

FORECAST
 Friday: showers, high 82,
 low 52.
 Saturday: sunny, high 72,
 low 49.



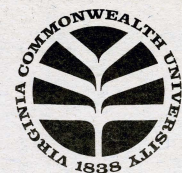
SPECTRUM: Restaurant guide for VCU students, page 8-9.



SPORTS: Men's soccer's new star, page 14.



SPORTS: Women's soccer schedule this weekend, page 14.



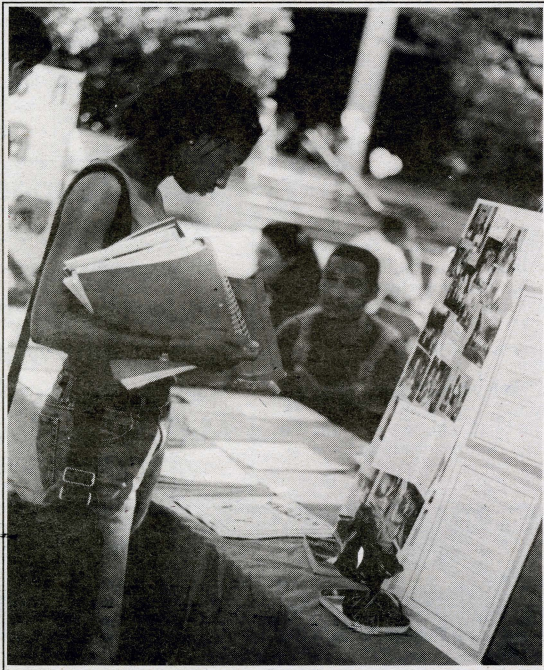
ON THE MOVE: VCU might be headed to a new conference, page 14.

COMMONWEALTH TIMES

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Vol. 33, No. 5



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

Jamilah Williams, a sophomore fashion merchandising major, checks out literature at the Baptist Student Union's table at the Fall 2000 Student Organization and Volunteer Opportunities Fair.

Commons expansion could include a new ballroom

Jay-Anne Casuga

CT ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In about 4 years, students currently at VCU may not recognize the University Student Commons. That's because university officials have initiated a \$9 million project designed to improve and expand the existing structure.

"I'm very excited," said Timothy Reed, director of University Student Commons and Activities. "I think the campus needs this. We've grown tremendously and more students need more space."

"We're trying to meet the needs of the students."

Referred to as University Student Commons, Phase III, the project calls for construction and renovation in and around the building.

"We're currently in the design process," said William H. Duvall, dean of student affairs. "We're figuring out tentative ideas and identifying proper needs."

One idea under consideration involves the construction of a multipurpose facility that can serve as a ballroom-type area or can be subdivided into smaller meeting rooms. Reed said the area would seat 500 people at a dinner or accommodate 1,200 to 1,500 free-standing individuals.

The new construction, he said, may include a new wing or an added floor.

"We're looking at all possible options,"

Reed said. "The architects have to tell us what's feasible. We want to do what's best for the building and for the campus."

Any construction, he said, could possibly occur at the corner of Cherry and Main streets or along Floyd Avenue.

Other suggested renovations include expanding the student lounge space, adding seats and a movie-quality sound system in the Commons Theater, creating more office space for student organizations, moving the Student Activities Center from the basement to the ground floor and establishing a multistation food court. "This will require negotiation on the McDonald's contract," Reed said. "We'd like to see four to five different store fronts, which will offer a variety of food."

Duvall said the university unfortunately does not have enough funds to turn every idea into reality.

"We're going to have to prioritize our wishes and desires for the building," he said.

Jason Cottrell, a senior anthropology major, said he welcomes the Phase III plan.



Tim Reed

COMMONS continued to page 3

Task force says 'Binge drinking' definition is inaccurate

Vincent Estes

THE STATE NEWS (UWIRE)

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Do five or more drinks in one sitting really constitute binge drinking?

Michigan State University food industry management senior Aaron Miller thinks it might.

"Well, it depends how much you drink in the amount of time," he said. "I just don't think it's a healthy way of drinking."

But some experts don't think so, and they've sent a proclamation asking certain associations, government agencies and researchers to refrain from using the term.

The Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues,

a coalition of 21 higher education associations, announced the proclamation last week.

It says the definition of "binge drinking" is an inaccurate and unrealistic way of reporting problematic student alcohol use.

"The way we use the term gives no respect to age, weight or personal characteristics," said Dennis Martell, a health educator at MSU's Olin Health Center.

"The purpose of this type of diagnosis is to clear up, not cloud up, the issue."

Martell, former lead researcher and

policy adviser to MSU's Alcohol Action Team, co-authored the position paper that played a role in the national task force's study.

"To do true prevention, you have to accurately target the population." Dennis Martell

MSU's Action Team was formed after the May 1998 Munn field riot to examine alcohol issues at the university.

The proclamation was issued in part in response to a survey released Friday by the Harvard School of Public Health.

The study reported that 35 percent of college students binge drink. The study defined binge drinking as five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks in one sitting for women.

Martell said according to the term's definition, a student can be both a binge drinker and a responsible drinker.

In 1998, Martell and the Alcohol Action Team stopped the use of the term "binge drinking" in university campaigns.

The term has generally and historically been used to denote a prolonged — usually two days or more — period of intoxication that interferes with the student's ability to perform customary social and academic obligations and responsibilities.

"To do true prevention, you have to accurately target the population," Martell said. "We need to move toward a word that actually defines a college student's behavior."

BINGE DRINKING continued to page 5

Campus Briefs

Symposium looks at Asian influence on American architecture

Eastern inspiration in American architecture will be the focus of VCU's eighth annual Architectural History Symposium, presented by the Department of Art History in the School of the Arts.

"The Eastern look has been fundamental to the modern aesthetic," conference co-organizer Charles Brownell said in a press release. Brownell, VCU professor of art history, said sleekness and simplicity of design stand out as two trademarks of Asian influence in architecture.

The symposium, which is being offered in partnership with the 25th anniversary of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University's architecture program, will be held Sept. 22 at the Virginia Historical Society, 428 N. Boulevard, in Richmond. The symposium will also be held Nov. 4, at an Alexandria location.

For more information or to register for the Richmond event, call 828-2784.

Free prostate cancer screening offered at MCV

MCV hospitals will offer free screenings to detect prostate cancer, the second most common form of cancer among men in the United States.

The screenings, which include a digital rectal exam and a blood test, are recommended for men ages 40 and older.

Prostate cancer kills more American men than any other form of cancer, except lung cancer. The American Cancer Society estimates that 180,400 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed this year.

A projected 32,000 men will die from the disease this year, according to the society.

The approximately 45-minute screenings will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 29 in room 320 of MCV's Nelson Clinic. The clinic is located at 401 N. 11th St.

For more information, call VCU's Division of Surgical Urology at 828-9331.

VCU to give away tickets for Senate debate

One hundred seats to the United States senatorial debate between Sen. Charles Robb, D-Va., and former Virginia Gov. George Allen (R) have been reserved for VCU students, faculty and staff. A lottery to determine who will receive the tickets is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 18.

For those wishing to enter the lottery, a registration form is located on the World Wide Web at www.students.vcu.edu/commons/debate.htm.

Entries must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18. Lottery winners will be contacted by phone or e-mail.

The debate, which is to be held at VCU and carried live on television, will be Sunday, Sept. 24 at 8 p.m.

Campus Calendar

Note: This is a partial list of events occurring around campus. If you would like to include your organization's events in the CT's calendar, please submit your information to the news office in Room 1149 in the T. Edward Temple Building, fax it to 828-9201 or e-mail s2jbcasu@atlas.vcu.edu. Submissions must be received by 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Due to space constraints, the CT cannot guarantee the publication of all entries.

Thursday, Sept. 14

Σ "Welcome to the Internet" workshop.

12 to 1:30 p.m. in James Branch Cabell Library, first floor library classroom/lab.

Friday, Sept. 15

Σ Film: "Gone in 60 Seconds."

7 p.m. in the Commons Theater.

Σ Film: "The Perfect Storm."

9 p.m. in the Commons Theater.

Saturday, Sept. 16

Σ "Welcome to the Internet" workshop.

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in James Branch Cabell Library, first floor library classroom/lab.

Σ Film: "The Perfect Storm."

7 p.m. in the Commons Theater.

Σ Film: "Gone in 60 Seconds."

9 p.m. in the Commons Theater.

Monday, Sept. 18

Σ Academic Success Workshop: "How to Get the Most from Notetaking."

12 to 1 p.m. in the Student Commons, Forum Room.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

Σ VCU Fall Career Fair.
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Siegel Center, ALLTEL Pavilion.

Here lies space for ad. If you want your advertisement here or anywhere else, then call Michael or Kevin at 828-1058

HOW TO REACH US

The Commonwealth Times publishes Mondays and Thursdays for distribution around VCU's Academic and Medical campuses and the Fan. Our offices are in Room 1149 of the T. Edward Temple Building, 901 W. Main St. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 842010, Richmond, Va. 23284-2010. Address comments, complaints or suggestions regarding the content of the news, sports and Spectrum sections to

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COMMONS continued from page 1

plan.

"The idea is for the Commons to be for the students," he said. "Any improvement on it is going to be good for students."

Cottrell, who has worked in the Commons for the past two years as an orientation leader for First Year Student Services and as an information desk assistant, added that he hopes the university completes the construction and renovation soon.

Senior Kathy Hamby, a history major, said the current commons doesn't impress her.

"It's OK," she said. "I'm a commuter. If I want coffee and decent service, I can go to 7-Eleven. If (the Commons is) supposed to be a center for students, it's not meeting that objective very well."

But, Hamby said that she thinks the project will help to make the Commons better.

"It sounds like a big improvement," she said. "The food court idea is definitely a plus."

Funds for construction will come from the \$10 million Student Center Project designed to renovate student meeting areas on the academic campus and MCV.

From the \$9 million allocated to the Commons, Reed said the university would spend \$792,000 for the architect, \$7.8 million for construction and \$408,000 for furnishings, equipment and landscaping.

The university hired Clark Nexsen, a Norfolk-based architecture and engineering firm, to design the project. Officials will

have their first meeting with architects on Sept. 20-21.

"We really want a lot of student input about what should be included in the addition," Duvall said.

Reed agreed and said he hopes to schedule time when students could meet the architects and share ideas. In fact, Reed said Clark Nexsen plans to create a Web site about Phase III to keep students informed and to obtain feedback.

The university, Reed said, completed Phase I of the Commons in 1985. At that time, he said the Commons looked like a piece of pie, with the small end pointing toward the plaza and the wider end facing Cherry Street. The section facing Main Street, which includes the Capital Ballroom, Online@VCU and the University Career Center, did not exist until the completion of Phase II in 1993.

Duvall said VCU would spend this academic year planning and designing Phase III. By this time next fall, he said the project would begin bidding for contractors.

Reed said construction has been scheduled for December 2001 with a January 2004 opening.

Although construction, he said, would eventually disrupt the lives of students, he hopes they will excuse the disturbance.

"I hope everyone has the same dream," he said. "I hope people realize we're changing and improving VCU for the better."

U. Georgia lawsuit fuels affirmative action debate at U. Virginia

Heather Amrhein

CAVALIER DAILY (UWIRE)

CHARLOTTESVILLE—A recent lawsuit at the University of Georgia has refueled the debate on using race as a factor in college admissions.

Ten Georgia applicants claimed they were rejected from the university due to their race and/or gender.

The U.S. District Court ruled in July that using race in admissions is unconstitutional, prompting the university to offer admission to or pay more than \$63,000 in total to the applicants in a settlement signed earlier this month.

Six of the rejected Georgia applicants did not accept the late offers of admission.

According to a Georgia official who spoke on condition of anonymity, the argument over application discrimination is not unique to Georgia.

"There are other schools undergoing similar discrimination questions and lawsuits; this settlement merely eliminated pending cases," he said.

Is the University of Virginia one of the "other schools?"

The University recently eliminated a point-based admissions policy in which applicants were assigned a rating based on both academic and non-academic factors, including race.

The Office of Admissions now considers race as one of many factors for admissions, including economic background and legacy status.

William Harmon, the University's vice president of student affairs, said using race as a factor in admissions could be

problematic.

"If we include such factors as race in admissions, then it tends to create problems for the institution itself," Harmon said.

"While we embrace diversity, it appears that race has become a factor that people must reject for consideration."

Michael Costa, President of the Black Student Alliance, said he believes the college admissions process is not immune to discrimination.

"It carries over from society," Costa said. "The college admissions process is part of society and is prone to discrimination as well." As individual cases arise, "peaks of concern and action about discrimination vary."

M. Rick Turner, dean of African-American Affairs, believes there is no reason to be concerned about unqualified students being admitted because of their races.

The University "believes in affirmative action," Turner said. "No schools who believe in affirmative action are discriminating against anyone. The reason we're so strong is because everybody who's admitted belongs here."

In a separate case, three white female applicants filed a lawsuit against Georgia in 1999 claiming they would have been admitted if they were men or minorities.

The idea of reverse discrimination also surfaced at the University of Virginia after the Center for Equal Opportunity, a Washington, D.C.-based special interest organization, asserted that "the relative odds of admissions to U.Va. show a strong degree of preference given to blacks ... and Hispanics over whites."

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BINGE DRINKING continued from page 1

Alternate terms such as "high risk," "harmful use," "low risk" or "less harmful use" were suggested by MSU's Alcohol Action Team.

Definitions that account for weight, gender, quantity of alcohol and frequency and duration of consumption are preferred and the national task force also suggests using more comprehensive methods of determining blood alcohol concentration.

"I think the main problem is students were not relating to the term 'binge drinking,'" said Patricia Martin, a representative to the task force from the Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

The organization is funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant.

Martin said the Harvard study "gets us stuck on a number, it misleads the students."

While research done on the subject is good, it does not take into account that six drinks isn't the same for every person and that other factors exist, she said.

"In reality, that isn't an actual reflection with what's going on on campus," she said. "We don't want our students to think that's the typical behavior. Most people really in fact are not high-risk drinking."

At MSU, efforts to change the way the definition is used are underway.

"We're trying to build relationships with the community to give out an accurate description of binge drinking," said Jasmine Greenamyer, an alcohol and other drug specialist at Olin.

Greenamyer said that the Health Education Department's social norm campaign is trying to advocate responsible drinking in the community and promoting designated drivers and safe management.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Recreational Sports

Division of Student Affairs

Georgetown U. med center fails to meet animal testing requirements

Tori Brown

THE HOYA (UWIRE)

WASHINGTON — A recent investigation by the United States Department of Agriculture into the Georgetown Hospital Research Resources Facility found that the university is not in compliance with a federal act outlining requirements for the care of animals used in laboratories.

On Aug. 15, the USDA cited the university for non-compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, a federal law that governs the humane care, handling, treatment and transportation of lab animals.

According to USDA inspection reports, the university failed to meet several guidelines of the AWA, which requires research institutions to "ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment and use are qualified to perform their duties," and that animals receive "adequate pre-procedural and post-procedural care in accordance with current veterinary medical and nursing procedures."

The narrative documented unlawful research practices in the areas of post-operative care, adequate veterinary care,

environment enhancement, and personnel qualifications and training.

The inspector gave the university five to 46 days, depending on the offense to amend their practices.

A letter from Peter Wood, a research associate with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, prompted the investigation.

Wood, who has worked for PETA, the

mediately wrote to Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, the deputy administrator of animal care with the USDA.

In his letter, Wood said that Silver's e-mail "presents a frightening picture of incompetence, animal suffering and non-compliance with the AWA at Georgetown University."

He said that these issues should have been addressed before "they attempted these highly invasive procedures on living animals."

PETA, believing that Georgetown had failed to comply with minimal requirements of the AWA, called

Researchers were "having problems keeping the margins of the skin intact to the skull and/or headcap" as the animals recovered from surgery.

-- Carrie Silver

largest animal rights organization in the world, for the past nine years, received an e-mail from a co-worker that she had retrieved from a primate research newsgroup.

The letter, written by graduate student Carrie Silver, called for help with non-human primate headcap care. In her letter, Silver stated that researchers were "having problems keeping the margins of the skin intact to the skull and/or headcap" as the animals recovered from surgery.

According to the July 2 e-mail, multiple attempts by the research staff to fix the problem failed. Silver then turned to the Web for information, accessing PETA's Web site.

Upon receipt of the message, Wood im-

mediately wrote to Dr. W. Ron DeHaven, the deputy administrator of animal care with the USDA.

The USDA found the university guilty of improper record keeping and documentation during post-operative care.

They also mandated that all personnel involved in animal care be continually trained and instructed, a practice that was allegedly not monitored before.

Inspection of animals in the lab showed an owl monkey engaging in fur-pulling behavior, a typical response to high anxiety and stress.

Finally, the Macaque Plan, which calls for various enrichment toys to be present in the cage, was not in place, according to USDA reports.



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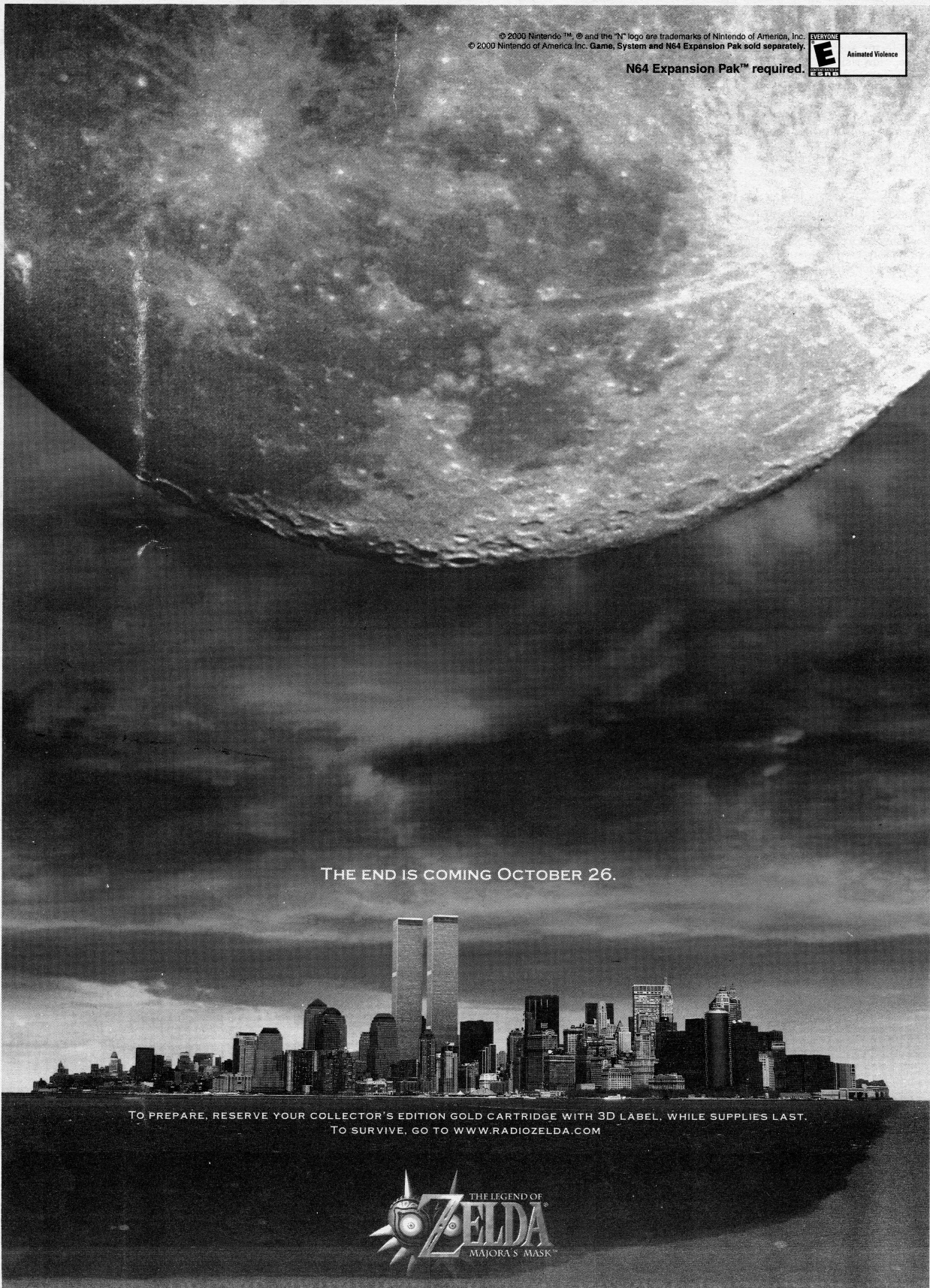
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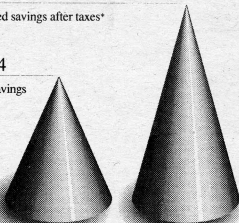
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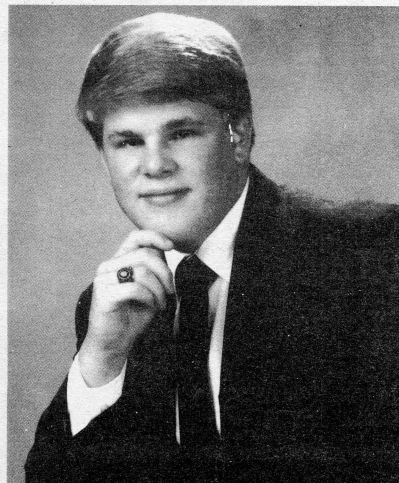
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DINING GUIDE

EXTRAVAGANZA

All that reading, writing and searching for a parking space can make a student hungry. Follow the Spectrum's guide to eating around campus.

Not every eatery is listed, but these are a few of the most notable. Reviews written by Nichole Faina, Kelly Gerow, E.R. Sheep and Tara Lynn Stubblefield.



Sandwich artists make their art at Subway

Rita Botts/ Commonwealth Times

Aladdin's

801 Broad St.

Only have a few bucks and a craving for something other than your standard pizza or burger? Then head over to Aladdin's on the corner of Laurel Avenue and Broad Street. The decor really isn't much to look at and the eating section appears to be more of a warehouse with a few tables thrown in than an actual restaurant, but what they saved on cleaning and decorating, they definitely put into their city-famous falafel. For \$3.29 you can eat one of the best sandwiches in Richmond -- fried falafel with fresh cucumbers, tomato, lettuce and tahini sauce in a pita makes this one of the most affordable vegan dinners ever. They also offer other Mediterranean delights such as stuffed grape leaves and baklava. Place and order and experience something different. --NF

Bandito's Burrito

Lounge

733 W. Cary St.

Burritos, tacos and quesadillas make up a good portion of the menu. Fantastic blue, red and yellow tortilla chips come with the meals. Not a lot of vegetarian meals available but some accommodations can be made to keep the meat out of the food (if you're into that sort of thing). Good place to eat before a night class. Hours: Daily 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.--KG

Virginia

Blood

Services

Technically not an eating establish-

ment, but students who donate or attempt to donate blood are given free juice and cookies. FREE JUICE AND COOKIES! Pass by the Student Commons to get more information.--KG

Carla's Kitchen/

Capital City

Market

920 W. Grace St.

Nacho Mama's is suddenly no longer, though the menu remains. Lots of drinks and snacks are available to accompany the nachos, tacos, quesadillas, wraps and sandwiches. Invite a friend to help eat the chicken taco salad and other large servings. Carla's has the nicest staff around. They also deliver. Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. --KG.

821 Bakery Cafe

821 W. Cary St.

Probably the best place to eat near campus. 821 Bakery Cafe offers breakfast, lunch and now dinner (Thursday through Saturday) at decent prices. The friendly staff serves fish, beef, vegan and chicken dishes. The cheeseburgers are delicious. A great atmosphere when you want to get away from the bright, hot campus streets. Weekend brunches. --KG

Kimbo's

1100 W. Cary St.

New to the restaurant scene, Kimbo's is Richmond's only Asian noodle/coffee bar. The owner boasts seven types of noodles under one roof. The food is made to order. Combinations of noodles - hot or cold, vegetables and meat or tofu. A variety of coffee and tea flavors are available. Hours: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., weekends 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. --TS

Mobile Munchies

Convenience doesn't get much better than this. J. and K. serve up low-priced sandwich wraps with a dose of chitchat at their cart on Main Street (between the Business Building and Oliver Hall). Fresh ingredients - vegetables, grains and special sauces - characterize Mobile Munchies' wraps and each one is served with a Jolly Rancher treat for later. Another plus is the low prices and the fresh limeade. At peak lunchtime the line can be long, but people seem to think it's worth it. Hours: Weekdays from about 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. --TS

Ipanema

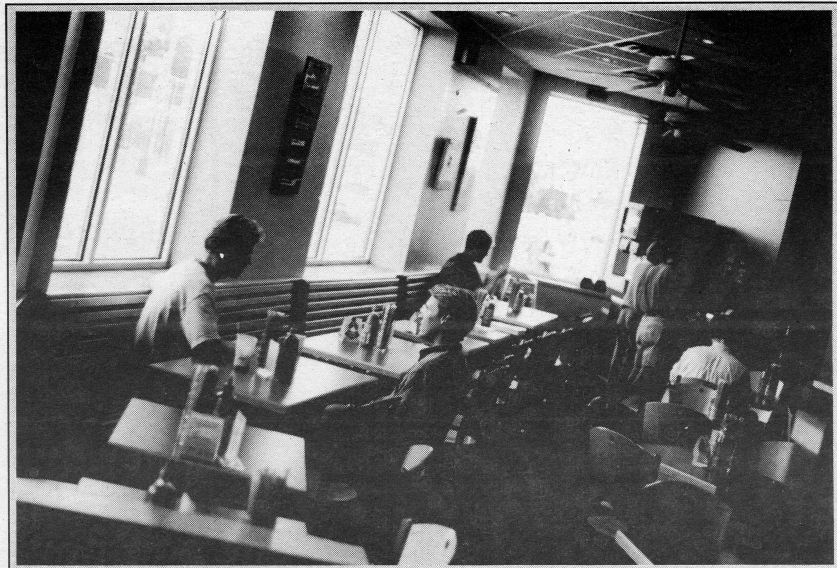
917 Grace St.

Lots of veggie and vegan options as well as some fishy stuff in this cozy, artsy hangout. The dinner is a bit pricey, but the sandwiches are affordable to those on a VCU budget. The avocado and sundried tomato sandwich is delicious, but it doesn't really matter what's on the sandwich--it's put on the best bread in the city (don't let the Wonder Bread-perfumed air fool you). Hours: Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., dinner 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. --ERS

El Rio Grande

1324 W. Cary St.

Authentic Mexican atmosphere, good food and fast service. The combination meals are a good value. The menu is varied and vegetarian meals are available. You can catch your favorite Mexican soap operas on the TV behind the bar. Don't forget your ID, they have Dos Equis on tap. Hours: Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., with a siesta from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. --TS



Patrons Converse at Kimbos

Rita Botts, Commonwealth Times

7-11

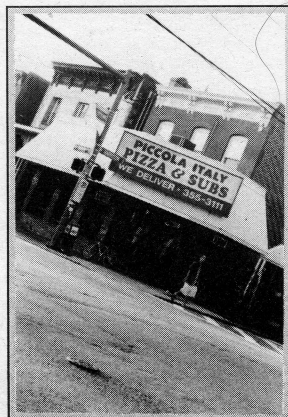
1110 Main St.

a haiku for 7-11 A poorly stocked store Forever crammed with students Still, it sells Slurpees Hours: all of them.

Subway

948 W. Grace St.

This makeshift weight loss clinic/sandwich shop franchise is a good place to have around campus. Hot or cold sandwiches and wraps make for a healthy, inexpensive meal. Not interested in eating turkey subs every day for a year in order to lose weight? Then buy a few cookies. Hours: Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. --KG



The "Open" sign burns bright at Piccola Italy

Rita Botts, Commonwealth Times

Puddn'head's

1211 Main St.

Sandwiches, bagels, salads and bakery items to go with coffees and teas. Big couches to sit on, nice papers to read. Best of all, it's open at a time earlier than anyone wants to think about. Hours: Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday 7:30 to 4 p.m., Saturday noon to 10:30 p.m. Closed Sundays. --KG

Student Commons

It's unanimous! Everyone loves McDonald's. The Commons' mainstay is so popular that students have been known to come just to sit. VCU also offers the Commons Cafe (bakery, snacks, pretzels, smoothies) and now the Corner Stop, featuring Pan Geos vegetarian and vegan food. Also available is a vending machine for the students' Wrigley's gum needs. Hours: McDonalds, Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., weekends 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Commons Cafe, Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Corner Stop, Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. and Friday 11 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. The vending machine is probably out of order.--KG

Village Cafe

1001 Grace St.

Love to smoke? Love to eat breakfast any time of the day? That's the Village. Great coffee, huge sandwiches, a variety on the menu (pancakes galore!). Very affordable prices. The food is cheap enough to leave enough money left over to play a few Guns 'n' Roses songs on the juke box. Open 24 hours. --KG

Piccola Italy

1100 Main St.

Great, inexpensive pizza, nice hot subs and other Italian delights. Can be very crowded at lunch and dinner time. A restaurant version of Piccola's is available for when you're feeling a little fancy. Hours: Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. and Sunday noon to midnight --KG

Panda Garden

935 W. Grace St.

Finally-- a buffet even vegetarians can eat their fill of. Panda Garden offers a vegetarian buffet Saturdays and Sundays at 5 p.m.. It's a nice price at only \$5.95 (includes drink). Rumor has it that the buffet is totally vegan, but sources reveal that this is false. Vegetarian, but not vegan, choices on the buffet are egg drop soup, sushi with a pink filling and friend donuts dipped in sugar. Regulars on the buffet include sushi, mock sweet and sour chicken, vegetable lo mein and mock sesame chicken.

Panda Garden offers affordable vegetarian options all week and just about anything on the menu has a mock-meat option. The seating can be a little cramped and the decor is plain, but that's hardly noticeable when your cramming your face with good food. Hours: Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday noon to 11 p.m. Weekday buffet 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. --NF

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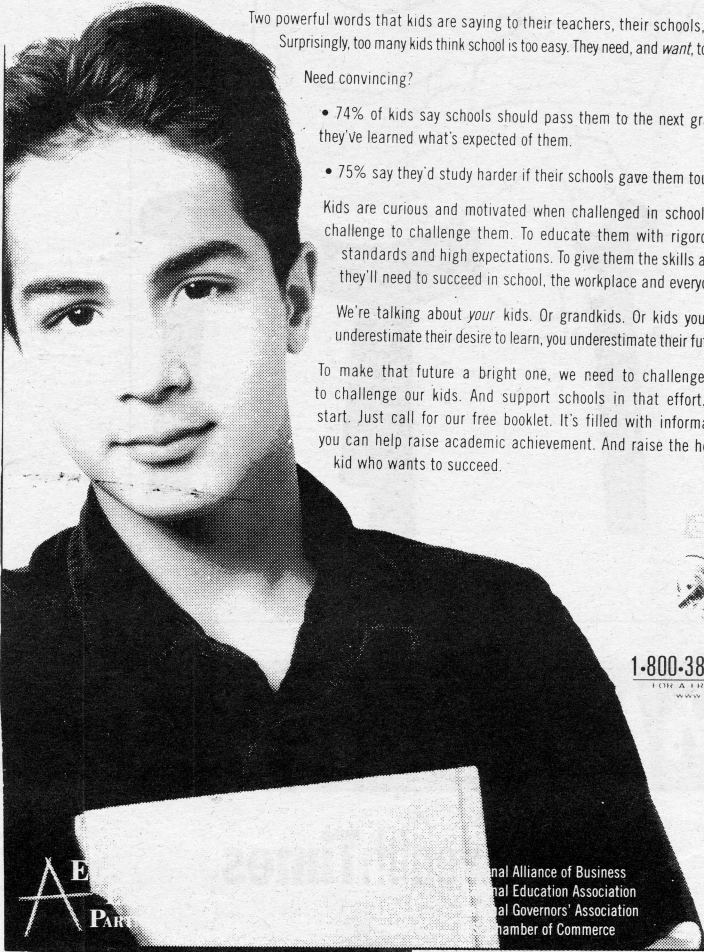
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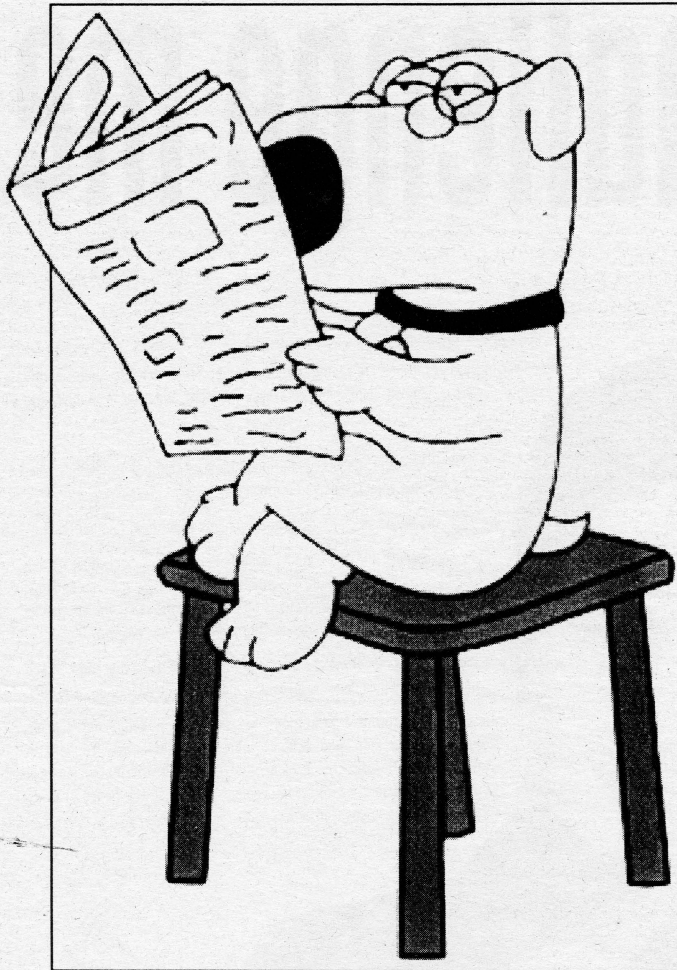
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Robb Crocker

Nighty Knight!

"I would have to be an absolute moron with these things that have been laid down on me." — Bob Knight's response to allegations he grabbed a student, which violated Indiana University's zero-tolerance policy that was placed upon him on May 15.

Hey Knight, guess what? You are a moron. That's right Knight, I said you are a moron (hopefully he won't hear that I called him by his last name in addition to calling him a moron, otherwise he may come here to Richmond and try to choke me).

For those who have been under a rock, Bob Knight was fired as head coach of Indiana University's basketball team. Knight was approached by IU freshman Kent Harvey (who incidentally is the coach of former radio host Mark Shaw, an outspoken Knight critic). Harvey reportedly said "Hey, Knight, what's up?" At this point, Knight reportedly grabbed Harvey by the arm and lectured him about manners.

That's right, Bob Knight, the man who has berated members of the media with foul language, thrown a chair onto the basketball court during a game, kicked his son during a game and choked a player at practice, decided to give someone a lecture about manners. As far as I'm concerned, Knight should have been happy that anyone would even want to talk to him on IU's campus. I can't think of anyone who deserved to be fired more than Knight.

Maybe this situation was a good thing though. If Knight couldn't handle one person disrespecting him, how was he going to handle this year's basketball season? I'm sure the fans at Indiana State and Michigan weren't going to be respectful to the "Hoosier Daddy." He couldn't even handle one student, let alone a couple thousand.

In an interview with ESPN's Jeremy Schaap, Knight claims IU President Myles Brand never told him exactly what zero-tolerance meant when he was fined \$30,000 this past May. Guess what Knight — zero-tolerance means exactly that, zero-tolerance. In my eyes, Knight should have

checked with Brand when he wanted to sneeze, talk in his sleep and cross the street.

Once again, our society has proven that certain public figures get undeserved preferential treatment. Mike Tyson and Bob Knight should start sharing lithium together. At least Tyson's had to do time for his idiotic behavior. And, while I'm comparing situations, why is it that a coach can choke a player and get a second chance, (I use that term very loosely because the Neil Reed incident certainly wasn't the first time Knight had been in trouble), but a player can choke a coach without being suspended for a year (see Latrell Sprewell).

According to Knight, he still wants to coach. The Indiana Pacers of the National Basketball Association are even considering hiring him as an assistant coach. If any team in the NBA or NCAA tries to hire Knight to coach, I think that they are committing public relations suicide.

I think Knight should spend the next couple of years in anger management, write a book on how to tactically coach basketball, find his feminine side as well as his inner child and hope that, in 10 years or so, people forget what a complete jackass he was when he was coach of IU.

As for Kent Harvey, he has had to leave the state as a result of threatening e-mails and phone calls. His father, Jerry Harvey, said their (Kent and triplet brothers Kevin and Kyle) freshman year is now in shreds.

The Harvey boys are reportedly seeking out other schools to matriculate to. Once again Knight has left a path of destruction behind his irrational behavior.

IU students even had the nerve to protest Knight firing, demolishing Brandis front lawn in the midst of their protest. Don't they realize what an embarrassment Knight was to the school, state and basketball?

Knight doesn't deserve to have a chance to beat Dean Smith's coaching record and he definitely doesn't deserve a chance to be a role model and coach for 18- to 22-year-old men.

An open letter from VCU President Eugene P. Trani

Welcome back to Virginia Commonwealth University for the new academic year.

There is no shortage of activities and innovation at the University and within the VCU Health System, and I am looking forward to working with you on our many challenges and opportunities during 2000-01.

Throughout the year, I will communicate important issues with you and invite your input. I would like to begin with my thoughts on the recent article on research in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

I hope you share in my belief that the Times-Dispatch article did a poor job of putting VCU's research prowess in context. For the record, VCU officials provided information to the reporter that would have accomplished that objective had it been used.

A review of the facts shows that in 1986, VCU attracted \$46 million in research funds. This year, the university will exceed \$119 million.

This is why VCU is ranked as one of the top 100 research universities by both the federal government and the Carnegie Foundation. During the 1990s, VCU's research budget grew an average of 4 percent a year.

It is also a fact that many of the construction projects of the 1990s and those currently being constructed are adding space to our inventories — the figure is approximately 1.4 million square feet. We are also renovating a number of existing facilities, most prominently Sanger Hall.

We recognize, however, that our research space is not adequate to our needs, and addressing this need will be a high priority.

Additionally, it is true that National Institute of Health funding is flat. There is no question that one of our top priorities this year is to focus on strengthening the

research infrastructure at VCU, particularly in support of NIH funding.

Several steps already have been taken toward that goal. We are well beyond the planning stage to address our IRB* function and are implementing a new, stronger system.

We currently have two regular IRB boards as well as a separate exempt-review committee in place, and hope to add a third regular IRB board shortly. We are moving rapidly through the re-review of protocols and expect to meet our initial goal of having all re-reviews completed by January 2001.

By no means do I think that our IRB issues are over, but there is no question that our research infrastructure will be stronger for having embraced the situation and dedicated ourselves to resolving it.

In addition, Dr. Marsha Torr, the new Vice President for Research, brings significant experience with funding agencies such as NASA, the Department of Defense, and the National Science Foundation. Her experience complements that of Dr. Roy Pickens, Associate Vice President for Research, who joined us directly from NIH.

And, we are attracting and retaining faculty whose biomedical interests intersect with our strengths in the patient-care mission, biotechnology development, environmental sciences, engineering, and the sciences.

This critical mass of faculty working on interdisciplinary projects in the life sciences will be increasingly attractive to NIH and other funding agencies, and it is my intention to support this activity in the years ahead.

I would like to invite your comments and input about the research issue, and look forward to hearing from you.

* Internal Revenue Board.

Letter to the editor

Sick or slim?

Editor,

When I looked into her hollow eyes, I was distracted from the painful sight of her skeleton forcing its way through ever-tightening skin. And to think that only a few semesters ago she was writing about exercise and eating disorders.

"College Girl X" is at least 10 pounds thinner than she was when she began to discover her obsession with diet and exercise. Even then I was concerned about her frailty and fanatic thinness. Now she really looks spooky and I cannot keep silent.

Most of us are familiar with the issues of anorexia and bulimia. We hear about it in psychology and biology, on talk shows and the news. Even so, people who should know better, especially sports and recreation programs, routinely breeze over warnings about eating disorders and often cancel their own warnings with mixed messages.

Is there a connection between our constant exposure to impossibly "buff" bodies in the diet and exercise industry and the amount of people trapped in the swamp of eating disorders?

It's worth considering. There certainly aren't as many warnings about this swamp as there are arrows pointing towards it.

We are subject to a barrage of anti-fat and weight-loss propaganda every day. It

is the rare individual who can go through the day without the neurotic need to discuss weight loss, fat content or calorie burn. It's weird really.

This is not to say that proper eating and regular exercise aren't important for our health, they are. But when I notice an increase in cadaverous figures on campus, something is wrong.

They look sickly, not happy. It makes me want to yell "Hey, eat a pizza!" or "You're ruining your natural beauty!" but I know it's no use. The swamp of eating disorders is a hard one to escape.

I know that not everyone who is thin is ill. Some folks have a high metabolism and are naturally thin, so there's no problem. However, thin people who continually diet, starve, vomit, over-exercise or otherwise fret over their weight are clearly sinking in that swamp. They are the victims of our shallow culture and its image obsession.

The only winner here is the advertising industry that assaults us with these unattainable, computer-enhanced body images.

The body fades, the brain doesn't. Why not work on a "buff" brain?

I'm still worried about her, because I care. I just want a little support from the people who should know better. Mixed messages can be dangerous.

Lee Carleton
English Department

Commonwealth Times

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We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers.

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Ram Stat

Senior Frank Moser is ranked 8th nationally in the preseason poll by WingspanBank.com Division I Collegiate Tennis Rankings.

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Sports

Commonwealth Times • 14

Coming up next issue

Learn about VCU's wrestling club and how athletes balance their time.

VCU, CAA may merge with America East

Dionne Waugh
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The Colonial Athletic Association presidents have OK'd the concept of the league's six remaining members joining the America East Conference, said CAA Commissioner Tom Yeager.

VCU has talked of joining the America East Conference, but has not gone this far before.

The presidents of the 10 America East schools will meet and decide for the first time whether to proceed with the plans for a 16-team, all-sports league that would reach as far north as Maine and as far south as North Carolina.

Eight of the 10 schools must approve the merger before it can be finalized.

The CAA has lost three teams -- Richmond to the Atlantic 10 Conference, Ameri-

can University to the Patriot League, and East Carolina into Conference USA -- leaving the conference with six remaining teams. Six teams are the minimum to maintain an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Basketball tournaments for the 2001-2002 year.

Including VCU, the other CAA members are: William and Mary, James Madison, Old Dominion and UNC Wilmington. America East is comprised of Boston University, Delaware, Drexel, Hartford, Hofstra, Maine, New Hampshire, Northeastern, Towson and Vermont.

A big concern for both the America East schools and the CAA schools is the cost of additional expenses.

One scenario being considered is possibly allowing for a three-division setup in some sports that would reduce traveling cost. Men's tennis coach Paul Kostin said,

"Whatever is best for VCU. Of course it's not good for travel, but everything has some positives and negatives."

Kostin said that it might not even affect some teams.

"I've heard so much talk about it," said women's tennis coach Eva Bard. "What's going to happen is going to happen. It might affect basketball, but it won't affect my team because we play so many out of conference teams."

Men's basketball coach Mack McCarthy sees no short-term impact on his team for this year, but perhaps in the future. "The future of the league may have an impact on recruiting," said McCarthy.

"That's obviously a concern because that's what we have to do well in order to have good teams."

McCarthy has also heard the speculation of some America East schools joining

the CAA and vice versa.

He has also said that it is hard to speculate on exactly what type of plan the school would be talking about.

McCarthy said that the America East has some really good teams that could bring a lot to VCU if they joined the CAA.

A complete merger, according to McCarthy, is a whole other league. "It might not be a good thing, considering travel."

Currently, the VCU men's basketball team has the best travel of any school in the country, said McCarthy. "We spend less time on the road than any other school," he said.

"But then you start talking about Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Those schools are pretty significant road trips and they take away from school time, and it's also the time of bad weather."

Delicate brings his soccer skills to VCU

Dionne Waugh
SPORTS EDITOR

"It's the best sport in the world. That is what soccer is to Matthew Delicate. Delicate is one of the newest additions to the men's soccer team.

Hailing from Wales, Delicate is an 18-year-old freshman who has already scored three goals in the past four games the team has played.

"I suppose (soccer) is the best, biggest sport in the world," said Delicate. "I like team sports and winning. I'm a bad loser. Scoring goals it's the best thing in soccer."

He started playing soccer competitively at age 10, but had been kicking the ball around a few years before.

"My parents and my primary school got me into it," he said.

Although Delicate loved playing soccer, he also wanted to go to college. "I could have continued playing soccer," he said.

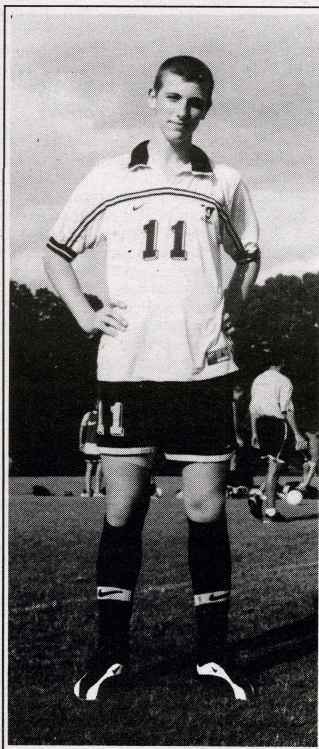
"But I thought that if I came to VCU, I could do that and get a degree."

Currently Delicate's major is undecided, but he said he would like to declare physics as his major soon. "I like physics because things like curiosity and mystery, that I don't know about yet, I like to find out," he said. "I find it interesting."

Delicate thinks that the best thing about soccer is doing well personally and as a team. The worst? He says "Being injured, bad referees, and losing."

If he could change one rule in the game of soccer, Delicate said he would get rid of the offside rule.

His best moment in soccer came this past February when his team in Wales won the International Cup. "Though we didn't win all our games," he said, "we were considered to be the best team out of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales. But we didn't win the trophy to prove that."



Rita Botts/Commonwealth Times

Matthew Delicate, freshman on the VCU men's soccer team, came to the Rams from Wales. The forward is already making an impact, scoring three goals in the past four games.

Two transfer after Knight dismissal

Heather A. Dinich
INDIANA DAILY STUDENT (U-WIRE)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana Athletics Director Clarence Doninger bowed to pressure to name either John Treloar or Mike Davis as interim head coach of the Indiana University men's basketball team.

Davis was hired as interim head coach Tuesday and Treloar was named interim associate coach.

Doninger said he wanted the decision made "as soon as possible."

"As time goes, emotion grows," said Davis, as he watched the news of Dane Fife's transfer scroll across the bottom of a TV.

"You try to make decisions with a clear head, but it's difficult when you feel like this."

One person in Assembly Hall who is sure of what comes next is assistant coach Pat Knight. He's leaving and will follow his father to a new coaching job.

"I'm out of here," Pat Knight said. "I wouldn't stay in this place after the way they treated my father. There's no way. I'm going to be coaching with my father somewhere else."

"He's got a good five or six years left in him to coach. A hall-of-fame coach that's available is a pretty hot commodity in my book. It doesn't end here, it will just be a new good beginning for him."

Davis said the past three years have been a dream come true for him because he's been able to learn from Bob Knight. If he had not been named coach and the players had left, Davis said he likely would have looked for a job as a head coach somewhere else.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S SOCCER (4-0-0, 0-0-0)

Sept. 15 OHIO STATE	Sept. 16 PENN STATE	Sept. 20 U.V.A.	VCU IS TIED FOR 18TH IN SOCCER RATES.COM POLL AND RANKED 9TH IN THE NSCAA POLL.
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WOMEN'S SOCCER (3-2-0, 0-1-0)

Sept. 17 RADFORD	Sept. 21 LIBERTY	Sept. 24 TOWSON	THE RAMS WILL LEAVE THE STATE ONLY TWO MORE TIMES THIS SEASON FOR A GAME.
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VOLLEYBALL (7-0, 0-0)

Sept. 15 STONY BROOK	Sept. 15 BUCKNELL	Sept. 16 MANHATTAN	IF THE RAMS DEFEAT STONY BROOKE THIS WEEKEND THEY WILL BREAK THE SCHOOL RECORD FOR BEST START OF A SEASON.
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FIELD HOCKEY (1-2, 0-0)

Sept. 16 DUKE	Sept. 17 APP. STATE	Sept. 23 ODU	VCU LOST 0-4 TO DUKE AT HOME LAST YEAR AND DEFEATED APP. STATE 3-0 AT APP. STATE
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indicates home games.

Have an itch to cover the Rams? Call Dionne at 828-1058 if you are interested in being a writer for Sports.

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The Week's End

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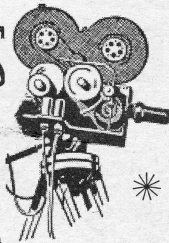


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Saturday 9:30 pm



The Patriot
Friday 9:30 pm
Saturday 7:00 pm



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Saturday, September 16th
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in the Common Ground



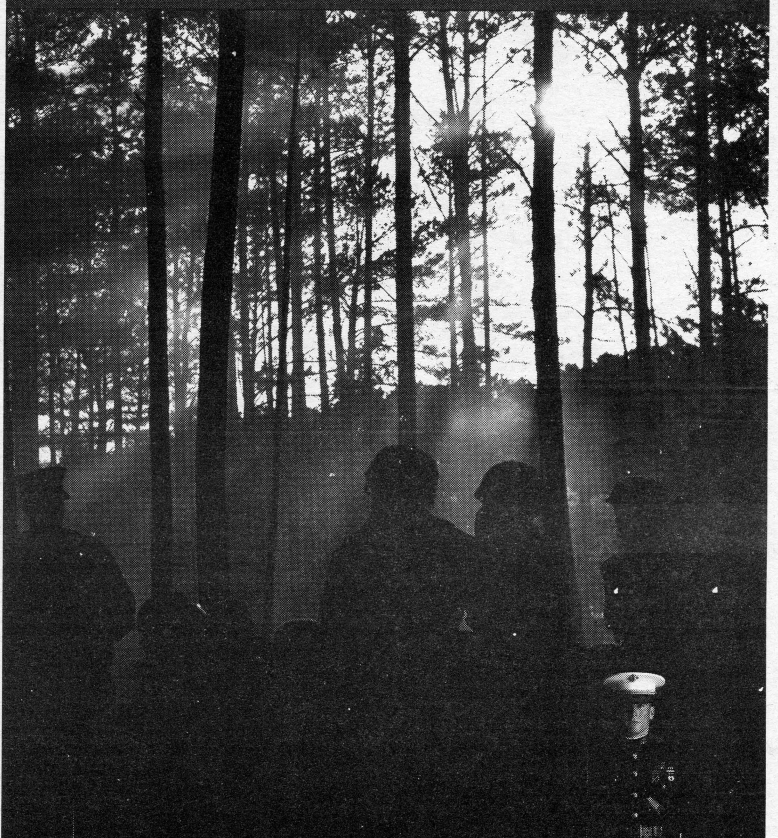
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