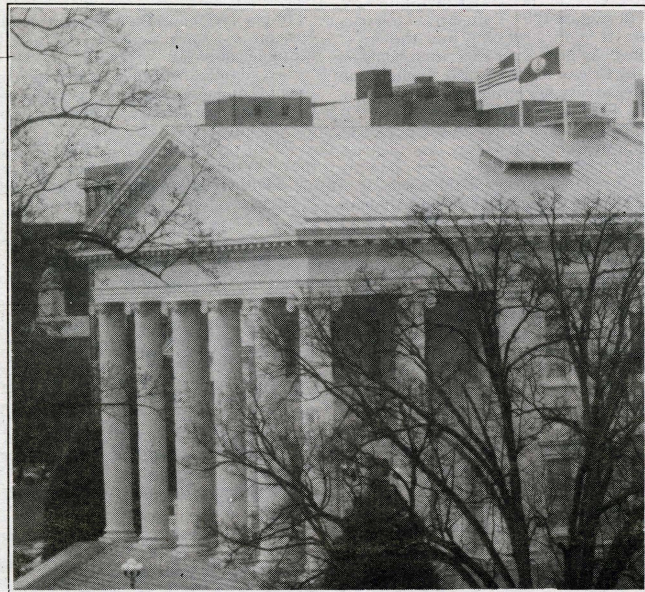


FRI: Sunny, yet cloudy.
High 53, low 30.

SAT: See Friday.
Exciting stuff.
High 55, low 40.



IN MEMORY. -- The flags on the State Capitol flew at half-mast Monday in recognition of the death of two-term Virginia Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. Godwin served as governor from 1966-70 as a Democrat and from 1974-78 as a Republican. He passed away Saturday.

Princeton professor speaks on race issue

Sarah Ann Hearney
CT STAFF WRITER

The harmonious voices of the Richmond Boys Choir filled the auditorium of the Performing Arts Center Thursday, Jan. 28 as they opened for a lecture on race relations. The speech, which focused on matters of race and civil rights, was VCU's contribution to Rev. Al Sharpton's Community Learning Week.

Jennifer L. Hochschild, professor of public and international affairs at Princeton University, spoke on "Race Relations in a Diversifying Nation." Her achievements include numerous awards, fellowships, grants and the publication of seven books on the subject of race.

"The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line," she said. "The problem of the 21st century will be the lines of color, class and gender."

Hochschild discussed three possibilities for racial and ethnic interac-

tion in the next millennium including pluralism, separatism and African-American exceptionalism.

"Pluralism is the most traditional American idea," Hochschild said. "This occurs when race and ethnic identities blur or dissolve around the edges through interracial marriage, political alliances and other factors."

"Other interests and distinctions come forward, such as class distinctions, so people are splitting along other kinds of lines instead of racial lines," she said.

'Pluralism is the most traditional American idea.'

-- Professor Jennifer L. Hochschild

Black History Month

Students Promote Black Awareness

Elana Simms

CT ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

"We need to 'black out' more than once a year."

Alicia Murphy, president of the Black Awakening Choir, said this in reference to the nation's setting aside one month to observe black history. African-American organizations on VCU's campus, however, are seeking to provide ample opportunities for learning about the African-American culture, not only in February, but year round.

This month, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, the Black Caucus, VCU's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Black Student Alliance have joined forces and put together "Creative Expressions in Black", a calendar of events geared to the education of students about the African-American heritage.

"Black history should be celebrated by all," said Shellie White, a member of VCU's NAACP chapter. "It's an expression of years of struggle suffered by blacks for the advancement of minorities as a whole. It's for everyone," she said.

Orations by well-known speakers are scattered across the February calendar.

"I think the black organizations should primarily be focusing on bringing speakers to campus to educate," said Murphy, who is also vice president of VCU's NAACP chapter. "They bring so much to the campus and we can really learn from them."

Consequently, the chapter has chosen to bring Black Entertainment Television anchor Tavis Smiley to VCU on Feb. 22.

"We chose him because of his presence," said Denise Montgomery, president of VCU's chapter of the NAACP. "He's an innovator in his field, an awesome speaker and (he is) accomplished in the world of journalism."

Besides educating, Montgomery said, the chapter's goal is to address problems that concern the black community.

"We try to, as always, keep with the idea of being the watchdogs of society, making sure that any injustice is handled efficiently and immediately."

Other expressions featured on the calendar include an open-mike poetry set, a poster signing by artist L.C. Thompson, assistant dean of VCU's School

of the Arts; and "Essence of Africa," a variety program in which the Black Awakening Choir will be featured.

"It's sponsored by Kappa Alpha Psi (Fraternity). We're really excited about singing on that program," Murphy said.

The black organizations on campus are trying to convey just how universal our culture is," said Vernessa Coppedge, secretary of VCU's NAACP chapter.

"Our influence and our contributions have affected all cultures. It's only logical that people be educated on the matter," she said.

Along the same lines, L. Victor Collins, director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs said, "(African Americans) are the descendants of the very people we seek to honor ... It's the way of our people to remember from where we came and how we came."

Coming events

Thursday, Feb. 4, 7:00 p.m.

Performance:

**Creative Expression:
Hosted by Dee Dee Ranea,
D.J. @ 104.7 FM
Capital Ballroom**

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7:00 p.m.

Lecture:

**Barry Ellen Roberts
Commonwealth Ballroom B**

Thursday, Feb. 11, 7:00 p.m.

Lecture:

**Dr. Charles V. Hamilton
Commonwealth Ballroom B**

Monday, Feb. 15, 4:00 p.m.

Ceremony:

**BHM Poster Signing by artist
L.C. Thompson, assistant
dean, School of the Arts
Second floor Student Art
Space, Student Commons**

News of the Weird

• Will the real Willy stand up?

Grieving Canadians learned their tears were in vain as officials admitted that the corpse of Wiarton Willy, their beloved groundhog, had been switched with a stuffed impostor. Willy was Canada's official, furry meteorological forecaster for Groundhog Day, a holiday observed by both the United States and Canada. If the groundhog sees his shadow on Feb. 2, the winter season will continue for six more weeks.

When Groundhog Day observers arrived in Wiarton Tuesday, they were greeted with the news of Willy's death.

A photograph of the dead, albino groundhog, purported to be Willy, was in the Canadian papers on Wednesday.

Willy's real body, however, had been found days before in an advanced stage of decomposition, indicating that he had been dead for weeks.

"When the handler pulled him out," said Groundhog day organizer Bill Walker, "his remains were not presentable for public viewing."

• Surprise, you're dead!

Thousands of Americans received bad news as they opened their W-2 forms to find out they were deceased.

About 13,000 city employees in Dallas enrolled in pension plans received their W-2s, a form that tells workers how much they have paid in payroll deductions, with the "deceased" box checked.

"The problem was caused by old computer software used with a new W-2 form that put the "deceased" box where the "pension" box used to be," said a Dallas city controller.

The computer glitch affected some 350 other municipal employees in Saratoga Springs, New York; New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Since the Internal Revenue Service takes its tax information from correct electronic data filed by the city, Dallas officials discounted the incident and made no plans to reissue the W-2s.

• Pluto stays with the big boys.

The debate is over, Pluto will retain its status as a planet.

Although Pluto has always been the outcast of the planets, a proposal by the International Astronomical Union to reclassify Pluto as a minor planet drew protest.

"(We) never wanted to demote Pluto," said IAU General Secretary Johannes Andersen, "(but instead) wanted to give it a technical number that would group it with other small objects at the edge of the solar system, like some comets and asteroids, to help astronomers study it."

Close to 10,000 such small heavenly bodies have been counted so far. Within that number, Pluto could have been grouped with dozens of so-called Trans-Neptunian Objects whose orbits cross Neptune's, as Pluto will do on Feb. 11.

• Some Pig!

Charlotte's Web's Wilbur has nothing on Lulu, a 150-pound potbellied pig from Pennsylvania who saved her owner's life and in turn received a Trooper Award Tuesday from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In August 1997, Lulu braved the dangers of traffic, running into the street outside of her owner's vacation home on Lake Erie to fetch a passing motorist in order to save her owner, JoAnn Altman, who was having a heart attack.

Lulu, by doing her "dead pig trick" (lying in the middle of the road on her back with four legs sticking straight up in the air) lured the motorist to the scene.

The rescuer called police, and Altman was taken to the hospital. Doctors said that she could have perished if help had come any later.

Lulu was not phased by all the attention she received from the ASPCA. When asked how she felt about the award, Lulu just belched and shifted into a more comfortable position.

"She's our guardian angel," Altman said. "She truly saved my life."

• Alleged wheelchair bandit apprehended

San Francisco police have within their custody a paraplegic man suspected to be a wheelchair-bound bandit who recently robbed at least three people in Chinatown.

Cuong Tran was arrested on Monday night and charged with one count of robbery and violation of his probation, said police spokesman Sherman Ackerson.

Tran, 27, has been accused of wheeling up to his victims, displaying or simulating a semi-automatic weapon, demanding money and then fleeing in a motorized wheelchair.

In one incident Tran threw a purse back to his victim after discovering that it contained only \$10.

Investigators believe Tran, who speaks fluent Cantonese, is a former gang member and was paralyzed in a related shooting, said Ackerson.

Police were trying to relate him to other robberies that occurred over the past year, and additional charges were pending, said Ackerson.

• British sheep murder their feeder

A British farmer's wife plummeted to her death after a herd of sheep pushed her over a cliff in England.

During feeding time, Betty Stobbs, 67, rode on a power bike that carried a bale of hay into the grazing field. The sheep leaped onto the bike, and knocked it and the woman over the edge of a neighboring quarry.

Stobbs died after the vehicle landed on her.

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RACE

continued from page 1

'The problem of the 21st century will be the lines of color, class and gender.'

-- Hochschild

Hochschild defined separatism as groups choosing to separate themselves from other races.

"Group identity is crucial to their lives," she said. "This is the most likely of the three possible scenarios."

The third theory, Hochschild explained, is African-American exceptionalism in which Anglos, Asians and Latinos become close and exclude African-Americans from their lives and society.

Out of all three ideas, Hochschild said that pluralism is the best for all races in America.

"Pluralism is the most desirable because individuals should have as much freedom as they choose," she said. "They should be able to decide how important their race or ethnicity is to them."

Hochschild also brought up the idea of the drastic change in demographics in the United States that will slowly occur after the turn of the century. African-Americans will no longer be the largest nonwhite minority she said. In fact, by the year 2025 there will be more Latinos than whites in California and New Mexico.

"Forty percent of the American population will not be white," Hochschild said.

Further in her discussion, Hochschild told the audience that there are not as many differences in people of different races and ethnicities as one might think. Referring to a 1995 survey of the concerns of different groups, she said that all citizens seem to have

the same problems including jobs and family.

"This is the portrait of a citizenry that could come together on issues," she said.

Also included in the survey were questions that asked each racial group what other group they had the most in common with. Hochschild stated that whites felt they had the most common with blacks, and blacks said the same about Latinos. According to the survey, Latinos and Asians described themselves as having the most commonalities with whites.

"Each group is chasing a group that is running away from them," Hochschild said.

During the question and answer session, the issue of whites identifying with blacks caused much discussion.

"It strikes me as strange that in the survey whites said they identified with blacks the most," said Audrey Smedley, professor of sociology and anthropology.

Deirdre Condit, assistant professor of political science and public administration, said the whole issue of race was like an elephant in the living room. It's a huge issue and everyone can see it, but people avoid talking about it in hopes it will get out of the way.

'Other interests and distinctions come forward, such as class distinctions, so people are splitting along other kinds of lines instead of racial lines.'

-- Hochschild

Can we trust Punxsutawney Phil?

Dave Parro

DAILY ILLINI (U. ILLINOIS)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Some meteorologists say you'd be better off flipping a coin than trusting the famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil's weather prediction for the next six weeks.

In the 113th year of the prediction in the Pennsylvania town, Phil did not see his shadow Tuesday, delighting the crowd of 25,000 with the idea that spring is right around the corner.

According to a web site dedicated to Phil, "www.groundhog.org", the tradition of the rodent's prediction goes all the way back to Roman times. Punxsutawney's first prediction came in 1887 and has since become known worldwide. The festivities surrounding the prediction draw thousands yearly and the town celebrated this year with dances, craft shows and a showing of the movie Groundhog Day in the town community center.

However, some meteorologists are skeptical of Phil's accuracy.

His predictions are all over the place and never consistently agree with what the weather actually turns out to be, said Scott Olthoff, part-time meteorologist with WILL radio.

"It's just tradition and that's all it is," he said. "From year to year the predictions vary."

Phil's predictions have turned out to be right 40 percent of the time, said John Walsh, professor of atmospheric sciences. Groundhog Day is a nice little diversion from the middle of winter, but using a moment of sunshine to predict the weather for the next six weeks isn't very reliable, he said.

"You don't want to bet the ranch on one of these groundhog predictions," Walsh said. "It's really stretching the imagination to say it has some sort of scientific prediction."

According to the National Weather Service, the recent above-average temperatures will continue into the spring. Both the 30 and 90 day maps call for continued warmer weather, said Walsh.

These figures indicate that Phil's predictions will be right this year. Rising average temperatures indicate that winter is on its way out, said Walsh.

"We have an old saying in meteorology," he said. "When the average daily temperature starts to go up, the back of winter is broken."

In his opinion, the higher temperatures don't give Phil any more reliability in predicting the weather.

"I think groundhogs are nice creatures, but I'm skeptical about their scientific predictions," he said.

But for those that rely on Phil every year, their faithful groundhog came through with the sought-after prediction of warmer weather.

'I think groundhogs are nice creatures, but I'm skeptical about their scientific predictions.'

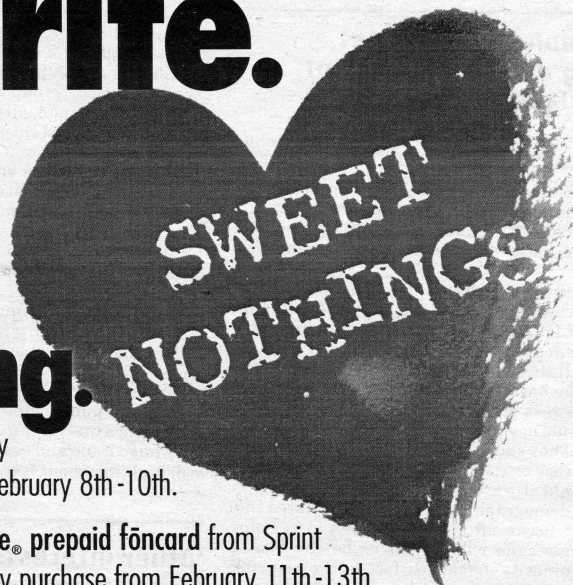
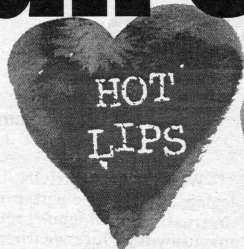
-John Walsh

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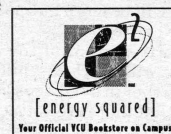
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Food Service Questions

Getting the beef on food services

Pot Shots
 compiled by CT Staff Writer Sylvia Moore

Question 1:

What do you think of food services at VCU?

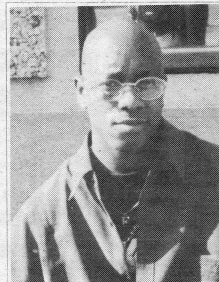
Question 2:

Why?

Question 3:

If you could change any part of the food service what would you change?

MORE ON PAGE 16



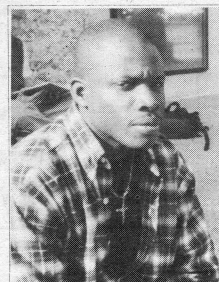
Frank Smith, computer science major, sophomore

Q1: "It's alright."
 Q2: "Close to campus and a great environment."
 Q3: "Could have more employees to shorten the long lines."



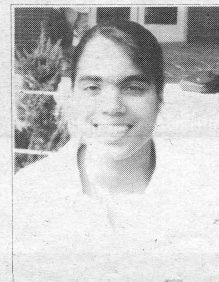
Verita Mason, mathematics major, sophomore

Q1: "Hibbs is not worth the money although the workers are friendly."
 Q2: "It could be cleaner; not use so many leftovers. There is not enough variety, it doesn't look good, and the meat is often not well done."
 Q3: "We need healthier food and more than just two places to eat."



O. Martinez, business management major, sophomore

Q1: "It's good."
 Q2: "The employees help you out with your food pass."
 Q3: "I'd like them to put in love seats so I can entertain the women."



Kimberley Davis, health education major, sophomore

Q1: "I think the food service is terrible."
 Q2: "There should be more variety of foods, and the silverware could be cleaner."
 Q3: "Improve the service by adding more choices and being cleaner."



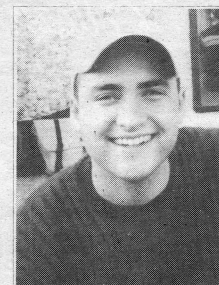
Christy Blount, pre-nursing major, freshman

Q1: "It's okay."
 Q2: "Because it's usually fast."
 Q3: "Employees could be more polite."



Kristy Kojcsich, psychology major, sophomore

Q1: "I feel there's not enough to offer for a vegetarian. Ukrops isn't much better."
 Q2: "There's not much variety at Hibbs and people at McDonalds are not pleasant."
 Q3: "Add some nutritious food. A deli would benefit a lot of us instead of greasy food."



Rob Milesnick, English major, senior

Q1: "There is not enough variety."
 Q2: "We need something healthier."
 Q3: "I would add healthier food and more than two places to eat and improve sanitary conditions."



Robert Snodgrass, engineering major, junior

Q1. "Slightly below average."
 Q2: "Not much variety and fairly low quality."
 Q3: "I'd like to see more dining halls with more choices of food."



Latarsha Harris, social work major, sophomore

Q1: "Food at Hibbs is fine. McDonald's people are unprofessional."
 Q2: "The lines at McDonald's are not ordered."
 Q3: "The food at Hibbs needs spice, and McDonald's needs to have better standards for their people."



Maura Pigeon, Spanish major, senior

Q1: "Inadequate."
 Q2: "Because they don't offer a lot of options for people that are on a food plan."
 Q3: "Offer more options and more places to eat."

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Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Death on the Web

Death. We all experience it. Sooner or later, like it or not, death, is inevitable.

And for as long as humans have realized that, many have felt a sense of fascination about death. It figures. Would you rather hide your head under a pillow and not think about it? Perhaps. But you know what? Most of us, at least in a round-about way, are interested in it.

Ever seen a horror movie and loved it? How about gothic music? Are you a Marilyn Manson fan, or if a bit long in the tooth, of Alice Cooper or Black Sabbath? Then you've at least been exposed to themes of death via modern culture.

And, wonder of wonders, wouldn't ya know it. The World Wide Web has embraced death as if it were the grim reaper himself. Okay, that's hyperbolic. But only just a bit.

Graves of the Stars

We just won't leave them alone. Many of us are enamored with the lives of the rich and famous. There's nothing wrong with that. But get this:

there's now a Web site where, with the simple matter of hitting a search button, one can locate the final resting place of famous actors and actresses; musicians; politicians, etc.

Titled, simply, Find-A-Grave (www.findagrave.com), the site features a massive archive of grave listings for notables such as Britain's legendary prime minister, Winston Churchill, actor John Wayne, and the recently deceased Frank Sinatra.

And there's more. For many of the listings photos, location addresses and snippets of biographical information is included.

There several local entries noted. The graves of former Presidents John Tyler and James Monroe, located but a few blocks south of VCU's campus in Hollywood Cemetery, are included.

Dead Presidents

And speaking of presidents, there's an entire site devoted to them. The site, aptly titled Dead Presidents

(starship.skyport.net/crew/manus/Presidents/), is full of interesting things, mostly attained via links attached and relevant to each entry.

For example, click on George Washington's name and a photo of his tomb appears, accompanied by a brief biography. The real find comes if you scroll slightly down the page. A number of links to Washington related sites are listed. From there you can jump to the White House's biography of Washington and a site devoted to the Washington Monument, among others. There's even a link to the New York Academy of Medicine where, for who knows what reason, a set of Washington's dentures are located. One assumes that the site features a photo of said dentures, but we'll just leave that open for conjecture.

Pet Cemetery

Well, why not create a site where one can forever honor one's pet? Heck, there's darned near a site for everything else these days.

The Virtual Pet Cemetery (www.lavamind.com/pet.html) may strike many as being a bit too oddball. Or maybe it won't.

Say, you've lost Spot or Tabby. A car ran them over, killed 'em. Well, in addition to burying them in the backyard, you can honor their memory on the Web for

everyone to see what such wonderful pets you once had. Even if ol' Fido was a mean ol' cuss, you can let people know that, too. Kind of neat, huh?

The Adams Family

Okay, now for the slightly more whacked out stuff. The Adams Residence (adamsresidence.fsn.net/) leans toward the macabre.

"The gothic page of Derek Adams and Dolly Whilems," the beginning of the site says, operated by "enthusiasts of the macabre, the morbid and the darkly romantic." Hmm, sounds a bit freaky.

Cool graphics such as 3-D animation and an array of horror-styled fonts and wallpaper at least pleases the eye. Though it doesn't say, it's a safe bet to say that the site originates in Europe, due to the inclusion of links to creepy monuments and headstones from graveyards located solely in Europe.

Also included is an archive of horror short stories, presumably written by fans of the site. Most are at best marginally readable. Guess Stephen King wasn't available to contribute.

If you have any suggestions for future Web column topics, please contact Tom at WSM650@aol.com or 828-1058.

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828-1058

VCU has DaNcE FeVeR

VCU's Department of Dance and Choreography will present its annual Student/Faculty Dance Concert at 8 p.m., February 17-20, at the Grace Street Theater, 934 W. Grace St.

The concert will feature 4 new works

and 3 revivals by performer/choreographers on the faculty and 5 new works by VCU Dance students Erin Brown, Andrew deFiesta, Paulina Guerro, Jennifer Logan, Molly Poerstel, and Renee Robinson.

You'll witness everything from animated superheroes to theatrical characters to powerful dancers.

The event is free to VCU students with a valid ID. For more information, call 828-2020.



MOVE IT! VCU dancers Cherami Conley and Erin Gerkin gracefully arc across the stage.

Bruce Berryhill/VCU

Tom Netherland
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Death on the Web

Death. We all experience it. Sooner or later, like it or not, death, is inevitable.

And for as long as humans have realized that, many have felt a sense of fascination about death. It figures. Would you rather hide your head under a pillow and not think about it? Perhaps. But you know what? Most of us, at least in a round-about way, are interested in it.

Ever seen a horror movie and loved it? How about gothic music? Are you a Marilyn Manson fan, or if a bit long in the tooth, of Alice Cooper or Black Sabbath? Then you've at least been exposed to themes of death via modern culture.

And, wonder of wonders, wouldn't ya know it. The World Wide Web has embraced death as if it were the grim reaper himself. Okay, that's hyperbolic. But only just a bit.

Graves of the Stars

We just won't leave them alone. Many of us are enamored with the lives of the rich and famous. There's nothing wrong with that. But get this:

there's now a Web site where, with the simple matter of hitting a search button, one can locate the final resting place of famous actors and actresses; musicians; politicians, etc.

Titled, simply, Find-A-Grave (www.findagrave.com), the site features a massive archive of grave listings for notables such as Britain's legendary prime minister, Winston Churchill, actor John Wayne, and the recently deceased Frank Sinatra.

And there's more. For many of the listings photos, location addresses and snippets of biographical information is included.

There several local entries noted. The graves of former Presidents John Tyler and James Monroe, located but a few blocks south of VCU's campus in Hollywood Cemetery, are included.

Dead Presidents

And speaking of presidents, there's an entire site devoted to them. The site, aptly titled Dead Presidents

(starship.skyport.net/crew/manus/Presidents/), is full of interesting things, mostly attained via links attached and relevant to each entry.

For example, click on George Washington's name and a photo of his tomb appears, accompanied by a brief biography. The real find comes if you scroll slightly down the page. A number of links to Washington related sites are listed. From there you can jump to the White House's biography of Washington and a site devoted to the Washington Monument, among others. There's even a link to the New York Academy of Medicine where, for who knows what reason, a set of Washington's dentures are located. One assumes that the site features a photo of said dentures, but we'll just leave that open for conjecture.

Pet Cemetery

Well, why not create a site where one can forever honor one's pet? Heck, there's darned near a site for everything else these days.

The Virtual Pet Cemetery (www.lavamind.com/pet.html) may strike many as being a bit too oddball. Or maybe it won't.

Say, you've lost Spot or Tabby. A car ran them over, killed 'em. Well, in addition to burying them in the backyard, you can honor their memory on the Web for

everyone to see what such wonderful pets you once had. Even if ol' Fido was a mean ol' cuss, you can let people know that, too. Kind of neat, huh?

The Adams Family

Okay, now for the slightly more whacked out stuff. The Adams Residence (adamsresidence.fsn.net/) leans toward the macabre.

"The gothic page of Derek Adams and Dolly Whilems," the beginning of the site says, operated by "enthusiasts of the macabre, the morbid and the darkly romantic." Hmm, sounds a bit freaky.

Cool graphics such as 3-D animation and an array of horror-styled fonts and wallpaper at least pleases the eye. Though it doesn't say, it's a safe bet to say that the site originates in Europe, due to the inclusion of links to creepy monuments and headstones from graveyards located solely in Europe.

Also included is an archive of horror short stories, presumably written by fans of the site. Most are at best marginally readable. Guess Stephen King wasn't available to contribute.

If you have any suggestions for future Web column topics, please contact Tom at WSM650@aol.com or 828-1058.

WEB
WATCH

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We're looking for submissions from some not-so-submissive critics.

Movies, books, music, plays ... If you've been there and done that we want to hear all about it.

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Brilliant collection adds to Lennon's living legacy

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Well, such a set now exists. John Lennon, dead nearly twenty years, his catalog seemingly already mined, recorded a great deal of music which was never released, much of which is included on "Anthology."

The four-disc collection features ninety-four, previously unreleased tracks which span the decade-plus length of Lennon's stellar solo career. Not only are there sharp studio outtakes, but also included are a number of acoustic demos, impromptu home recordings, live tracks, and a few examples taken from his many television appearances.

Its excellence is mind-numbing. Box sets are rarely this awesome. The sound is so consistently good that most of the songs sound as if recorded just yesterday. An accompanying booklet, and the set's individual disc sleeves, come adorned with Lennon's artwork. Lyrics to all original songs are included, along with a fascinating essay by music journalist Anthony DeCurtis.

But music is what made Lennon the man he became. Alternate takes of clas-

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A batch of interesting covers pepper throughout the set. Most, like his quick reading of Buddy Holly's "Peggy Sue," give us a look at Lennon's influences. Not only does he mine the blues with "Baby Please Don't Go," but he also gives a nod to Little Richard with the medley "Rip It Up/Ready Teddy."

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Duran Duran: Big hair, hollow lyrics but enjoyable all the same

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Earlier tunes (1982's "Hungry Like The Wolf") make up for tepid, woeful lyrics with crack presentations, style being the operative word.

And sex. "Rio," also from '82, comes off as an amorous ode to a particularly, ahem, blessed young woman, who "shows you all she can." Likewise, the previous year's "Girls On Film," gained notoriety not so much for lyrical content as for its racy video. Nearly two decades and a slew of Mansons and gangstas later, the video still waxes provocative. And the

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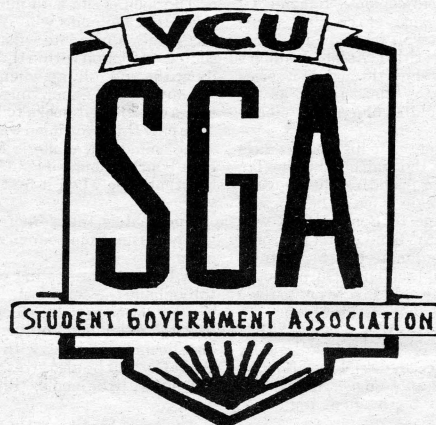
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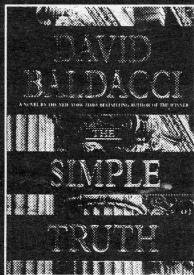
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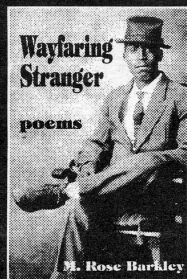
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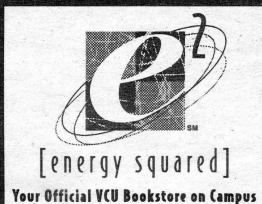


- **Free Refreshments!**
(Seattle's Best Coffee, Pepsi and yummy snacks)
- **Meet the Author David Baldacci!**
VCU alum and best-selling author will be signing copies of his latest thriller: *The Simple Truth* on Wed., Feb. 10th at 1 pm.

- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!**
Wednesday, February 10th at 3:00 pm



- **Meet the Author M. Rose Barkley!**
VCU alum will be reading from and signing copies of her book: *Wayfaring Stranger - poems* on Thurs., Feb. 11th at 6 pm.



HOURS OF CELEBRATION:

Mon. - Fri. • 7:30 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday • 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

ph: 828-1678 - efollett.com

Ram Stat

• VCU men's basketball team is 8-2 at home this season. The Rams are 4-0 at the Coliseum and 4-2 at the Robins Center.

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Sports

Commonwealth Times 13

Page 15

• Take a peek at the new leader in the Picks' plus men and women's basketball stats.

Men's tennis looking to make up for 1998

George Templeton
CT SPORTS EDITOR

A 23-7 record, ranked 36th by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, and a Region II semifinal appearance -- a good year for most programs but a disappointing year for the VCU men's tennis team.

"Last year was a disappointment," said VCU coach Paul Kostin. "We had a lot of injuries last year and we were inconsistent. We beat the No. 2 team in the country and then lost to the 64th-ranked team two weeks later."

Returning to the Rams this year is Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year Daniel Andersson, a junior from Stockholm, Sweden, who advanced to the NCAA national semifinals and compiled a 9-4 record this fall and a 46-10 record last season. Andersson is ranked fourth in the region and 25th nationally after ending last season ranked No. 11.

"I was hurt during the fall season," Andersson said. "I feel pretty good and I am hoping to qualify for the NCAA's and at least do as well as last year. The goal is to win it. I also hope to make it in doubles this year."

Also returning to VCU is all-CAA selection Manuel Kropfpreiter, a senior from Singen, Germany who finished 19-4 and CAA Rookie of the Year Jose Sanchez, a junior from Alicante, Spain who posted a 24-3 record last year.

"We're looking for Jose to maybe play No. 2 singles this year, which he did at the end of last year," Kostin said.

Kropfpreiter and Andersson were also named all-CAA in double and were ranked 46th nationally.

The biggest loss for VCU came with the

departure of Richard Wernherhjelm, who left VCU tied for first with Frederick Eliasson in all-time singles victories with 99.

VCU opens the season ranked 27th nationally, and third in Region II.

"That's probably the lowest ranking we have started with since I've been here," Kostin said. "I don't mind people gunning for us but I think it's better for the team that we are ranked a little lower."

Injuries helped unravel VCU's 16-0 start. VCU won only six of their last 17 matches, including two losses at home for the first time in Kostin's tenure.

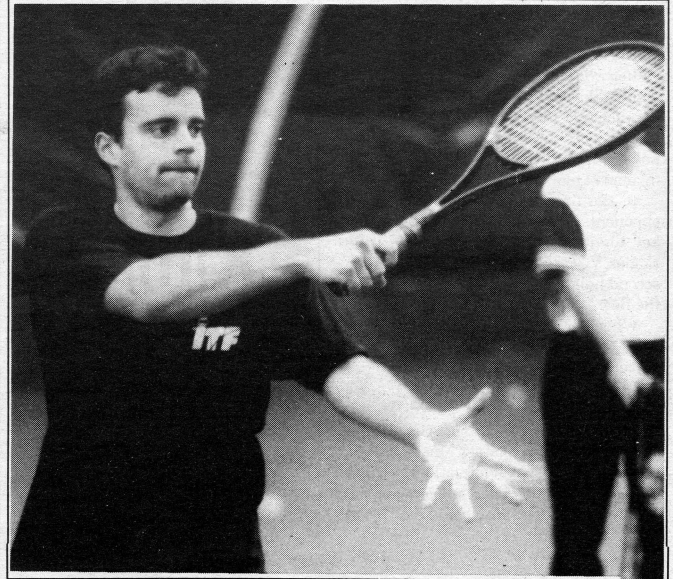
"We had a great start early but Manuel got hurt and a couple of other people were also hurt and we didn't play very well at the end," Kostin said.

In the Region II tournament VCU defeated Wake Forest 4-0 before they faced the University of Virginia, a team they defeated 6-1 earlier in the season. UVa. upset the Rams 4-2. That was the Rams' first loss to a team from Virginia since Kostin began coaching at VCU.

"It was bad the way we ended the season," Andersson said. "We really don't like UVa. and normally we beat them."

Joining the Rams this year are Arturu Planell, a sophomore from Barcelona, Spain; Frank Moser, a sophomore from Baden-Baden, Germany; and Johan Barras, a freshman from Versailles, France. Barras is ranked 19th in Region II and, along with Moser, is expected to contribute.

"Barras can be a really great tennis player, although so can everybody else," Kostin said. "He has a shot to be ranked nationally. Moser is a transfer from Florida Southern. He was one of the top two play-



Mary F. Franke/Commonwealth Times

THERE IT GOES. VCU'S Jose Sanchez hits a return during the Rams' Feb. 2 practice at the Thalheimer Tennis Center.

ers in Division II. We won't bring any of our players along slowly."

Both Kostin and Andersson said that this team has enough talent to advance to the NCAA Championships.

"We have a great team but you're al-

ways great before you start," Kostin said. "We are a much deeper team than last year."

"We're a much better team in the 3, 4 and 5 spots than last year," Andersson said.

Women's basketball starting 4-game odyssey

VCU's road trip starts Friday at sixth-place American

George Templeton
CT SPORTS EDITOR

For the second straight year the VCU women's basketball team has to play four Colonial Athletic Association contests in a row on the road.

"No one likes having to play all these games on the road," said VCU coach David Glass. "We just need to focus on every game and try to win them all."

Unlike last year when the Rams' (6-4, 9-11) trip came in the first half of the CAA season, this trip comes as VCU is in the middle of a tight race for second place with Richmond (6-4, 8-10 after losing to James Madison Tuesday night) and George Mason (9-11, 6-4). East Carolina (5-5, 12-8) sits one game behind.

"Two wins on this road trip isn't a disaster," Glass said. "But we're trying to finish second in the CAA so we need to win at least three or four."

VCU's trip takes them from north to south through the CAA. The Rams begin in Washington, Friday against American. The Rams move a little further south to play the Patriots on Sunday in Fairfax.

VCU returns to Richmond to face the Spiders on Feb. 12 and then finishes up at the southernmost school in the CAA with a game against UNC Wilmington on Feb. 19. VCU went 2-2 on last year's road trip winning at ECU and GMU, while losing to the AU and UNCW.

"We will be able to prepare for games much better this year than last year," Glass said. "Last year we played the games in two weekends so we had one day to prepare for UNCW. This year we have nearly a week for both Richmond and three or four days for UNCW."

VCU's comeback Sunday against JMU overcame atypical free-throw shooting half and a losing battle on the boards. VCU shot 60 percent (9 of 15) from the charity stripe in the second half of the contest.

VCU leads the CAA in free-throw shooting at 71.8 percent (277 of 386), but has shot 109 less free throws than opponents this season.

"Especially on the road, it is very important for us to get to the foul line," Glass said. "One of the things we will try to do is give Mona (Karlsson) a steady diet of the ball inside. We also need our guards like Liz (Remus) and ShaVohn (McKinnon) to create situations where they can draw a foul. We also need our power forwards to start shooting through people instead of shooting away from people so they can draw fouls."

WOMEN continued to page 14

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WOMEN continued from page 13

JMU outrebounded VCU 49-41 and grabbed one more offensive rebound. VCU ranks last in rebounding margin in conference games, with opponents snatching 5.6 more rebounds per game.

"Some of the problems occur with personnel because we play three guards and teams like ODU and JMU put big lineups on the floor and we struggle," Glass said. "When we face a team that plays three guards like us then it is just hustle, blocking out, and fundamentals. We're really focusing on our fundamentals since we have a few days to in between games instead of just one."

In the first game with each of these opponents, second-half defense was the key to victory. In a 79-66 win over the Eagles, VCU held AU to five baskets in the second half and 18 percent shooting from the floor.

When GMU defeated VCU 75-68 in their first meeting, the Patriots shot 55 percent in the second half.

"AU is a very talented team but we matchup well with their guards (Kate) Miller and (Kari) Gaskins," Glass said. "Our post defense against Mason will be critical. They just beat us on the block last time and all of their post players got the ball where they wanted and had good games as a result."

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VCU wins first match without Nedelkova

Bruce D. Wilkinson Jr.
CT STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Martina Nedelkova, ranked second in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association fall rankings, will not play this season due to an injured knee.

Although this is a major blow for VCU's women's tennis, the team has proven that it will still be a competitor after winning its first match Jan. 30, against UNC Greensboro.

"This year will be a little harder than before without Martina," said VCU coach Eva Bard. "(Players) have to step up now and raise their positions, they have an opportunity to shine on their own."

Nedelkova isn't the only injured player this season. Sophomore Andrea Ondrisova tore a ligament in her hand and sophomore Lenka Zacharova broke her foot. Both injuries occurred shortly after the fall semester began.

Ondrisova and Zacharova have made full recoveries and will be able to play the entire season.

In addition to those injuries the flu has affected two players and another is currently recovering from a sprained ankle.

"It's hard because I haven't had a full team playing yet," Bard said.

One new player, Yana Sokolenko, a sophomore from Minsk, Belarus, who arrived in January shows some promise this season. Sokolenko was the only one healthy enough to practice on Tuesday.

"This one came in January so her immune system hasn't had the chance to

break down yet," Bard said. "She is handling herself very well, everything is happening all at once, but she seems excited. It's tough enough coming in new with everyone else in the fall, but when you're from another country and you come in January it's harder."

Along with being ranked 20th in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and second-ranked in the East Region, the team is also academically successful. Bard is very proud that her players have been ITA All-Academic for three years in a row.

"I think their cumulative GPA is 3.89," Bard said. "They practice 20 hours a week between classes so they all practice together only on Fridays."

This season's schedule is going to be a difficult one as VCU faces some of the best teams in the country.

To start off, the Rams are playing in the Va. Tech Invitational which begins this Friday and against Miami on Sunday. Last season the team lost against Miami in their first game of the season, but this year they hope to do better.

VCU's first home match will be against Harvard at 11 a.m. Monday.

"We are playing some tough teams this season," Bard said. "Virginia always has a good program and William and Mary beat the No. 2 ranked team."

W&M placed first last season in the East Region. They beat VCU three times with the last defeat leaving the Rams second in the NCAA Region II to the champion Tribe. Without Nedelkova this season, beating W&M will become even tougher.

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Rams in Action

TEAM	UPCOMING EVENTS			Notes
MEN'S BASKETBALL (10-13, 4-6)	Feb. 6 W&M	Feb. 10 ECU	Feb. 13 UR	VCU's four CAA wins equals last season's total.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (9-11, 6-4)	Feb. 5 AU	Feb. 7 GMU	Feb. 12 UR	Starting with American the Rams play four straight games on the road.
MEN'S TENNIS (0-0, 0-0)	Feb. 5-7 VCU 4-1 INV.	Feb. 10 W&M	Feb. 12-14 VCU 4-1 INV.	VCU ended their season with a loss to Virginia the NCAA regional semifinal.
WOMEN'S TENNIS (1-0, 0-0)	Feb. 5-7 VA. TECH INV.	Feb. 14 MIAMI	Feb. 15 HARVARD	The Rams match against Miami will be played at William and Mary.
BASEBALL (0-0, 0-0)	Feb. 5 CHAR. SO'THN	Feb. 6 CHAR. SO'THN (DH)		VCU defeated national champ Southern California in the NCAA tournament last year.

INDICATES HOME GAME INDICATES AWAY GAME

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The Picks



Templeton
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Jason
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Rogalsky



"Not so Tiny"
Tim



"Boobie Prize"
Bruce



"This"
Justin



Tom
"Netherregions"



"Tickle Me"
Tracy



Christian
"Soldier"

FEBRUARY 4

North Carolina @ Clemson	North Carolina @ Washington	North Carolina @ UCLA	North Carolina @ Purdue	North Carolina @ Florida	North Carolina @ Washington	North Carolina @ UCLA	North Carolina @ Purdue	North Carolina @ Florida	North Carolina @ Washington	North Carolina @ UCLA	North Carolina @ Purdue	North Carolina @ Florida
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FEBRUARY 5 AND 6

American @ Richmond	Richmond @ George Mason	Richmond @ Old Dominion	Richmond @ James Madison	Richmond @ Old Dominion	American @ Old Dominion	American @ George Mason	Richmond @ George Mason	Richmond @ Old Dominion	American @ Old Dominion
G. Mason @ Old Dominion	UNCW @ James Madison	Virginia @ Maryland	G. Washington @ Va. Tech	Temple @ Rhode Island	Connecticut @ Stanford	Villanova @ Syracuse	Ohio St. @ Purdue	Michigan St. @ Iowa	Missouri @ Nebraska
Kentucky @ Florida	Florida	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky

TOTALS

Last week:	13-7	12-8	9-11	11-9	9-11	9-11	8-12	9-11	6-14
Season to date:	36-24	35-25	35-25	34-26	34-26	33-27	33-27	32-28	31-29
Percentage:	.600	.583	.583	.567	.567	.550	.550	.533	.517
Games Back	—	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	5

■ For the third time in three weeks, The Picks' revolving door at the top spots out a new leader. It is agreed day for over everywhere because the Rodent Army's favorite Picker has assumed the lead. Templeton "the Lead Rat" has grabbed hold of the lead with a Picks' best 13-7 week. That figure itself should give readers an idea of how bad a week it was for everyone on The Picks. Six of our members were UNDER 500 this week. The jubilant Sports Editor is planning to dedicate this moment to all lab rats, pack rats, people that were ratted out, "The Rats of Nimb," Albany River Rats, and the dearly departed plastic rats once thrown by Florida Panthers fans. "Toothpick" Templeton may enjoy the top spot very long because he has two people right on his tail, just one game behind. First it's "Roquefort" Revercomb, who jumped from the crowded cellar with a 12-8 week. Right there with Jason "and the Argonauts" is "Monterey" Joe who tumbled out of the first place spot with a very uncharacteristic 9-11 week. The Managing Editor, despite his ever-increasing sobriety, does plan a return to the top but he has to find a rat trap first if he wants to get there. One more game back stand two pickers that need no introductions. First because nobody wants to hear them and second because they are very late with their picks! That is something to which the Picks board reacts very harshly, so "Blue Cheese" Bruce and "Thousand Island" Tim had better submit their picks quicker next week. Sitting three games back and ready to pounce on the lead rodent is Tom "Cat" and "What's it to you" Wilson. Despite his 8-12 showing last week, the Spectrum Editor, "Normal" Netherland, hopes that his feline quickness will allow him to catch and pass the lead rat and assume his control over The Picks again. At the back of the line is "Wet T-Shirt" Wainwright, who, despite her 8-11 showing, isn't in last place. That honor goes to "Cheddar" Christian, who reverted back to normal form by finishing a disastrous 6-14 last week. The question on the minds of The Picks is "Will he ever leave last place again?"

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CAA STANDINGS

Team	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	%	Pct.	W-L	%	Pct.
Old Dominion	8-3	.727	19.5	792		
George Mason	7-3	.700	10-10	500		
Richmond	6-4	.600	11-9	550		
UNC-Wilmington	6-4	.600	7-12	368		
James Madison	5-5	.500	12-8	600		
East Carolina	4-5	.444	11-9	550		
VCU	4-6	.400	10-13	435		
William & Mary	2-7	.222	7-13	3500		
American	2-7	.222	6-13	316		

CAA SCORING LEADERS

Player	gp	fg	3-pt.	ft	pts.	avg.
George Evans, GMU	20	133	0	61	367	18.4
Stan Simmons, UNCW	17	105	55	25	290	17.1
Charles Stephens, UR	20	129	3	71	332	16.6
Chatney Howard, JMU	20	107	35	70	319	15.9
Jabari Outtz, JMU	20	97	33	84	311	15.6
Jason Miskiri, GMU	19	97	34	57	285	15.0
Cal Bowdler, ODU	23	123	7	87	340	14.8
Bo Jones, VCU	23	112	57	43	324	14.1
Jamar Perry, JMU	20	94	42	40	270	13.5
Randy Bracy, W&M	18	82	34	42	240	13.3

CAA REBOUNDING LEADERS

Player	g	no.	avg.
Cal Bowdler, ODU	23	221	9.5
Charles Stephens, UR	20	171	8.6
George Evans, GMU	20	167	8.4
Eugene Atkinson, JMU	20	155	7.8
Lilly Bassette, ODU	23	174	7.6
Saliou-Binet Telle, AU	19	133	7.0
Kinte Smith, UR	20	139	6.9
Tom Strohbeh, W&M	20	139	6.9
Shawn Hampton, VCU	23	151	6.6
Rob Strickland, JMU	20	123	6.2

RESULTS/SCHEDULE

DATE	VCU	GAME	OPP.
Nov. 13	70	VIRGINIA	86
Nov. 18	63	WESTERN KENTUCKY	61
Nov. 21	58	@Southern Illinois	59
Nov. 23	87	MD-EASTERN SHORE	71
Nov. 27	81	@Baylor	64
Nov. 28	66	Iona (Honolulu)	73
Nov. 29	48	So. Mississippi (OT) (Honolulu)	51
Dec. 2	76	@Colorado	78
Dec. 8	62	@Rutland	86
Dec. 12	95	LIBERTY	68
Dec. 19	104	NORFOLK ST.	94
Dec. 22	80	@Georgia St.	99
Dec. 30	79	SO MISSISSIPPI (OT)	76
Jan. 2	79	AMERICAN	65
Jan. 6	66	@OLD DOMINION	82
Jan. 9	72	@EAST CAROLINA	71
Jan. 13	48	@UNC WILMINGTON	65
Jan. 16	82	@JAMES MADISON	77
Jan. 20	68	@GEORGE MASON	78
Jan. 23	64	@RICHMOND	68
Jan. 25	88	WILLIAM & MARY	76
Jan. 27	75	@EAST CAROLINA	60
Jan. 30	72	@OLD DOMINION	76
Feb. 3		@AMERICAN	
Feb. 6		@WILLIAM & MARY	2:00 p.m.
Feb. 10		EAST CAROLINA	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13		@RICHMOND (HTS)	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 17		GEORGE MASON	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 20		JAMES MADISON	7:30 p.m.

Feb. 25-28 CAA Championships, Richmond, Va. TBA

VCU STATISTICS

Player	fg		3-pt.		ft		avg.	
	m-a	%	m-a	%	rb	a	pts.	
Jones	112-271	41.3	43-96	44.8	2.5	48	12.6	
Taylor	75-178	41.8	56-72	77.2	3.3	138	11.3	
Hampton	78-159	49.0	85-127	66.6	4	103	5.1	
Martin	75-164	45.7	14-26	53.8	3.3	23	8.3	
Lilly	56-145	38.6	30-78	38.5	1.9	44	7.7	
Koedje	42-118	35.6	22-26	84.6	5.3	19	5.3	
Moore	38-105	36.2	15-18	83.3	1.7	4.9	4.9	
Okosa	41-81	50.6	17-30	56.7	5.0	8	4.3	
VCU	35-97	36.1	17-27	62.9	1.9	19	4.3	
Opponent	590-1403	42.1	498-111	45.3	38.6	386	73.1	
Opponent	591-1371	43.1	467-330	48.4	37.4	380	73.0	

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CAA STANDINGS

Team	Conference			Overall		
	W-L	%	Pct.	W-L	%	Pct.
Old Dominion	10-0	1.000	16-3	842		
Richmond	6-3	.667	9-10	474		
VCU	6-4	.600	9-11	450		
George Mason	6-4	.600	9-11	450		
East Carolina	4-5	.444	11-8	579		
William & Mary	3-7	.300	10-10	500		
UNC Wilmington	2-6	.250	7-11	389		
James Madison	2-7	.222	8-14	364		

VCU STATISTICS

Player	fg		3-pt.		ft		avg.	
	m-a	%	m-a	%	rb	a	pts.	
Karlsson	109-205	53.2	55-73	75.3	6.3	15	13.7	
Luckett	98-235	41.7	64-96	66.7	6.3	95	13.4	
Remus	74-192	38.5	46-57	80.9	4.9	73	10.4	
Rasmussen	60-152	39.5	38-52	73.1	5.8	18	11.4	
McKinnon	49-125	39.2	22-32	68.8	2.7	42	7.2	
Mergenthal	49-119	41.2	12-14	85.7	2.0	14	6.4	
Washington	18-31	58.1	16-24	66.7	2.1	3	3.7	
McKenna	19-65	29.2	8-10	80.0	1.5	21	3.0	
Edwards	19-49	38.8	11-19	57.9	3.3	7	2.7	
DeLaGarza	8-20	40.0	2-3	66.7	1.1	0	1.3	
Thompson	5-17	29.4	1-2	50.0	0.4	1.0	1.0	
Burns	5-14	35.7	1-2	50.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Dee	5-10	50.0	0-1	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	
VCU	521-1248	41.8	276-386	71.5	295	68.9	68.9	
Opponent	489-1227	42.2	343-495	69.1	269	70.3	70.3	

CAA SCORING LEADERS

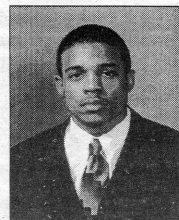
Player	fg		3-pt.		ft		avg.	
	m-a	%	m-a	%	rb	a	pts.	
Kate Miller, AU	19	102	19	69	292	15.4	15.4	
Jen Surlas, GMU	20	119	37	32	307	15.4	15.4	
Kari Gaskins, AU	19	105	34	40	284	14.9	14.9	



Athlete of the Week

LaMar Taylor

Men Basketball



■ Taylor, a sophomore guard from John Marshall High School, was named Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Week after knocking down 20 points and nine assists against Old Dominion in the Rams' 76-72 loss.

Food Service Questions

Question 1:

What do you think of food services at VCU?

Question 2:

Why?

Question 3:

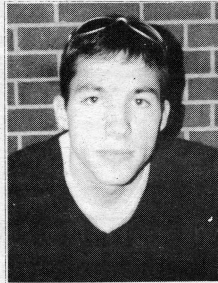
If you could change any part of the food service what would you change?

MORE ON PAGE 5

Getting the beef on food services

Pot Shots

compiled by CT Staff Writer Sylvia Moore



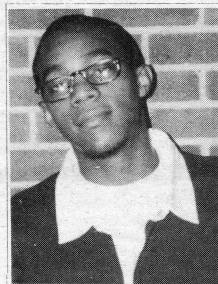
Josh Daniel, biology major, freshman

Q1: "I think it's good."
 Q2: "Because there are tow different cafeterias. It's a decent deal for \$4."
 Q3: "I'd like to see something different on the menu everyday."



Tracee Dunford, pre-nursing major, freshman

Q1: "Terrible."
 Q2: "McDonald's is nasty."
 Q3: "Like more than just a McDonald's."



Maurice Sykes, accounting major, freshman

Q1: "It stinks."
 Q2: "Because I was violently ill after I ate at Hibbs."
 Q3: "A better variety."



Mary Mulvey, freshman

Q1: "I'm a commuter and don't eat at Hibbs. I don't have a meal plan and nobody to eat lunch with."
 Q2: "McDonald's and Ukrop's are way overpriced."
 Q3: "I'd like to see a Subway, Taco Bell and a Dominos."



Barbara Guill, business finance major, sophomore

Q1: "I like the idea of McDonald's."
 Q2: "It's fast."
 Q3: "We need healthy food like a Subway."



Tenisha Roach, marketing major, junior

Q1: "I don't like them."
 Q2: "Because there is no variety."
 Q3: "I'd like more of an option like when there was a Taco Bell and Burger King and something for vegetarians. French fries are not healthy."



Brad Nixon, sophomore

Q1: "The quality of service isn't very good at McDonald's."
 Q2: "The employees are busy talking to each other and don't pay customers enough attention."
 Q3: "Offer a better variety of foods."



Beth Minick, social work major, freshman

Q1: "I don't particularly care for the cafeteria at Hibbs."
 Q2: "There isn't a wide variety of food or flavor."
 Q3: "I'd like to see something other than McDonald's."



Amy Colel, major undecided, freshman

Q1: "The food service is fine."
 Q2: "Because there is a nice variety of foods."
 Q3: "Salads could be kept colder and other food hotter."



Alicia Lake, freshman

Q1: "It's disgusting."
 Q2: "Because there is no quality, it's not good enough for the money I pay."
 Q3: "Buy food that's edible."