenses and regulating credit card company transactions.

In Virginia, the Senate sent a bill, introduced by Sen. John C. Watkins, R-Chesterfield, to the House floor. If the bill becomes law, it would require a thumbprint or other biometric identifier to be included with the application for a driver's license, commercial driver's license, learner's permit or any other special identification card.

Sen. John S. Edwards, D-Roanoke, who voted for the bill, said the requirement would make ID card theft difficult if not impossible.

"You can't fake a fingerprint," Edwards said.

When asked if the information collected

IDENTITY *continued to page 3*

FREE CLASSIFIEDS! SEE PAGE 4 / CROSSWORD PUZZLE SEE PAGE 8

IN BRIEF

CALENDAR

**Thursday
Feb. 14**

Valentine's Day Special at Break Point Games Room. Bring a date to Break Point in the Commons and get one free hour of pool, ping pong, darts or two free tokens.

Nobel Laureate Dr. Robert Furchgott will present the Louis S. Harris Sterling Lecture at the Medical Sciences Building Rooms 104&105 on the MCV Campus. Furchgott was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine and will be discussing "The Importance of Accidental Discoveries in Research Leading to Nitric Oxide."

Love Stinks at Tiki Bob's. Get in free with a picture of your ex-girlfriend or ex-boyfriend.

**Friday
Feb. 15**

Ludacris in Concert at the Siegel Center starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for VCU students with VCU Card and \$25 for the general public. Call 828-7267 for information.

The Billy Price Band performs at the Birchmere at 7:30 p.m. Tickets on sale through Ticketmaster.

Old Dominion Lady Monarchs Basketball play at home at 7:35 p.m.

"Two Can Play At That Game" presented at the Commons Theater at 8 p.m. Get in free with your VCU Card.

Virginia Student Leadership Conference in the University Student Commons from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Super Leaders, Uniting Campus, Uniting the World! For registration information contact Felicia Keelen at 828-6500.

**Saturday
Feb. 16**

"Two Can Play At That Game" presented at the Commons Theater at 8 p.m. Get in free with your VCU Card.

Distant Replay - The Fab Four to perform at the State Theater at 7 p.m.

Norfolk State University Basketball at home at 2 p.m.

Confederate Railroad to perform at the Jaxx Nightclub at 7:30 p.m.

George Mason University Patriot Men's Basketball play in Fairfax at 2 p.m.

British Airways cuts 5,800 more jobs

British Airways yesterday morning announced plans to cut 5,800 jobs and 10 routes in a restructuring and debt reduction exercise. The Transport and General Workers Union immediately condemned the cuts as "savage butchery."

The job cuts come just months after the company announced 7,200 redundancies, bringing the total to 13,000. That number represents 23 percent of the airline's workforce of 56,700 from last August.

BA's chief executive, Rod Eddington, who aims to cut costs by £650m (around \$929 million) annually, said BA must be transformed into a "simpler, leaner, more focused airline."

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the union Amicus, described the job cuts as traumatic to staff. His views were echoed by Bill Morris, general secretary of the TGWU, "We expected mild surgery, what we got is savage butchery."

BA is losing £2m (around \$3m) a day and needs to pay off a £6bn (around \$9bn) debt. The company said it would restructure its European short haul business to compete with the no-frills carriers. Business travellers and holidaymakers will be offered lower fares, greater flexibility and more choice from June.

The lowest fares will be available on the internet as BA reduces payments to UK travel agents for short haul bookings.

About 6,600 of the jobs will be cut from Heathrow, 3,000 from Gatwick, 1,200 from regional bases in the UK and 2,200 will go overseas.

Mr Lyons, general secretary of Amicus, said, "This is a devastating body blow to staff, who have acted impeccably in responding to the needs of the company to safeguard jobs over recent months."

BA's capacity reduction will total 21 percent.

BA announced that eight routes would transfer from Gatwick to Heathrow by this summer, four long hauls (Mauritius, Buenos Aires, Lagos and Abuja) and four short hauls (Bucharest, Kiev, Riga and Zagreb).

By the summer of 2003, BA's capacity at Gatwick will have reduced by 60 percent since 1999.

Giuliani a knight in all but name

Rudolph Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, received an honorary knighthood from the Queen of England, who wished him "less stress in his life" as America recovers from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Giuliani thanked the Queen, on behalf of the American people, for Britain's support in the wake of the World Trade Center attacks.

"We need good friends and we have no better friend than Great Britain," he said after the Buckingham Palace invitation.

The former mayor bowed before the Queen as she handed him the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

"I am very excited and very humbled," Giuliani said who is now entitled to use the letters KBE after his name, but because he is not a British citizen, he cannot style himself Sir Rudolph.

"I see this as recognition of

the people of New York who have overcome the worst attack in American history," he said. "I've been to many medal ceremonies but this is the best organized and I can't get over the height of the ceilings in Buckingham Palace. This is bigger than New York's City Hall."

"For an American; it gives you a sense of where we came from - our legal system and our democracy. This is part of our heritage. After Sept. 11, I looked to the example of Winston Churchill and of the British people during the second world war."

After the ceremony, Giuliani arrived for lunch with the Lord Mayor of London and the Duke of York at Mansion House.

Queen Mother hurts arm in fall

The Queen Mother yesterday afternoon slipped and cut her arm, Clarence House said.

A doctor was called to Sandringham, the Queen's Norfolk estate, and dressed the wound, after the alarm was raised.

Clarence House, the Queen Mother's London residence, said the 101-year-old Royal still intends to travel to Windsor this afternoon and hoped to attend her daughter Princess Margaret's funeral on Friday.

A paramedic fast response vehicle, a converted estate car, arrived at Sandringham House with an on-call doctor at around 2:20 p.m.

The paramedic vehicle drove through the Jubilee Gate with its lights flashing. The paramedic left the house about 90 minutes later followed shortly after by the doctor.

Clarence House said Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, slipped in her sitting room at Sandringham yesterday afternoon and cut her arm.

"This has been dressed by the doctor and there is no change in Her Majesty's plans to travel to Windsor tomorrow afternoon," Clarence House said.

The local doctor has attended the Queen Mother since she arrived at Sandringham over the Christmas and new year period.

The Queen Mother has not been seen in public since November and has been suffering from a cold and chest cough.

Royal aides said she was coping with the death of her younger daughter remarkably well.

Scottish Episcopal Church launches sex guide on Valentine's Day

The Scottish Episcopal Church is marking Valentine's Day by launching a book about sex.

The church's guide to human sexuality is being sent out to the church's 300-plus congregations.

Subjects covered range from marriage and casual sex to homosexuality and divorce.

The 100-page book has been prepared by a church panel led by the Bishop of Glasgow - the place that recently rebranded itself the city of love.

It is made up of a collection of essays, expressing differing views and written from a range of standpoints.

It aims to spark debate and does not amount to an official policy statement by the church.

"There was a growing feeling among our membership that we needed to become

a lot more direct when dealing with sexuality," said the Idris Jones, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway.

"Our whole understanding of how we develop and of our sexuality has changed a lot in recent years. But the church has often been stuck with teaching that was applicable some time ago."

In the introduction, the authors wrote: "Our hope is that these papers will help to clarify some of the central issues, and enable reasoned discussion to take place amongst those holding widely differing positions."

Telephone mix-up directs bank customers to gay chat line

A bank has apologized for mistakenly directing customers to a gay chat line for financial advice.

Halifax Share Dealing sent out 15,000 letters with the wrong contact number for an ISA hotline.

Customers dialling the hotline were greeted by disco music and a warning to hang up if under the age of 18.

Karen Collins, of Hall Green, Birmingham, says she called back twice thinking she had a wrong number.

Miss Collins told the Birmingham Evening Mail, "I wanted to discuss my ISA, not meet gay men. It's quite funny, especially as thousands of account holders will have this letter. Perhaps someone will find a date through it."

The Halifax is writing to account holders again to correct the mistake.

A spokesman said, "We are reviewing our proof reading procedure to ensure this does not happen again."

THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES

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NEWS

Board will discuss third phase of Commons expansion today

Sarah R. Edwards
CT STAFF WRITER

A committee of the VCU Board of Visitors, Wednesday, reviewed plans for Phase III of the University Student Commons. If the board approves, university officials soon can let bids for the \$9 million construction project.

What happens if the bids are higher than \$9 million?

"That's part of the negotiation process," said Timothy Reed, director of the student commons and student activities. "We try to negotiate bids down or we come in and change the plans.... We have not made contingency plans yet."

Officials estimate the bid process takes four to six weeks, but Reed said students can expect groundbreaking ceremonies for the project to occur sometime in May.

Student affairs administrators estimate construction costs to be about \$6.75 million.

"We are hanging onto the budget as tight as we can," Reed said.

Architects, however, are designing the building to fit within the budget, so if the contractor's bid is less than the \$6.75 million, some items previously omitted could be returned.

"We have moved a wall here or there, and at this point we are starting to talk to the interior designer about some finishes," Reed said, explaining that no substantial design changes have been made in the past couple of months. "We haven't even got to things like furniture yet."

By 2004, VCU officials will decide which student organization offices go in Phase III.

By talking to students and looking at the lines, Reed said, he thinks students seem to appreciate the variety and quality of the recent changes in food options.

Lydia Zirkle, president of VCU's Phi Mu Fraternity agrees with Reed's assessment.

"From what I can tell, students enjoy the options available. Students must enjoy the food because everyone is always there and rush to get to Park Place before it closes," she said.

Nonetheless, Reed said, Aramark's con-

tract expires soon and the company receiving the food contract will determine food options. No matter which company receives the contract, VCU's plan stipulates that Chick-fil-A along with pizza, submarines, Tex-Mex and vegetarian food be available. In addition, Reed said, Asian food could be on the menu.

Students wishing to track Phase III's progress can go to the Web site at www.students.vcu.edu/commons/expansion/index.html.

Kirsten Hirsch, assistant director for information and off-campus student services, said the promotion of Phase III will inform VCU's students when and where things will be happening. Starting last summer at Student Testing and Registration, Hirsch said, prospective students received fliers at open houses so they could track Phase III developments.

A display board in the Park Place of the commons shows the early design plans, but it soon will display schedules and other information about the project.

IDENTITY continued from page 1

by DMV would be accessible to law enforcement or other government agencies he said he didn't believe that would be the case.

Delegate Albert C. Pollard Jr., D-White Stone, disagreed and said, "unless the bill specifically says otherwise, I believe this information would be available" to other government agencies.

The bill is currently in the House Transportation Committee, of which Pollard is a member. He said he was likely to vote against it.

Among the senators who voted against the bill was Sen. William Bolling, R-Mechanicsville.

"If you're going to have that information, it's just a small step," Bolling said, adding that the idea seems a "bit Orwellian."

Bolling said another concern was the bill would "give the commissioner of the DMV the authority to determine what other biometric identifiers are used."

A majority of VCU students asked about the bill were unaware of the measure.

Gov. Mark R. Warner was unavailable for comment.

Bill would require mandatory service

© U-WIRE

In a move that could redirect high school graduates from hitting the college books to hitting military targets for the 2004 freshman class, one House representative is calling on America's youth to relearn the meaning of national unity and obligation to the country.

The bill, House Resolution 3598 proposed by Representative Nick Smith, would be "phased in" over 10 years and would require all male high school graduates to partake in "boot camp," history/international relations classes and volunteer in national service programs for at least six months starting in 2004.

Students attending universities in 2004 would not be affected by the bill and would not need to drop out.

The bill, awaiting review by the House Armed Services Committee, is a revised version of a bill that was introduced in December. It is one of the nation's first legislative responses to President Bush's State of the Union request for every American to commit two years of service to the country.

Some students opposed the military part of the bill, but said they saw the importance of having an international perspective.

"It's important for people to know about what's going on in other countries and how it affects the United States," said second-year undeclared student Ashkan Moghaddam.

However, he rejected the idea of making boot camp mandatory.

"Some people might not want to do it, and it's their right to refuse," he said.

National unity is not as strong as it was

50 years ago, Smith said, and the current war on terrorism could last for decades, making understanding homeland security and international relations crucial.

"America faces a unique moment in history: our nation is at war, our homeland was attacked, and our personal security is more at risk than it has probably ever been since World War II," Smith said in a statement.

The bill requires two months of "boot camp" which includes a rigorous physical training requirement similar to the training enlisted army members complete, said Joshua Sabin, a spokesman for Smith.

The second half of the bill requires a minimum of four months of service in a volunteer program such as the recently established USA Freedom Corps, in addition to history and international relations classes.

"People should have some obligation to participate in defending and serving their country. This responsibility comes with the freedoms we all enjoy," Smith said.

To fourth-year psychology student Shaun Consiglio, the classes, which would be taught by military personnel, seem like they could be brainwashing.

"The government would be teaching kids what they want them to learn, and the kids are being forced to do it," he said.

"I wouldn't want to say that I'm not patriotic, but it should be my decision if I want to fight for my country," he continued.

The bill must be approved by the House Armed Services Committee before an official vote on the House floor can take place.

Under the bill, enlisting in the reserves

is not mandatory upon completing the program. The bill does not mention anything along the lines of a draft.

The current bill is the result of an earlier resolution submitted by Smith that called for only military training over six months and did not include classes or community service.

Conscientious objectors — people who say their religion prohibits them from participating in fighting — will be exempt from the combat portion of the training, according to the bill. But the appeal would need to be approved by a branch of the Armed Services.

Carmen Trotta of the New York City-based War Resisters League, which rejects the use of violence for national defense or for revolutionary change, and who is committed to ending war, opposes the bill.

"The bill supports the militarization of everyday life," he said.

Trotta cited the recent passing of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a symbol for why people should oppose the bill and military efforts in general.

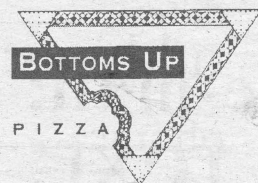
"In 1967, Dr. King talked about an emerging pattern of oppression. It was symptomatic of a far deeper malady in the American spirit, emanating from the U.S.," Trotta said.

He added that it was also in this speech that King said a nation that spends more money on defense each year than social programs is on a road toward spiritual death.

"We have potentially gone there with the bombing of Afghanistan," Trotta said.

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Police say no to N.O.W. rally

Sarah Kite
CT STAFF WRITER

More than 45 chalk outlines surrounding the Virginia General Assembly building symbolized the women killed by violent acts in Virginia last year.

The outlines were meant to be a statement to Virginian and its leaders that domestic violence is an ongoing problem and needs attention.

N.O.W., Virginians Against Domestic Violence, and the YWCA planned to take a stand by decorating the sidewalks in front of the Assembly building last Sunday with these outlines.

These plans were halted when the President of the Richmond chapter of N.O.W., Betsey Powell, called the Richmond City Police Department to make sure they would not be breaking the law.

Lt. Barrell Alston told Powell the chalk outlines on the city's sidewalks is considered defacing property. If arrested, demonstrators would have been charged with misdemeanors and could face four months in jail or a \$2,500 fine.

When asked about disciplinary action toward children who decorate sidewalks, Alston said, "We aren't in the business of making criminals out of children." He continued by saying, "The Police Department has a wide range of digression."

Powell was expecting between 15 and 20 people at the demonstration.

"We wanted to bring attention to the tremendous problem of domestic violence," she said.

Family violence-related fatalities totaled 109 in 2001, according to Virginians Against

Domestic Violence. Of those, 45 were women, 49 men and 15 children.

Virginians Against Domestic Violence, which planned to participate in the demonstration, is an advocacy group that tries to increase domestic violence awareness, said Joriel Foltz, public awareness coordinator.

The organization is funded by the Department of Social Services, the state of Virginia and private agencies.

In cooperation with Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault, Virginians Against Domestic Violence services the Virginia Family & Sexual Assault Hotline.

Virginians Against Domestic Violence is currently working to bring a national project called Silent Witness to Virginia.

Silent Witness would memorialize those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. Freestanding figures of these women would be erected, along with a description of the person given by a family member. Virginians Against Domestic Violence said they hope the memorial could travel to college campuses and malls.

Richmond's YWCA, also scheduled to take part in the demonstration, houses and counsels abused women in the Richmond area.

The organization's crisis shelter can house up to 20 women and children at any given time, said Allison Anglin. During their stay, the women receive help with job placement, house hunting, parenting skills and self-esteem.

Children at the shelter attend violence clinics and are assigned case managers.

The YWCA also refers abused men to organizations geared specifically to men. Although the demonstration was called

off, the Richmond chapter of the National Organization for Women is planning activities of its own.

In conjunction with vday.com, they are sending Valentine's Day cards, provided by Lifetime for Women Television, to congressional representatives requesting the issue of rape and other violence towards women have high priority in any laws passed, said Powell.

The organization also keeps a close eye on the Marital Rape bill, which would allow spouses to be charged of rape even when they are living in the same household.

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ANXIETY SUPPORT GROUP starting. First meeting will be Sunday, March 3rd at Retreat Hospital. First floor in conference room. For more info contact - catherinejohnson77@yahoo.com

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SPECTRUM

"The flies from the lips to mingle with the winds, to be lost without an echo. Written down, it may voice continue to sound on, as from a trumpet tongue, through all time."

-W. C. Fowler

At some point, almost everyone will love someone so much that they must write it down. And who could imagine that out of 26 alphabetical letters we could create such passions as we do in our love letters?

Scrawling "I love you" at the bottom of a note in red ink is rarely enough. Paired with the wings of words -- the exchange takes on a life of its own -- seductive sincerity.

The love letter exposes our soul exposed, our true self, a poetic kiss to its recipient.

We write love letters because they last, even when that one true love withers with the sunset.

We write love letters because anyone can send flowers or manufactured cards.

We write love letters because they are more potent and passionate than the words we could ever utter in person.

We write love letters because we want to reach into the heartstrings of someone who is physically absent but emotionally ubiquitous; someone whose absence you may question because, after all, if they really loved you, how could they bear to be away from you. Love letters, however, offer catalogs of longing permeating that absence with assurance and promise.

And above all, we write love letters because someone wants them.

A love letter is tangible; it cannot be imagined. A letter can be opened and reread time and again, releasing new sensations and passions at each drop of ink.

Despite the telephone, fax and e-mail, letters prevail. People are still writing -- caging words onto a piece of parchment or onto a computer screen and releasing them into the hands of a lover or friend to soar on their own accord. The love letter has survived because people still fall in love; still feel that burst of feeling at the slightest touch, kiss, whisper.

Love wants to be expressed, to shout itself to the heavens, to be written everywhere - in the sand, the winds, the flowers. And most of all, in love letters poured forth by the writer with his heart on his sleeve and consumed by the reader with her heart in his hands.

But, what's the secret?

My answer: there is none.

Perhaps the pen, paper and placement of the letter are key. Whether you attach the parchment paper, sealed with a blob of red wax to a tree in your lover's garden, re-label a wine bottle with a love letter, leave the letter near your lover's favorite food, or send it via the postman, I guarantee success upon its arrival.

Simply, the love letter is an exercise of the heart and mind, the refusal to be silenced but an effort to stir a lover's desire.

And being in love is enough - reach down among the smiles and tingles and add wings to your passions.

I promise they will fly.

honey c.
xoxo

Fetishism: the art of flesh

Olivia Lloyd
CT NEWS EDITOR

The delicacy of the flesh is enough for some. For others, the need for carnal satisfaction goes much further.

The forbidden realm of fetishism spans further than many people fathom. From bondage, boots and discipline to piercings, stockings and hot wax, the fixations have been around since as early as 1768 in the days of the Marquis de Sade, the free-spirited French novelist.

Fetishism, a dependency on a non-sexual object to excite erotic feelings, has no boundaries — only the limits of the imagination — and no face.

"True fetishism is a paraphelia, (sexual attraction to unusual objects), which is an atypical sexual behavior," said Daphne Rankin, the Human Sexuality instructor at VCU.

A person, who engages in this type of behavior, Rankin said, is a good candidate for sex counseling.

It is not completely understood why people have fetishes. Some theorists believe it develops from early childhood experiences where an object was associated with a particularly powerful form of sexual arousal or gratification.

Rankin said she thinks the development of a person's sexual attitudes plays a role in the evolution of their fetishes, which by many are considered to be deviant behaviors.

"It's so far out of the norm," Rankin said, "that a true fetishist can not be aroused by a partner. That's why it's so shunned."

Fetishism is not limited to just the bedroom. Beyond the boudoir, lies a noir novel

full of fetish clubs, music and photography.

Natasha Epperson, a fetish photographer in Houston, has been in the photography business for four years.

"I like the shocking factor of fetish," Epperson said. "It makes the viewers gasp and want to look away at the same time take a second look and wonder."

Epperson, who defines fetish as obsession and worship, communicates a woman's strength in her work through the use of fetish clothing and attitude. She also tries to portray the model's personality.

"I've worked with models that are beautiful but have no heart," she said. "This I bring into the photo and nothing else matters. The attitude makes her beautiful."

Her latest series, scheduled for completion by the end of the year, will be based strongly on the dark side of obsession and what happens when things go wrong and become crimes of passion.

"It will be my first 'real' art series and not solely based on fashion and the model," she said.

Epperson's work can be viewed at www.natasha-epperson.com.

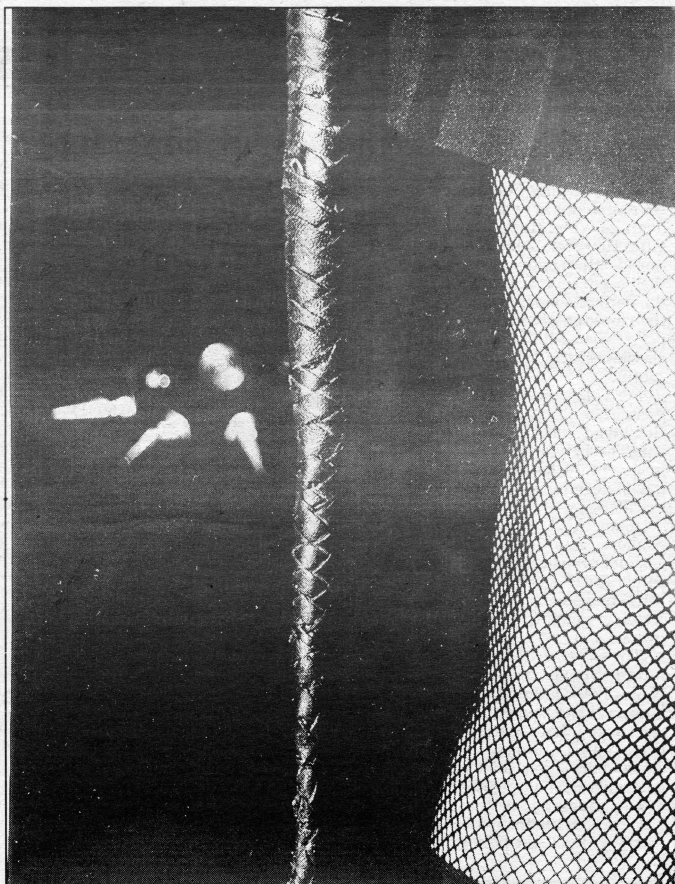
A VCU information system's major, referred to by friends as "Xavier," has been heavily involved in fetishism for a number of years.

From nipple clamps and sadomasochism to strangulation, Xavier said his fetishes came about through exploration.

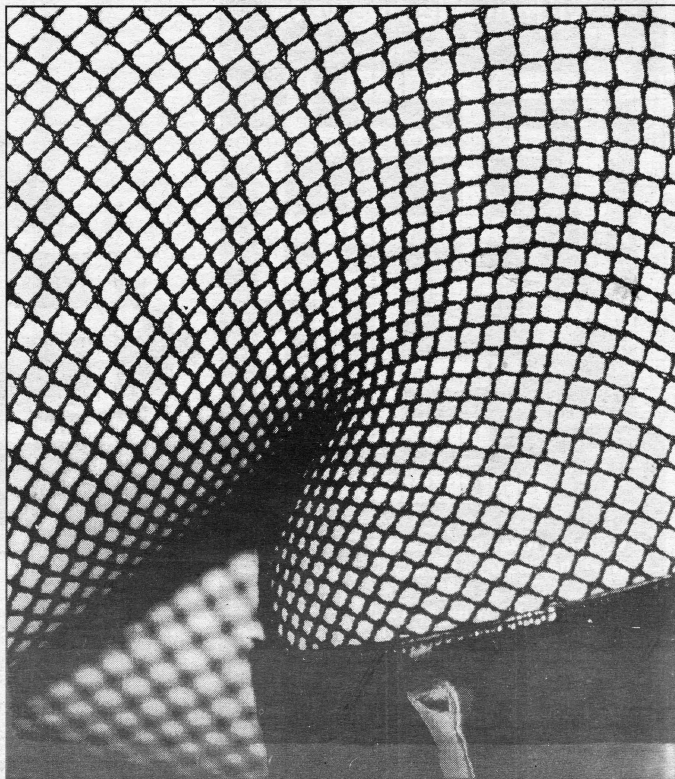
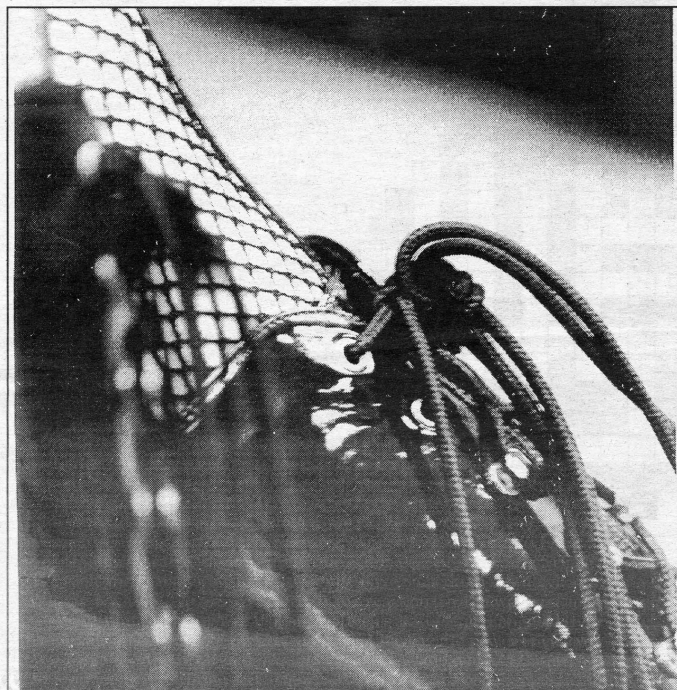
"I'm always open to new things," he said, "extreme passion in a dark sense."

"Everybody has the wrong perspective," Xavier said addressing the issue of sadomasochism, "they think it's full out beating people. The way I view it, it's more of a sexual art — it involves a lot of trust."

"True fetishism is a paraphelia, (sexual attraction to unusual objects), which is an atypical sexual behavior," said Daphne Rankin, VCU Human Sexuality instructor



ALL PHOTOS (INCLUDING PAGE FIVE) TAKEN BY KENT BROCKWELL



Certainly not Toys 'R' Us

Joy Shepperson
CT STAFF WRITER

Whips, leather, liquid latex and chains are not your average Valentine's Day gifts. However, some may consider these options when they begin their search for the perfect holiday gift for their loved one. Remember, not everyone falls for the classic roses and chocolate routine.

For Valentine's Day this year, I took a tour of Richmond's local novelty shops to see what they had in inventory for the holiday. I began my search at Pricilla's.

Jonas Nash, a Pricilla's employee said the average customer is a normal, typical person. He said Pricilla's attracts customers, most of which are female, from all over.

The store, located at 5700 W. Broad St., included items such as lingerie, X-rated videos, liquid latex in four colors (red, pink, blue and black), nipple rings, bondage kits such as the "Love Swing," whips, paddles, flavored condoms, massage kits, dancewear, edible underwear and board games like Sexual Secrets and Dirty Minds.

Or perhaps toys better suits your fancy. I discovered many items including the "Stripper Pen," the "Inflatable Wife" and



Kent Brockwell
Pricilla carries a variety of sex toys

the "Inflatable Husband."

The most popular items during Valentine's Day are edible underwear and red lingerie, according to store employees.

Pricilla's is not the only place with alternative Valentine's Day gifts. Taboo Lingerie, located at 6021 West Broad St., includes a variety of novelty items and clothing like chastity belts, legwear, dancewear, X-rated DVDs, bondage kits and tapes, leather hoods, vinyl clothing, gags, whips, an assortment of Karma Sutra products and jewelry.

Much like Pricilla's, Taboo employees said they do not have a typical customer who visits their store. In fact, it is the opposite. They said their customers are anybody and everybody.

"We get a variety of people," said Alison Miller, co-owner and VCU fashion merchandising major.

The most popular Valentine's Day items at Taboo are Karma Sutra products and lingerie, according to Miller. "They do well," she said.

Celebrate good times, come on

By Russell de Leon
CT STAFF WRITER

I am fed up with Valentine's Day cornering the market on the whole sex day. So many other sexy holidays get overlooked because of Feb. 14.

In a continued effort to change the way readers think, I have come up with a list of just a few holidays that may be just as sexy.

President's Day- Hello? Am I the only one who forgot who our last president was? You can go right on down the line — these guys are all about sex. President's Day trails on Valentine's heels but is rarely viewed as a holiday at all, let alone a sexy one. Cherries, a very sensual fruit, and George Washington are completely synonymous. So, remember your lady with your own Emancipation Proclamation...of Love.

St. Patrick's Day- Honestly, how many drunken hook-ups take place on this day? Do I have to go through the whole pinching thing if you're not wearing green? Green. And what about the green M & M's urban myth? You know, they're one's that make you horny. If green candy can do it, why can't other things green? So, find your lover, get

some Guinness, get drunk and, well, you know.

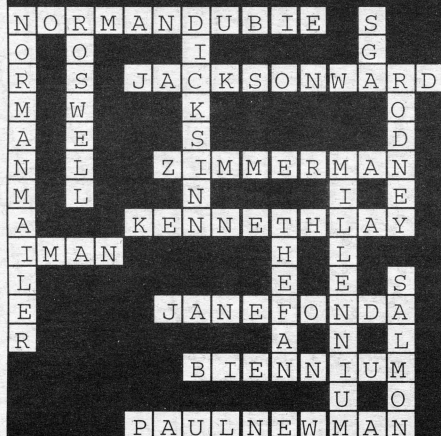
Flag Day- Ok, think about it. What else are you going to do on Flag Day? Isn't flagging someone when you pull their pants down? Yeah, you know what I'm talking about.

Independence Day- It is sometimes said when you and your lover have something special there are fireworks. And there's no day with more fireworks than the fourth of July. Declare your independence by loving a little extra on this day.

Columbus Day- The Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria — two of those are women's names. If you ask me, there's something sexual there. Chris got lost on his way to India and found the New World. In other words, good can come from bad. If you're "exploring" something and happen to find something else, more power to you.

I think I proved my point and will stop there at the risk of sounding truly offensive. It is not my goal to promote promiscuous sex. Rather, for those who do have a special someone, I want to offer alternatives to Feb. 14.

Test your mettle... with movie answers



Correct crossword + call to CT= PIZZA!
Now that is some math you can handle.

Contact the CT when you believe you have solved our crossword puzzle full of movie goodness.

To claim your prize, (of course there is a prize), please call 828-1058. Ask for John Messiter.

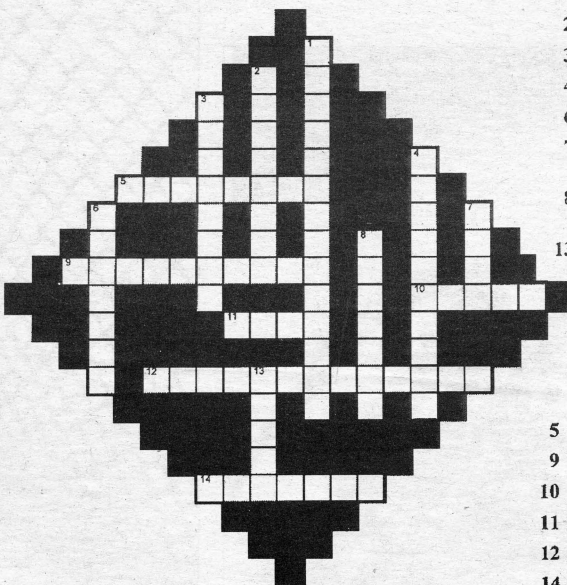
Test your mettle with Valentine Trivia

Down

- 1 Origin of the language of flowers. (14)
- 2 Thanks Pope, for today. (8)
- 3 "I love you," flowers. (8)
- 4 Roman Festival (10)
- 6 Seattle's Valentine red band. (7)
- 7 Valentine _____, The hearts reserve in Cali. (4)
- 8 Valentine was one of the most popular saints here? (7)
- 13 God of love. (5)

Across

- 5 Host the Heart of the City Bull Bash. (8)
- 9 Prosecuted the Saint. (8,2)
- 10 Send an arrow. (5)
- 11 Goddess of Marriage (4)
- 12 "A letter form Death Row" (4,9)
- 14 Chicago Mob Valentine's day. (7)



If you think you have got what it takes and you feel you have solved the crossword, call the CT to claim your prize.

Come on, everyone loves free pizza! All it will take is a few minutes, and a pen or pencil. If you feel truly inspired by this work of greatness and wish to work for the CT, please call 828-1058 or e-mail CTVCU@hotmail.com

Day of love requires proper mood music

Russell de Leon
CT STAFF WRITER

Welcome to Cheesy Love Songs 101.

In honor of Valentine's Day, I've compiled a list of 13 sensual sonnets to play with your pallet.

So, in no particular order:

1. "Sexual Healing" and "Let's Get It On" by Marvin Gaye — Noteworthy mood-setting selections guaranteed to break the ice any time.

2. "Crush" by the Dave Matthews Band — Simply, one of the sexiest songs ever recorded.

3. "Turn the Lights Down Low" by Bob Marley and the Wailers — "I want to give you some good, good lovin'." "Reggae isn't necessarily known for ballads, but Marley makes it work."

4. Anything by Prince — No explanation needed.

5. "Open Arms" by Journey — Widely considered the first power ballad. Do yourself a favor, pop this one in and listen to Steve Perry go.

6. "Crazy Love" by Van Morrison — This song expresses what happens when truly happens when you fall in love: you go crazy! It's not always a bad thing.

7. "Flower" by Liz Phair — Whew! Talk about sexy songs!! I don't know if I can repeat any of the lines from the song, but it's great. It's a highpoint on one of the most honest albums ever written, "Exile in Guyville."

8. "Wake Me Up Before You Go Go" by Wham! — "Cuddle up, baby/Move in tight/We'll go dancing tomorrow night/It's cold out there, but it's warm in bed/They can dance/We'll stay home instead." How about the chorus for you? "Wake me up before you go go/Don't leave me hanging on

like a yo-yo." C'mon!! That oozes sexuality.

9. "Borderline" by Madonna — Ok, it's not Madonna's sexiest song or her best song. However, something about the song makes me want to slow it down, give it a hip-hop beat, loop the hook and add a great R&B voice. If I can ever get that produced, you'll see what I mean.

10. "Misguided Angel" by the Cowboy Junkies — Wow! If this doesn't truly express loving someone, than nothing does. The band weaves a beautiful story with the song lyrics. I recommend the version taken off "Trinity Sessions."

11. "The Luckiest" by Ben Folds — Very few writers have been as honest and autobiographical in recent years as Folds. The three or four albums, depending on how you're counting, released by Ben Folds Five were filled with songs of love lost, certainly the result of Folds' first two failed marriages. On his first solo release, "Rockin' the Suburbs," Folds finally found love in his wife and their son. This song, the final track on the album, would be cheesy and corny written by anyone else. However, written and performed by Folds, it comes off as heart-felt and sacred.

12. "Come Pick Me Up" by Ryan Adams — An ironic love song. Ryan yearns for the one that got away — haven't we all been there before.

13. "I'm a Slave for You" by Britney Spears — I don't like the girl, but I can't deny her looks. This is by far her most sexual song to date.

(and incidentally No. 14 for Feb. 14)

14. "Everything I Do" by Bryan Adams — A poetic piano piece promising passion.

For some, holiday causes more pain than joy

Kelly Pruitt
CT STAFF WRITER

Do the sight of fresh flowers, heart-shaped boxes of candy and deliriously happy couples make you want to puke? Well, you're not alone.

"I hate Valentine's Day," said Kari Magner, sophomore at VCU. "Why should you have one day to show your love? You should love everyday."

For every couple sitting in the Student Commons looking longingly into each other's eyes, there's at least one person wearing sticking pins into a voodoo doll outside his or her ex's bedroom window. If you're one of those people, here's a few ways to spend Feb. 14, anti-Valentine's Day-style.

The best place for the sick-at-heart to start the anti-Valentine's Day festivities is the Internet. There are many Web sites such as "the Alt.Suicide.Holiday Valentine's Day Survival Kit" and "Ron's Anti-Valentine's Day Wake" filled with essays, stories for the dumped, insulting e-cards and games that involve shooting down Cupid.

Want to avoid the Valentine's Day crowd altogether? Why not curl up with a good book? MSN.com says books are easier to pick up, easier to take to bed and easier to rebound from once it's over. The Web site suggests books such as "Looking for Mr. Right" by Bradley Trevor Grieve, "How To Spot A Bastard By His Star Sign: The Ultimate Horoscope" by Adele Lang and Susi Rajah and "Naked Pictures of My Ex-Girlfriends: Romance in the '70s" by Mark Helfrich.

Nothing's more unromantic than a history lesson. So reading up on the St. Valentine's Day massacre of 1929, the

bloodiest, most spectacular mob hit in history, may be just what you need.

If reading doesn't cure the Valentine's Day blues how about a movie? MSN.com has a whole list of less-than romantic movies including "First Wives Club," "So I Married an Axe Murderer" and "Basic Instinct." Nothing says "I love you" more than an ice pick through the heart.

One of the biggest complaints of Valentine's Day is that the holiday caters to Hallmark cards and chocolate and flower shops more than actual love.

"One also can't help but theorize that at one point in history, these three powers met and decided to make this one day, February 14 open season, deeming it Valentine's Day," said Jared Clary, freshman at VCU.

"The holiday was slyly masked in a rouse of love and friendship," he added.

For the rest of you who feel that way, there's a slew of Anti-Valentine's Day gifts for that not so special someone. Halfbakery.com lists ideas including artistically pre-withered black-dyed roses, black-frosted cookies in the shape of broken hearts — complete with jagged edges down the middle and black candy hearts with messages like "No way," "Don't even think about it," "Are you kidding?" and "You're doomed to die alone."

Feeling the need to be social but want to spend it with other Valentine's Day haters? Bring a picture of your ex girl or boy friend to Puddin' Heads located at 1211 W. Main St. and get in free.

Just remember that Valentine's Day is like any other day. It only lasts 24 hours. So sit back, relax and watch "Sleepless in Seattle" or "Texas Chainsaw Massacre," whatever gives you that warm and fuzzy feeling on this day of bliss and torture.

For porn star, no request is too bizarre

© U-WIRE

Roni Raye is not your average porn star. Even though the 35-year-old Indiana woman has been in the sex industry for eight years, she hasn't slept with any man besides her husband.

"I can't tell you about a hundred guys I've been with," she said. "I'm a girl from the Midwest. I just want to show off my body, have fun with it and keep it lightweight."

Raye's industry experience began when her first husband suggested they take some pictures. Raye was working as a dental assistant and was bored with her job, she said.

"We took some pictures and they turned out fairly well. I was like 'Oh, OK. What the hell?' I'm an exhibitionist. I like showing off," she said.

The couple sent the pictures to some amateur magazines, and then Raye began appearing in them. Then, the publisher of Velvet magazine called her.

"He starts having phone sex with me. I thought 'there's something wrong here.' Later I found out that that was his kink. He liked to get girls that hadn't been in the business to get them to engage in phone sex with him. And if he was turned on enough, he'd get them to come out there."

Raye was invited to New York for a photoshoot, and even though she had some

reservations about going, she took the offer.

"I told them, I'm not going to have sex with anybody just to get in a magazine, you can forget it," she said.

The publisher assured her that he just wanted to photograph her.

As for her parents, Raye told them what was going on.

"My mom would of course rather me be a dental assistant or a writer like a wanted to be, but she dealt with it because she loves me," she said. But Raye's step-father was less than supportive.

Raye was fired from the dental office soon after the photos were published.

To help compensate for her job loss, she began selling videos, both solo and with her husband. Afterwards, she started a phone sex line and selling products through a fan club she and a friend began.

"I was like, 'guys want to buy my panties?' I had never heard of such a thing," she said.

Soon, Raye left her husband.

Raye says she gets all sorts of strange video requests, such as the men who order videos of her getting hit in the face with pies. "I had another guy who just wanted a video of my nose. There's nothing sexual about that."

— Roni Raye

my own terms," she told him.

Raye continued to do solo videos. She began to receive flack from others in the industry, who said she wouldn't make money if she continued to only sell solo products.

"I kept saying that I can do anything I want. And that's about the time the Internet came about," she said.

Now, Raye publishes catalogs, customizes videos (starting at \$150 for 30 minutes), and operates a phone sex hotline and a Web site.

"There is a five minute minimum on the phone, but I had a guy that talked for only 20 seconds. I like those kind of guys because I can get back to putting my toast in

"He wanted to do things that I didn't really want to do," she said.

She moved to Indiana, where she met a man she married a year later, and who she is still married to today.

She said her new husband is supportive of her work, as long as she is happy with it.

"I want to do this but I want to do this on

the toaster or whatever," she said.

Raye said that the videos give her the most trouble. Men propose ideas for customized videos, and she prepares the video for them.

"There are times where I've faked orgasms, of course. You do it because you want to get it over with. It's just not interesting to you that day," she said.

Raye says she gets all sorts of strange video requests, such as the men who order videos of her getting hit in the face with pies.

"I had another guy who just wanted a video of my nose. There's nothing sexual about that."

She estimates callers are between the ages of 26 and 45 and that 75 percent of them are married or have girlfriends. Some lesbians and couples call her, and some wives often call her looking for advice.

She said she receives about 200 pieces of mail a week, which she hopes to contribute to a book she plans to write.

Although the business has been positive for her and her husband's sex life, Raye said she's still a normal person.

"When I go outside, I still go grocery shopping. I still go to movies. I cook and clean my house like anybody else. I don't walk around in sexy lingerie all the time."



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.



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Of course, using condoms is the only way to protect yourself against HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases, but make sure you're also as protected as possible against pregnancy. That's why more women than ever are choosing *Depo-Provera*—it's 99.7% effective when administered on time every 3 months.

Depo-Provera doesn't protect you from HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Some women using *Depo-Provera* experience side effects. The most common are irregular periods or spotting. Many women stop having

periods altogether after a few months and some may experience a slight weight gain. You shouldn't use *Depo-Provera* if you could be pregnant, if you have had any unexplained periods, or if you have a history of breast cancer, blood clots, stroke, or liver disease. When using *Depo-Provera*, there may be a possible decrease in bone density.

Depo-Provera is not only one of the best ways to protect yourself from pregnancy, it's also one of the simplest. Ask your health care professional if prescription *Depo-Provera* is right for you.

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mexdroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension

DEPO-PROVERA® Contraceptive Injection
(mexdroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension, USP)

This product is intended to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect against HIV infection (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

What is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is a form of birth control that is given as an intramuscular injection (a shot) in the buttock or upper arm once every 3 months (13 weeks). To continue your contraceptive protection, you must return for your next injection promptly at the end of 3 months (13 weeks). DEPO-PROVERA contains mexdroxyprogesterone acetate, a chemical similar to (but not the same as) the natural hormone progesterone, which is produced by your ovaries during the second half of your menstrual cycle. DEPO-PROVERA acts by preventing your egg cells from ripening. If an egg is not released from the ovaries during your menstrual cycle, it cannot become fertilized by sperm and result in pregnancy. DEPO-PROVERA also causes changes in the lining of your uterus that make it less likely for pregnancy to occur.

How effective is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

The efficacy of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection depends on following the recommended dosage schedule exactly (see "How often do I get my shot of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?"). To make sure you are not pregnant when you first get DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection, your first injection must be given **ONLY** during the first 5 days of a normal menstrual period **ONLY** within the first 5 days after childbirth if not breast-feeding and, if exclusively breast-feeding **ONLY** at the sixth week after childbirth. It is a long-term injectable contraceptive when administered at 3-month (13-week) intervals. DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is over 99% effective, making it one of the most reliable methods of birth control available. This means that the average annual pregnancy rate is less than one for every 100 women who use DEPO-PROVERA. The effectiveness of most contraceptive methods depends in part on how reliably each woman uses the method. The effectiveness of DEPO-PROVERA depends only on the patient returning every 3 months (13 weeks) for her next injection. Your health-care provider will help you compare DEPO-PROVERA with other contraceptive methods and give you the information you need in order to decide which contraceptive method is the right choice for you.

The following table shows the percent of women who got pregnant while using different kinds of contraceptive methods. It gives both the lowest expected rate of pregnancy (the rate expected in women who use each method exactly as it should be used) and the typical rate of pregnancy (which includes women who became pregnant because they forgot to use their birth control or because they did not follow the directions exactly).

Percent of Women Experiencing an Unplanned Pregnancy in the First Year of Continuous Use

Method	Lowest Expected	Typical
DEPO-PROVERA	0.3	0.3
Implants (Norplant)	0.2*	0.2*
Female sterilization	0.2	0.4
Male sterilization	0.1	0.15
Oral contraceptive (pill)	-	3
Combined	0.1	-
Progestin only	0.5	-
IUD	-	3
Progestasert	2.0	-
Copper T 380A	0.8	-
Condom (without spermicide)	2	12
Diaphragm (with spermicide)	6	18
Cervical cap	6	18
Withdrawal	4	18
Periodic abstinence	1-9	20
Spermicide alone	3	21
Vaginal Sponge	-	-
used before childbirth	6	18
used after childbirth	9	18
No method	85	85

Source: Trussell et al. *Obstet Gynecol*. 1996;76:558-567.

*From Norplant® package insert.

Who should not use DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

Not all women should use DEPO-PROVERA. You should not use DEPO-PROVERA if you have any of the following conditions:

- if you think you might be pregnant
- if you have any vaginal bleeding without a known reason

Birth control you think about just 4 x a year

- if you have had cancer of the breast
- if you have had a stroke
- if you have or have had blood clots (phlebitis) in your legs
- if you have problems with your liver or liver disease
- if you are allergic to DEPO-PROVERA (mexdroxyprogesterone acetate or any of its other ingredients)

What other things should I consider before using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

You will have a physical examination before your doctor prescribes DEPO-PROVERA. It is important to tell your health-care provider if you have any of the following:

- an abnormal mammogram (breast x-ray), fibrocystic breast disease, breast nodules or lumps, or bleeding from your nipples
- kidney disease
- irregular or scanty menstrual periods
- high blood pressure
- migraine headaches
- asthma
- epilepsy (convulsions or seizures)
- diabetes or a family history of diabetes
- a history of depression
- if you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medications

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

What if I want to become pregnant after using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

Because DEPO-PROVERA is a long-acting birth control method, it takes some time after your last injection to wear off. The results from a large study done in the United States for women who stop using DEPO-PROVERA in order to become pregnant, it is expected that about half of those who become pregnant will do so in about 10 months after their last injection; about two thirds of those who become pregnant will do so in about 12 months; about 83% of those who become pregnant will do so in about 15 months; and about 93% of those who become pregnant will do so in about 18 months after their last injection. The length of time you use DEPO-PROVERA has no effect on how long it takes you to become pregnant after you stop using it.

What are the risks of using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

1. Irregular Menstrual Bleeding
The side effect reported most frequently by women who use DEPO-PROVERA for contraception is a change in their normal menstrual cycle. During the first year of using DEPO-PROVERA, you might have one or more of the following changes: irregular or unpredictable bleeding or spotting, an increase or decrease in menstrual bleeding, or no bleeding at all. Unusually heavy or continuous bleeding, however, is not a usual effect of DEPO-PROVERA; and if this happens, you should see your health-care provider right away. With continued use of DEPO-PROVERA, bleeding usually decreases, and many women stop having periods completely. In clinical studies of DEPO-PROVERA, 55% of the women studied reported no menstrual bleeding (amenorrhea) after 1 year of use, and 68% of the women studied reported no menstrual bleeding after 2 years of use. The reason that your periods stop is because DEPO-PROVERA causes a resting state in your ovaries. When your ovaries do not release an egg monthly, the regular monthly growth of the lining of your uterus does not occur and, therefore, the bleeding that comes with your normal menstruation does not take place. When you stop using DEPO-PROVERA your menstrual period will usually, in time, return to its normal cycle.

2. Bone Mineral Changes
Use of DEPO-PROVERA may be associated with a decrease in the amount of mineral stored in your bones. This could increase your risk of developing bone fractures. The rate of bone mineral loss is greatest in the early years of DEPO-PROVERA use, but after that, it begins to resemble the normal rate of age-related bone mineral loss.

3. Cancer
Studies of women who have used different forms of contraception found that women who used DEPO-PROVERA for contraception had no increased overall risk of developing cancer of the breast, ovary, uterus, cervix, or liver. However, women under 35 years of age whose first exposure to DEPO-PROVERA was within the previous 4 to 5 years may have a slightly increased risk of developing breast cancer similar to that seen with oral contraceptives. You should discuss this with your health-care provider.

4. Unexpected Pregnancy
Because DEPO-PROVERA is such an effective contraceptive method, the risk of accidental pregnancy for women who get their shots regularly (every 3 months [13 weeks]) is very low. While there have been reports of an increased risk of low birth weight and neonatal infant death or other health problems in infants conceived close to the time of injection, such pregnancies are uncommon. If you think you may have become pregnant while using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception, see your health-care provider as soon as possible.

5. Allergic Reactions
Some women using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection have reported severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions known as anaphylaxis and anaphylactoid reactions. Symptoms include the sudden onset of hives or swelling and itching of the skin, breathing difficulties, and a drop in blood pressure.

6. Other Risks

Women who use hormone-based contraceptives may have an increased risk of blood clots or stroke. Also, if a contraceptive method fails, there is a possibility that the fertilized egg will begin to develop outside of the uterus (ectopic pregnancy). While these events are rare, you should tell your health-care provider if you have any of the problems listed in the next section.

What symptoms may signal problems while using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

Call your health-care provider immediately if any of these problems occur following an injection of DEPO-PROVERA:

- sharp chest pain, coughing up of blood, or sudden shortness of breath (indicating a possible clot in the lung)
- sudden severe headache or vomiting, dizziness or fainting problems with your eyesight or speech, weakness, or numbness in an arm or leg (indicating a possible stroke)
- severe pain or swelling in the calf (indicating a possible clot in the leg)
- unusually heavy vaginal bleeding
- severe pain or tenderness in the lower abdominal area
- persistent pain, pus, or bleeding at the injection site

What are the possible side effects of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

1. Weight Gain
You may experience a weight gain while you are using DEPO-PROVERA. About two thirds of the women who used DEPO-PROVERA in clinical trials reported a weight gain of about 5 pounds during the first year of use. You may continue to gain weight after the first year. Women in one large study who used DEPO-PROVERA for 2 years gained an average total of 8.1 pounds over those 2 years; or approximately 4 pounds per year. Women who continued for 4 years gained an average total of 13.8 pounds over those 4 years, or approximately 3.5 pounds per year. Women who continued for 6 years gained an average total of 16.5 pounds over those 6 years, or approximately 2.75 pounds per year.

2. Other Side Effects
In a clinical study of over 3,900 women who used DEPO-PROVERA for up to 7 years, some women reported the following effects that may or may not have been related to their use of DEPO-PROVERA: irregular menstrual bleeding, amenorrhea, headache, nervousness, abdominal cramps, dizziness, weakness or fatigue, decreased sexual desire, leg cramps, nausea, vaginal discharge or irritation, breast swelling and tenderness, bloating, swelling of the hands or feet, backache, depression, insomnia, acne, pelvic pain, no hair growth or excessive hair loss, rash, hot flashes, and joint pain. Other problems were reported by very few of the women in the clinical trials, but some of these could be serious. These include convulsions, jaundice, urinary tract infections, allergic reactions, fainting, paralysis, osteoporosis, lack of return to fertility, deep vein thromboses, pulmonary embolus, breast cancer, or cervical cancer. If these or any other problems occur during your use of DEPO-PROVERA, discuss them with your health-care provider.

Should any precautions be followed during use of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

1. Missed Periods
During the time you are using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception, you may skip a period, or your periods may stop completely. If you have been receiving your DEPO-PROVERA injections regularly every 3 months (13 weeks), then you are probably not pregnant. However, if you think you may be pregnant, see your health-care provider.

2. Laboratory Test Interactions
If you are scheduled for any laboratory tests, tell your health-care provider that you are using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception. Certain blood tests are affected by hormones such as DEPO-PROVERA.

3. Drug Interactions
Cytadren (aminoglutethimide) is an anticancer drug that may significantly decrease the effectiveness of DEPO-PROVERA if the two drugs are given during the same time.

4. Nursing Mothers
Although DEPO-PROVERA can be passed to the nursing infant in the breast milk, no harmful effects have been found in these children. DEPO-PROVERA does not prevent the breasts from producing milk, so it can be used by nursing mothers. However, to minimize the amount of DEPO-PROVERA that is passed to the infant in the first weeks after birth, you should wait until 6 weeks after childbirth before you start using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception.

How often do I get my shot of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?

The recommended dose of DEPO-PROVERA is 150 mg every 3 months (13 weeks) given in a single intramuscular injection in the buttock or upper arm. To make sure that you are not pregnant at the time of the first injection, it is essential that the injection be given **ONLY** during the first 5 days of a normal menstrual period. If you follow the delivery of a child, the first injection of DEPO-PROVERA **MUST** be given within 5 days after childbirth if you are not breast-feeding or 6 weeks after childbirth if you are exclusively breast-feeding. If you wait longer than 3 months (13 weeks) between injections, or longer than 6 weeks after delivery, your health-care provider should determine that you are not pregnant before giving you your injection of DEPO-PROVERA.

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Questions

1) What are your plans for Valentine's Day? 2) How do you feel about the holiday? Is it a big deal?



Tiffani Turner, freshman, biology major and Chanika Stovall, freshman, biology major

1) "Nothing really. We wanted to spend time with our boyfriends but they live in different parts of

the state — mine lives in Farnville and Chanika's in South Boston, Va.," Turner said.

"We'll probably hang out with them over the weekend but not on Thursday," Stovall added.

2) "I think it's a day you spend expressing your love and showing how much you care for someone and appreciate what they do for you. Yeah it's a big deal because you want to spend the time with that person but if you're far away from them it's hard," Turner said.



J'mar Mondie, junior, fashion design major

1) "My roommates and I plan to cook a big dinner for four special females."

2) "I feel that it's another day to be with that special someone. It's not a big deal to me because everyday should be special - you shouldn't just pick one day to love that person."



Mark Adams, freshman, undeclared

1) "Probably gonna go out and eat with my girlfriend of one-and-a-half years. She's a senior in high school."

2) "It's all good; it's straight. Yeah, it's somewhat a big deal, especially when you're in a relationship — she expects me to do something for her."



Adam Cooper, sophomore, history major

1) "I haven't made any plans as of yet!"

2) "Usually don't pay much attention to it. It's not a big deal to me at all. It's pretty much just another commercialized holiday."



Mark Smith, senior, accounting major

1) "Supposed to be helping one of my friends serve dinner at the Family Restoration Church of God and Christ. They are having a dinner for couples there. Also my fraternity will be handing out roses to the young ladies around campus - Iota Phi Theta."

2) "It's a time where businesses make money off of people who want to show their love to their loved ones and they forget there are another 364 days to show your affection."



Carrie Collier, senior, criminal justice major

1) "My boyfriend's in Korea so I am expecting cards and pictures from him. He is in the air force and it'll be five years on Valentine's Day that we've been together."

2) "I usually enjoy Valentine's Day cause it's my anniversary plus Valentine's Day too, but this year is gonna suck cause he's not with me, it's a big deal for me, since it is my anniversary too."



Veronica Corey, sophomore, psychology major and Laura Erickson, sophomore, kinetic imagery major

1) "We are going to go out with a bunch of our girlfriends and go eat dinner," Corey said.

2) "I don't really like it because I have never had a boyfriend during Valentine's Day," Corey, said.

"It's just kind of like any other day that goes by."

"It's interesting to see how far couples will go to impress one another for Valentine's Day," Erickson said.

OPINION

Robb Crocker

Construction for coffee

A warning to those who actually study in Cabell Library: You soon may be better off studying in the Commons or at a fraternity party. Construction has already begun to upgrade the library.

Soon, there will be additional computer workstations and study session rooms as well as a new sprinkler and alarm systems. After all, we all don't want to die there. These are

What's next, a bar in the financial aid office?

good things and needed additions.

What is not needed there, however, is a coffee bar. Adding a coffee bar is not only an example of how this institution wastes money but also a waste of time. Yes, coffee bars have been trendy for sometime, but does the university really want people flocking to the "Cabell Library Coffee House?"

As a student, would you want to have to fight the masses in order to escape the growing crowds of people who will be smoking outside the library so you can check out a book you don't want to read or get away from your roommate and their boyfriend/girlfriend who are disrupting your studying?

And speaking of smoking, who is going to maintain the outside of the library once we enter the "caffeine zone." Smoking and loitering outside of the library will increase as will the trash.

Personally, I can't study at Cabell. I find that there are too many people who aren't there to study. Some are surfing the net, some are socializing and some are meeting in study groups that could not get a study session room. Having more people in there, hopped up on caffeine, wandering the stacks and smoking outside will guarantee that I never show up again.

If the powers that be felt that there needed to be coffee at the library, then they should have invested in the best coffee machine money could buy. In the long run, they would have saved lots of money in my opinion.

What's next, a bar in the financial aid office so students won't be so bitter when they run into the usual issue that they face there?

SOUND OFF! WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR AT ctvcu@hotmail.com



"JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE RED DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE HOT."

Patty Robbins

Iranians rally in the streets

On Monday, millions of Iranians rallied in the streets of Tehran to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution and to attack what President Bush has said about their country.

In his Jan. 29 State of the Union speech,

Bush said that Iran, Iraq and North Korea were all members of an "axis of evil" because they were trying to create weapons of mass destruction. Soon after, angry Iranians filled the streets carrying anti-U.S. banners, and chanting, "Death to America! Death to Bush!"

The president of Iran, Mohammad Khatami, said that the rally was a response to "U.S. insults and trumped-up charges" against Iran. He then proceeded to say, "This year, despite insults to the great Iranian nation and the trumped-up charges against it, the Iranian nation has commemorated the anniversary of its revolt in a greater scale than before."

Khatami also said that America was somewhat to blame for the attacks on Sept. 11, blaming the attacks on American foreign policy. Khatami said the threat to

Iran, "originates from the fact that America or at least some of its officials see themselves as masters of the world... Since they have power, they want to force the world to obey them and exert pressure on countries that disobey."

"The American people have every right to ask their leaders how long should they pay the price for their faulty policies. What policies and what reasons caused the Sept. 11 attacks?" MOHAMMAD KHATAMI, Iran's president

Khatami said that although Iran's leaders face many differences in their power struggle between conservatives and reformists, they are unified in their support of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The protesters carried banners that read - in English and in Farsi - "We still follow the ideals of the Islamic revolution" and "America cannot do a damn thing." One

man said, "As long as our revolution is against America, we support it. The day there is peace between this country and America, the revolution is over."

A nation that rampages the streets chanting, "Death to America" and "Death to Bush," while carrying effigies of Uncle Sam must have some kind of an evil nature. Iran's reaction to what was said only justifies Bush's statement. I am glad that Iran does not have world power or else we would all be in the streets like them wishing innocent people to die.

Letter to the Editor

Is the death penalty necessary?

If this question were answered by the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, the answer would be no. If it were answered by the parents of a child that was murdered, then the answer more than likely would be yes.

From 1989 to 1995 Jerome Townes was an inmate at the Powhatan Correctional Center. He said, "Yeah, we have that," when asked if they had cable television and recreational facilities. In prison? If this is the kind of punishment that we give people who commit crimes, then the death penalty would be a more appealing punishment for a killer. "There was a commissary too. You can buy TV's, radios, cigarettes, walkmans, cosmetics and everything."

Prisoners can't be punished for their crimes if living in prison is just as hospitable as living at home.

In opposition to the death penalty it can be argued that the government is punishing a crime with a crime. We are all taught that killing is wrong.

So, if we emphasize how wrong it is to kill, then why punish someone who does so by killing them? This is hypocrisy.

If a killer is sentenced to life, he will eventually die in misery.

But, if the prisoner is killed, then all earthly suffering ends -- along with the punishment.

However, there is always a middle ground for compromise. Maybe harsher punishments can be created for prisoners, or many of the luxuries they have can be taken away so it won't seem like the prisoners are "sitting pretty."

If those who support the death penalty are satisfied with harsher punishments, then the death penalty wouldn't be an issue. Those who oppose it will be satisfied with abolishing it, since that's their whole purpose of opposition. So, is the death penalty necessary? No.

— LATASHA JAMES

TIMES

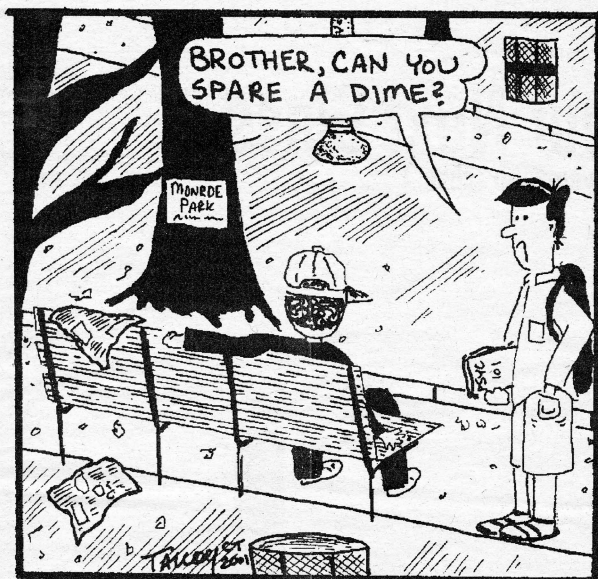
Ty Bowers
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Robb Crocker
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COLLEGE COSTS PUTTING STUDENTS INTO DEBT.

Emily Liu

To tell you the truth...

As I watched the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics, I had to wonder to myself how united our country really is. As the large section of American athletes marched by, an NBC commentator mentioned to the broadcast audience that the American figure skater Michelle Kwan was predicted to be the most-watched American winter athlete of the 2002 games.

Following this, it was noted that Michelle Kwan had received much criticism during the 1998 winter games in Nagano for not having marched in the opening ceremony and for not having lodged in the designated athlete's village.

I can't help but to question whether this criticism should have been applied

if Kwan had been a Caucasian-American athlete rather than Asian in her heritage. It seems that maybe we are not as united and unbiased as we believe we are. There are still people in this new millennium, guided by their cultural ignorance, that cannot help but be skeptical of a non-white American.

Could it have been that Kwan, as a competing athlete, was more concerned with her health and her routine as a skater to responsibly decide to forgo the opening ceremony in Nagano? As the audience views the event on television, they have the luxury of lying comfortably back on the couch by the warmth of the heater.

And when the ceremonies are over, they may click the television off and go straight to bed. Imagine being an athlete at the ceremonies for a moment; having to stand or sit for hours in anticipation of the Olympic procession, then having to march in the bitter cold under snowy conditions, and not returning to the athlete's village until several hours after the program.

This, of course, causes a disruption in your nightly routine paired with the fact that nerves may steal another precious few hours from your normal sleep mode. How would this affect your competitive mindset and body as an athlete? Wouldn't this be reason enough to be

absent from the ceremony?

But instead, we decide to criticize. We criticize individuals that are competing on our behalf because we cannot see beyond our prejudices. This is not, by any means, to say that we are all of this nature. We are not. We have come a long way from when we first started accepting racial integration.

Still, examples like the one I've mentioned do occur in our society whether we choose to acknowledge it. The truth is, perhaps during a time like the Olympics we can all make a greater effort to be united for the sake of our athletes and for the sake of our nation.

Emily Liu

Fashion in fitness

The new trend in exercise, athletics, and weight loss is yoga. Everywhere you turn bookstores are stocked with yoga videotapes and instruction manuals, reminiscent of the Tae Bo phenomenon. Talk shows on television devote at least a broadcast to the demonstration of a few 30-second yoga techniques by some perfectly sculpted fitness marketer.

And the loyal audience that we are, we sit and watch a few of our favorite television hosts squirm around dressed in suit and tie posing in awkward stretching positions that are little more than a mockery of the art of yoga itself.

Several months ago, I recall seeing Oprah Winfrey showcase supermodel Christy Turlington's new line of athletic wear designed specifically for yoga. Although I do not doubt that her outfits are comfortable for the practice of yoga, since when we sweats and a T-shirt uncomfortable?

At prices nearing \$50 to \$150, if not more, for yoga ensembles, the consumer must wonder if the investment is in fitness or if it is in a trend. Not to mention the fact that yoga happens to be an exercise that most people perform in solitude (unless under instruction of a fitness class), the need to look great while closed-eyed meditating seems drastically unnecessary.

Nevertheless, I am not surprised by the high fashion demands of our society even in the area of fitness. The Siegel Center seems to pose a perfect mini-example of the population's attitude towards fitness

and appearance.

Many a time I have noticed students working out on fitness equipment, while simultaneously taking mental notes of the appearances of others and perhaps accidentally displaying a facial gesture of approval or disapproval. And then there are those people that turn a visit to the gym into a visit to a bar, without the alcohol to impede one's superficiality. The gym becomes some sort of chatting grounds for singles.

I, myself, have once encountered a pair of ladies cross my path as I was on a step-machine and remark as they passed, "Oh my god! Did you see that girl sweat?"

I couldn't help but to imagine how ignorant they were for their comment, and I had even purposely avoided the Siegel Center and was working out in the low-key Cary Street Gym! And still there are many that powder their faces and curl their hair just before entering a gym in hopes of catching some of the fish in the sweaty sea.

The point being, since when did fitness become a fashion show? Some may argue that there is nothing wrong with finding a date from a selection of people at the gym that apparently have the same interests as they do. However, if you go to the gym to scope out girlfriend/boyfriend prospects, one must wonder if your interest is really in working out or making out.

Amul Madan

Parting Shots

Today, I try something new - something a bit out of my ordinary columns. Basically, to get down to the point - every so often my column will be a "parting shot" column where I voice my opinion on several different things that I saw or heard over the previous week. As an inaugural topic for my first - ever parting shots column, I'm talking sports. To be more specific, the VCU basketball game vs. ODU Feb. 9. Why? Well, you'll see.

First off, I'd like to acknowledge the fact that the crowd at the game was big. Wait, not big, huge.

Six alumni sat behind me at the game. Did these particular alumni have school spirit? Heck no - they bashed VCU the entire game. For example, the ODU bench had placards that had specific plays on them (I'd say at least 5 or 6, although I'm sure they were more). As most people that go to basketball games here know, we have two popular players on our team from Russia (L.F. Likhochitov and Konstantin Nesterov). Well, one of the graduates said during the game that if VCU were ever to make placards of all their plays, then they would have to do it in two languages. Now, I don't know about how

everyone else feels about that comment, but I find that to be insulting considering that L.F. and Nesterov can speak perfect English. If these people weren't so snooty and actually had respect for VCU, they wouldn't have said that in the first place. Another vile, disrespecting and degrading comment they made regarded the dance team. After the dance team was done performing at halftime, the band leader said "give it up for the dance team" and one of them, thinking he would be funny added "brought to you by Hooters," laughing. I would think that they would be more respectful since they went to this school. It looks like I was wrong though. What they commented on actually sparked a thought I had while writing this: Instead of making insulting comments about the players on the basketball team and the dance team, why don't they use the money that they have to purchase new facilities for the students? Or maybe alleviate some of the woes that VCU will soon have after the state budget takes into effect. Hopefully, those that come to basketball games in the future - whether they are alumni or from opposing team - will be more respectful.

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Working to educate tomorrow's politicians

Holly Clark
CT MANAGING EDITOR

Looking back on her high school years, Carmela Bills says her least favorite subject was government. She hated everything to do with it – history, geography, politics.

So, years later, what does she do? Get a job with the government.

Bills, the information and public relations officer for the House of Delegates, began working at the Virginia Capitol in 1982.

"I started out as a receptionist on the eighth floor of the General Assembly Building, and now I'm over here at the Capitol and I absolutely love it," she said.

A graduate of Texas Women's University, Bills double-majored in business and education. She said her mother always told her she had to be a teacher because "if anything ever happened to my husband I'd always be able to teach."

After graduation, Bills student taught and worked several years as a flight attendant. She then married, moving with her husband to Mexico City. She moved once more to Venezuela before settling down in Richmond, with her husband and two children.

Once in Richmond, she was urged by a friend to get a part-time job to "keep me busy during the day," she said. Soon after, she took a receptionist job with the General Assembly.

"When I first moved here I didn't know the names of counties, what VCU was, nothing," Bills said. "I didn't know anyone either, so I was just nice to everyone – legislators, lobbyist, reporters – everyone."

After several years, Bills accepted a job in the Capitol as the information desk clerk. Another woman then occupied her old desk on the eighth floor. The woman soon "questioned" some of the things Bills left in her desk.

"It was so funny," Bills said. "I mark everything with 'C. Bills' – my initials. And the lady was like 'I know what House Bills are and what Senate Bills are, but what are C. Bills?'" Bills said she often gets teased about her name.

After the move, Bills' new front-desk job involved answering phone calls, guiding lost visitors and helping track down information requested by the public.

With the coming of the Internet, however, Bills said her job took a dramatic change. No longer was she glued to the

phone, answering questions about bills and giving out legislator's information. People were able to access all they needed via the Internet and slowly, the phone calls lessened.

This gave Bills more time to focus on her true love – helping children understand how the government works.

"I would see kids come in here lots of times with school groups and look so lost," she said. "Sometimes they are overlooked here. I wanted to change that."

Bills then created the "Chamber Presentation Program," a program offering school groups and children tours of the Capitol, information on how a bill becomes a law and participation in a mock legislative session.

"The program takes them through the whole process on their level," she said. "It's easy for them to relate to and, of course, watching them role-play is adorable."

Bills has also developed several other programs, including one geared toward the Standards of Learning tests and another detailing the history of the Capitol on colored bookmarks.

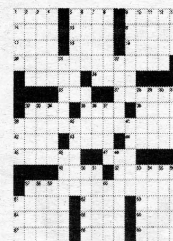
"She's been very instrumental here and always has innovative ideas," said Gail Schenek, fiscal officer for the House of Delegates. "And she always has a smile on her face."

Dick Lung, the House of Delegate's doorkeeper, added, "She's a nice lady, especially in such a hectic job."



Kent Brockwell

Bills



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Texas A&M battles Vagina Festival controversy

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Texas A&M University officials said Monday they will honor the freedom of expression of students who plan to hold a Vagina Festival on campus despite the possibly offensive nature of the group's activities.

Conservative and Christian groups have been in contact with the University to express disapproval of the festival, which is planned alongside performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to celebrate V-Day on Feb. 14. A&M's V-Day activities join more than 800 worldwide events, 550 on college campuses, to combat violence against women.

Games and resource tables will be set up Feb. 13 and 14 in a free speech area at Academic Plaza. But University officials say the content of certain games and contests, with titles such as "Pin the Clit," "Dress Your Own Vagina" and "Best Moan," may be offensive to some.

"Allowing this festival on campus is a matter of honoring the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of expression," a University spokesperson said Monday in a press release.

The University is not withdrawing its support from the three performances of "The Vagina Monologues," but officials met with students planning the festival Monday to ask that they rethink the games. A&M V-Day Campus Coordinator Laura

Hall said University Relations Director Cynthia Lawson asked her Monday if she would end plans for the festival in light of calls to the administration objecting to the festival and the use of the word "vagina."

"The University's stance is that they don't have a problem with the 'Monologues,'" said Hall, a junior industrial distribution major. "But they say they don't see how our festivities factor in to the performance."

Hall said the festival would go on as planned.

Lawson was unavailable for comment Monday.

"Isn't it funny how saying 'vagina' on this campus gets everyone in a tizzy," Hall said. "People ask if we're trying to do this for shock value, which of course is not the intent. Saying 'vagina' at Texas A&M is shock enough."

V-Day is meant to target women who could be susceptible to abuse or sexual exploration before they become victims, she said.

But critics say the festival does not have a place on campus.

"I think it's radical, leftist propaganda — feminist filth," said David Rushing, a

state member of the Young Conservatives of Texas and a senior political science major. "They claim to be advancing the female cause, but it's vulgar and obscene."

Rushing said he voiced his concerns to administration when he first heard planning was in the works for V-Day.

He said he was told not to worry about it. Rushing also said he is not an unaware critic — he said he has seen parts of "The Vagina Monologues."

The Department of Food Services last week removed folding fliers advertising V-Day and festival events from tables at its es-

tablishments just days after they were placed there by Hall and the cast of the Monologues. Hall said she was told Food Services did not want any of its patrons to think the department endorsed the V-Day activities.

Even the festival's planned beneficiary, Phoebe's Home, a battered women's shelter in the Bryan-College Station area, asked for its name to be removed from all promotional material. Leaders of V-Day's stu-

dent sponsor, the A&M chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), approached coordinators at Phoebe's Home in October asking if it would accept the proceeds raised during V-Day. NOW received an initial yes, but failed to follow up on the agreement.

Last week, a representative of Twin City Missions, the parent organization for Phoebe's Home, contacted Hall and told her that donations made publicly to the shelter would be denied.

Hall said Phoebe's Home representatives indicated they were under pressure from other donors who did not want to give to a charity that accepted funds from V-Day. Hall said she has received many e-mails from donors threatening to withdraw support of the shelter if she continued to support them.

Hall said V-Day will donate 10 percent of proceeds from tickets sold for the 'Monologues' performances to a fund for women in Afghanistan. The other part of the funding, which was earmarked for Phoebe's Home, may go to organizations such as AIDS services of Brazos Valley, she said.

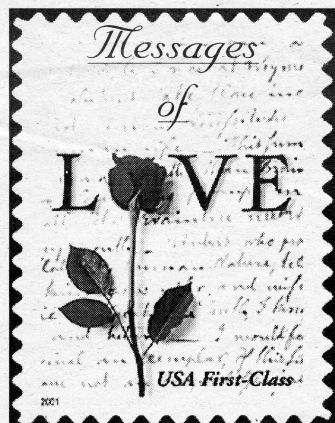
Hall said she knew the first year to bring the Vagina Festival to the conservative A&M campus was going to spur opposition.

"But, you can't slowly introduce things to a conservative community," she said. "Change does not come without conflict."

"The Vagina Monologues" will play in the Rudder Forum Feb. 28, March 1 and 2.

"I think it's radical, leftist propaganda — feminist filth... They claim to be advancing the female cause, but it's vulgar and obscene"

—David Rushing



LaShelle,
As sisters we have that special connection.
We understand each other beyond perfection.
At first you were thinking a little sister wasn't a good idea,
But now I think you are glad that I am here.
The moments we share are not rare,
Believe it or not, those moments show me you care.
If you didn't know you are about to know,
I love you more than any words could show.
Love,

YOUR LITTLE SISTER

Mom,
You gave me energy when I was weak,
And gave me support that balanced me on my feet.
When I was sick you were my doctor and nurse,
With all these remedies up your sleeve, but the best one you chose first
When feeling depressed and stressed,
You are my psychologist, my number one, my only, and the best.
The love you give is so warm and true,
I may rarely say it, but I love you.
Love,

YOUR DAUGHTER

Derrick,
The love I have for you will never perish.
The sacred moments with you I will always cherish.
Through rough times we learn to forgive or forget
But these feelings I have for you I will never regret.
"Love of a lifetime," I see written all over your face.
When you came in my life, my past was erased.
Love is a word that is often abused,
I mean this from the bottom of my heart, I love you.
Miss you, love you and always thinking about you.

TRINA

Dad,
The blood we share is not the same,
My real daddy left me with you a dime to my name
You treated me like your own.
And gave me good advise that I couldn't have learned alone.
You served as the father figure in my life,
I served as a daughter in which you've made sacrifices.
One thing that will always be true, Regardless of the situation I will always love you.
Love,

YOUR DAUGHTER



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SPORTS

Wilks named CAA player of the week



Wilks

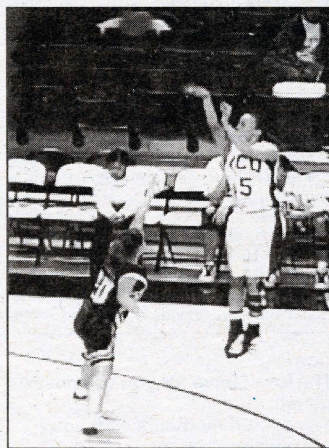
Virginia Commonwealth University sophomore Cyndy Wilks was chosen as the Colonial Athletic Association's women's basketball Player of the Week after leading the Rams to victories over a pair of conference foes.

Wilks averaged 19.5 points, 7.0 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 2.0 steals in VCU home wins over league-opponents Hofstra and Drexel this past weekend. The 5'11" guard poured in a career-high 33 points and tied a school single-game record with seven three-point field goals to propel the Rams to a 79-64 triumph over Drexel Feb. 10. Wilks shot 11-of-16 from the floor, including seven-of-nine from beyond the arc, against the Dragons and finished the afternoon just two points short of the program's best-ever single-game total of 35 points. The sharp-shooting Wilks also pulled down nine rebounds, one shy of a career-high, during VCU's 73-55 decision over Hofstra Feb. 8 and added a personal-best five assists in the win.

Wilks stepped up her play during VCU's CAA schedule, as the New Jersey native is averaging 11.0 points in conference games and has made 22 of 56 attempts (39.3 percent) from long distances against league opponents. For the season, Wilks is aver-

aging 8.6 points and 3.2 rebounds per contest and currently ranks fourth among CAA players with a 37.5 percent (30-80) success rate from three-point range. She has started seven of the Rams 22 games this season and stands third on the VCU career list for three-point field goal percentage as well as eighth on the Rams' all-time chart for three-pointers made.

— compiled from news sources



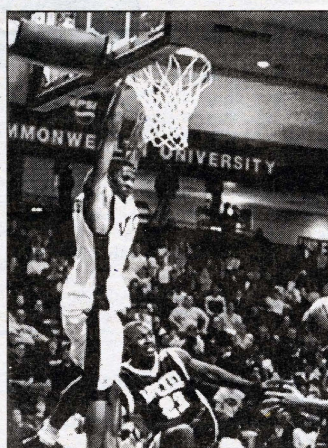
VCU Sports

Wilks hits a three against Drexel

Taylor named NABC/Pontiac District Four second team all-district

VCU forward junior Willie Taylor has been named to the NABC/Pontiac District Four Second Team, as selected by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Taylor, who leads the Rams in scoring at 17.5 points and 4.2 rebounds per game, was the lone Ram selected, and one of only two CAA players among the 150 honored by the NABC. A first and second-team from each of 15 districts were also announced, and all players chosen are now eligible for All-America honors, which will be announced at the conclusion of the regular season.



VCU Sports

Taylor dunks on Drexel

Out of Bounds

Derek Stamey
CT STAFF WRITER

"Rams Avoiding Roadkill Status"

The VCU men's basketball team will embark on its most important mission this weekend. The road game this Saturday versus lowly Towson will serve as an important measuring stick and preparation for what may be considered McCarthy's last stand.

When at home, the boys from Broad Street are simply amazing. Going 12-1 this season, they're very tough to beat when the Siegel Center lights come on. A semi-filled arena; rowdy fans; great pep band; wonderful opening introduction; amazing athletes. The only problem — being on the road. And the obnoxious band leader, but that's another column in and of itself.

The Rams are resting snugly at 17-8 overall and 9-5 in CAA conference play. What's wrong you say? They're almost to 20 wins! Third place in the conference! They're looking pretty good heading into the conference tournament. But, how about a 1-5 record on the road in CAA play? And the lone win was a slim victory against cellar dweller Old Dominion, which went into overtime!

During the time of year when the men are supposed to be hitting their stride, they battled at home, instead, on Saturday with the same Old Dominion team. Willie Taylor struggled shooting the basketball and L.F. Likholitov was limited offensively due to lack of trouble and worn-out legs. The

They're the most talented team in the conference by a long shot. It's sickening to think that their decent 17-8 record could quite possibly be 21-4.

defense seemed porous at times and even with a college version of Dennis Rodman, these Rams would find a way to be out-rebounded.

Which brings us to this weekend's journey to Towson. After the visit to Towson, the Rams then travel to, oh man.... who made this schedule, George Mason and UNC Wilmington. All said, the Rams need to at least win the road game against Towson. No, check that. If they want any type of respect coming in as a visitor, then they'll win that game. That'll raise their overall record to 18-8. If history repeats itself and the trend continues, the Rams could quite possibly be staring at 17-11 once they return home from the North Carolina coast.

The Rams wouldn't be in this position if they had just taken care of business on the road to begin with. They're the most talented team in the conference by a long shot. It's sickening to think that their decent 17-8 record could quite possibly be 21-4. Losing to a team as bad as the Tribe and melting down against William & Mary is ridiculous. The last second loss at JMU also unexplainable. Delaware and Hofstra were both easy-to-beat teams and they should have been taken care of.

But hey, that's life on the road in the CAA. The road's name is post season and it can take you home or right out of town.

Sports Schedule

THURSDAY FEB 14

Women's Basketball at William & Mary, 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY FEB 15

Men's Tennis at Wake Forest, 5:00 p.m.

SATURDAY FEB 16

Men's basketball at Towson, 7:30 p.m.

Baseball vs. St. Joseph's, 2:00 p.m.

Track and Field at George Mason Invitational

SUNDAY FEB. 17

Women's Basketball vs. UNC-Wilmington, 2:00 p.m.

Baseball vs. St. Joseph's, 1:00 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Minnesota, 9:00 a.m.

NABC/Pontiac All District 4 First Team

Kevin Braswell,
Georgetown
Jason Conley, VMI
Mike Sweetney,
Georgetown
Tamar Slay, Marshall
Chris Monroe, George Washington

NABC/Pontiac All District 4 Second Team

Willie Taylor, VCU
Chris Moss, West Virginia
Tommy Adams, Hampton
David Fanning, James Madison
Andrey Savtchenko, Radford