

The Captain's Log

The Official Student Newspaper Of Christopher Newport University

www.cnu.edu/captainslog

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Volume 35, Issue 24

Year In Review

For the past 12 years, members of the Christopher Newport University community have had no yearbook. The last issue of "The Captain," CNU's yearbook, proclaimed that the yearbook was no longer considered a viable project due to the lack of student interest and cost of publishing.

As the gateway to the news world on campus, the Captain's Log has decided to take on the task of creating a special Year In Review issue in hopes that students will have some memento of the Fall 2003 and the Spring 2004 semesters. This issue is comprised of the stories and photographs that best capture this academic year.

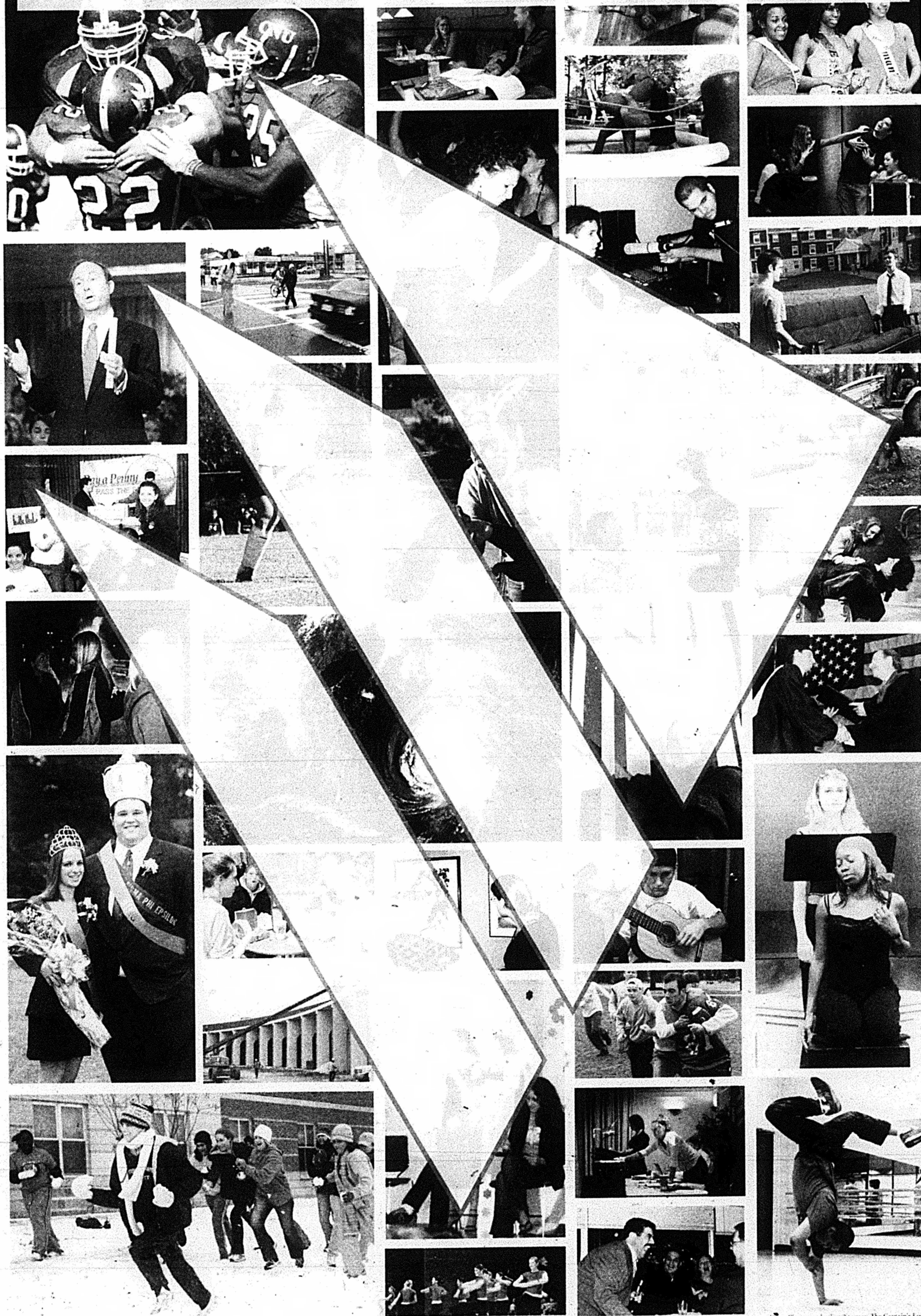


Photo Illustration by Tom Stover, The Captain's Log

Student Government Association addresses policy revisions

Boyd assumes Presidency following resignations of Davis, Sanborn

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 1, September 3, 2003

Jeremiah Davis and Michael Sanborn resigned as SGA president and parliamentarian during the summer, which gave Ashley Boyd the presidency and left the parliamentarian position empty.

"There were problems starting to arise between E-board members and advisors, and that made it difficult to get things done," said Sanborn.

Davis, Sanborn, Boyd and Vice President of University Relations Melissa Bell all assured that there were no hard feelings about the resignations. In the time following the resignations, there was much preparation for the beginning of the semester.

"I feel like I've done more work with SGA in the last month than I have in the past two years on the executive board," said Boyd, who is now the chairperson of the task force.

The SGA's budget task force on Aug. 24 informed students of the changes in budgetary policy that had been made over the summer.

"I will tell you that from the administration's perspective, the expectation is that the SGA Constitution will be reviewed and revised," Associate Dean of Students Donna Eddleman said at the meeting. "As a body, you all will have a lot to accomplish in the first semester."

The task force went through several drafts of a written budget policy.

The latest draft is "as concrete as it's going to get right now," said SGA President Ashley Boyd.

The new policy consists of four different types of funding requests: small grant, operational, annual and contingency funding.

As of now, the Coordinator of Student Activities (Office of Student Life), Campus Activity Board, Multicultural Student Association and the SGA are the only four organizations eligible for annual funding.

Annual clubs and organizations are eligible to apply for contingency funding, but they are not eligible for small grant funding in the same fiscal year that they are receiving annual funding.

Operational funding is available to those clubs and organizations applying for small grants, and Fiscal Technician Michelle Reed has created an application form for this type of funding.

The SGA budget committee will hold budget hearings in the spring to establish monetary allocations for the following academic year.

The procedure and policy outline states that the committee can "override and suspend criteria if [it] so desires" when ruling on funding requests.

"The new budget allocation will benefit the clubs and organizations," said Melissa Bell, Vice President of University Relations.

"It's easier for small clubs. It's also clear what you can and cannot ask for," she said.

Boyd said that all updated operational budgets for this year were released to the clubs and organizations on Friday, Aug. 29.

The SGA budget task force, which was created over the summer, originally included Reed, Eddleman, Bell, Dante Wade, government professor Dr. Robert Doane, Rachel Harrell, Nikki Wenzel, Davis and Sanborn.

SGA Revamps



Lindsay Simpson/The Captain's Log

The SGA went through drastic changes this year. It rewrote its constitution, re-evaluated student stipends, and implemented new budgetary procedures. Here, a proposal to incorporate specific travel guidelines into the SGA's budgetary procedure was discussed at a Feb. 9 Senate meeting. Above, VPSS Nikki Wenzel displays this proposal to the Senate as Treasurer Rachael Harrell discusses how the new procedure would affect how funds would be used.

Student Government Association creates new Constitution

By Lacey Milburn
Contributing Writer

Issue 10, November 19, 2003

The SGA has constructed a radically new constitution, and on Nov. 17, that constitution was passed with a unanimous vote.

With red, white, and blue balloons filling up the room, it was obvious this was a special meeting for the SGA. An entirely new system of government has been written up, and members of the SGA, especially the President, Ashley Boyd, were anxious for the vote on the Constitution.

When describing the differences between the current and new Constitutions, Boyd said, "There was no separation of powers. It gives us a lot more credibility now because the branches are separated. The emphasis is on legislative action and not just officers. Our Constitution was modeled after CNU five years ago. It was a more commuter-based school. Now we have more students involved."

On the side of the podium, the Constitution committee, made up of seven people, awaited their turn to present the new parts of the Constitution.

Committee chair and SGA Parliamentarian Bryan Herrin said, that some of the major changes included an elected senate, a separate body for clubs, an election board and a student Supreme Court.

"The change that most students may want to look at is the student Supreme Court. It will be a group of any interested students," said Herrin. The committee decided to

"The emphasis is on legislative action and not just officers. Our Constitution was modeled after CNU five years ago. It was a more commuter-based school. Now we have more students involved."

-Ashley Boyd
SGA President

appoint student justices with responsibilities such as interpreting the Constitution. Other appointed positions developed included an Executive Cabinet that will be part of the Executive Branch with the President and Vice President.

When the SGA decided to

develop a new Constitution, they looked at various other institutions such as William and Mary, UVA and Radford to help shape theirs. The committee chose to have twenty students make up the Legislative Branch.

"It will be purely representatives that have a desire to be part of the student government," said Boyd. The twenty members will include three from each class, one graduate student, and seven members will be at-large.

"Having so many at large members seems detrimental," said visitor, Chris Weber. He was concerned that this would cause unequal representation if, for example, many at-large members were from one class. The committee believed, however, that it would make a well-rounded representation of campus issues.

Although the representation was made smaller, other opportunities to participate were developed. Four committees were put into place that are to be made up of general members from CNU student body.

An Inter-Club Association and an Elections Board were also developed.

The new Constitution also lowered the GPA necessary for certain positions, and took out office hours. While some may consider this action lessening standards, it allowed for more to become engaged in the SGA.

Resolution to include sexual orientation passed

Faculty Senate approves SGA's resolution after months of deliberation

By Adam Nadeau
Contributing Writer

Issue 9, November 12, 2003

After several months of tabled discussions, the Faculty Senate on Nov. 7 passed the SGA's resolution to adopt sexual orientation in CNU's non-discrimination policy. The final vote was 11-0 with one abstention.

Adding to this decision was the presence of over three-dozen students representing the SGA, Greek organizations, social clubs and campus at large.

The members of the Faculty Senate expressed their concerns about this resolution, wanting to know the specific reasons for the resolution and the possible problems that could occur because of it.

"I agree fully with the spirit of this resolution, but I do have a question about how this could be interpreted," said Dr. Robert Winder. "I have concerns about the unseen consequences of this resolution."

Winder mentioned the possible reactions of religious groups on campus, as well as those of military organizations like ROTC. This concern is not unfounded; the controversial issue of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation could be a source of discord among organizations at CNU.

The students present, however, tended to agree that the benefits of passing the new non-discrimination policy would improve the already rich diversity at CNU. Sophomore Casey Denton spoke concerning this affirmation, stating

that compliance with current state policies would help promote the comfort and diversity that is part of CNU's identity. Derek Austin, president of the Gay Straight Student Union, also stated that other colleges and universities that have similar non-discrimination policies have not experienced the negative backlash to which Winder had mentioned as a possibility.

SGA Vice President of University Relations Melissa Bell ended the students' statements by urging the Faculty Senate to examine how passing this resolution could affect CNU at this critical juncture in its development.

"CNU is at a turning point right now," said Bell. "The students present represent the diversity of this campus and the direction we are heading toward in the future."

Students respond to potential stipend cut

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 11, December 3, 2003

As the SGA drafts proposals to President Tribble about what should be done to compensate student leaders for their services, students and student leaders have been weighing the costs of not having stipends next year. Some see them as necessary; others do not.

"If you are going to ask to cut out all leaders' stipends, the university community needs to realize that we are putting ourselves in a situation where only the few students who come from financial backgrounds that enable them to work long hours for free will be able to serve," said Bell. "This severely shrinks the pool of capable leaders the students have to choose from, in turn hurting the success of the large CNU organizations."

But third-year student Chris Tennes doesn't feel that the positions should be paid.

"I believe that the money attracts people that wouldn't necessarily take the position unpaid," he said. "But I do understand that, in some cases, the students work very hard and don't have time to get another job."

Over the summer, the SGA budget committee met several times to adjust the previously allocated budget for the 2003-2004 academic year. In doing so, stipends were cut by 25 percent.

The amount spent on student stipends is \$59,876.04 this year, according to figures from the Office of Student Life and the SGA. That amount goes toward four organizations on campus. MSA receives 13.5 percent; 15.5 percent goes toward CAB; 26 percent of that amount goes toward SGA's stipends; and 46 percent of that amount goes toward Captain's Log stipends.

As of now, "there will be no stipends for the next year," said SGA Secretary Erin Ireland. "We have an arrangement with him [Tribble], that we can bring a proposal to him about what we would like to see happen about stipends," she said.

The SGA has held two meetings to gather ideas for proposals.

"The proposals have not been finalized yet, but the ideas that have been gathered are to allow certain positions to be like an internship, meaning that the student elected into the office would receive credits for holding the position," said Nikki Wenzel, vice president of student services. "Another suggestion is to provide incentives like a parking pass, flex points or dining points. The last idea that we have come up with is having tuition of the individual paid for. If we adopt this plan, then the number of positions would be limited severely."

Jonathan Janis, interim coordinator of student activities and former SGA president, remembers how stipends allowed him to serve at the capacity he did.

Without a stipend, Janis said, "I would have been more selective with my time. The product I produced would not be as good."

Although some student leaders didn't take their positions for the sole purpose of receiving stipends, they recognize that compensation for their time makes their jobs easier.

"This is something I really enjoy doing," said Ireland. "But when I asked myself if I could devote enough time to my position, I factored in that I would have that extra income and I would not have to work as much [outside of SGA]."

Other students, such as CAB's Public Relations Chair Lynanne Hodges, would find it more difficult to continue serving without stipends.

"I understand President Tribble's reasons for considering the cutting of stipends," she said. But, "I cannot afford to work for free."

IT Services Timeline: Network Woes

With continual network problems over the last year, IT Services has developed a track record. Take a look.

August 25, 2003

On the first day of classes, IT Services reports having problems with configuration and unauthorized networking hardware installation. An Internet virus is identified, the same one that shut down NASA/Langley for three days

August 26, 2003

Network problems continue: Residential students don't have e-mail access and many students don't have phone service.

October 2, 2004

Virus outbreak slows Internet speed and IT Services identify 11 infected PC's on campus.

December 5, 2003

Greg Gustafson sends an e-mail informing students that they are setting up dual firewalls, improving e-mail anti-virus, installing two new servers over winter break.



April Fecura/The Captain's Log

After Hurricane Isabel struck the Hampton Roads area, many residential areas were with out of power for many days. Here, Justin Hardwick gets ready to load ice into the truck of a Newport News resident who lost his power. He is one of many CNU students who volunteered their time to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel.

Semester schedule extended by a week, Commencement postponed

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 4, October 1, 2003

While Hurricane Isabel put students out of class for five and a half days, it also brought the Grounds Department to the campus for approximately four days, took an unknown amount of money in property loss and forced a new academic schedule for the fall.

"The magnitude of this short-fall is too great to be ignored," Provost Richard Summerville said in an e-mail sent to the campus.

Fall break is being cut short, with students returning to classes on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at noon.

The semester will be extended one week, with classes continuing through the week of Dec. 8-12, which was originally scheduled for final exams. Finals will now be given through the week of Dec. 15-19.

"This will compensate for all of the other classes missed due to Hurricane Isabel," Summerville's message said.

Winter Commencement has

been moved from Dec. 20 to Jan. 11 at 2 p.m.

The decision was made in "consultation with Dr. Virginia Purtle, President of the Faculty Senate and members of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate," Summerville said in the e-mail.

Students were forced to be evacuated by Sept. 17 and could not return to campus until Sept. 23.

CNU Police were the only people left on campus during the hurricane, said Margaret Yancey, university spokeswoman. They relocated and manned a 24-hour emergency operations center in McMullan, which has generator power.

"CNU Police provided constant patrols during and following the storm," Yancey said.

The campus lost power at approximately 11 a.m. on Sept. 18. Power was partially restored Sept. 21 at 4:30 p.m., and the remainder of the campus was back up around 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 22, according to Yancey.

Radio and telephone service was never interrupted on campus.

Although CNU's power was

fully restored, parts of the immediate surrounding area remained without power.

"We are just like everyone else; we were at the mercy of Dominion Virginia Power," Yancey said.

Students and faculty, who had access to the Internet and other media, remained informed about when to return to campus via the CNU Web site.

"All possible avenues were utilized in an effort to keep everyone informed," said Yancey. Daily e-mails were sent "to all CNU accounts and several thousand parents for whom we have e-mail addresses," said Yancey.

The local newspaper, The Daily Press, also printed daily updates.

The physical damage to CNU's campus was "nothing substantial," according to Yancey. Trees were down, and some slate shingles were lost; trees fell on two homes owned by the CNU Educational Fund, said Yancey.

"The University is responsible for all expenses, pending an insurance claim reimbursement," said Yancey. CNU is still assessing the damages but has not released any

monetary figures.

The Grounds Department, in conjunction with Dominion Site Works, was in charge of cleanup.

Daryl Henderson, a member of the Grounds Crew, said, "I am a family man, but I sacrificed to help the campus so that it will be OK for students."

Following the hurricane, there were still few people on campus.

"We've been the only department out here since Thursday," said Mark Waggoner on Sept. 22. "I live in Yorktown and I haven't been home in five days. The University administration has been very good to us. They fed us lunch today and cold cuts on Saturday."

As for food, the University is still compiling the amount of loss.

"We haven't had a chance to sit down and figure out everything lost yet," said Store Operations Manager, Pam Revie of the Bookstore as of Sept. 29. "We lost everything in our freezers. We were also planning on having big things to go with Family Weekend. Now all of that is just sitting here, until Family Weekend."

Family Weekend did not lose any money, said Associate Dean

of Students Donna Eddleman, but had to be rescheduled to the weekend of Oct. 3-5.

Rescheduling the event was "really a process of elimination," said Eddleman. "The only possible weekend was this weekend, as Oct. 18-20 is the weekend before Homecoming."

The brochures had to be re-printed, and the entertainment was contacted for rescheduling.

"The Office of Student Life staff has attempted to contact all registered families to let them know of the new date," Eddleman said.

For the original weekend, 397 families were registered. OSU is still trying to contact people, so the number of registered families for the upcoming weekend is unknown, said Eddleman.

Comedian Eric O'Shea was able to reschedule for the new Family Weekend dates. Country Singer Phil Vassar was not, but he will be coming to campus at some point, Eddleman said.

OSU is "still trying to identify someone to do the non-denominational service. We are working with United Campus Ministries on this," said Eddleman.



Tom Sturmer/The Captain's Log

The CNU Grounds Department cleared trees from campus on Sept. 22 due to Hurricane Isabel. The Grounds Crew worked from Thursday night until the work was completed. Though there were numerous downed trees, physical damage to the University was minimal.



Tom Sturmer/The Captain's Log

Aaron Grant assisted Ross Cantrell in moving back into York River West. Both residents moved most of their belongings out of the York River in preparation for Hurricane Isabel. All resident students were required to evacuate and could not return to campus until full power was restored. Classes eventually resumed on Sept. 24.

December 10, 2004

Gustafson sends an e-mail informing students that file sharing is having a significant effect on Internet access. Students caught downloading copyrighted software illegally lose all computer privileges.

December 12

Gustafson says bandwidth capacity has increased from 40meg to 60meg. CNU Housing office releases an e-mail telling students they will be charged an additional \$90 telecommunications fee when they return in the spring. Gustafson says that WebMail has been compromised and WebMail users were not getting any e-mail. IT Services does a full reset of the system, changes passwords and implements other security measures.

January 8

Gustafson says a new router was installed over break to increase Internet speed, but has not been successful. Replacement parts are added and an engineer comes to repair the router. There is a 15 minute interruption in Internet access at 5 p.m. while IT Services brings a new Bandwidth management system online. Network shuts down from 10:15 to 1:15 p.m. for the Cisco engineer to replace faulty memory chip in the router.

January 9

Network shuts down from 10 to 11 a.m. for upgrades and maintenance.

Virginia higher education falls short by \$351 M

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 10, November 19, 2003

CNU is below an adequate operating budget level. The shortfall is \$7.8 million according to the Alliance for Virginia's Students Web site.

A panel, moderated by President Paul Tribble, shared its thoughts on the state of education in Virginia and then opened the floor for others to speak on Nov. 12.

Tribble started discussion with the question, "Is our public education system successfully preparing students for the 21st century?"

Superintendent of Newport News Public Schools Marcus Newsome said, "I believe the public education system is the backbone of this nation. Our schools are a reflection of the community they serve."

He said that he has not seen the synergy needed to make public education work since Sept. 11, 2001.

"We really need to bring the community together to support our schools and our teachers," he said.

Superintendent of Virginia Beach Public Schools Timothy Jenney agreed that the community plays a vital role in making schools work.

"Public education works best when it works in partnership with its community," he said.

And that, he said, requires more resources.

"Our resources are limited. We're having to struggle with limited funding to educate our students," said panel member McKinley Price. "Education is a tough job. I don't think we're currently stepping up to the plate the way we need to."

Thaddeus Holloman, Sr., a member of CNU's Board of Visitors, said that teaching is a public service.

"We don't have a value of public service in this state," he said. "But, at some point in time, we have to reward public servants."

Williamsburg Mayor Jeanne Zeidler said that education is the responsibility of the state, and that the state needs to increase funding for public education.

"Failing to act has consequences. Not funding our schools has consequences," Zeidler said.

The Dean of William and Mary's School of Law Taylor W. Reveley III said the "state simply takes money away from higher education. It particularly yanks my chain when people say if only higher education would cut the fat out."

He used William and Mary as an example and said it is practically "anorexic."

Brian Cannon, William and Mary's Student Assembly President, said in response to Tribble's initial question, "The question is, will it prepare those who follow us? I'm afraid for those who follow us. We're going to reap what we sow."

He compared the situation to an aircraft carrier. He said when an aircraft carrier runs out of gas, it can continue on for three more miles. He said, "Where are we? Are we at one mile? Are we at two? Are we at three?"

Cannon said that students and parents are the "only constituents in the Commonwealth who are paying more for less. Tuition has gone up, but the quality of education has gone down."

He said that the current situation is one in which students cannot get what they need.

"Is college still a four-year venture?"

Something is wrong when hard working students cannot get the classes they need and cannot graduate in four years, but it now takes them five, Cannon said.

"All we are asking is for average. Adequate funding, he said. "Is that good enough?"

Warner Calls For Compromise

Governor visits, talks about budget and current legislative dilemma



Governor Mark Warner visited CNU on March 25. Here, Warner addressed CNU students, faculty, and staff about the state of Virginia's budget and how that has affected higher education. Among those in attendance were ODU's president Roseanne Runte, Mayor Joe Frank and state delegate Glenn Oder.

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 21, March 31, 2004

Democratic Gov. Mark Warner said on March 25 that Virginia's budget is "structurally way out of balance" as he visited over 100 students, faculty, staff and members of the community in the Alumni Room.

President Paul Tribble opened the presentation by saying the state needs to provide for higher education.

"There is simply no higher priority," he said. "We need that kind of investment now and every year. On an annual basis, higher education is under-funded by \$420 million per year. The time has come for citizens to stand up and speak out."

Speaking of the General Assembly, he said: "Pass a budget now."

Dr. Glenn DuBois, Chancellor of the community college system in

Virginia, continued the discussion of the budget.

"The way things are going now, we might not have a budget," he said.

Warner followed with his own plea for the legislature to pass the

"This really isn't a debate simply about CNU. It's about what kind of future we're going to have."

-Gov. Mark Warner

budget.

"Without a budget from the state, folks at the local level can't do their budgets," he said.

There are many consequences that come with not having a budget passed, such as losing the AAA rat-

ing, according to Warner.

"We've been on credit watch for the longest time of any state," he said.

Medicaid is also an issue on the table.

Currently, "two out of every three of every nursing home patient in Virginia gets reimbursed out of Medicaid," Warner said.

Warner posed a question in order to fully explain the current budget situation, "How did we get into this circumstance in the first place?"

In the late 90s there were 50 tax breaks.

"The fiscal hangover is what we're dealing with right now," Warner said. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist, it doesn't even take someone who passed Econ 101 to figure out that you can't continue to provide what you did in the past if you take the money away."

When Warner came into office the shortfall was \$3.8 billion. It is currently closer to \$6 billion.

Faced with those numbers, the Warner administration did "what

any business would do, we tightened our belt," Warner said.

"I love the hypocrisy of no new taxes but open my DMV office," Warner said of the general public. "How are you going to pay for that?"

Long-term financial planning in the past has been done for a two-year period, but Warner instituted the six-year financial plan.

"We assumed we would see good times. We assumed that the state of Virginia would not put another dollar into higher education. We assumed that we would not put any new money into transportation," Warner said. "We would put money into would be replenishing the rainy day fund" and other essential costs. Based on those assumptions, "We would see red ink to the end of the decade," Warner said.

There is a large division between the House and Senate over the budget. So far, neither side is giving in.

"If you're going to make a deal, you have to have people who want to make a deal," Warner said. "Let's have a plan that doesn't meet just this two years, let's fix it for the long term," Warner said.

"This really isn't a debate simply about CNU. It's about what kind of future we're going to have," Warner said.

When Warner opened the floor for questions, one citizen suggested that the state hold a referendum on whether should be raised. Warner responded, "I think a referendum is the wrong choice. I think that's what we were hired to do."

A short debate between Delegate Glenn Oder (R - Newport News) and Warner took place during the question and answer period.

Oder: "Would you be supportive of a special session?"

Warner cut him off and said, "We are in a special session."

Oder: "Do you know something about a compromise that we don't? I don't see it. I have not been encouraged. I see the two sides becoming more and more polarized."

Warner: "Both sides need to compromise. I'm confident that will happen."

While the floor was open for questions, Warner ignored the raised hand of Delegate Tom Gear (R - Hampton), who when finally called upon asked about VDOT and transportation spending.

Warner said, "Unless we do something about transportation in the next few years, we could be turning away federal dollars. We're making changes at VDOT now."

Midyear fee assessed to residential students

By T. DeVon Robinson
Copy Editor

Issue 12, December 10, 2003

Residential students will be billed an extra \$90 next semester for Internet, cable and telephone services that were originally free to students, making this the second

midyear increase since Gov. Mark Warner announced the state's budget crisis in 2002.

The Residential Telecommunications Fee, was issued by the Budget Advisory Committee "in response to budget cuts this year," said a university spokeswoman.

Drew Collier, a third-year student, questions the decision to

increase fees.

"We already have a contract," Collier said.

According to the University Housing Contract, "The Housing and Dining Service rates are determined annually and approved by the Board of Visitors. The student agrees to pay the rates which are established and announced in

April 2003 for the 2003-2004 academic year."

The Residential Telecommunications Fee is not a direct addition to room and board, and is related to the \$17 technology fee. "The technology fee is a state requirement to recover a small portion of the cost of academic and instructional technology," the spokeswoman said.

Sig Ep is first fraternity to receive campus house

By April Feciura
and Jenn Rowell
Contributing Photographer
and Managing Editor

Issue 4, October 1, 2003

A banner displaying the mission statement of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity that started on CNU's campus last spring is tacked on the front porch of their new house.

"The administration presented us with the opportunity to get a house. It was an offer we couldn't refuse," said Matt Varga, a member of Sig Ep, and IFC President.

Sig Ep chose to accept the responsibility of living in the house. "We are a test program," Varga said. "It's a learning opportunity for everybody."

Lamb has met with President Paul Tribble, and "in talks with him, his goal seems to be to get a Greek

row," said Lamb.

"We're developing the community and expanding Greek life," said senior Jonathan Hedrick. "In the future, I feel like we're setting the example of what Greek Life could be on campus. I'd love to see that whole cul de sac become Greek Row."

Katey Morlino-Howerton, Coordinator of Student Life; Jay Lambert, Director of Housing; and Dr. Kip Redick, professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, gave the brothers the support they needed to go through with the housing process.

Sophomores Tommy Carrico, Tom Gallagher, Marty Humm and Ryan Miller are currently living in the house. Junior Rob May serves as house manager, carrying out the duties of a Resident Assistant.

"As house manager, I am in charge of coordinating with the

chapter when the house will be used and preparing it for chapter events," said May. "I also work to keep things running smoothly among brothers living in the house."

Varga and the Sig Ep executive board "chose the ones who we thought would best represent Sig Ep in the house," according to Varga.

"We felt that those kids would be willing to take on the challenge of living in the house," said Lamb. "They understand what it meant to have the house."

The residents had to agree to the rules established by the fraternity and their headquarters, according to Varga.

The house will have weekly cleaning inspections, contrasted to the monthly inspections in the residence halls.

The residents, however, allow

full-time access to other members of the fraternity, and the house provides a central location for the fraternity to meet.

"It's a place for the brothers to go anytime. It's a center for the fraternity, basically," said Lamb. "It's turning out to be a great asset for the fraternity."

Faculty advisor, Dr. Redick, explained that the house will teach members to learn from each other and they will gain humility from the experience.

"Residents pay the same rates as other residents," said Varga. "As of now, they're going to live in the house for the entire academic year."

The University still considers the house theme style living, such as a theme unit in James River, and the residents live under the same rules and guidelines as the residence halls, according to Varga.

January 10
Router problems continue and Internet access is unavailable for about 10 minutes 3 p.m. due to repairs. These repairs caused the Internet to go down the night before and in the morning.

January 14
Installation of additional electrical service causes Internet access to be unavailable.

January 27
A new virus outbreak hits.

January 28
E-mail server goes down for maintenance for about 30 minutes at 5 p.m.

February 4
A new core switch is planned to be installed to help speed up Internet access, but due to technical difficulties is not installed until Feb. 5 causing a 30-40 second interruption.

February 9
Another virus outbreak causes problems with Internet access.

February 10
Instant messenger was disabled while IT Services was dealing with virus attacks.

Falk Art Gallery Closes

In what Dean Gordon calls 'Space Wars,' University moves Einstein's Cafe to Falk Gallery due to library expansion

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 17, February 18, 2004

Einstein's café will be relocating to what is now the Falk Gallery due to the expansion of the library.

The gallery will remain open until after the senior art show this spring, according to Betty Anglin, director of fine arts.

Seniors are required to exhibit their work in the gallery in order to graduate, Anglin said.

Although space is being made in the Ferguson Center for the Arts, the move prompted one artist to withdraw her painting from the Alumni Scholarship Auction.

The Alumni Show was supposed to follow the Senior Show, but it was taken off the Web site in the last few days, according to the President of the Fine Arts Society Diana Mathews.

The Fine Arts Society knew it was a possibility that the move could take place, said Mathews, "but we didn't think it would really happen since it was donated by the Falk family."

Some students feel that moving the Falk Gallery showed a lack of concern for the Art department.

Mathews said a student in the department sent a campus wide e-mail last week, but so far no one has received it.

In a letter to the Captain's Log and several other local news

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Sometimes there is conflict of interests over spaces.

-Dr. Douglas Gordon
Dean of College
of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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outlets, Senior Beth Miller said, "Studio one provides 'space' for all ceramics and pottery classes as well as sculpture and printmaking. Studio two houses all painting and drawing classes and the crafts classes. This may not appear to be a problem, but on any given Monday or Wednesday it is not unusual to find upwards of 40 painting students in a studio that is not much bigger than an apartment."

The Art department has received an offer from the Biology department to possibly have their exhibit in the Biology building, according to Anglin.

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dean Douglas Gordon, said, "Fine Arts students and faculty will have studio based classrooms in the Center for the Arts. Final plans are underway right now for those studios."

The Center for the Arts will have a "high quality space for a permanent gallery," said Gordon.

The administration decided to delay the relocation of Einstein's until after the Senior Show at the request of the art department.

"Sometimes there is conflict of interests over spaces," said Gordon. He likes to call them "space wars" and said they "are some of the most intense fights that you're ever going to find in a university."

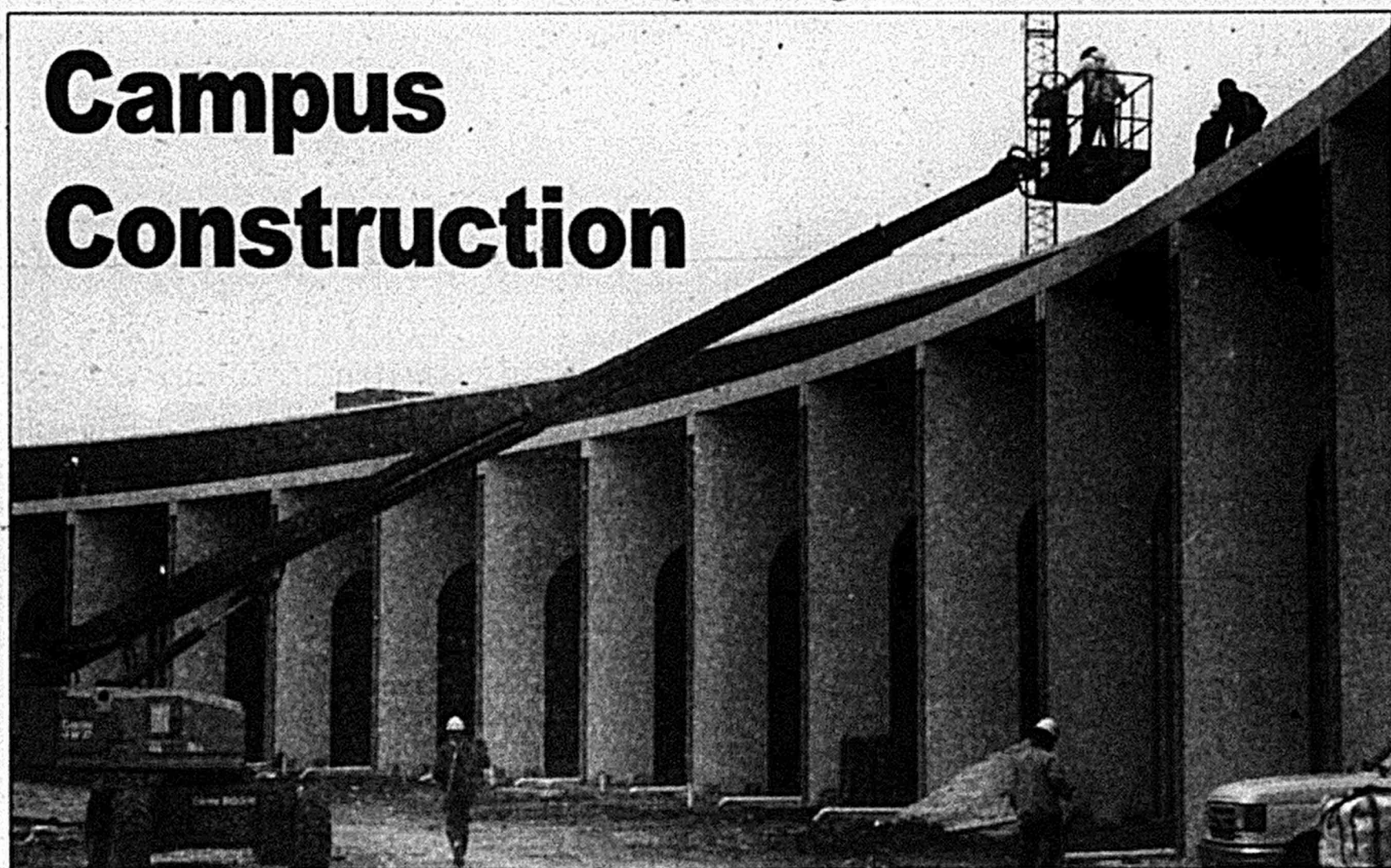
When the idea first came up to move Einstein's into Falk, Gordon didn't approve.

Although he was opposed to the proposition at first, he said he now understands the need to have the space ready.

"I've liked having people come to the Dean's office through the Falk Gallery," he said.

For now, Gordon's office will remain where it is, but the entrance will change.

Campus Construction

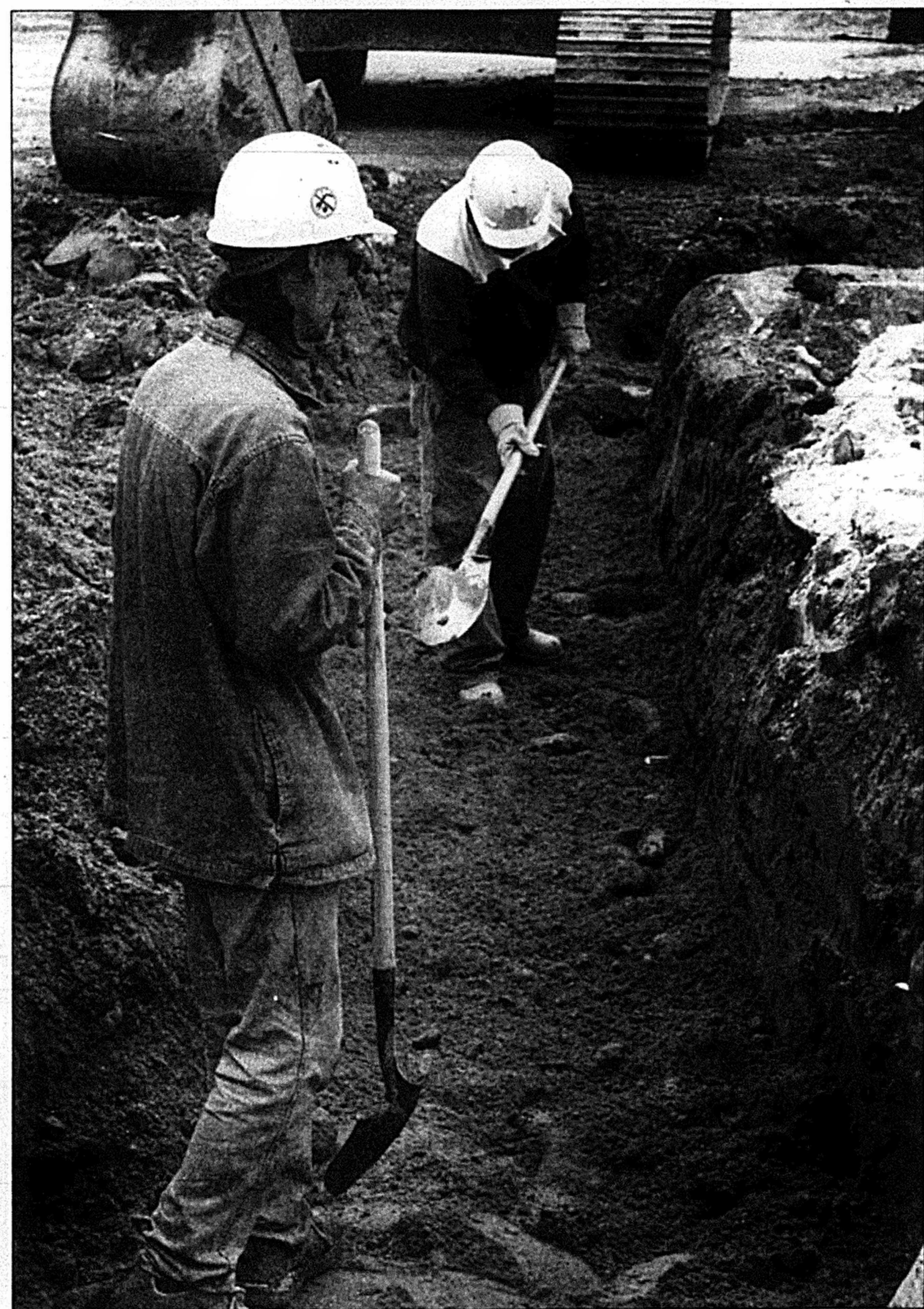


Chanelle Layman/The Captain's Log

This year was a busy year for campus construction. The Ferguson Center for the Arts has become more of a reality, Potomac River almost been completed, and the new parking deck has been finished.

Above: Workers continue working on the Ferguson Center for the Arts. Phase one will be completed later this summer.

Below: Construction workers from W.M. Jordan dig the trench where the new storm water drainage system and water lines will be placed under Shoe Lane, near CNU's entrance. This lines will ensure that the new buildings such as Potomac River will function as they should.



Chanelle Layman/The Captain's Log

Housing and retail combine in CNU Village

Barclay partially removed to make way for development

By Tyrone Robinson
and Jenn Rowell
Copy Editor
and Managing Editor

Issue 2, September 10, 2003

President Paul Tribble announced Sept. 5 that part of the Barclay Apartments will be torn down in May to make way for CNU Village, a \$25 million commercial and residential development stretching from Chanell's Pizza to University Place.

Eighty of the 240 beds in Barclay Apartments will be lost.

The remainder of Barclay Apartments will "remain a part of the mix of university housing," said Tribble.

The developer, Trammel Crow,

is responsible for raising the money needed to pay for the construction of the commercial space. The residential area will be paid by loans to the university that will be paid back by student housing fees. CNU Village will be completed by July 2005, said Tribble. The four-story building will house 400 students and have 17 retail stores along Warwick. The residence hall will be broken down into two or four bedroom units, each having private bathrooms and a kitchen. "The apartments are very similar to the layout of the CNU Apartments," Tribble said. In the middle of the development will be a four level parking deck with a space assigned for every resident. Residents will be assigned to a parking space on the same floor as their apartment

and can only access the deck with a key card.

The retail establishments have 55 parking spaces outside.

Trammel Crow will own the retail space but CNU will later have the option to buy.

The retailers "will be geared toward the students and faculty, but it will serve the larger community as well," said Tribble. "I don't know who's going to be in there at this point."

In addition to a restaurant in the CNU Village complex, "we are going to develop an array of restaurants" on the corner of University Place where there is currently a closed service station, said Tribble.

That project will cost \$2 million, according to Bill Brauer, CNU Executive Vice President.

Arts students anxious as Ferguson nears completion

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 19, March 17, 2004

All construction, according to William "Bill" Biddle, the recently appointed Executive Director of the Ferguson Center for the Arts, is on schedule and Phase One of Ferguson will be complete by late summer 2004.

Phase One includes the two smaller theaters, which consist of 200 seats and 500 seats respectively.

Phase Two of the Ferguson is expected to be completed by early summer 2005. It will include the 1,700-seat main theater.

It was initially expected, according to some music majors, that the music department would move in early 2004. The news that the move is later than originally planned has some music and theater majors anxious. Freshman music major Erin McElrath said, "I originally heard February ... it doesn't quite upset me but I am anxious to get in there. The facilities are so amazing that it is just exciting to be able to be there."

"I'm looking forward to having my recitals in there and listening to other performances, especially in the large theater because from what I have heard it has got some of the best acoustics in the state."

The funding for the Ferguson Center for the Arts has come from a few sources, the most prominent being Ferguson Enterprises, who committed more than \$2 million.

According to Biddle, every season will be different and will provide various programs for the Hampton Roads region by offering "something for everyone," including orchestras, recitals, Broadway Musicals, world-class dance, jazz, comedy, opera and other family programs.

Rain delays lot completion

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 2, September 10, 2003

The construction of Potomac River Residence Hall and the relocation of the tennis courts to the lot behind James River took away 526 spaces.

To partially compensate for this loss of space, a parking lot on Shoe Lane is being constructed and will be ready to use in about 30 days, according to Andy Mansfield, Student Center Operations Manager.

This lot will add 250-275 spaces when completed.

"We had hoped it would be completed by the start of classes but it's just been raining all summer," said President Paul Tribble.

A parking deck and surface lot behind the Center for the Arts will add 750 spaces; it is scheduled for completion in January 2004.

The parking deck will be completed in time for the second semester when freshmen will be allowed to bring cars to campus. Some students are concerned about the availability of parking spaces.

"We're paying more for less," said senior Brian Wieszek.

Four years ago, parking decals were sold for \$50, and for two years following, decals went for \$100.

The Board of Visitors sets the prices when it meets in the spring, according to Mansfield.

The decal fees go "into a fund that's utilized for maintenance and creation of parking," said Mansfield. "Anything and everything related to parking is generated by decal revenue and fines."

As of Sept. 8, 3,400 parking decals have been issued for 3,000 spaces, according to Parking Services. Parking Services bases its numbers on a decal-to-space ratio. The current number of decals to spaces puts the ratio at about one-to-one, according to Mansfield. Last year's ratio was 2.5 decals to spaces.

-James Smithson contributed to this article.

February 16
IT Services Identified 25 IP addresses with the blaster virus or MyDoom.

March 29
Dr George Webb is appointed as Chief Information Officer for Academic and Administrative computing.

April 1, 2004
Rendell Saunders is appointed as the new IT Services Manager.

April 9
E-mail server is down for troubleshooting and maintenance. The downtime is intermittent and lasts for up to 2 hours.

April 12
E-mail server is down intermittently for software maintenance at 5 p.m. The maintenance lasts until 5:25 p.m. when the system is rebooted.

April 13
WebCT goes down because the system disk space reached capacity. The system is brought down to free up space, which takes at least a day to complete.

Opinions

Where We Stand

A Quick Recap of the Past Year

This year has been bizarre. No budget cuts, but no budget. A technology fee, but not really any technology. A homecoming, but no homecoming dance. A Class of 2003 that left in 2004. And so on.

But that's not all that has happened this year. Warwick Boulevard has truly become a boulevard, which is by definition a street occupying the site of demolished fortifications. While we're busy breathing dust and scrambling for parking spaces, the future classes will reap the benefits of CNU's current construction projects such as CNU Village, the renovated library (which will hopefully have a renovated book collection) and the new Student Center. Construction is a good thing, but Rita's better stay. After all, we've already lost Chanell's and Subway.

Anyway, as the school year comes to a close, there are a few points we should remember (these are not, by the way, in order of importance):

1. IT Services needs to get anti-Spam software for the campus.
2. Ten of Virginia's 15 public universities already include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies. CNU needs to become the 11th by getting through the Board of Visitors.
3. Before expanding Warwick Blvd. to six lanes, the university needs to make sure that contractors and officials properly synchronize traffic lights and crosswalks to avoid any vehicle-pedestrian accidents.
4. Students should stay active in their local government, that is, of course, if they're truly invested in obtaining adequate funding for higher education.
5. We should always question the status of student leadership on campus. What is student leadership at CNU? How much control do students have in leading? In what ways are students leading?
6. The university should continue programs such as "Captains for Excellence" to boost minority enrollment, which has significantly dropped over the last five years.
7. As WCNU tries to get itself back on its feet, try not to bust its chops for accidentally failing to censor a profane word. Could WCNU avoid those problems by playing music that doesn't have those types of words? Yes, but that should be up to the leadership. Hold them accountable, yes. Question their actions, yes. But let's realize that mistakes happen on a day-to-day basis, and we all have the right not to listen to things that may offend us.

Certainly, there are more to discuss, but these are a few. As we reflect on the fall and spring semesters, let's carry what we've learned from this year and aim for an even better one next year.

The Captain's Log

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The Captain's Log is the Official Student Newspaper of Christopher Newport University.

The Captain's Log is published on 24 Wednesdays throughout the academic year.

New contributions are accepted by fax (594-8759), by e-mail (clog@cnu.edu) or in our office (SC 223).

Circulation inquiries, advertising rates, and policies are available upon request by telephone, (757) 594-7196, e-mail or on our Web site. The Captain's Log

is created with Apple Macintosh computers, using Adobe InDesign.

The Captain's Log reserves the right to edit letters according to style and length, as well as to refuse publication. The Captain's Log welcomes letters from its readers. Send letters to: The Captain's Log, 1 University Place, Newport News, VA 23606. Letters may also be brought to our office or sent to us by e-mail at clog@cnu.edu. Anonymous letters may be printed, but writers must sign the

original, providing a full address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Students: please indicate your class status. If the writer is affiliated with an organization, that may be noted.

For a letter to be considered for publication in the next issue, we must receive it by noon of the Wednesday prior to publication. Corrections/Clarifications to The Captain's Log will be published in the issue following the error.

Corrections

The headline in last week's article about the Peninsula Fine Arts Center's "Genesis: 2004" exhibit was misleading. Twenty-one students submitted work, but that did not mean that every student's work was featured.

Last week's movie review of "Jersey Girl" was written by Annie Ferenbach, not Brandon Hasky.

Don't complain, do something

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 19, March 17, 2004

Where are you?

You aren't at the Student Government meetings. You aren't at the events put on by the Office of Student Life. You aren't at Career Day and you definitely aren't at the polls.

I have looked all over campus, but I seem to have lost the student body.

What is wrong with our generation? We are quick to judge, highly opinionated and very vocal. So why aren't we doing anything about it?

Our generation is the future of this county and we are missing in action. For two weeks in a row, I was the lone person sitting in the visitor's section at the SGA. I was happy to see a few others there this week.

Before break, Andy Mansfield, Student Center Operations Manager was invited to answer questions concerning parking. Mansfield was hardly able to introduce himself before being ambushed by angry students. I must say that after that meeting I was very disappointed in the student body. Many of the questions being asked are answered in the rules and regulations put forth by Parking Services. If you are confused about where you can park, there are signs to guide you. The signs at the bowling alley say customer parking only and unauthorized vehicles will be towed. The university and the bowling alley are actually doing you a favor by ticketing instead of charging you over \$100 for your car to be towed and stored.

The Captain's Log has published numerous stories concerning parking. Since you are attending college, I hope that you know how to read. I hate to break it to you, but Parking Services is

doing a good job.

For a student body that considers itself high and mighty and thinks the motto "Students First" means that the university should cater to their every whim, it is a student body that is uninformed and unaware.

SGA elections are coming up, and so far, the top two positions are running unopposed. There are no candidates running for senior senator at large positions.

Maybe it's just me, but I would like to think it should take a little more work than filling out an application to get elected president of the student government.

The leaders on this campus should be the ones who

I have looked all over campus, but I seem to have lost the student body.

rise to the top through hard work, who rise to meet challenges and who truly shine.

Our generation is the most apathetic generation in American history. In 1998, only 18.5 percent of registered 18-24 year olds voted. That was 5.1 percent of the total American vote. Where are you?

While this apathy is a nationwide problem, that does not make the lack of involvement any less ridiculous on this campus. The Office of Student Life has brought a number of performers to campus this year, but attendance has not been all that impressive. The performers may not have been people who frequent MTV, but most of them have been pretty good. Now, I know all of you are not studying or working all night, every night. OSL has gone to great lengths

to give you what you want. During the fall semester, Interim Coordinator of Student Activities Jonathan Janis asked the student body for input on what kind of entertainment, and the response was pretty weak.

Career Day attendance has also been low. I'm sure that Career Day isn't on your list of top priorities, but if you take any interest in your future at all, you might want to consider going to one sometime. The Office of Career in Counseling makes arrangements with local employers for your benefit; show them your appreciation by your attendance.

Your track record of being apathetic is unacceptable. I hear complaints constantly, but I don't see you doing anything about it.

Decisions are made by those who show up. If you don't show up, you waive the right to have your voice heard. If you can't be bothered to take the time out of your week to go to the SGA meeting, an OSL event or even vote, then stop complaining about the decisions made by those who do.

Before you start complaining about how awful something is, all I ask is that you educate yourself on the topic first so you don't make a fool out of yourself or waste my time. Sometimes I wonder if you live in a box because of how unaware of your surroundings you are.

As the saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words." So until you start showing up to meetings, writing letters to the editor, or at least start making an effort to educate yourself, don't count on anyone who is in a position to make things happen to take you seriously. Since I haven't seen you much in the library, or in class, maybe you should take a chance and participate. Until then, my question stands, where are you?

Lone vote equals only opposition

By Josh Dermer
Contributing Writer

Issue 12, December 10, 2003- On December 5th, the Daily Press reported on the progress of a "non-discrimination" resolution passed by the Student Government Association last semester regarding the issue of sexual preference. The reporter, Angela Forest, wrote that the "lone opposition vote came from a representative with the Young Constitutionalists." She was referring to me and I appreciated the mention. However, nothing was written as to why I voted the way I did and thus only one side of the spectrum was represented in the article.

As a club representative, I vote for legislation in the SGA based upon my personal beliefs as well as those of the organization I represent. When I indicated my vote of opposition, many of my fellow senators gave me dirty looks and one even had the audacity to call me a "hater." It goes without saying that today's political climate has manifested an era of bad feelings, but I don't hate anyone nor am I "homophobic" in the least. Yet it seems anyone who has a moral objection to the homosexual lifestyle gets labeled as such. So much for all that talk about being

"open-minded."

I have several reasons for why I voted against the so-called "non-discrimination" resolution. From a constitutional standpoint, sexual preference is not a civil right. Homosexual behavior is no more deserving of special protections than heterosexual behavior. Also, one has to consider recent evidence which shows that people are not born homosexual, thus negating the absurd notion that the homosexual community is some type of "victim class."

Secondly, if this policy goes into effect, it will deny certain campus organizations freedom of association with respect to electing their officers and making requirements for membership. To my understanding, this new "non-discrimination" policy will force religious clubs to accept openly homosexual individuals in leadership positions, despite the fact that such organizations may have a moral objection to that lifestyle. This begs the question: who is really discriminating against whom?

Reading the Daily Press article, it sounds as if the SGA speaks for the entire campus. As of now, the SGA Senate is a non-elected body with absolutely no accountability to the students. Fortunately,

that will change as we have adopted the new SGA constitution and there will be regular elections of our student senators starting in spring of next semester. Until elections happen, no one can seriously state or imply that the SGA speaks for the whole campus.

Now I don't want to see anyone beaten to death for their choice in sexual behavior. One may disagree with any type of behavior for moral reasons, but murder should never enter into the equation. Anyone with the least bit of decency doesn't want a repeat of the type of violence which claimed the life of Matthew Shepard. But should his murder be a rallying cry to eliminate religious freedom and the teaching of moral values? Clearly, the aftermath of this tragedy is creating a dangerous precedent with regard to the erosion of our First Amendment rights.

If the administration cares at all about Constitutional rights, then they will reject this resolution. Of course they may bend under political pressure, but part of standing up for what's right means accepting the consequences of getting flak from the so-called majority. I certainly found this to be true.

Josh Dermer is the Chairman of the CNU Young Constitutionalists.

Do not call again, telemarketer

By Ashley Wilson
Contributing Writer

Issue 2, September, 2003

Do not call me ever again. Ever. And this time I mean it.

That's right folks, it's restraining order time. Not for your stalker ex-girlfriend (well, okay, maybe for her too), but for the representatives of those

imbecilic companies who actually think they can make me in to a paying customer by calling me at dinnertime. You know them. Perhaps you know them more intimately than the aforementioned stalker ex-girlfriend, probably because they call more often than she does, with steadfast and monotonous insistence that rivals that of Chinese waffer torture

and certain professors in the history department. They are, of course, telemarketers.

And we, the liberated and empowered citizens of a nation dedicated to preserving our Constitutional privacy, simply don't have to take it anymore; their days are numbered (no pun intended). All we had

See CALL on page 7

CALL from page 7

to do to stop the insanity was register at www.donotcall.gov by Aug. 31, and starting Oct. 1, our landlines get the lockdown. The federal government says so. I swear it. For those of you who somehow missed deadline No. 1 and (gasp) do not want to receive calls from solicitors, register by Sept. 1 or after, and you've only got three months more of torture before you're home-free, at home and free of telemarketers for good.

But wait, there's more...at least if the execs at these so-called "teleservice" companies have anything to do with it. You can trust that those pesky dinnertime guests will be calling with renewed frequency in the next several weeks. It's the last hurrah, right? This ex is hard to shake, but here are a few strategies that usually prove to be successful.

1) If someone calls to inform you of the incomprehensible benefits of changing your long-distance service provider (in other words, you will save the cost of a can of Spam or a Cup-o-Noodles every time you make a call to your 98-year-old grandmother in South Dakota who is not sure if she owns a telephone), tell them that you would LOVE to make the switch. Except that your home recently burned to the ground, and so you no longer have phone service (I personally witnessed the success of this tactic; the operator began apologizing profusely for the

situation, seemingly unaware of the fact that she had apparently called the fire-blasted phone line. No wonder these people are in outcry over the Do Not Call list. Who else will hire them when their jobs as brainless Agents of Evil expire?)

2) Tell them that although you are not interested in buying their product, you might be interested in purchasing their sexual services. Okay, okay, that could be illegal or something. So if this tactic seems too direct, you can try starting out with lines like, "You have an unbelievably sexy voice..." or "I'm so glad you called. I've been really lonely lately, and in fact I was just contemplating committing suicide, but I think this is really fate. In fact, if you have a moment, maybe we could talk about my needs..."

3) If, by chance, a friendly voice on the other end of the line declares that YOU HAVE BEEN PRE-APPROVED, no credit limit, blah-blah-blah, respond with the following: "You know, that sounds like a great idea. I was just recently released from prison, and I thought I would never be offered a credit card again. Good thing you called, though. This way, I can charge my first month of rent and the lease on my new car while I am waiting for my next unemployment check. So why don't I take your address and phone number and I'll give you a call

back, say, sometime around 7:00 tomorrow evening, when I am done holding up the bank downtown? Or maybe I could even drop by..."

4) When you hear that foreboding silence as soon as you pick up the receiver, launch into these lines in a muffled, mechanical-sounding voice: "Thank you for calling the Telemarketer Assistance Voicemail System. I am unavailable to take your call at the moment, mainly because I am doing normal things that normal people do around dinner time, unless of course they are hired by morons who have found a temporarily legal way of breaking into my home and torturing me via my telephone cord."

If you will please leave your name and number, I will be sure to return your call at your earliest convenience. Please begin speaking at the sound of the click..."

And if those don't work, you can always try something less reasonable, like crying uncontrollably, screaming, or swearing. Just hang in there.

Or hang up. You only have to do it for another two weeks...or three months, depending on your situation. After that, the government will do it for you.

Like I said, that's www.donotcall.gov.

Communication key to diversity

By Ashley Wilson
Contributing Writer

Issue 7, October 29, 2003

Here we go again: white supremacy, a blistering barrage of hate crime accusations, and a whole lot of rah-rah sister-and-brotherhoods celebrating "multiculturalism" at its best, complete with electric-guitar odes to togetherness and rainbow flags flying.

Here's the story: it's Hispanic Heritage Week at South River High in Annapolis, Maryland. Cafeteria fare is salsa: no, not the sauce, but the tunes dished up by the student band during lunch hour. Salsa is the style of choice for dance classes after school, too. And while none of the students are getting a siesta, there are 20 flags from Spanish-speaking countries strung up across the entranceway. Olé!

Nothing too surprising. It's cute. It's educational. Worth a nod and a tip of the sombrero.

But that's not the whole story, of course. Last spring, South River High wasn't such a flamenco-frenzied oasis of cultural consciousness. In fact, it was just the opposite. Swastikas and racial slurs were spray painted inside the building. They appeared, too, all over the campus, where 95% of the 2000-strong student body was white. Six students were arrested on charges of hate crime, and they left the school (nobody is saying whether they were expelled or simply allowed to transfer).

This, of course, is what prompted the maraca-happy tolerance campaign at South River. Administrators have taken black-history walking tours of the area and have listened to speeches on diversity. Task forces have been created to up the amount of African-American instructors in the school system. The assistant principal plugged his electric guitar into a lunchroom outlet, tossed out a few tambourines and began strumming away, singing his own original, "We're More Alike Than Different."

I think the administrators' efforts are fabulous, especially when I compare them to the those in my own experience.

As a privately schooled white teenager in a pleated plaid skirt and cardigan sweater, I had three African-American classmates.

Yes, you read that right. Three. One of them, who had been known to rock and moan catatonically during civil war lessons, crying, "My people! How could you have done this to my people?", was eventually expelled for mooning a class.

He didn't spark much sympathy among the seniors, some of whom openly expressed their racist sentiments, rode around in vehicles draped with Confederate flags, and wore the same emblem on their expensive, saucer-sized belt buckles.

I don't remember hearing much of anything about racial or religious tolerance. Racist tolerance, on the other hand, was practiced (if not preached) fastidiously.

A religion teacher there developed a reputation for condemning Hindus (there was ONE), Catholics (I knew two) and Mormons (I could count two as well) to the flames eternal. My government teacher, who spent much of class time ranting against the Democratic Party, had no qualms about preaching the evils of affirmative action.

Having been subjected to this right-wing-reigns attitude since the sixth grade, I never questioned the intolerance any more than I did my membership in the Hitler-wearing

Let's do more than just celebrate diversity, learn the cha-cha and memorize facts about African-American history. Let's talk.

Prep Squad.

So it was with shock and sometimes even humiliation that I was introduced to college life.

Along with learning that flat tax is almost always a bad word and that welfare isn't, I also came to understand the stream of overt and covert racism that had been thrown at me since childhood. So I waved the white flag (no pun intended) and called a racial truce. And while I still can't translate Missy Elliot's Ebonics into Anglo-Saxon English any faster than I can decipher Latin verbs, I have managed to form, in at least some philosophical sense, a concept of equality among the races.

But it's not enough. It's never enough. Sure, a bunch of administrators (most, we can assume from the school's statistics, are probably white males) can strum their guitars, string up flags, and spout off ethnic trivia—that's commendable; they're trying.

But they are still trying to

bottle and sell a brand of equality that they themselves, like most of us, are still learning to understand.

The lesson, I dare to posit, needs to come from the minorities themselves, and especially the students themselves, as often and as openly as possible.

It's important to note that in South River High, the most genuine and unforced movement toward a racial understanding didn't come from the administrators. It came from two students, one black, one white, who decided to form a discussion group on diversity. The pair had been friends since childhood and had repeatedly faced discrimination and misunderstanding because of their relationship, and so they decided to do something about it. Believe it or not, Hispanic Heritage Week was largely their baby. So while the guys in charge were forming task forces, the students were forming conversations. Which means more to you?

We may not have a history of swastikas and slurs, but like South River High, we have a dismally small minority population (try less than 10 percent).

We've also done our best to deal with that. We've slapped together a Minority Task Force, held open house events to attract minority students, and we've done a little salsa ourselves. And like South River High, for all our efforts—and they are commendable—we still have a long way to go. Might I suggest the following:

To the Multicultural Student Association: You are amazing. You have done so much to advance your causes, and so I only have one small suggestion. Branch out a little from your socially-focused activities and use your influence (you have a great deal) to educate. Teach me to understand what the oppressed have felt. Show me how to make a difference.

To the new NAACP: Your organization, historically, has given a voice to the otherwise voiceless. Use that voice to do more than battle. Once again, educate. Take the time to teach our campus the meanings of tolerance, truth, diversity. You can bet that that voice will be heard. And to the student body as a whole: At CNU and anywhere in this nation, the silence between the races has been too long allowed and even encouraged. So after centuries of abuse, isolation and confusion, I offer the following invitation:

Let's do more than just celebrate diversity, learn the cha-cha and memorize facts about African-American history.

Let's talk.

Funding priorities in Va.

By Ashley Boyd
and Melissa Bell
Contributing Writers

Issue 17, February 18, 2004

So the old joke goes, "What does Mississippi, Alabama and West Virginia all have in common," unfortunately for us the new answer is becoming "better higher education than Virginia." With the State Council on Higher Education in Virginia announcing that higher education is short the 420 million dollars it needs to even keep its doors open, as Virginians, we should not be surprised in the near future when the nation looks to us as the joke.

A study recently showed that at William and Mary, a full third of all professors had applied to jobs at other schools. There are even reports that there are not enough classes to keep all their students full time students. This fall at Virginia Tech, a classroom was so overcrowded with students that a fire marshal had to intervene. At Radford University, staff and administration are volunteering to teach

courses that otherwise would go untaught. These examples of the deteriorating quality of higher education in Va. are just a small sample of what many student body presidents have used to exemplify the snowballing problem. Many students are working hard to preserve the credibility of Virginian education that has been passed down to us.

Last fall, W&M students volunteered to give five dollars out of their own pocket to save some of their most loved professors, stepping up where the General Assembly gave up. Just this last year, students at CNU voted to support a tuition increase, demonstrating their seriousness about preserving the quality of future education. While Christopher Newport and W&M students struggle through tuition increases, the state can no longer rely on students and their families to be indirectly taxed at ridiculous rates. Tuition has risen 20 percent in recent years, forcing some students to take second and third jobs, while putting higher education out of reach for many others.

While other college and universities have felt the pains of budget cuts, CNU and the Newport News community have received some of the biggest wounds of all, entire academic departments. The nursing department and education department didn't just lend themselves to the betterment of the CNU community, but acted as feeders for skilled and dedicated public servants to the Newport News community.

The people of the Commonwealth are not asking the General Assembly to shower higher education with funding, but simply to fund higher education at the level it needs to keep its doors open. Virginia is ranked as 40th in the nation for support of higher education, according to the Center for Education Studies. What is it going to take to get the General Assembly's attention—50th? If we stay on the same track, soon we might find out.

-Boyd and Bell are the president and vice of university relations, respectively, of the SGA.

What does 'America' mean? We need to develop an identity

By Jenn Rowell
Managing Editor

Issue 7, October 29, 2003

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

America.

Melting pot.

One nation under God?

Perhaps that's not what the author even intended the pledge to say. Perhaps we shouldn't base so many arguments over whether or not this country was founded on a belief in God.

Lady Liberty invites everyone to our shores; we do not, however, accept everyone the

way the words would lead you to believe. The tired and the poor come to America in search of a better life. That means they want the life Americans live, they don't want to bring the life they live to America. Or do they?

Yes, America is a melting pot. People from all nationalities come here to find safe haven. But what is a melting pot? Usually, when you put two different things into a pot and they melt, they become one thing.

But tell me this, why does the United States of America cater to everyone but Americans?

Every country in the world has its own religion, its own language, and its own customs.

Granted wars are being waged over religion, it is a religion all their own. Countries have culture, and we flock to

them because of it.

What culture does American have besides baseball, hamburgers, and July 4? Maybe I'm wrong, but I haven't ever driven across the American countryside and observed a nation with rich culture, heritage, and tradition. All I see is industry, poverty, and big business.

Should you ever travel to another country, you would follow their customs. In most European countries, you would drive on the other side of the road, eat their food, and observe their tradition.

When people from other countries come to America, they bring their culture here and are offended that America places its trust in God.

Have you ever noticed everything we call tradition is something we got from somewhere

else? We battle over religion, and yet several of our major holidays are religiously based.

Halloween. Maybe the founders didn't walk around in clown costumes from Wal-Mart, but the holiday comes from All Saints Day. People used to dress up with hideous masks to ward off evil spirits. Irish immigrants brought Halloween customs to America in the 1800s.

Christmas. Sure not everyone goes to church, but the entire holiday comes to us from religious celebrations and the traditions of other cultures. Santa Claus himself originated from the church (Saint Nicholas). It all started with the birth of Jesus.

Easter. Kids line up to see the Easter bunny and search for eggs, but really this holiday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. I'd say

very much a religious holiday.

Not only do we share holidays with the rest of the world, but foods too. Pizza isn't even American.

I guess we do have some of our own culinary delights, however, most of those either make Americans dangerously overweight or cause heart disease.

Diversity is a great thing, but what is it at the expense of an American culture?

You've seen the commercials following September 11 that showed people of different backgrounds all saying, "I am an American." If everyone wants to be American, how come I can't figure out what being American really is?

I know that I live in a free country and I wouldn't change that for anything. I know that we

have rights and liberties that you can't get anywhere else.

But is all the fighting worth it? Are we fighting for the right things?

If taking the word "God" out of the pledge is our biggest problem, then there's something wrong here. People are starving and without places to live. Maybe taking a little bit of faith out of the equation isn't such a good idea just yet, since we obviously can't do it on our own. Maybe Americans should mind a little more of their own business when dealing with foreign affairs, and maybe we should create a true American culture.

Yes, America was born from people of different backgrounds, but after 200 years can't we branch out on our own and find our own identity?

Freeman Center is no freedom center, free expression not welcome

By Stefan Veldhuis
Contributing Writer

Issue 17, February 18, 2004

While he was incarcerated in Birmingham jail, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote a letter to his critics concerning his views on and actions within the civil rights movement. In one of his most pointed and poignant statements, he boldly declared, "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." King's letter encouraged all people to work in partnership in order to stand up against discrimination and prejudice.

Just as people came to

gether to undermine unjust rules during the era of MLK, likewise the students of CNU must unite to take a stand against the forces of oppression that have attempted to eradicate diversity on this campus, through the pernicious rules and policies of the Freeman Center. Unlike other branches of CNU, which use taxpayer resources to help fund their activities, the Freeman Center is paid for and essentially run completely by students. Supervisors and front desk staff are comprised solely of students. Yet in the same facility that takes roughly 10 percent of every student's fees and also requires their services for operation, cultural diversity is deci-

mated by the administration's policies. Currently no student is allowed to wear any piercing while at work, have any visible tattoos, or to have any type of haircut that is deemed to be "extreme." As King said, "sometimes a law is just on its face and unjust in its application." Although the constraint on piercings may look good to administrators, the reality and application of this policy leaves students with a stiflingly unjust rule. Employees at the Freeman Center cannot even afford a decent meal with an hour's wage, but they are daily served up a smorgasbord of censorship on the plate of perceived normality, prepared by the chef of propaganda himself. In CNU's mission and

goals section, it states that the university yearns to help students "Understand and value individual creativity, choice, and responsibility in being a member of society" while also striving "to understand cultural diversity." Unfortunately, the administrators of the Freeman Center have flagrantly abnegated the opportunity and right of the students to fulfill the goals laid out for them. A painful example of this reality came earlier this semester, when a student by the name of Greg Simon was working out at the Freeman Center. He was approached by an administrator, and told that his attire, although not out of dress code, needed to be changed. The administrator

explained that some people were intimidated by his large stature, and had a "phobia" of working out around him, thus deterring them from using the facility. This outrageous demand perplexed the student, and undoubtedly crossed the fine line of prejudice. What is to keep the same administrator from next asking a black man to leave because he intimidates white people with his athleticism? Nazi Germany was certainly not devoid of anti-Semitism, which arguably began by means of the same phobia and jealousy that caused Mr. Simon to be ostracized in the Freeman Center. Sadly, this administrator felt obligated to continue appeasing the lion of oppression by

feeding him the crushed bones of individuality.

Individuality and freedom of expression provide for the nascence of diversity, yet the Freeman Center policies have aborted the delicate fetus of individualism, not allowing diversity to be born into the CNU student body. Students must act now to procure and preserve our rights as individuals, because as MLK said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

To sign a petition demanding the right to diversity and the freedom of expression in the Freeman Center contact the author at stefan713@hotmail.com.

-Stefan Veldhuis is an employee at the Freeman Center.

Sports



Defensive lineman Tyrell Venney (5) sacks sophomore quarterback Chris Ronchetti (2) during the Homecoming game. CNU's defense held Methodist to 136 yards on the entire day, propelling CNU to the 49-0 shutout.

Football squad knocks title contender off its feet

Bridgewater loses first game in three years; defensive stand holds the Eagles in the last two minutes

By Rob Silsbee
Assistant Sports Editor

Issue 4, October 1, 2003
The Bridgewater Eagles came into POMOCO stadium after winning 29 regular season games in a row. The Christopher Newport Captains came into the game having only played 22 regular season games in its entire history.

The Eagles are coming off a last week obliteration of the Maryville University team 59-7. The Captains, a nail biting victory by one in the final minutes against McDaniel University.

Bridgewater is coming off a run in the NCAA playoffs ending in the quarterfinals last year and the finals the year before. CNU, first round losses in the NCAA both years.

They came in a perennial powerhouse and left with their first regular season loss in 3 years. Christopher Newport University took the biggest win in school history when it beat the Bridgewater Eagles 16-12 last Saturday. Nationally ranked at number five, the Eagles fought a good-hard football grudge match but fell to state-rival and underdog in the Christopher Newport Captains.

After forcing a punt on the first four downs of the game, the Captains took possession on their own 30. The first drive explains the entire game in that the Captains controlled the clock. On a 14 play, 70-yard drive, the clock expired a massive 7:29 seconds, half of the first quarter. George Jones initiated the drive with a 17-yard completion after breaking 4 tackles and being forced out of bounds by Adrian Hern-

don of Bridgewater. The drive finished after converting twice on third down with a Mario Marin 4 yard rush for the touchdown. Jason Broskie converted the extra point to make the score 7-0.

"We knew they were a running team ... we just didn't have our game-tackling on. Just didn't have our game-tackling," said leading Bridgewater linebacker Jermaine Taylor.

However, the Eagles would not go quietly. They quickly answered the Captains drive with a 5-play touchdown drive ending in the quarterback keeper by Brandon Wakefield. Kyle Beach converted the field goal attempt to tie the score at 7-7. Beach completed another field goal from 34 yards to put the score at 10-7 going into the half.

The name of the game for the Captains was possession time, keeping the ball in the offense's hands for 18:20 of the 30:00 half. Although they went into the half down 3, they had pieced together more yardage at 152 on 34 plays.

Coming from behind was a test for the Captains as they received the ball in the second half. Marin held the drive together as he became the go-to guy with 7 plays of the 15-play drive. He had 48-yards rushing in the drive of the total 80-yards. On the 1-yard line, the ball was given to him and he had on his jumping shoes as he dove into the end zone over the entire line.

"I was so happy. Man, I was so happy. I came off the field smiling," Marin said when asked how he felt about his touchdown.

However, Broskie missed the following kick attempt, meaning the Eagles were only down 3, within field goal tying range, with the score at 13-10.

The Eagles couldn't answer with the next drive ending in a missed 50-yard attempted field goal. Nothing amounted on the next two drives finding a Philip Jones punt on the Eagles 8 yard line. "Field position

See FOOTBALL, pg 10

Previous records shattered behind Kass' pitching and Sigafos' hitting

Michelle Kass and Renee Sigafos break previous records for pitching and hitting

By Rob Silsbee
Assistant Sports Editor

Issue 23, April 14, 2004

For all intents and purposes, let's just imagine that the girls on the softball team were humans.

Records, according to Hank Aaron, were meant to be broken, and a 2004 softball team full of not-so-human athletes proved just that.

Before the Captains enter the USA South Tournament on Wednesday, all kinds of records have been broken.

One thing to remember is that the Captains are guaranteed at least two more games and will probably have more if they keep winning in the tournament.

First of all, the team won 35 games. 35 games ties the all-time record for CNU and they can break that record with a win over Shenandoah in a make-up game after the USA South Tournament.

Oh yeah, they also clinched a regular season title for the fifth straight season and for the 14th time in the past 15 seasons. That's not half bad.

The .875 winning percentage (35-5 overall) shatters the previous record of .807 established just last year.

The Captains 35 wins were bolstered by a mid-season 19-game win streak, also a school record, beating the previous of 15.

Good pitching always beats good hitting and starters Vanessa Gray and Michelle Kass decided to prove that this year.

The Captains' 35 wins were bolstered by Gray and Kass with two coming from the arm of C.J. McQueen.

By the way, the pitching combined for a 1.35 earned run average and 241 strikeouts. The ERA isn't a record but nothing to shake your head at, but the 241 K's blasts last years record by 23.

And oh yeah, let's not forget there is still one game to play of the regular season, and the tournament.

Beyond team goals, the Captains also broke several individual single-season records. The aforementioned Gray is working on a .81 ERA.

That means she allowed less than one earned run in every single one of her starts.

In 23 appearances, Michelle Kass destroyed the

See SOFTBALL, pg 10

Gibbs is fastest female runner in CNU history

By Rob Silsbee
Assistant Sports Editor

Issue 7, Oct. 29, 2003

I've got a riddle for you. What would you get if you crossed a cheetah, Christian and doctor, painted it blue and white, and gave it tennis shoes and a funny uniform? The question is not what, but who? Aimee Gibbs is her name, the phenom of the Women's Cross Country team at Christopher Newport University.

As for the cheetah, Aimee Gibbs holds nearly every record in the book for cross-country including the number one spot for fastest CNU women runner in history.

She holds 14 of the top 20 fastest times in CNU history. Including two times recorded this year in Bethlehem, PA, and Williamsburg, VA. The latter was the Mason-Dixon Conference championship last week. Which she won.

Gibbs, listed as a 5-4 senior, has won two of the four Mason-Dixon Conference championships

she's ran, including this year. She won the former Dixie, now USA South Conference, each of the four times she's competed.

With the victories she was named to each All Conference team. Gibbs also ran to the All-South-Southeast Conference teams each of her first three years and runs toward a fourth this November 15.

Her most astonishing feat is her NCAA National Qualification each of her first three years. She has a chance at Regionals to place herself as the only CNU runner, male or female, to make it to nationals all four years of her college athletic career.

Gibbs is USA South Female Runner of the Year two years running, on her way to a third, with phenomenal numbers this year, her final. What has contributed to such success?

"My relationship with God. Also, my family, they've always been there. They come to all of my meets, even traveling to Spokane, Washington. We have great coaches," Gibbs ranted

See GIBBS, pg 10

Hallman takes home her seventh double-double against Chowan

By Katie Brackett
Sports Editor

The lead for the USA South Conference was up for grabs this weekend. Chowan traveled to CNU to take on the Lady Captains in the Freeman Center. They came into the game with a record of 12-3; putting them atop the USA South Conference. CNU came into the game biting at Chowan's heels at 8-2 in the USA South. The Lady Captains had fallen only to Chowan since Christmas break; taking 12

of their last 13 games. CNU took Saturday's game winning 71-78.

Senior Amber Hallman led the team with her seventh double-double; scoring her career high 30 points, pulling down 12 rebounds; nine offensive. Within the first five minutes of the game Hallman started out strong with a giving CNU the momentum. She shot 11-19 in her 36 minutes of playing time.

"She (Hallman) really found her game today," said coach Carolyn Hunter. "She's really one of the reasons we are playing so well right now; she's found her niche and rhythm."

The first half ended with CNU up 35-27. CNU shot 37.8 percent from the field to Chowan's 34.6 percent in the first half.

Chowan's C.C. Vaughn shot for only 15 points; going into the game she was atop the USA South with 22 points per game. Shooting only 5-12 from the floor, she was unable to find her rhythm in her 30 minutes of playing time. Leading Chowan in this physical battle were Christina Addison and Joi Hazel with 17 points for their teams. Addison shot 4-7 from behind the 3-point line, rallying her team from an 18-point deficit midway through the

second half. CNU pulled ahead in the second half. At the high point they led the Braves by 18 points. Chowan fought their way back behind Addison and Hazel's shooting from behind the arch.

"We let them in, the door was almost closed but they (Chowan) snuck back in behind our turnovers," said Hunter. "Chowan started to make things happen as we started to relax. We just stopped playing and they took advantage of it."

CNU freshman Jessica Hutt struggled to find her game shooting only 2-12 from the field and

2-7 from behind the 3-point line. "Jess's shots were just not falling for her," said Hunter. "She really picked it up in other areas of the game, making some great passes for us."

Candace Bryant added with 17 points and nine boards for the Lady Captains. She shot 8-16 from the floor and 1-3 from the free throw line. The deciding factor for CNU was the strong play of the bench players. Deitra Jefferson scored 10 points off of the bench. She shot perfect from the free throw line (2-2) and 4-6 from the floor, she had seven rebounds.

Captains Sail Past Shenandoah

By Rob Silsbee
Assistant Sports Editor

Issue 13, January 21, 2004

The first USA South Conference game for both CNU and Shenandoah came against each other last Wednesday. CNU defeated the Shenandoah squad in the last 11 meetings at the Freeman Center and were 29-7 against the conference foe overall. The 6-5 Captains played host to the 4-5 Hornets and freshman Steven Murrer commented on the atmosphere before the game.

"You know, it was the first conference game," he said "everyone was real hyped." The freshman came in off the bench and led the team with 19 points.

Right from the start the game took a turn for the aggressive. The first half found both teams playing tough defense and forcing tough shots. There were six lead changes in the first half and as time expired the score was 27-27. Going into the half, Murrer led the Captains with 10 points followed by Romeo with six.

More importantly for the Captains, however, was Romeo's defense on Shenandoah star Chris Rhone. Rhone was averaging almost 24 points per game and in the first half Romeo stifled his performance to an 0-4 shooting performance and forced three turnovers.

Both teams shot a meager 38.5 percent in the first half with very few good shooting performances. Romeo and Murrer led the Captains while Kenny Purnell and Chad Brashears led the Hornets with eight and six points respectively. The Captains controlled the first half but the Hornets just wouldn't go away. The second half was much of the same story. As soon as the Captains began to pull away, the Hornets

would find a way to climb back into it. Romeo and Murrer continued to lead the team as Steven went 8-9 with the one shot he missed being a rushed three-point attempt because of the shot-clock. The two combined went 6-8 from 3-point land and combined for 35 points.

"I thought we did a good job on D," Coach C.J. Woollum said, "If you take away Rhone's free throws I think we did a really good job on D."

The win was very well rounded as Mark Hepner played with his usual intensity and added five clutch points off of the free throw line. He also led the team with nine rebounds. Blake Brookman added six assists and three steals while David Turner came off the bench and worked for five huge blocks.

"A big part of [Wednesday] was the overall team," Woollum said, "There was a great spirit in the locker room afterwards. We felt really united tonight."

After the Captains took the 1-0 conference record by defeating Shenandoah, they headed to Chowan on Saturday for the second conference match-up of the season. After Shenandoah, Coach Woollum admitted that they have to take each game one at a time and also pointed out that Saturday's game verse Chowan would "be a war." At halftime again the score was tied, this time at 39. Neither team played exceptionally well on defense. In the second half however, CNU's pressure defense stepped up and held Chowan to just under 40 percent shooting from the field. The Captains offense also became more potent as they shot 54 percent in the second half. The game ended in a Captains victory at 85-72. Mark Hepner led the way with 20 points and five rebounds.

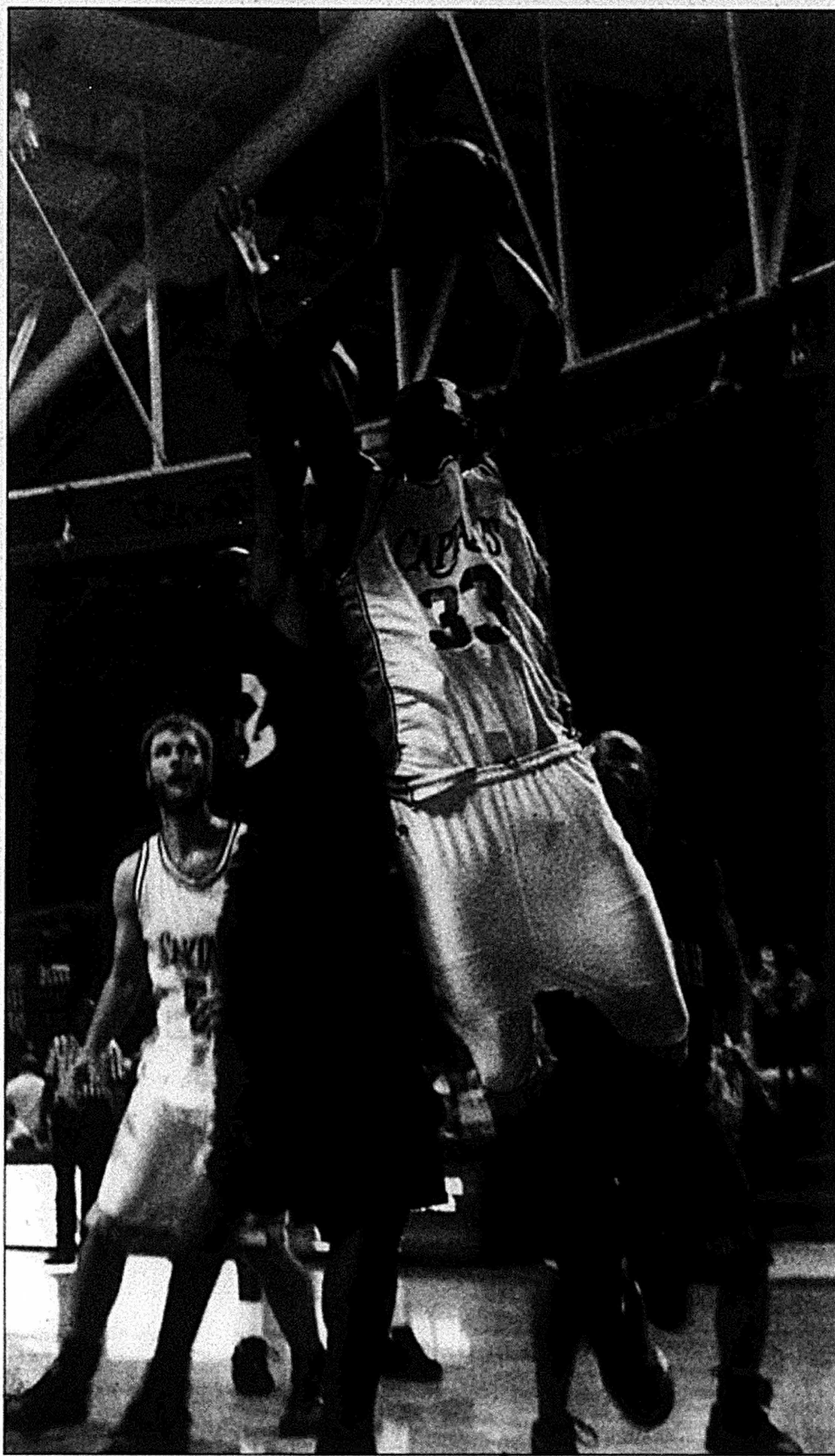


Photo by Will Summers/The Captain's Log

Otho Hampton goes in for a dunk over the Shenandoah defense. CNU took the game defeating Shenandoah, a conference rival.

Captains look to a winning season

By Rob Silsbee
Assistant Sports Editor

Issue 16, Feb. 11, 2004

As we look behind us we find Super Bowl XXXVIII, half of the NBA and NHL seasons, and a struggling CNU basketball team. As we look to the horizon we can see March Madness, EA Sports release of MVP 2004 (March 9, oh yes, I am counting), but most of all, we can see the developing dynasty of the Captains' baseball team. Springtime always gets those feelings in your stomach rolling; from twitterpation to anticipation spring is the season of new beginnings.

A new beginning is exactly what the Captains need after coming just one win shy of the National Championship last year. Let me make sure you understand. *The National Championship*. Sure, football has won the USA South three years running, and sure, the basketball team has won 20 games for 6 straight seasons, but no other team on campus has been as close to an NCAA National Championship excluding track and golf. The squad was one win shy of capturing the first CNU Baseball Championship and just the third USA South Baseball Championship.

Coming into this season, the Captains are ranked number three in the D-3 nation and are picked to finish second in the USA South. With these predictions, the Captains are primed to make another run at the national title.

"Obviously our goal every year is to win the National Championship. Whether or not it's realistic we try not to think about that," Coach John Harvell said.

However, the team is returning without three All-Americans and another All-World Series catcher. Matt

Turner, who holds almost every offensive record in CNU history including home runs, total bases, and RBI's, Jeremy Elliot, who wrecked the single season stolen base record and led off for the Captains last year, and Chris Phaup, the biggest clutch hitter with the best career batting average in history, are the three All-Americans who won't be returning. The team is also missing All-World Series catcher Scotty George who did a superb job controlling the young pitching staff last year.

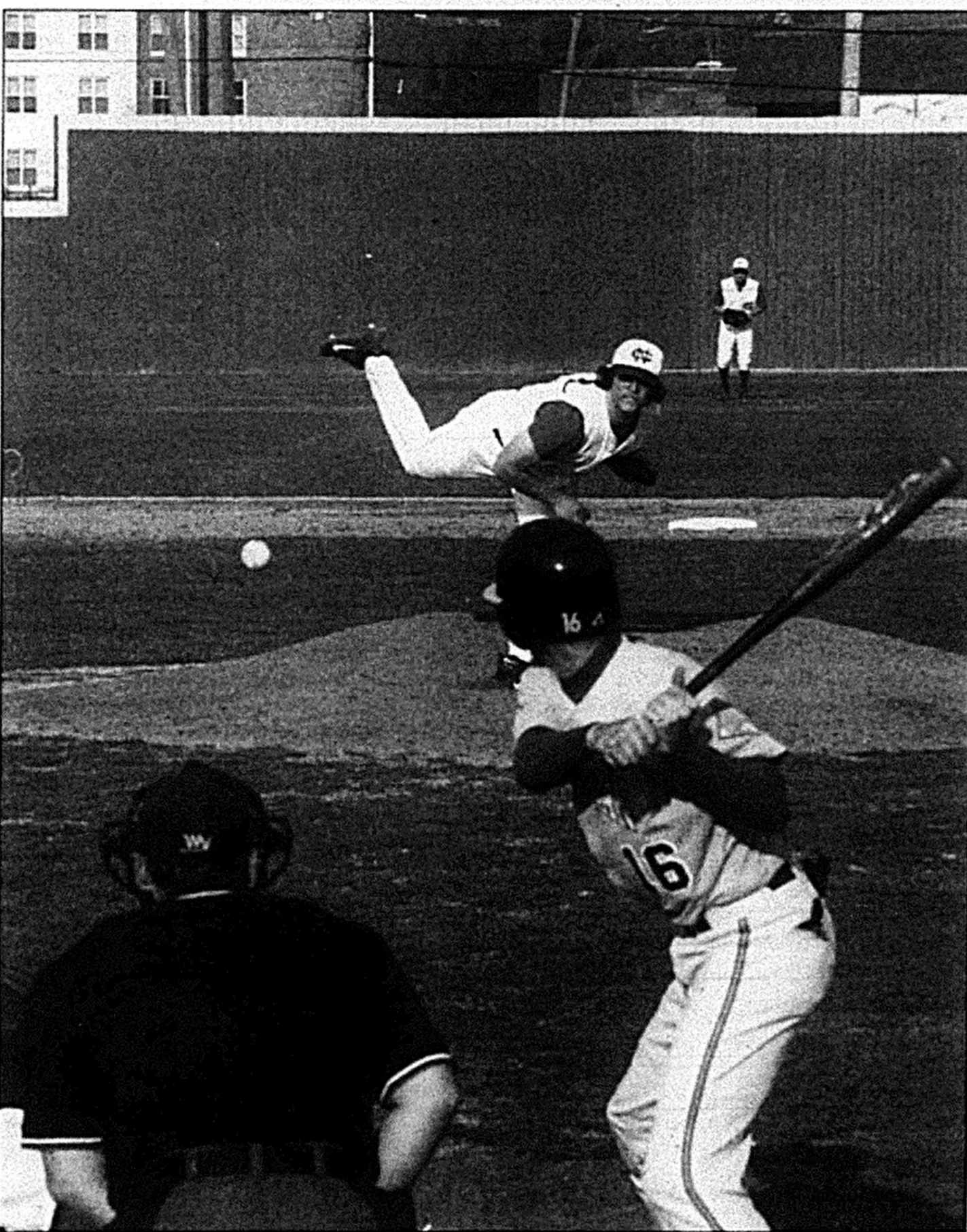
"From top to bottom, we're more balanced this year than we were last year," Harvell said. More balanced? Is he actually suggesting they're even better this year? Well the team is returning all but those four guys and returning the entire pitching staff.

"Right now our strongest aspect is our pitching; having all our pitching back from last year is a nice comfort zone," Harvell boasted. "It's sort of a role reversal; ... our pitching is obviously our strong point." The reversal he speaks of is the idea that the offense led the squad in the past and the absolute necessity that the pitching staff leads the team this year.

The experience of the team will definitely be beneficial come playoff time.

"Ninety percent of our players back this year have been to the World Series and we expect them to ride that experience," said Harvell. Coach also went on to defend the strong nucleus of infielders and outfielders returning this season.

He continued proclaiming that pitching was going to need to step up and be a stronghold for the Captains to have success this season. Other than Cary Bruner, who suffered an injury, the entire starting staff will be back from last year. Mike Cosby, Eben Brower, and Brandon



Will Summers/The Captain's Log

Brower took the mound in game two of this weekend's doubleheaders. He pitched eight innings only allowing to runs. CNU finished the season 22-11- they have the second seed in the USA South Conference tournament.

Haywood will be the 1-2-3 punch on the hill. The pitching staff consists of only one senior, Haywood, which proves for several more years of pitching consistency at CNU. Coach Harvell said there is some "good quality freshman pitching" that he hopes to get some experience this year.

The power at the plate will have to come off the bat of Ricky Medina and sophomore first baseman John Corbin. Garrett Robinson will more than likely be taking the place-setting lead off position starting

in center field. "Everyone is determined to get back there. There's no reason we can't do it. Everyone knows what it takes to get there," Medina said of returning to the championship series.

The Captains lead-off the season this year on Friday as they head to Atlanta, Georgia for a three-game set. February 18 will find the first game ever on the brand new Captains Park off Moore's Lane. The Captains can't replace three All-Americans but can keep to a balanced offense supported

by run-stopping pitching. That could be the equation to pave the way back to the series for this year's team. So as you reminisce about this years football season and moan and complain about this years mediocre basketball squad, don't forget that you're just days away from the first baseball game of the year. You're just weeks away from those oh-so-satisfying flutters in your stomach from spring. You're just a few months away from another run at the National, yes, the National Championship.

Lacrosse team ends season with a win

By Sean Kennedy
Staff Writer

Issue 23, April 14, 2004

The Lady Captains lacrosse team defeated Shenandoah last week 16-5 to conclude their regular season at 6-8 overall and 4-1 within the USA South conference.

The team was also told over the weekend that they will be the top seeded team at the conference tournament, have thus earned a bye for the opening matches, and will await the winner of the Shenandoah/Ferrum contest at host Ferrum College.

Coming off a two game winning streak, against Marymount and Averett, the Lady Captains hosted the Hornets of Shenandoah last Wednesday.

The Hornets scored first only 49 seconds into the match, but that lead would not last long.

By halftime the Lady Captains had built a 12-1 lead and would go on to win the game 16-5.

Freshman Kristen Conques led all scorers with eight points on four goals and four assists, junior Elaine Kirby had a game high five goals and freshman Kristyn Hankins had four for CNU.

Becky Smith led Shenandoah with two goals while Sharon Sparwasser, Kelly Matagiese and Erika Bradd had one each.

The team started off the season 0-4, playing through games against tough, well established teams, one after another. The first win of the season was against Lynchburg, a team they had never beaten before this season. Where CNU has really shined was where it counts: in the USA South.

"This year was the toughest schedule we've had in CNU history, and basically what we've done is take care of business in conference; beat the teams we have to beat," said head coach Kwame Lloyd.

Despite the losing season, record wise, Coach Lloyd believes that playing tough competition helped the team in the long run.

"With having such a young team - we're still four years old and playing teams that have been established for over 15 years or so, we knew coming into the season that we were going to have a tough time. To be the best you have to play the best. We can't play a soft schedule and expect ourselves to improve."

Heading into the USA South tournament, the Lady Captains are fairly confident.

They have beaten everybody in conference with the exception of Methodist, who they lost to by one point, 11-10, even though they out shot the Monarchs 39-20. Coach Lloyd said before the seeding was announced that he was looking forward to playing Methodist again.

"As a coach you always seek challenges, you don't want the easy way into the championship; you don't want anyone to say you skated through."

Coming up: The Lady Captains head to Ferrum College for the USA South Lacrosse tournament.

They will play in the semi-finals on Friday against either Shenandoah or Ferrum.

FOOTBALL, from pg 8

does matter in a game like [last Saturday's] ... we felt like one mistake could be the game," opposing coach Michael Clark said.

After a 4-yard rush by Jamie Langley, Brandon Wakefield threw into coverage and the pass was tipped into the hands of defensive back Greg Bolton. Bolton returned the interception to the 9-yard line.

The ensuing drive was capped by a Broskie field goal to put the Captains up six, 16-10. The field goal was attempted just at the beginning of the 4th quarter. The Captains had a one touchdown lead with just a quarter to go. The Eagle offense just couldn't seem to put things together until its last drive. A 15-play drive of 64 yards put them at 1st and 10 on the CNU 11. With just 11 yards to go for the game-tying touchdown, the Eagles had 4 downs to convert. 1st down, incomplete to Douglas Napier. 2nd down, incomplete to Nicholas Lehto. 3rd down, incomplete pass to Bret Colbert. With just minutes left in the game, they had to go for it. 4th down, incomplete to Davin Thornton. The Captains defense forced a turnover on downs with 1:21 remaining.

Coach Kelchner decided to kneel and run the clock down on the Bridgewater Eagles. With seconds to go, Kelchner called for the quarter back to run out of the end zone and accept the safety. However, the Eagle defense stripped Philip Jones before he could reach the back of the end zone adding last-second drama to the field. Jones fell on the ball, ending the

game, 16-12.

The Captains held to their possession game keeping the ball a superb 36:18 of playing time. Other crucial stats were the 8 of 16 converted 3rd-downs and 2 huge sacks for a combined loss of 19 yards. The Captains bettered the Eagles in net yards with 266 and rushing yards with 171.

Team leaders were Marin with 84 yards rushing on 18 carries, Thomas Thornton with 56 yards on 15 carries and George Jones with 36 yards receiving on three catches. Philip Jones went 11-19 passing for 115 yards. On the other side of the ball, Justin Wood had seven unassisted tackles, eight total, with one sack, and Kareem Morse had four unassisted, 8 total. Tyrell Veney added a huge sack late in the 1st half.

"This win goes all the way back to last week, before the hurricane sent kids home ... Monday and Tuesday were the key, we spent more time than we ever would have watching film, and conditioning," said Kelchner who also mentioned that there were about 60 football players helping clean up Newport News after the storm. When asked to comment on the Captains defense, allowing just 1 touchdown to the number five team in the nation, he just said: "that's phenomenal."

The Captains face off again at home next week against the Shenandoah Hornets. It will be their first conference game of the year. After beating the fifth team in the nation, eyes and ears all over the D-III scene will be turning toward the CNU gridiron.

GIBBS, from pg 8

about everyone who helps her on a day-to-day basis.

Gibbs went to Greenbriar Christian High School and attributes much that she does to her relationship with God. She has been running since 6th grade, because "everyone else in the family was an athlete." Gibbs also freely admits she doesn't run to prove anything, she just enjoys doing it.

So now that we're through the cheetah and Christian, the doctor comes into play.

It's not enough that Gibbs can run faster than any one of Tim Allen's super-powered devices on *Tool Time*, she is also a Pre-med student who was 2003 Female Recipient of the Don Scalf award, the conference's top academic award. She has aspirations to be a pediatrician, and will graduate this May. Cross Country Coach Keith Maurer went

as far as to say that if Aimee Gibbs weren't a CNU runner, she would be "anything she wanted to be."

Maurer says that you "can't replace an Aimee Gibbs." She is a role model beyond all expectations on and off the track.

"The biggest asset is her work ethic. She has an incredible work ethic. She runs against opponents more physically gifted, but it all comes down to work ethic. I have never seen her give less than 100 percent unless we've asked her not to," Coach Maurer supported her number one women's runner.

As for herself, Gibbs just enjoys running. Her friends ask her why, and she doesn't even know why. She just loves it. As for the riddle, the cheetah, Christian and doctor are aforementioned.

Gibbs' favorite color is blue, and as for that interesting uniform, Gibbs smiled and said:

"They're much of an improvement from last year's."

SOFTBALL, from pg 8

season record for strikeouts. Kass had 166 K's in just 129 innings pitched.

The offense didn't shy from the record books this season either.

Lauren Batson, lead-off hitter for the Captains is just six points shy of breaking the season record for batting average.

She has a .484 average right now.

Batson did take over sole possession for the season record of steals.

She had 39 this year breaking the 1993 record of 33.

Senior outfielder Dallas Slosjarik also added a speed record to the book with nine triples this season.

All that you've read have been team and individual season records.

We haven't even delved into the realms of career records (of which Vanessa Gray holds several) or personal records, which every

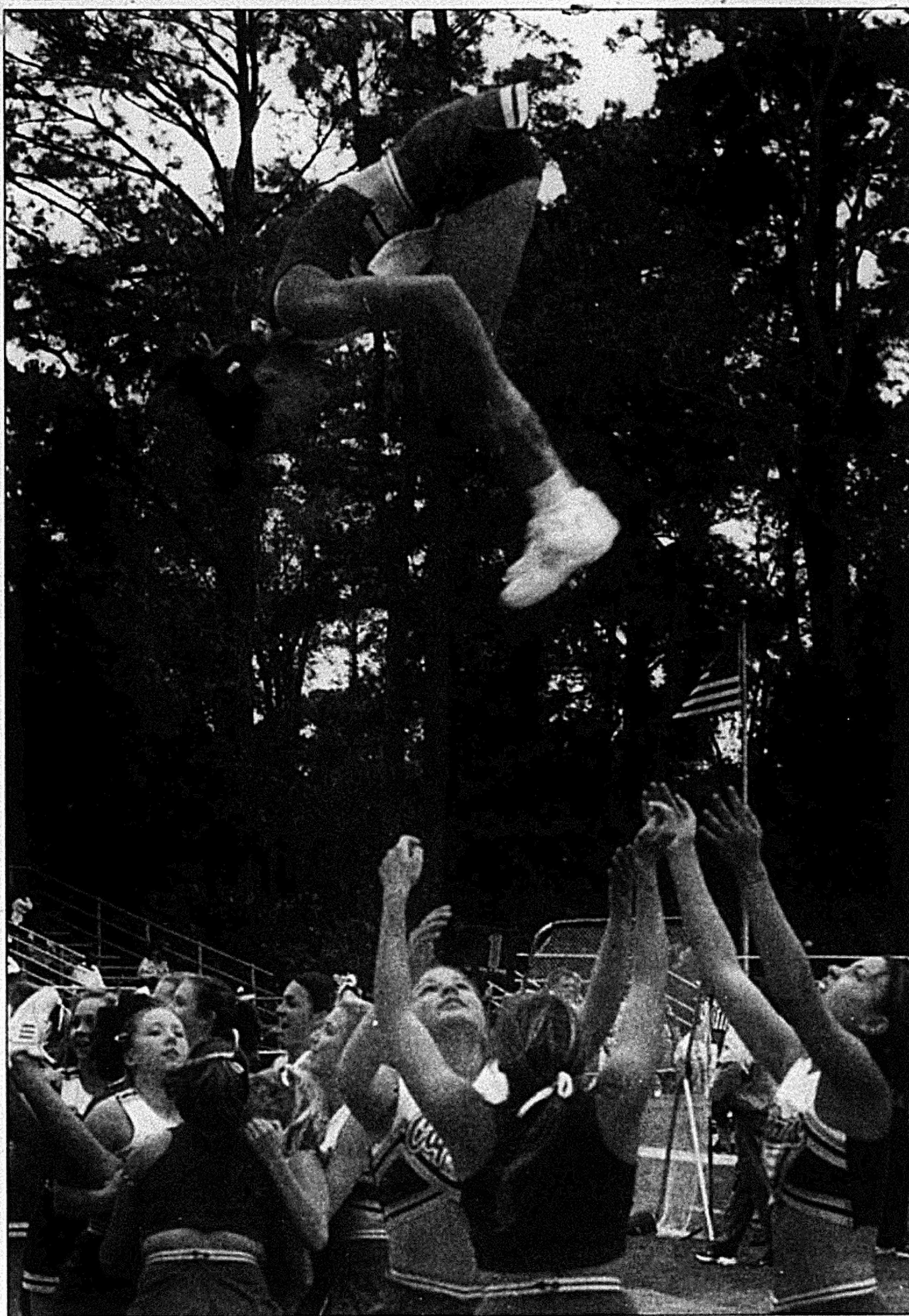
single player had many this season.

As for some of those career records: Slosjarik is now at third (plus the tourney and final regular season game) in career at bats, she slides into second in RBI's with 127, she takes first place in triples by hitting eight this year for a career total of 20.

Slosjarik is now number two on the total bases list, shying away from number one by four bases, Renee Sigafos hits number two on the all-time doubles list with 36, Gray has 308 career strikeouts, just 11 shy of the all-time record, her win count is just four shy of the all-time, and oh yeah, her ERA will be lower than anyone else's on this campus for a long time to come.

Assuming these girls really are human, how can you explain them all clicking together at the same time in one year?

Basically, records are meant to be broken, and these girls are charging as they take on the USA South tournament this Wednesday.



Katie Brackett/The Captain's Log

One of the new stunts the CNU cheerleaders performed this year was a flying backtuck. Multiple flyers and four base sets execute the stunt at the Bridgewater football game early in the fall semester.

CNU cheerleaders soar to new heights

With an all female squad the CNU cheerleaders take on new stunts

By Katie Brackett
Sports Editor

Issue 12, December 10, 2003

They are at every football and basketball game. They have painted faces with energetic smiles and catchy cheers to encourage fans. They stay in between semesters to support our CNU Captains. It's a rigorous schedule, starting in August and lasting all the way through to the end of February. Christmas break is cut short due to their participation on the cheering squad. These young ladies practice at 6:30 a.m. two days a week, cheering for at least four sets of basketball games during the winter and football games during the fall. The CNU Cheerleaders are learning the impor-

ance of dedication, trust, and commitment. "Cheerleading has the most teamwork because nothing works unless it's as a team," said Junior Dana House.

With an all women's squad this year, the ladies of the cheering squad are attempting new and exciting routines with multi-stunting, three-highs, and tumbling passes that have never been done by CNU athletes before. To the layman these terms seem unfamiliar and useless, but to a CNU cheerleader these are the ABC's of their sport. "Its challenging because there is so much to it," said House. "There's the memorizing and the movements but then there's dancing and most of all strength and technique."

The cheering squad is executing four basket tosses this year versus last year's one basket toss. The basket toss requires strong bases and a gymnast doing a back flip in midair, being caught safely once again after the flip. Three high stunts require a bottom base, the second level balancing and holding up the third level. The third level is on top of two levels maintaining the cheer and holding their balance usually about 15-17 feet in the air. "Each stunt has to be performed

a certain way or it won't happen, there's kind of an art to it and you definitely have to have physical strength to make it all happen and come together," said House. The tumbling passes require a gymnast's strength as well as creativity to execute the pass. Flyers in the basket tosses are tossed almost without an effort as they soar doing Russians or back tucks. The level of competition continues to rise as the CNU cheerleaders continue to improve. As is similar to many other sports cheering requires a large amount of communication, trust, individual talent, and trust. "Working together is essential to success, we all support each other literally and if one of us goes down then everything falls apart, plus our coach challenges us to do new things all the time," said House. The difficult formations and execution of these stunts requires creativity as well as physical strength. The execution spectators see at the sporting events is the just the end result. The next time you attend a CNU basketball game, check out the timeouts and half time show these young women have put together, bringing CNU cheering to a new level of talent and excitement.

Field hockey team takes second win against Catawba

By Katie Brackett
Sports Editor

Issue 2, September 10, 2003

The Lady Captains had a tough opponent last weekend as they faced off against Catawba College. Entering the game with a season opening win at Randolph-Macon, the Lady Captains improve to 2-0 on the season. In the first half Catawba silenced the CNU offense holding them to only three shots on goal. Goalie Samantha Pelstring, had six saves she only let one goal get past her.

In the second half junior midfielder Lauren Anderson put the Lady Captains on top, with 27 minutes left in the game she scored unassisted. Kristi Parker scored the game winner, off of an assist by junior forward Ashley Crickenberger. The CNU offense came to life in the second half out shooting Catawba 12-9. The new Head Coach, Carrie Moura, is developing the team in its fourth

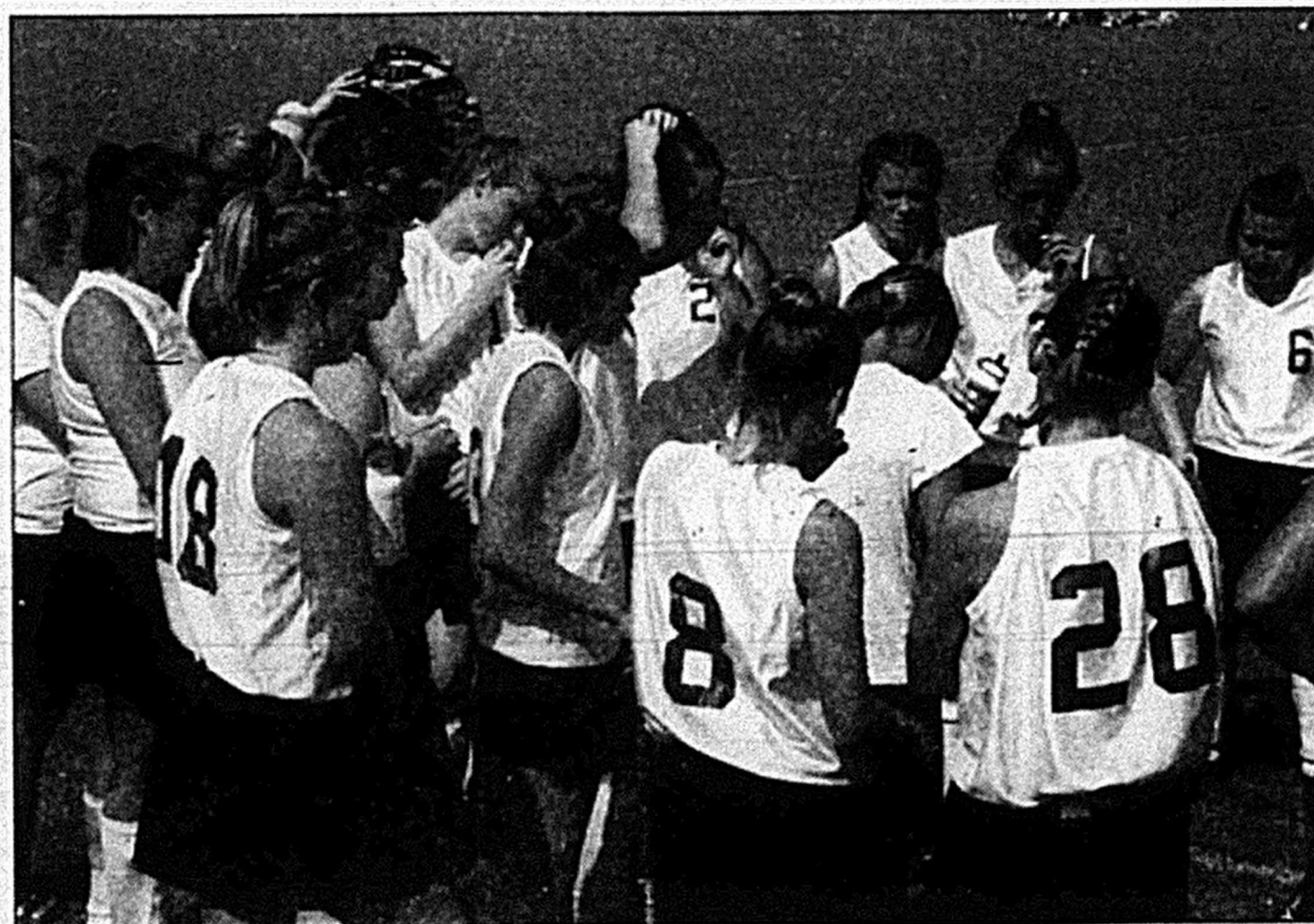
year at CNU. "As a team we are still developing and growing," said Junior Ashley Crickenberger. "We have constant guidance from Coach Moura."

Captain Kristi Parker is one of the seven seniors to who began her freshman year, helping to get the program going. "As a captain, it's my responsibility to be there for the younger girls," said Parker. "I try to motivate them when they are frustrated, all of the upperclassmen have really taken a leadership role by embracing the freshmen on the squad."

The first half was plagued by turnovers; while the in the second CNU found its rhythm.

"We could have played better in the first half," said Parker. "In the second half we picked it up and played the game we knew we could play."

"Our offense has depth, mixed with old and new players," said Crickenberger. Eleven of the 26 players are freshmen.



Katie Brackett/The Captain's Log

The women's field hockey team huddles at halftime to meet with the coach. This was CNU's second win.



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Ashley Hinkle
Carly Kretzer
Audra Lancaster
Suzanne Medici
T.J. Quarles
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These 15 students will assist the Office of Student Life in welcoming the class of 2008 and their parents. The 15 Crew Leaders were selected from a group of 40 applicants. They had to complete an application, obtain three references and go through a group interview process.

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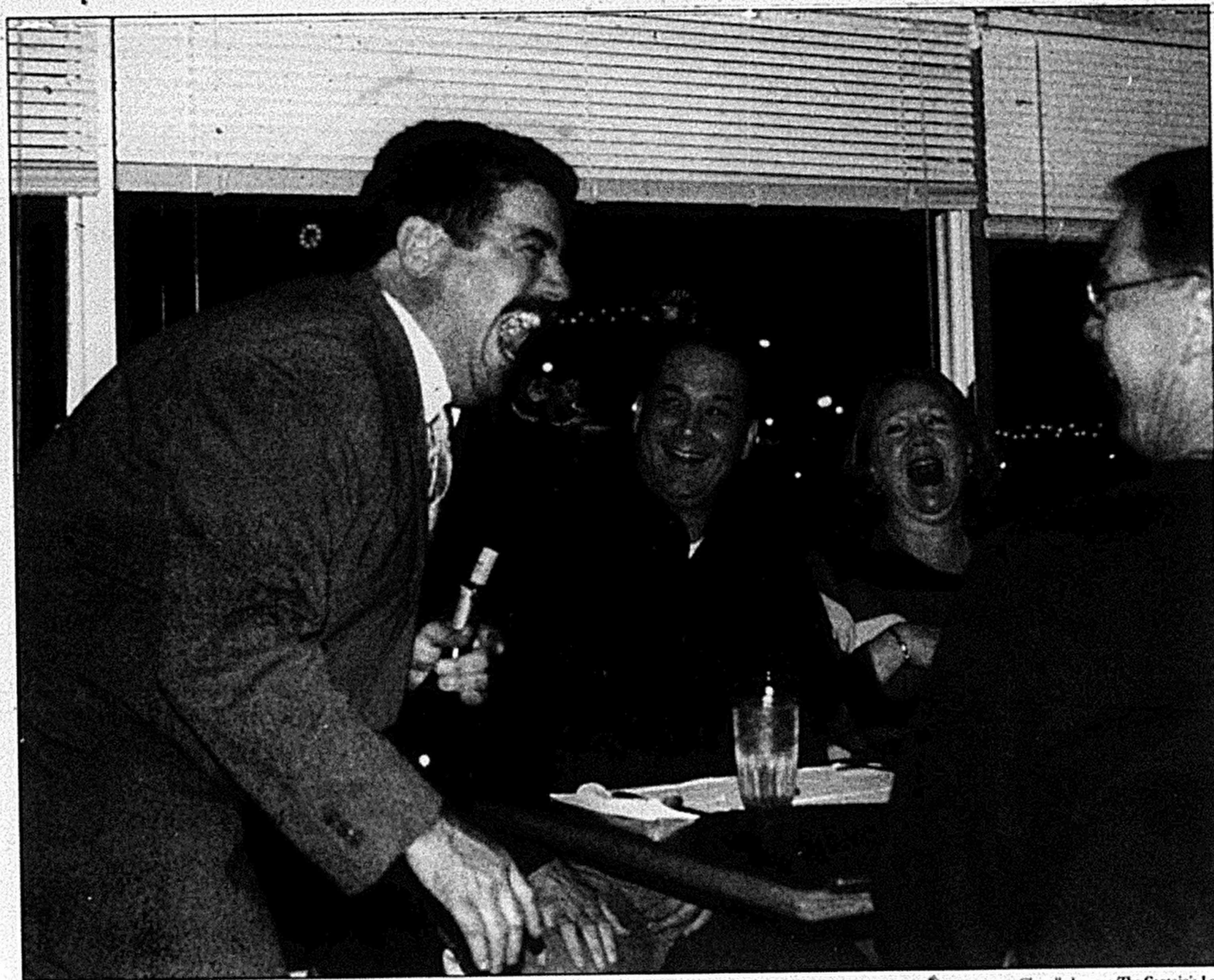
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Chanelle Layman/The Captain's Log

Luigi's owners, Sonny and Vinny, make it a point to do whatever it takes to enjoy their customers enjoy their meal. While Vinny sticks to the kitchen, Sonny travels from table to table, telling jokes and entertaining his guests.

★ Luigi's receives five stars ★

Incredible food and appealing decor ensure customers leave smiling

By Chanelle Layman
Asst. Layout and Design Manager

Issue 12: Dec. 10, 2003

A loud booming voice, a hearty laugh and a ready smile make Sonny the perfect image of an Italian restaurant owner. Sonny and his brother Vinny combine their strong Italian heritage and fine family cooking to own and operate Luigi's Italian Cuisine.

A family restaurant for about 40 years, Luigi's is a local favorite for Italian food at it finest. As soon as you enter Luigi's, the spirit of Italy surrounds you.

On the walls are painted four large murals depicting famous scenes of Italy.

In the background, soft instrumental music maintains the authentic atmosphere.

To complete the feel of Italy in Newport News, Sonny makes his rounds of the tables, assuring that each guest is satisfied.

If you show even the slightest interest, Sonny is ready with a quick joke, loud laugh or even a good story. Particularly for those who frequent Luigi's, Sonny becomes good friends with his customers. Even if it's your first time, chances are Sonny's stories and antics will entertain you, especially since he can be heard from anywhere in the room.

Perhaps it is because the restaurant captures your attention or maybe it is simply quick service, but your food arrives in hardly any time at all.

Prepared expertly by Vinny, who spends the majority of his time in the kitchen, the food is excellent. Menu selections are comparable to Olive Garden, though the food is far better.

In Sonny's words, "You haven't eaten spaghetti until you've had it with my special tomato sauce."

In truth, Sonny's claim holds true; the spaghetti is topped with a strong, thick sauce that presumably only the Italian can make.

For such an authentic taste, the prices aren't bad. For the college student, however, they might be considered a bit high.

Prices range from \$8-\$17 and two can eat for roughly \$20.

Expect to get at least one more meal out of your dinner as well. After the complimentary rolls and garlic knots, there simply isn't room for the extra-large serving sizes to fit.

Authentic Italian environment, quality service and excellent food make Luigi's a perfect choice for any occasion.

To make the restaurant even more appealing, Luigi's is decorated for the holidays. White lights and an oversized Christmas tree bring a festive spirit to the cozy restaurant. Even the staff traded its white shirts for a more seasonal red.

Sonny and Vinny operate their restaurant at 15400 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, 23601, only a few miles north of CNU.

They are open Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m., Saturday from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. They can be reached at 757-887-0005.

On the finger-lickin' good scale, Luigi's Italian Cuisine receives 5 out of 5 fingers.

Restaurants

Restaurants and their ratings (out of 5 stars) from the past academic year

Luigi's	5
The Melting Pot	5
Cold Stone Creamery	4.5
Mamalina's	4.5
Nara of Japan	4.5
Gus's New York Pizza	4
Mongolian Bar-B-Q	4
Plaza Azteca	4
Pop's Drive-In	4
Texas Roadhouse	4
Harbor Espresso Café	3.5
Monty's Penguin	3.5
Rita's Italian Ices	3.5
Subway Station	3.5
Lunch Bell	3
Second St.	3
Warwick Cheese Shoppe	3
Steve and John's	2.5
5 Star Pizza	2
Pizza Castle	2
China Star	0



April Freeman/The Captain's Log

Participants of Field Day had a wide variety of events to choose from, including three-legged races, balloon tosses, relay races and Tug-of-War. On the right, Daniel Wood leads off with his friends.



The annual Hampton Roads Bay Days features an assortment of rides each year, including what is informally known as "The Swings."

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Post 9-11 TV shows face issues of religion and faith

New fall season lineup includes 'Joan of Arcadia,' 'Tru Calling,' 'Carnivale,' 'Wonderfalls,' 'Still Life,' and 'Dead Like Me,' all shows focused on faith

By Emily Heflin
Contributing Writer

Issue 2: Sept. 17, 2003

In the beginning, Rod Serling's "The Twilight Zone" brought many viewers' attention to the topics of life, death, and the supernatural.

Since then, shows ranging from "Touched by an Angel" to "Charmed" have attempted (and in some cases, succeeded) to grab ratings by exploring reality through religion and metaphysics.

Two years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, television networks are turning away from creating more occult inspired shows such as "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

The lineup for this season seems to deal with mainstream religions and questions of faith.

Three shows appearing on Fox this fall, "Wonderfalls," "Tru Calling," and "Still Life," share the themes of God, religion, and the meaning of life.

In "Wonderfalls," Jaye Taylor (Caroline Dhavernas) hears the voice of some higher power through plastic lions and other inanimate objects in the form of animals.

Their words lead her to improve her own life, as well as the lives of her family

members and even strangers.

"Tru Calling" is described by Matt Zoller Seitz of "The Star-Ledger" as "Sixth Sense" meets "Early Edition."

Tru Davies (Eliza Dushku), a young coroner on the midnight shift, speaks to corpses and tries to prevent their deaths through a strange ability to relive each day.

"Still Life" differs in that the main character is male, and dead. Twenty-two year old Jake Morgan (Bryce Johnson) died following in his father's footsteps on his first day as a police officer.

This show takes place a year after his death and reveals his family and the changes in their lives through his perspective.

Showtime also features a dead main character; in "Dead Like Me" Georgia Lass (Ellen Muth) is killed by a falling chunk of a space station. As she has unfinished business, she becomes a Grim Reaper.

"Joan of Arcadia" will air on CBS and stars Amber Tamblyn as Joan Girardi, a 16 year old who talks to God.

She meets him in unexpected places (at one point, he is the lunch lady) and the directions he gives her are unusual.

"Carnivale" on HBO (home of "Six Feet Under") is set in the Dust Bowl during the Depression, where religion and the battle between divinity and human nature, between good and evil, light and dark, creates conflict between members in a cheap carnival.

These shows do not focus directly on any one religion in order to avoid alienating any potential audiences.

"These shows are about adapting religion to the marketplace," says Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University, in the Christian Science Monitor.

Barbara Hall, "Joan of Arcadia" producer, told The Philadelphia Daily News that 9/11 definitely inspired her to write "Joan of Arcadia," though she did not think CBS would be interested. She credits 9/11 with focusing the "collective unconscious" on matters of faith and religion.

Thompson disagrees, telling the Christian Science Monitor "We don't need 9/11 to explain this. We've got 5,000 years of religion before we had this. People are interested in spirituality and God. At the end of the day and [in] the dark of the night, people are concerned about this."

The Not-So-Serious Scrutiny of the Year

The best of the best humor columns

Taryn Cornelius
Staff Columnist

I.K.E. is that student in every class that seems to Know Everything (I.K.E. = I Know Everything, get it?). I have nothing against a student getting their money's worth, but this kid is getting everyone's money's worth. -I.K.E.

If you walk into a classroom with chalk-writing on the board, you know that the Prof in the class before yours shops on the chalk black-market. Said Prof is also missing a kidney. -What my guidebook didn't tell me

Earlier this year the Internet was down for two weeks. Imagine if all residents were smokers and we all decided to quit during the same week.

Yeah, the mood was sort of like that.

Ever see an away message about being late for class? Ever wonder how much later the person was for taking the time to put up that message?

Do you remember how you talked to people before AIM? Neither do I. **-I need AIM like a hole in my head**

Some of us double digit women refuse to take that step over to the next isle. For the rest of their lives (or until they crush they bodies like corsets do), they will squeeze their size 15 rears into size 11 jeans, and trust me- it doesn't look sexy. Matter of fact, it looks disgusting.

Live it up ladies, because if Marilyn was sexy as a size 14, you can be too. **-Skinnies stay out**

The biggest what ifs though come down to the day of graduation. What if it rains and all of my guests can't attend the ceremony in the Freeman Center?

What if they lose my diploma? What if they decide that day that for some reason I can't graduate? What if I trip walking across the stage? What if I'm having a bad hair day? What if I over-sleep? **-Into the real world**

This week they decided to close Chanello's as part of the "expansion project", which doesn't really make sense.

Chanello's has helped many of us expand our waist-lines in college. I think they meant to call it the "shrinking project"-- in an effort to make CNU students more attractive, the campus late-night pizza place has been relocated so the freshman 15 will become a ghost of the past-- or something like that.

Maybe CNU meant our wallets, since Chanello's has many a time ravaged mine. **-Apparently it snowed here last week**

It seems to make more sense to hang out in front of the dorms working on a tan. You live there, you shower there, and if need be, you can run back in there half naked much quicker then you can sprint from the Great Lawn

I understand when students at schools like JMU, UVA and Tech feel the need to go sun themselves on the vast lawns of their institutions--the poor kids are landlocked. Unfortunately though, apparently not everyone at CNU got the memo that we aren't landlocked. **-The Great Lawn is not beach front property**

So anyways, it's almost Cupid Day. I've despised that fat little almost naked guy my entire life. And not because I've been single every year, because I haven't, just because he freaks me out.

I know I can't be the only person who gets the willies from imagining some over-grown basically cloth-less child flying around shooting whoever he wants.

It's like the end of Dogma, except bite-sized. **-Valentine's Day**

This will be my last Spring Break of college, which I am definitely going to miss out there in the real world.

When else is someone going to say to me "congrats for surviving the first two months of the year, now take a whole week off?" **-Voided snow day**

My mom always gets out the ancient china to eat on for the holiday meals, which sometimes is more nerve-racking then its worth.

When the entire rack of pots decided to fall on my head after Thanksgiving dinner, I felt really loved when my mom didn't yell, "Are you ok?" but instead screamed, "Did the china break?" **-Thanksgiving Break**



Lindsay Simpson/The Captain's Log

Seniors Stephanie Shipp, Rian Kerfoot, Allen Brooks and Denise Santamauro performed a rendition of "I touch myself" by the Divinyls at a CAB-sponsored Karaoke Night. Karaoke Night is held twice a semester in Discovery Café.



April Feciura/The Captain's Log

Dennis Diones performs a "freeze" move at the Altered Xpressionz meeting on Sept. 3.

Altered Xpressionz

One-year-old club stands on its feet—or, its hands

By April Feciura
Contributing Photographer

Issue 3: Sept. 17, 2003

With music blaring and feet moving rapidly to the beat, the Altered Xpressionz break dancing club had a rockin' atmosphere.

A new group of people came out to learn some fancy tricks on the evening of Sept. 3, in the Student Center lounge.

Some of the moves were called "top rock," "ice skates," "circle up-rock" and "the six-

step" ground move. There were no injuries except for some soreness among participants.

The group was using muscles it had never used before.

The term "Break Dancing" was coined in the late 1970s, and became popular in the early 1980s.

Before it was called break dancing, the name of the dance style was "B-Boying" and "B-Girling."

The CNU Break Dancing club has been active at school for just one year. The club is officially recognized in the SGA and it has had no trouble getting funds in the past.

However, one problem they do face is member retention.

Break dancing is a difficult activity and it takes hard work just like any sport.

With a little dedication, the tricks can be learned and performed at a high quality level.

According to PR Director Thomas Crosby, "The club consists mostly of guys; girls are not

known to break dance a lot, but the ones who do it get a great deal of respect."

Since the club does travel to competitions, having the opportunity to compete in break dancing really allows members to step out of their comfort zones and forget their shyness.

The four elements of the competitions are Graffiti, Break Dancing, Freestyle Rapping and DJ-ing.

If CNU students want to compete in any of these categories, they can let the break dancing club know and the two groups may be able to travel together to competitions.

Skilled teachers were President Dennis Diones, Vice-President Brandon Whitaker, Treasurer Chamara Paul, and PR director Thomas Crosby.

New break dancer Garrett Backe stated that "break dancing is tight" and he plans to join the club along with beginner dancer Andy Webb.

Movies

Movies and their ratings (out of 5 stars) from the past academic year

5 Big Fish

5 Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

5 Finding Nemo

5 Monster

5 Mystic River

4.5 Confessions of a Dangerous Mind

4.5 Identity

4.5 Texas Chainsaw Massacre

4 Love Actually

3 Once Upon a Time in Mexico

3 Runaway Jury

3 Underworld

2 Kill Bill

2 Legally Blonde
2 DVD

2 Matrix
Revolutions

2 Jersey Girl

Arts & Entertainment

Theater CNU puts on impressive shows

Gaines Theatre hosts 'Our Country's Good,' 'Triumph of Love,' 'The Vagina Monologues' and 'The Scarlet Letter'

By Amber Lester
Staff Writer

With the portico complete and the lights shining down on Shoe Lane, the Ferguson Center for the Arts is close to ready for its new inhabitants to move in and make themselves at home.

Few college theaters could imagine better tenants than Theater CNU, which has made their final year at the Gaines Theatre a triumph with one successful play after another.

In their selection of plays, the department was able to perform pieces that really showcased the incredible talent for which the school is becoming known.

The first show of the year was "Our Country's Good" by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The play chronicles the journey and life of the first British convicts sent to Australia in 1787. There, the convicts struggle with starvation, cruel officers and a new and harrowing land.

The governor decides the convicts should put on a play, therefore placing cast members in a play within a play. The

show was challenging – the actors were required to adopt dialects, ranging from cockney to upper British to French.

Cast members also engaged in fight scenes, tribal dances and dual characters.

Through it all, however, the performers truly touched their audience.

"Theatre has the power to give

people dignity again and to humanize even the unredeemable in a society," wrote Annie Ferenbach, Captain's Log Contributing Writer, of Theater CNU's performance of "Our Country's Good."

After the intensity of "Our Country's Good," the department played for laughs with "Triumph of Love," a light-hearted romantic comedy.

"Triumph of Love" is set during the Enlightenment and is based on an 18th century play by French playwright Pierre Marivaux.

It is focused around the desire of Princess Leonide to capture the heart of Agis.

In her effort, she takes on several alter egos and dresses as a man. Despite being a chamber musical set in the Age of Reason, "Triumph of Love" was a bawdy screwball comedy rather than a tame operetta.

Next, Theater CNU celebrated V-Day, a day on or around Valentine's Day when colleges across the nation perform Eve Ensler's award-winning play, "The Vagina Monologues."

The performance raised \$5400 for Transitions, a local women's shelter. With its frank discussion of all things vagina-related – such as sex, birth, puberty, rape and more – the play evoked an emotional response from viewers.

A combination of heart-wrenching emotion and tear-inducing laughter, the play was first performed at CNU in 2003. Not only is it a delight to witness, but a joy to perform.

"It's amazing we can do what we love – art, perform it and help the community at the same time," said senior Rian Kerfoot, who produced the play.

The final mainstage performance, not only for the season, but for the Gaines Theater, was "The Scarlet Letter," a Phyllis

Nagy's adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's book

With modern language, a minimal set and an expressionist staging, the play was a fresh take on the famous story. "The Scarlet Letter" marked another achievement in portraying raw emotion.

With frequent screaming matches and awkward encounters, the actors truly embodied the well-known characters of Hawthorne's novel.

A family was united, a play had ended and a theater's time had come to an end all under a shower of red petals onto the still cast.

In the three years since Steven Brees became Theater Director, the number of students in the de-

partment tripled; the department currently trains more than 100 students.

With new courses and a brand new Arts and Administration track, the department's curriculum is also advancing.

The biggest change is undeniably the move into the Ferguson Center for the Arts.

With new performing space, scenic and costume studios, computer and lighting labs, rehearsal facilities and teaching spaces available after the move over the summer, the center will be one of the most impressive arts centers in the state.

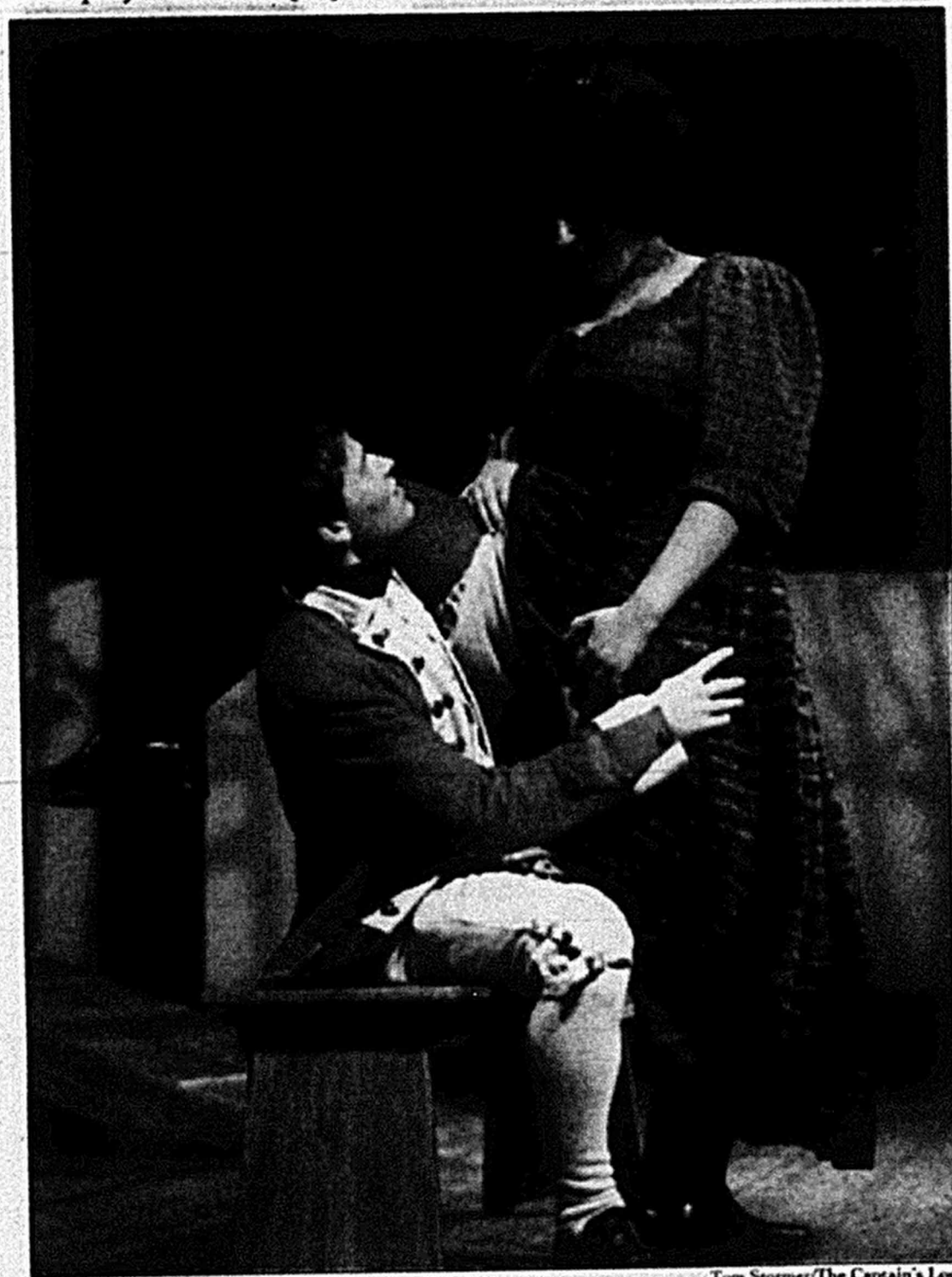
Finally: a suitable home for an impressive family.



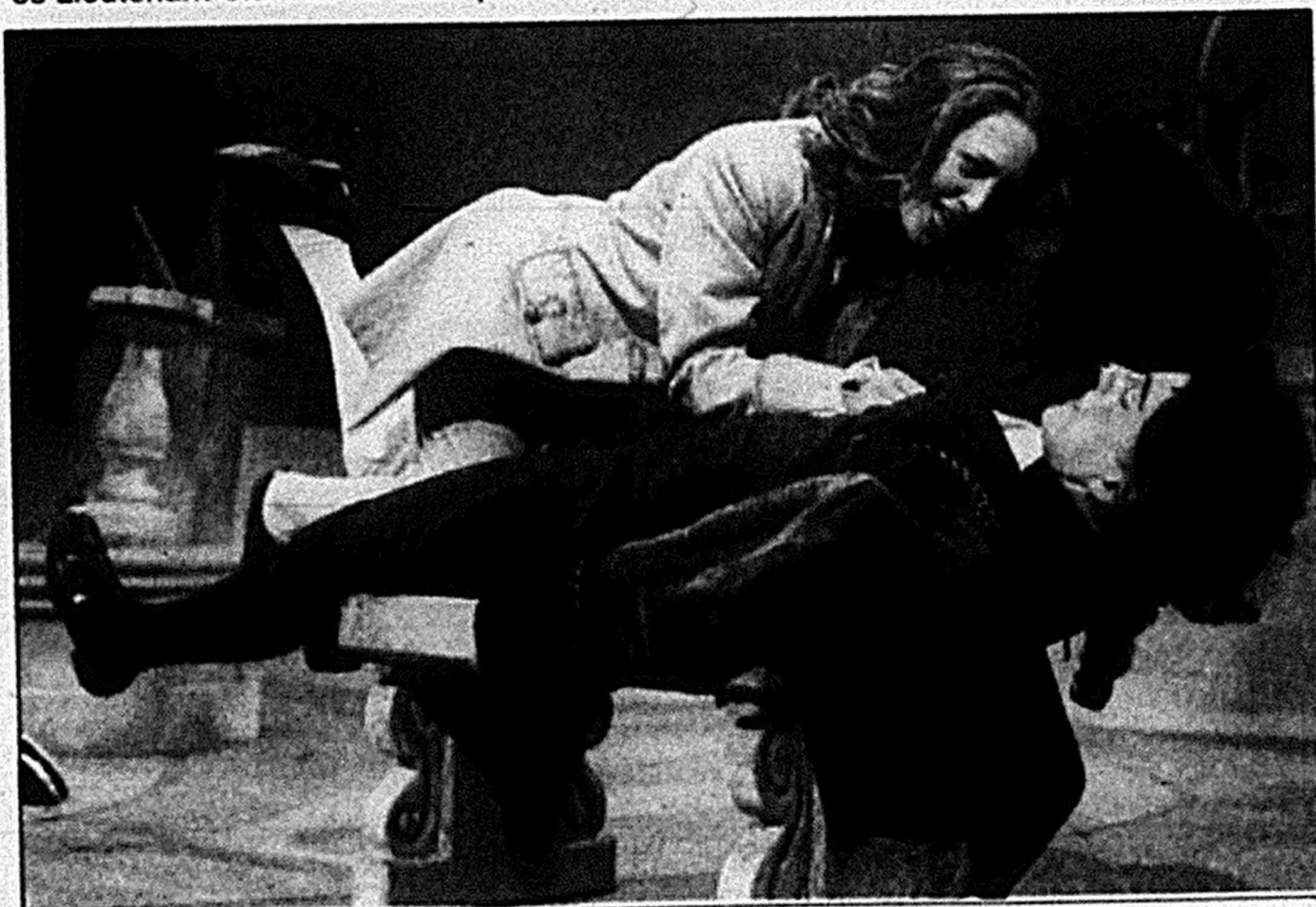
Top Right: In "Triumph of Love," Harlequin (senior Chad Wagner) and Corine (freshman Lisa Johanson) trap Agis with the creation of the Baron of Blue Cheese and Vinegar in "Triumph of Love."

Bottom Left: Seniors Rian Kerfoot and Stephanie Shipp were involved in the CNU production of "The Vagina Monologues," which raised money for a local women's shelter.

Top Right: Liz Mordon (freshman Kate Brown) gets in a cat fight with Dabby Bryant (freshman Carol V. Wilson) after Bryant insults her in front of Brenham, her best friend, in Theatre CNU's production of "Our Country's Good."



In "Our Country's Good," Meg Long (sophomore Gabriele Yount) teases Lieutenant Clark as he attempts to cast a play.



Princess Leonida (freshman Kate Brown) threatens Hermocrates (Freshman Aaron Page) during "Triumph of Love."



Roger Chillingworth (senior Paul Bunch) forces Hester Prynne (senior Amanda Gagnon) to the ground as Pearl (senior Rian Kerfoot) looks on, in Theatre CNU's production of "The Scarlet Letter."



The cast of "Triumph of Love" tells the audience of its plans to overthrow Princess Leonida in the opening song.