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Lacrosse coach resigns after officials discover outside fund

By DAN PETTY
Collegian Staff

Former University of Richmond women's lacrosse coach Sue Murphy was asked to resign after athletic department officials discovered a parent-operated fund was supporting the team's budget, including travel expenses and senior gifts.

In an interview at her home last Thursday, Murphy said she had known the fund was against department policy and that using it meant she risked losing her job. She was working without a contract while at Richmond.

"My commitment to making sure my student-athletes had a positive experience was a high priority for me," said Murphy, who has 4- and 13-year-old daughters.

The Richmond athletic department forbids the use of outside accounts to fund an athletic team, said Jim Miller, director of athletics. Employees found violating the rule are subject to termination.

"The problem with an outside account is that completely innocent purchases appear to be improper because you can't account for the funds," Miller said. "If you can't account for funds, it creates the impression that there were no receipts and no checks. We need to make sure athletes receive no extra benefits, and we need to know what athletic funds are

used for."

Miller said he had received about 10 e-mails or phone messages expressing divided opinion about the resignation. He declined to comment about the reasons for Murphy's departure — citing it as a "personnel matter" — and didn't acknowledge the fund's existence or whether it was the reason for her resignation.

Murphy stepped down March 18 during the middle of her eighth season coaching the Spiders, who are 2-10 this season. Last year, they were 10-9 and Atlantic 10 regular-season champions, but were defeated in overtime during the A-10 championship game against the University of Massachusetts, ending their streak of three straight A-10 titles from 2005-2007. The team won its first two games last week against St. Bonaventure University, 17-15, and Duquesne University, 14-13 in overtime, to open conference play.

Peter Albright, coach of the women's soccer team, has been named as Murphy's interim replacement during the remainder of the season while the athletic department searches for a permanent coach.

Four parents of current players revealed that many parents had contributed to the fund to defray the cost of meals for the team and purchase photo albums, frames, fleeces and blankets for graduating seniors. The fund was also used to purchase a team tent for games.

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Spiders to run for election to the Va. House of Delegates

By NICK MIDER
Collegian Staff

It will be Spider vs. Spider in a coming election for the House of Delegates.

University of Richmond faculty member Tom Shields will be running for the House of Delegates in November. He is running for a seat that has been held by Del. John M. O'Bannon III, R-Henrico, during the past eight years. O'Bannon graduated from Richmond in 1969.

Shields, a professor at Richmond and director of the Center for Leadership in Education at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, confirmed on March 17 that he was running for delegate in the 73rd House district, which includes parts of Henrico County and Richmond City.

"The 73rd [district] is a very diverse district that is really starting to change," Shields said. "This drove me to start talking to neighbors and community members, who told me that a lot of issues weren't being addressed or even listened to."

O'Bannon, the only practicing physician in the House, has grown out of touch with the district, Shields said.

"John O'Bannon is a good guy and a good doctor, but he should stay a doctor," Shields said. "He views being a delegate as a hobby, and at the end of day we need someone that will give it their full time. In this economy, and in this district that is changing so much, you need more than that."

But O'Bannon lives in the Richmond area, and living in close proximity to the Capitol has allowed him to continue to practice medicine as well as be a delegate, he said.

"Our general assembly is based on diversity, and the House is represented by all types of occupations and professions," O'Bannon said. "I am the only active physician in the House and I bring health care and medical representation to it [House of Delegates]."

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LILLY ACKERMAN/THE COLLEGIAN

Students pay to throw whipped cream pies at professors, resident assistants and others to raise money for Church Hill Activity and Tutoring, or CHAT, in the Forum from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday. Richmond College Residence Life hosted the event titled, "Pies for Charity."

[See more pictures on Page 12](#)

Holocaust survivors teach students life lessons

By STEPHANIE RICE
Collegian Staff

Alex Keisch was born in Auschwitz right after liberation. Jay Ipson hid in an underground hole for nine months. Alex Lebenstein was the only person from his hometown to survive. Helen Zimm pretended to be Catholic. Alan Zimm lost all three of his sisters, five of his six brothers and his parents.

These people are some of the few remaining Holocaust survivors who met with University of Richmond students and others at the Virginia Holocaust Museum last Thursday night, reminding them of what happened during the Holocaust in order to prevent it from happening again.

Hillel, the Jewish group on campus, and the Chap-

laincy sponsored the annual trip.

Before the tour began, Ipson, one of the founding members of the museum and current executive director, encouraged students to be ambassadors in their schools and workplaces.

"It's important that the students understand," Ipson said, while wearing his signature 10-gallon hat adorned with a Star of David and a menorah on the front. "If you understand, then you're not going to hate."

Ipson said he did not want tolerance, but acceptance, from others.

"We all love the same. We all understand the same," he said. "Look at what kind of wonderful world it would be if we all accepted each other, what wonderful food we would have."

Ipson is one of the youngest survivors in Rich-

mond and a majority of the information in the museum was about his story. The museum also displays replicas of a ghetto, a concentration camp, Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass) and more. Keisch led one of the two tour groups composed of students.

Not all camp prisoners had tattooed numbers on their arms, Keisch said, and prisoners wore color-coded badges to distinguish their religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity.

Keisch also told visitors about the train sounds outside the ghetto. In order to represent the sound of the trains that came to take ghetto residents to concentration camps, museum staff and Virginia Commonwealth University students hooked up speakers, which amplified the sound of trains that passed by on the track near the museum.

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