

THURSDAY ISSUE

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Final installment of minority student retention series.

Commonwealth TIMES

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VCU dance department gives passion to people.

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No holiday for Rams in victory against MSU.

THURSDAY, September 9, 1993

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 25, No. 4

Will Clinton visit VCU?

Rumors abound, but no one knows for sure

Arthur Mills
CT STAFF WRITER

President Bill Clinton might make a trip to Richmond — and maybe even VCU — during the Southern Governors' Association meeting Sept. 19-21.

Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, the chairman of the governors' association, stated in a press release that he is hopeful that the president will attend the conference.

"The president said he would make every effort to be at our meeting," said Wilder. "Barring unforeseen circumstances, I expect he will be here (in Richmond)."

"He is looking forward to seeing his friends and excited at the prospects of being able to visit with and address the African heads of state who will be attending the meeting."

Among other activities the governors will discuss trade and cultural exchange with the key officials of several African states.

Also, according to a press release from Wilder's office, President Clinton is expected to be in Richmond to outline his health care proposal to the nation's 50 governors during the second day of the conference (Sept. 21). The president has told the media already that he plans to announce the particulars of his health care plan to the nation on Sept. 22.

Later in the second day of the governors' conference, sources speculate, it is possible that President Clinton will attend an electronic town meeting held at VCU.

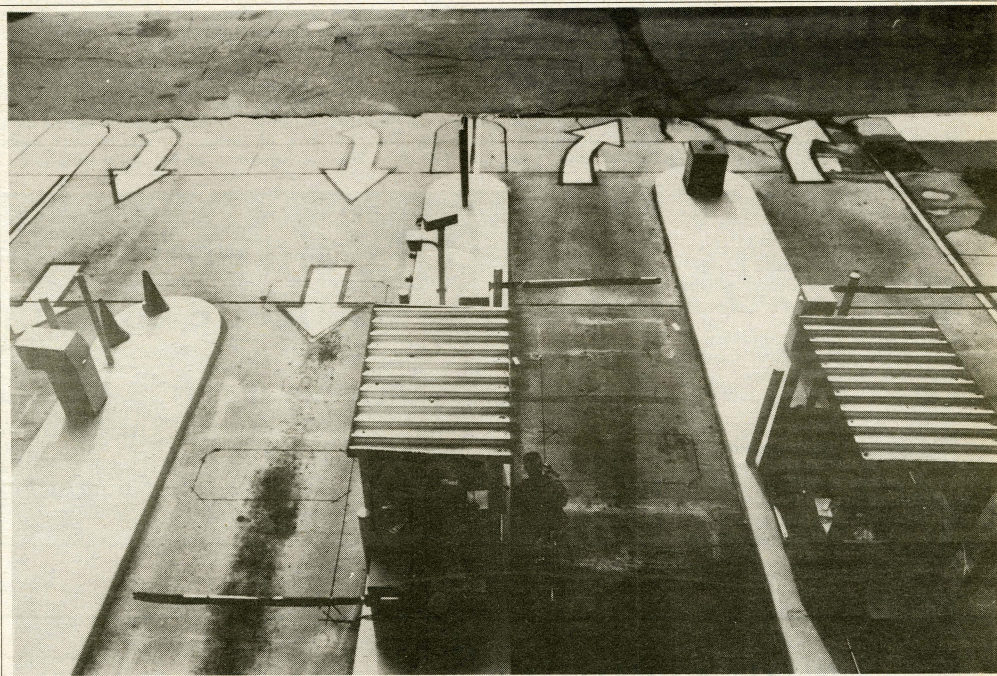
The town meeting slated for the governors' conference agenda will consist of 20 students from each of five universities including VCU. Students will be allowed to ask the southern governors questions on politics, state government and public policy.

While it is uncertain whether President Clinton will attend the VCU portion of the conference, there has been speculation within the governor's office that he would attend if he could, because of his affection for the town meeting format.

Robert Holsworth, chairman of VCU's Political Science Department said that the 20 students from VCU who will participate in the town meeting have not been selected yet but that the deans of the individual schools are looking for people interested in participating.

The Commonwealth Times' attempts to confirm whether President Clinton will be in Richmond and VCU were unsuccessful. Those contacted in the White House media affairs office said it was too early to predict the president's schedule.

Those wishing to watch the town meeting can do so on closed-circuit television on both the main and medical campuses. The meeting will also be televised live in the 19 southern states represented at the conference by their respective governors.



Ursula Howells/Commonwealth Times

A DECK WITH A VIEW — Students can get some direction looking down from the third floor of the parking deck at Main and Cherry streets.

Campus crime figures lower for 1992

*Reported crime for VCU,
MCV down 20 percent*

Scott Bass
CT STAFF WRITER

Reported crime for 1992 at VCU's academic and MCV campuses is down from 1991, according this year's campus-security report, published annually by VCU Police.

The federally required report, in compliance with the "Student Right To Know and Campus Security Act," indicated the total of reported crimes had dropped from 812 in 1991 to 661 in 1992.

Reported crimes on the academic campus dropped from 294 to 272; at MCV, the number dropped from 518 to 389.

"We hope the decrease is showing our efforts in the crime prevention area," said VCU Police Chief Dan M. Dean. "We're doing more and more in the crime prevention area, and hopefully, people are taking more precautions."

Although the decrease is significant, Dean said, larcenies still remain VCU's biggest crime problem. Besides larcenies, VCU also tops the list of other large state-supported schools in reported motor vehicle thefts, arrests for violating Virginia's

liquor law, drug violations and weapons violations.

Comparing VCU with other schools, however, is difficult because of the university's urban location, Dean said. "When you take that into consideration — the crime rate in the city of Richmond — I think we fare very well."

Also, there's MCV.

"A large part of our service area is the hospital. So, if you look at the report we put out and you look at just the statistics for the academic campus and you compare those [schools without a hospital separately], you get a little better picture," Dean said.

The security report also indicated an increase in the arrests made for crimes in and around VCU. Non-student arrests increased from 677 in 1991 to 787 in 1992; student arrests increased from 28 to 49 over the same period.

A large number of the arrests are made in the areas near Grace and Broad streets, Dean said, explaining that VCU Police jurisdiction extends beyond the immediate campuses. Also, alcohol violations include arrests for public drunkenness, which

he said includes "a lot of the street people in Monroe Park."

The number of arrests may have increased in 1992, suggesting a more campus crime, but Lt. Wayne Carlson of VCU Police's crime prevention department said the statistics might be telling a different story.

"Most crime goes unreported, and if you get a department that's really good, those numbers may go up as people show more and more confidence [in the police department]," Carlson said.

Dean said security has "improved over the past couple of years, and the biggest area it's improved in is the student escort service."

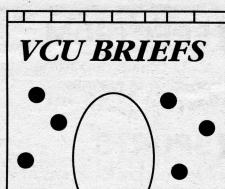
The escort service, operated by VCU Police, is available on the academic campus from 5:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 6 p.m. to midnight on Sunday. At MCV, the service is available from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. everyday.

To contact the escort service, call 367-WALK. Once the walking or motor escort arrives, all that's required is a student ID. The service is free of charge.

"We're doing more and more in the crime prevention area and hopefully, people are taking more precautions."

— VCU Police Chief Dan M. Dean

CRIME continued to page 4 >



Graduate Student Orientation

Programs and tours will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11 for graduate students who want to learn about VCU services including University Student Health Services, University Counseling Services, Recreational Sports, the Career Center, Financial Aid and others. It will be a day-long orientation. Call 367-6508

Blood. Blood. It's Everywhere.

Blood drives will be held Monday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 12:30-7:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth Ballroom in the University Student Commons.

VCU Child Center

The VCU Child Care Center will be dedicated Sept. 17 at its new location at 1128 Floyd Ave.

The fully licensed and accredited center accommodates 90 children of VCU faculty, staff, students and Fan residents.

Fees are on a sliding scale. Call 367-7377.

Spinal-Care Management

VCU's Rehabilitation and Research Center will sponsor a conference on managing spinal cord injuries from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sept. 24, at the Radisson Hotel, 555 Canal St. Sept. 14 is the deadline to

register. Costs are \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door.

Call Mike Tewksbury at 786-7327.

Pick Up Your Portfolios, But Not Yet!

Students who took English 101A, 101 or 102 last spring can pick up their portfolios in room 340 of the Hibbs Building, Sept. 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. Bring your student ID. Need other arrangements? Call Jeff Lodge at 367-1667.

Church Chat

Samuel M. Craver, a VCU professor of education, will speak on "Values and the University," Sunday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. at Pace Memorial United Methodist Church, 700 W. Franklin St. Call 643-5229.

Students Organized?

Commons Plaza will host the Student Organization Fair, Wednesday, Sept. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain date Thursday,

Sept. 16. Choose from 165 student organizations.

Library Stuff

University Library Services kicks off a series of workshops Monday, Sept. 13 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Faculty and staff will explain MEDLINE — the National Library of Medicine's computerized index to journal articles. VCU students, interns and residents are exempt from a \$15 deposit, which will be refunded to those attending the workshop.

All classes will be held on the first floor of Tompkins-McCaw Library in the Library Information Management Education and Research Center. Call 786-0638.

Son of a Zeus (More library stuff)

The James Branch Cabell Library now offers Perseus — that's right, the Medusa slayer — a multimedia interactive database on Ancient Greece. Perseus, which includes an overview of fifth century B.C.

Greek history. The database is located on the third floor of Cabell library.

Yeah Beavis, libraries are cool

Lexis/Nexis, a source of electronic information from more than 700 sources, is now available at the VCU libraries. Subjects include news, business, trade information, legal, legislative and regulatory information.

Call James Branch Cabell Library at 367-1101 or Tomkins-McCaw Library at 786-0823.

Playing Doctor

The second of nine free weekly Wednesday night seminars — the MCV Mini-Medical School — will be Sept. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ethyl Universe Theatre at the Science Museum of Virginia.

Next week's topic will be "Microbiology: 100 Million Microbes and You."

Call 965-1827.

CT paid position open for associate copy editor.

Applications are due to C.S. Murphy by Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 2 p.m.

Call 367-1058 for more information or drop by 1149 GPAB.

¿Tiene Hambre?
(Are you Hungry?)

¡Vamos!
(Let's Go!)

El Rio GrandE

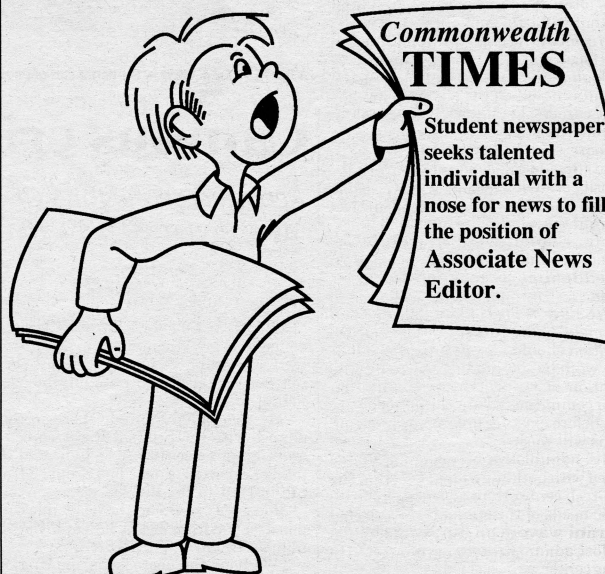


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If you are in the know, apply by Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Submit applications to *Commonwealth Times* Managing Editor C.S. Murphy in room 1149 of the General Purpose Academic Building

New programs needed to retain minorities, some say

Advising center suggested as one possibility

Tonya Bartley
CT STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: This is the last of a three-part series examining minority student retention at VCU and other universities nationwide.

While many college students look to campus programs and their academic advisers for support at large universities such as VCU, some administrators suggest that the school's programs are inadequate to retain minority students effectively.

New programs, they say, should be implemented instead of just considered.

VCU President Eugene P. Trani said administrators are taking a careful look at a number of programs to enhance minority retention on the academic campus.

"Minority retention is a high institutional priority," Trani said.

Quincy L. Moore, director of the Office of Academic Support who works with all educational support systems on campus, said students look for a sense of direction when they get to college.

Students need sense of direction

It is unfortunate, Moore said, that students—in particular minority students—sometimes get lost in the institution without a sense of direction.

Minority students are "at-risk" students, he said, and should be advised throughout their academic careers rather than when they first enter the university only.

The system of faculty advising that VCU uses now, Moore said, sometimes fails to focus on student needs.

Faculty advising 'worst kind'

He calls faculty advising the "worst kind of advising," since faculty members want to teach, not advise. Because of this, students often do not receive the quality advice that will help keep them in school.

To combat the problems resulting from weak faculty advising, Moore recommends developing an advising center, which all students could use throughout their academic careers, to effectively aid in retaining minority students.

Moore said he believes such a center would provide the sense of direction that minority students need, but he added that before VCU can benefit from this type of program, the administration must make a strong commitment to retain the university's minority students.

Academics come before sports arena

"We have a mission statement for recruitment," said Moore, reiterating that retention should be a priority on campus. "But we have no mission concerning the retention of students. There must be a major commitment from the president," he said, before existing programs or new programs will work.

The administration seems more concerned with building a new sports arena or a bio-tech center than addressing the academic needs of the students, Moore said.

Trani wavers on advising center

Most administrators agree that an advising center, as described by Moore, would benefit students greatly, especially minorities. But Trani cited other areas as priorities.

The advising center is only one of many programs they are evaluating, Trani said, adding that strengthening the present advising system is most important now.

Moore said minority students must observe a true commitment toward them by

the whole university before retention rates will increase. Other universities, he said, have major programs that are making progress with minority retention.

'Rubber stamp' programs not enough

The programs to improve minority student retention at VCU, Moore said, are "rubber stamp" programs that help—but not enough.

Foreexample, he said, VCU started a retention committee three years ago, but the committee made little headway and ended last year.

The longest-running program for minority students, Moore said, is through the Office of Academic Support, which identified 100 to 125 high school students who will attend VCU in the fall semester.

These students are brought in during the summer, he said, and are exposed to a variety of courses such as English or math to better prepare them for college life and to help retain them at VCU.

'Intrusive counseling' too short

Students involved in the program, Moore said, receive "intrusive counseling" during their freshman and sophomore years. The problem, he said, is that the counseling continues for only two years. After that, these students go into the general student population.

Once minority students enter the general student population, it is difficult for many of them to adjust to the different advising and sometimes even to college life, said Moore, who serves as president of the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development.

Student 'didn't need programs'

William Davis Jr., a senior sociology major at VCU, said he was aware of programs for minority students.

"Personally, I feel I didn't need programs," he said.

Davis transferred from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University in Greensboro, N.C., to VCU on the Virginia Transfer Grant program, which encourages students from predominantly black schools to transfer to predominantly white schools.

Transferring to VCU was a big change from A&T, Davis said, yet he finds the study environment much better.

"I don't see myself as a minority," he said, especially in interacting with other students.

Discrimination felt in class

During his initial studies at VCU Davis did experience some discrimination as a history major, he said, because some of the professors made him uncomfortable with expressing his beliefs in class.

Since then, Davis has changed his major to sociology, where he said the atmosphere has helped him enjoy his studies.

Besides retention of all minorities, VCU, along with other U.S. schools, seems to be facing another problem—recruiting minority males.

Gender disparity among graduates

The national study also shows the number of minority women graduating from VCU more than doubling the number of minority men.

Baccalaureate Degrees conferred 1989-90

All Disciplines African-Americans

Institution	State	Men	Women	Total	%
1. Hampton Univ.	VA	454	1024	1478	94.7
2. Southern Univ.-Baton Rouge	LA	542	788	1330	89.3
3. North Carolina A & T Univ.	NC	594	562	1156	87.3
4. Jackson State Univ.	MS	396	726	1122	97.6
5. Grambling State Univ.	LA	362	682	1044	93.0
6. Florida A & M Univ.	FL	354	586	940	75.3
7. Chicago State Univ.	IL	270	610	880	86.8
8. Howard Univ.	DC	331	545	876	70.6
9. Univ. of the District of Columbia	DC	388	480	868	87.9
10. Prairie View A & M Univ.	TX	402	460	862	85.3
11. South Carolina State College	SC	348	504	852	97.0
12. Norfolk State Univ.	VA	294	554	848	78.5
13. Morgan State Univ.	MD	302	494	796	92.6
14. North Carolina Central Univ.	NC	238	554	792	89.2
15. Southern Illinois Univ.-Carbondale	IL	446	336	782	8.2
16. Tennessee State Univ.	TN	280	482	762	66.0
17. Rutgers Univ. New Brunswick	NJ	268	488	756	7.0
18. Univ. of South Carolina-Columbia	SC	232	480	712	12.2
19. Univ. of Maryland-College Park	MD	276	434	710	6.3
20. Temple Univ.	PA	214	470	684	10.0
21. Morehouse College	GA	678	0	678	100
22. Michigan State Univ.	MI	194	466	660	4.7
23. Wayne State Univ.	MI	182	462	644	12.9
23. College of New Rochelle	NY	66	578	644	58.4
25. Texas Southern Univ.	TX	222	396	618	64.5
26. Virginia State Univ.	VA	226	388	614	87.2
27. Tuskegee Univ.	AL	268	342	610	91.6
28. Pennsylvania State Univ.	PA	234	330	564	3.6
29. Univ. of California-Los Angeles	CA	184	368	552	5.4
30. Memphis State Univ.	TN	160	366	526	14.1
31. Univ. of Maryland Univ. College	MD	226	298	524	15.7
32. Univ. of Pittsburgh Main Campus	PA	246	270	516	8.0
33. Georgia State Univ.	GA	152	360	512	12.1
34. Virginia Commonwealth Univ.	VA	146	346	492	11.8
35. Long Island Univ. Brooklyn Campus	NY	124	364	488	46.5
36. Univ. of California-Berkeley	CA	232	254	486	4.3
37. Southern Univ.-New Orleans	LA	154	330	484	87.7
38. Saint Augustine's College	NC	160	310	470	97.5
39. North Carolina State-Raleigh	NC	180	282	462	7.2
40. Univ. of Florida	FL	202	256	458	4.2
40. Winston-Salem State Univ.	NC	136	322	458	82.7
42. Central State Univ.	OH	184	272	456	88.0
43. Univ. of Arkansas Pine Bluff	AR	136	310	446	80.8
43. Xavier Univ.	LA	122	324	446	91.0
43. Univ. of Michigan Ann Arbor	MI	170	276	446	4.0
46. Alabama A & M Univ.	AL	184	260	444	83.1
47. Shaw Univ.	NC	192	250	442	93.2
48. Univ. of North Carolina Chapel Hill	NC	124	314	438	6.1
49. Alcorn State Univ.	MS	148	280	428	96.8
50. Univ. of Illinois Urbana Campus	IL	178	246	424	3.3

SOURCE: Black Issues in Higher Education

The reason for this difference, Moore said, is that more black females than black males graduate high school. He suggests that the trend stems from the different histories of education that black men and black women experience.

Historically, black women started school much earlier as a protection against rape, he said. Black families did not send men to school until much later.

Moore said he especially sees today's elementary educational systems as part of the problem.

Low expectations for black males

Around the fourth and fifth grades, Moore said, black males are not expected to achieve as well as others, which eventually

results in some black men lacking the basic skills required to further their education.

Collins, who works with minority students on campus, challenges minorities to get involved in their education while attending VCU.

Handling diversity equals success

"Our success in society is our ability to handle diversity," Collins said, emphasizing the beneficial experience students can have at an urban and diverse institution like VCU.

While both the academic and medical campuses express pride in improvements made in minority retention, are these improvements moving fast enough for the growing importance of minority education?

CRIME

continued from page 1

In only its second year of operation, the escort service "will either be a riding escort in a van or it will be a walking escort," said Carlson.

Reynaul Hallion, an 18-year-old freshman, said she has felt relatively safe so far in her first semester at VCU.

"If I'm going somewhere [on campus] late, I feel better knowing it's there," Hallion said of the escort service.

Background investigations are also conducted by VCU Police on those involved with the service, Carlson said.

"We make sure that we do some screening of the employees that are operating the escort service," he said.

"I've attempted to use the escort service, and I don't anymore because of their slow reaction time," said Carol Rose, a senior public relations major. She added that she found other means of protection instead.

"The only thing that we do caution is that ... there are going to be peak times when a lot of students are going to call in," said Carlson. "We did about 65,000 escorts last year. And we anticipate there's going to be even more this year. So there could be some backed-up times."

Besides using the escort service, Carlson said, the key to preventing crimes on campus is students' awareness of their surroundings. People need to remember, the lieutenant continued, "that a typical criminal is going to be some scared kid that's taking an easy opportunity to do something wrong."

Reported crimes/arrests in 1992 at state-supported schools

	VCU	ODU	UVA	JMU	W & M	Va. Tech	GMU
Reported homicides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reported rapes	1	0	2	0	6	0	6*
Reported robberies	4	1	3	6	3	1	3
Reported assaults	5	1	4	1	28	13	58**
Reported burglaries and breaking and enterings	9	6	14	62	60	26	74
Reported larcenies	631	--	611	182	364	560	502
Reported motor vehicle theft	10	7	4	0	3	4	3
Arrests for liquor law violations	258	8	1	40	49	17	70
Arrests for drug violations	39	1	6	2	14	8	14
Arrests for weapons violations	20	0	1	3	2	2	0

SOURCES: Campus police departments

*attempted rapes

**combines aggravated and simple assaults

Expose the Truth. Write for News.
Call Brian at 367-1058.

Safety tips from
Lt. Wayne Carlson
of VCU Police

- Walk with confidence.
- Stay on well-populated, well-lighted streets.
- If you're a jogger, jog with a friend.
- Tell your roommate or another friend your class schedule and where you're going.
- Avoid dark alleyways.
- Walk in groups.

"We as citizens can do a lot more to prevent crimes than criminals can do to commit them." — Lt. Carlson

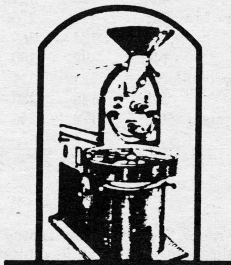
** Emergency Phones Available

Also, a system of emergency telephones are located on both campuses and on every level of the parking decks. These are yellow call boxes marked "VCU Police."

All students have to do is to open the box — which is directly tied in with a police dispatcher — and the dispatcher will know which phone is calling in. Police officers will then be sent to that location.

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The Case of the Missing Funds

Once again, the presidents of Virginia's state-supported colleges and universities have before them a common, formidable adversary: state budget cuts.

To try to recoup a \$500 million "short-fall" in the state budget, Gov. L. Douglas Wilder targeted almost all state agencies for cuts of some kind.

Along with a cast of other state-funded entities, Virginia's higher education institutions have been told to prepare for a 10-percent to 15-percent gouge from their budgets.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in pleading the case of schools' funding woes, lends ammunition with facts and figures.

Since 1990 funding cuts — countered by tuition hikes to fill the gaps — have plagued the state's colleges and universities. Overall, Virginia's higher education has experienced \$413 million in budget reductions during this time.

The flip side to the state's dwindling support of higher education, of course, has been the constant ballooning of education costs, which has been inherited by university and college students statewide. Tuition alone has increased by 44 percent statewide during the past four years.

In a new twist to this recurring theme of vanishing resources, though, Wilder instructed the presidents of the state schools not to increase tuition fees to counterbalance the funding cuts.

For already cost-burdened students and their families, it may come as welcome news that — at last since 1990 — they are not being asked to carry more of a burden in tuition charges.

That's a logical first thought about the issue, but here's the second: with even less funding available than before and no option of increasing tuition to meet the expenses, universities and colleges will be hard pressed to improve the quality of Virginia's higher education.

Already Virginia ranks No. 2 in the

United States among highest-tuition figures for state-funded schools.

More salt to higher education's wounds: the Old Dominion places No. 43 in terms of how much funding each state devotes to its higher education. This drops Virginia to the level of such states as Arkansas and Mississippi, where traditionally education has been underfunded.

The possibility of further funding cuts stands as a major threat to higher education in Virginia.

College and university administrators statewide will need to consider innovative and streamlined approaches to cost control in higher education.

To meet the challenges of increasing costs and decreasing funds at VCU, President Eugene P. Trani said Tuesday that certain services and components "would be cut back dramatically" while the university considers a new direction for the future.

Efforts such as universitywide hiring freezes to control costs would help very little against the double-edged blade of state-spending cuts combined with a Wilder-directed tuition freeze.

Finding the comfort zone within university budget constraints might require significant sacrifices that would greatly hinder any degree of improvement in Virginia's higher education.

In time, Virginia might watch the quality of its higher education plummet to unenviable depths.

While further cuts to the state's higher-education budget loom on the horizon, the Commonwealth Times suggests action on the part of students, parents and faculty. Voice opposition to any further higher-education budget cuts by writing or calling Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and members of the General Assembly.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Commonwealth TIMES editorial board.

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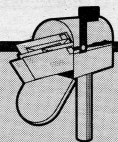
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The Commonwealth TIMES welcomes readers' letters. We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page and must be submitted by noon Thursday to be considered for publication the following week. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number.

Our offices are located in room 1149 of the General Purpose Academic Building; our campus mailbox number is 2010.

The editorial section of the Commonwealth TIMES is a forum open to all members of the Virginia Commonwealth University community. Students, faculty and administrators are encouraged to submit editorials expressing their opinions and concerns about university issues. All submissions to the editorial section must include a daytime phone number where the writer can be contacted. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commonwealth TIMES or VCU.

Letter to the Editor



Reader labels ads sexual harassment

As Chair of the Sexual Harassment Subcommittee of the University's AA/504 Committee, I would like to express concern over the six pages of paid advertising from a "nude showgirl" business in the May 3 issue of the Commonwealth Times. I expect you are familiar with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines, which state that harassment on the basis of sex is a violation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. You may also be aware that sexual harassment may be verbal as well as physical. Perhaps, however, you are not aware that there are other forms of sexual harassment. These other kinds of sexual harassment include sexually oriented materials, sexual cartoons, magazines, calendars (male and female) and sending or leaving notes of a sexual nature.

The advertisements in the Commonwealth Times contribute to the creation of a hostile or offensive work environment. In this regard, I refer you to the definition of sexual harassment as de-

fined by Title VII: "Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when submission to such conduct is made a term or condition of employment, submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the employee, or such conduct has the effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work environment."

VCU Personnel Policy Number XI prohibits sexual harassment in any form against any member of the university community. Faculty, staff and students are all protected by this policy, and faculty, staff and students are all, from time to time, Commonwealth Times readers. Your ads are not only inappropriate, they also have potential to negatively impact VCU's female community.

I suggest you review your ads in the context of these documents.

Sarah Barbara Watstein
Assistant Director for Academic Services and Head,
James Branch Cabell Library

Gage Harter

Between Football and Pho Where Lies the Balance?

My mother told me that I am too "Americanized."

My aged grandmother agreed with a nod of her olive-shaped head.

I had been in this situation before — my grandmother complaining to my mother how I had lost grasp of my native language, culture and customs.

How I would rather eat hamburgers than Pho.

So my grandmother continued to talk to me through my mother.

I was told how South Vietnam didn't exist anymore and how important it is to maintain our race.

"Important to whom?" I asked.

"You don't respect your elders," they replied, "because if you did, you would make us happy and have more Vietnamese friends and marry a nice Vietnamese girl."

How ethnic.

In essence, what my mother, grandmother and many other "refugee" Vietnamese are doing is *segregating* themselves — banding together and associating only with other Vietnamese.

Interbreeding rarely is allowed, and that law usually is obeyed. The family unit is strong and often one family will "introduce" their boy to another family's girl.

It's been done to me many times.

I don't argue. Oh no, I don't want to do that.

My mother has told me countless times that she doesn't have talks with me when she feels I have done badly. She scolds me and can still spank me with chopsticks if she chooses.

There is fear, but there is more respect.

Many refugee Vietnamese have fought hard to make it in their adopted land. My mother certainly has given her life so others like me and my brothers can prosper.

Imagine owning a house, some land, maybe a car and furniture, and one day you have to leave it all behind — without compensation. Imagine arriving in a country where nothing is native to you. My mother and family, like so many other Vietnamese, have built a new life without the benefit of a father figure.

"Gage, you must think about our people," my grandmother said in Vietnamese. "You must stop being too Americanized."

There is that accusation again.

I admit I am more American than Vietnamese. Sometimes it bothers me because I long to understand my country and people. But America has given me opportunity and a chance in life that I wouldn't have had in Vietnam, where I was shoeless and penniless.

So I owe it to this country and its people to be the best citizen I can. Anyway, its hard not to love American football and the Washington Redskins.

I don't ever want to segregate myself from anybody, but, unfortunately, by having predominantly American friends, I am segregated from the Vietnamese community. It bothers me, but very little.

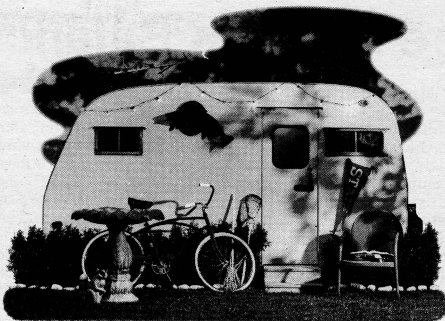
When my mother and grandmother finished scolding me and asked me what I had to say for myself, I answered them:

"I am neither Asian nor American; I am the hyphen in between."

... And this one thought himself a man/ An ordinary man/ And cried and cried No No No No all day long.

from "Counting the Mad" by Donald Justice

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SPECTRUM BRIEFS

APB Movies. Catch "Posse" Friday and/or Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Commons Theater. The Alternative Films Committee will show "The Adjuster" at 8 p.m. Sunday in the Business Building Auditorium. Both movies are free with a student ID; \$3 for others.

The Studio Theater presents the "Caretaker." This revival of a classic tells the story of an old vagabond who is taken in by two mysterious brothers. The show runs at 8 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday through Oct. 10 and also Sundays at 2 p.m. The theater is located at 14th and P streets in Washington, D.C. Call 202-332-3300 for ticket information and ask about the \$3 discount for students!

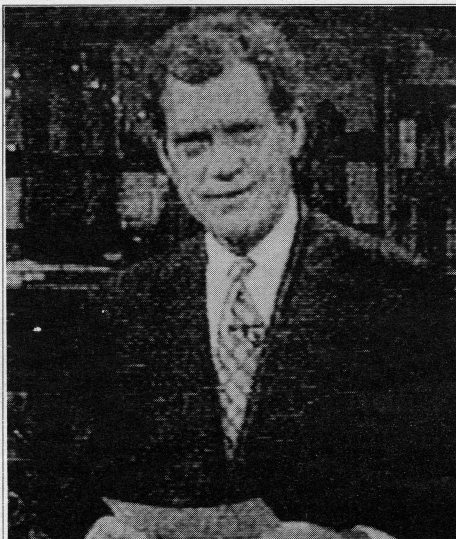
The Lesbian and Gay Pride Day Festival. The Richmond Lesbian and Gay Pride Coalition will hold a weekend of activities Friday, Sept. 9, through Sunday, Sept. 12. The festival will be in the Richmond Centre at North 4th and East Marshall streets from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Other events include a kick-off party Friday night, and Saturday will bring sports events and an evening concert with Romanovsky and Phillips. For more information call 353-4133.

Neville Brothers at Brown's Island. The Dave Matthews Band and several other acts will open the show for the Neville Brothers Sunday, Sept. 12. Gates open at noon. Tickets are \$15 in advance. Call the Flood Zone at 643-6006 for information.

Help the Science Museum of Virginia at the State Fair. Volunteers are needed to staff the museum's exhibit at the fair and encourage visitors to experiment with the displays. For each day worked, volunteers will receive a free pass to the fair. They also will earn a pass to the museum exhibits and a film or planetarium show, and a 10 percent discount in museum stores. To apply, call 367-6796.

North American Open Poetry Contest. The National Library of Poetry will award \$12,000 in prizes to more than 250 poets and give every entrant a chance to be published in a hardbound anthology. Contestants may enter one original poem of any style, but no longer than 20 lines. The poet's name should appear on the top of the page. Send entries to The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Drive, P.O. Box 704-ZD, Owings Mills, Md., 21117. These must be postmarked by Sept. 30, 1993!

Contemporary Art. Jackie Battenfield will open her exhibit, "Mizu, the Sounds of Water," Thursday, Sept. 9, at the Marsh Art Gallery at the University of Richmond. The artist also will present a workshop, "Artists' Survival Strategies," based on her experience as coordinator of the Artists in the Marketplace Program seminar at the Bronx Museum of the Arts. The workshop will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at 1708 Gallery, 101 E. Broad St. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, and on weekends.



Ursula Howells/Commonwealth Times

CATCH THE DAVE - An unofficial poll of CT staff members gave a unanimous thumbs-up to Letterman's new show.

collegiate camouflage

S L E P P O T S E R F O X Y T
M E C O X N U D T S L O D X S
A A A O E T A B A R C E O O U
R N G T N M R O B I M R C R B
T O A L A S B A O E V I O T P
I P T G B A I T R O T D N W O
A T E P I L T D P V Y O A Y E
L S R D M S R E E T A G N X N
L U V E S E A X I R E F E O A
A R N E T S T V T N A O I R T
W T R D E V I A C E P T L P N
S U B M F R O Y E F A C I O N
D R E S P A N X Y V N A L O T
S N O M M U S Y O T A E V A N
T H E S I H C N A R F C R O W

Can you find the hidden legal terms?

ABATE
ACT OF GOD
AGENCY
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CONSIDERATION
DAMAGES
DEED
DURESS
EASEMENT
ESCROW
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LIEN
MARTIAL LAW
NOVATION
PATENT
PRIVITY
PROBATE
PROOF
PROXY
REMEDY
SUBPOENA
SUMMONS
TORT
TRUST

Puzzle solution on page 13.

VCU dance department gives passion to people

Sarah Fisher
CT STAFF WRITER

Are you tired of the club scene?

Rob Petres was! Petres frequented clubs until he realized there was a better way to spend his time. No, the club scene didn't turn him off, VCU's dance department turned him on.

While attending the School of the Arts as a dance major, Petres met Ray Schwartz, Torre Hinnant and Christie Abeling. After graduation, these four aspiring dancers found an unusual way to share their craft.

Rather than pursue a Broadway career where poverty and crushed egos are all too common, they joined Steve's House Dance Collective—a Richmond dance company that includes members from 12 to 70 years of age. Using their artistic abilities, they help educate others on the benefits of dance.

"Our interests, in terms of education, are very extreme,"

Schwartz said. "Dancing is an invaluable experience to prepare you for whatever you do professionally."

Using hip-hop, jazz, tap, ballet or modern dance, they hope to pass on their passion for dance to the audience. The dance quartet has performed for a wide range of people including senior citizens, the homeless and physically disabled people. They also have performed shows at the Flood Zone, Hollins College, Sweet Briar College, Woodlake Amphitheater and the Science Museum of Virginia.

This weekend, Steve's House Dance Collective and Pipeworks, a non-traditional dance company, will present "Moving Home." The show, a collection of solos and duets by Petres and Schwartz, will be presented with artworks by Frances Wessells and John Bailey. The shows begin at 8:30 p.m. this Friday and Saturday at Artspace, 6 E. Broad St. Admission is \$5. For more information call Steve's House Dance Collective at 355-8961.

A DISPATCH FROM SPY MAGAZINE

"Hark! What Light on Yonder Sizzler Breaks?"

Free Advertising—the Zeitgeist Way!

What is it about the Sizzler Steak Houses chain that has propelled it to the cutting edge of the nation's cultural iconography? Could it be the all-you-can-eat buffet? Or is Sizzler simply a surefire low-rent punch line? Or maybe it is unusual canniness on the part of the Sizzler marketing people. "I guess it would be nice if we were clever enough to have developed a product-placement strategy," a Sizzler spokesperson said when contacted by SPY. But, he said, they couldn't take credit. "So [I hope] most of the stuff seems like it's positive." Some sightings:

♦ *White Men Can't Jump*: as the dining spot of choice of Wesley Snipes's blacktop basketball team ♦ *Mother Jones*, November 1989: "[A] plan for Operation Rescue is unveiled at a meeting of antiabortion leaders in a Sizzler [in] Florida." ♦ *Rolling Stone*, article about a missing woman, January 21, 1993: "Diane and Peter had begun golfing together by then, often breaking off after nine holes to dine together at Sizzler." ♦ Ice Cube's recent track "We Had to Tear This Mothafucka Up": "The Hogan's Heroes spotted the guerilla by the Sizzler hittin' a police killa." ♦ Armistead Maupin's latest novel, *Maybe the Moon*: "Renee is in her room now, giggling on the phone with

her latest squeeze, a guy named Royal she met at The Sizzler last week." ♦ *Rosanne*, October 6, 1992: The Connors receive \$10,000 from Roseanne's mother. Roseanne says, "I think it's time for a little celebration at the Sizzler, and this time we each get our own plate." ♦ Jay Leno's *Tonight Show* monologue, January 21, 1993: "Now, here's an interesting fact. A lot of people who were watching Clinton's inaugural address at home thought he was standing behind bulletproof glass, you know that podium? Not true, not bulletproof glass. Because of Clinton's allergies, that was a giant sneeze-guard they got in the Sizzler." ♦

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1 800 438-8627.



Lady Rams take tourney by storm

Athletes played like champions

Kim Garrison
CT STAFF WRITER

Playing four matches in 24 hours with only seven athletes is asking a lot from any team. But coming home with a 4-0 record and a tournament championship with those conditions is

VOLLEYBALL

even more difficult to conceive. That's exactly what fourth-year Coach Lynn Fielitz asked from his Lady Rams this past weekend at the North Carolina A&T Labor Day Tournament, and the team delivered in championship fashion.

"It was a great weekend, but the best thing was the improvement and maturity each player exhibited from the first serve to the last point against Marshall," Fielitz said. "The freshmen stepped up and played like upperclassmen, especially Cindy O'Brien."

Play started last Friday night against Winthrop University, with VCU winning in three games 15-1, 15-4, 15-6. Winthrop served as a warm-up match as VCU went on to overcome Georgia Southern University in four games, 15-10, 15-8, 8-15, 15-11.

Senior Peyton Fleischer, an outside hitter from Richardson, Texas, recorded 20 kills, five digs and one service ace, and junior Shannon McMeekin, an outside hitter from Holtsville, N.Y., added 16 kills and 10 digs against GSU.

The Lady Rams kept producing wins when action resumed Saturday. The first came against the Lady Camels of Campbell University in four games, 16-14, 15-10, 11-15, 15-10. McMeekin again led the team with 21 kills and 10 digs and freshman Cindy O'Brien added 12 kills and nine digs.

The fourth and final win came against a rested Marshall University team. Though the Lady Rams had just completed a grueling two-hour match and fatigue had set in, they defeated Marshall in the longest match of the tournament.

VCU took the first two games, 15-7, 15-12, but MU took advantage of the fatigued Rams and took games three and four, 15-0, 15-9.

The stage was set for the last and all-important rally game, and the Lady Rams proved they were competitors to the end by defeating Marshall, 15-7. McMeekin led the team with 25 kills, nine digs and five service aces, and Fleischer followed up with 25 kills and eight digs.

McMeekin, team co-captain, played the entire tournament with a jammed thumb and, for her efforts, was named to the All-Tournament team. Although "surprised," McMeekin said she is looking forward to a good season.

"We will do very well as long as we play together and back each other up," she said. "We noticed that we're going to have to work harder and put forth more effort than most teams because we have so few people."

The same thought was echoed by Fleischer, the other team captain.

"We played really well, although we were tired at the end," she said. "But everyone on the team contributed and the new girls played their positions very well."

Going 4-0 was just part of the game plan for the Lady Rams. One of the team goals is to go undefeated in September.

Action starts Friday, Sept. 10, in the Franklin Street Gym with the Lady Rams taking on the Highlanders of Radford University at 8 p.m. Sept. 11, VCU will resume play at 1 p.m. against North Carolina A&T and at 5 p.m. against East Carolina University.

Kim Garrison is also a VCU Sports Information intern.

No holiday for Rams in victory against MSU

John Medeiros
CT STAFF WRITER

Labor Day is traditionally a day of rest, relaxation, cookouts and parties. For the VCU Rams, it was a day of hard work and determination.

The Rams field hockey team opened its 1993 campaign Monday with a 2-1 victory against Michigan State University (2-1).

"For an opener, it was a stiff test," Rams head Coach Pat Stauffer said. "They (MSU) came in with a couple of games under their belt and they thrashed some of our sister (conference) schools."

The first six minutes of the match were controlled by Michigan State. They came out of the gate quickly, trying to complete a Virginia sweep during the long weekend. Michigan State had already defeated Richmond and William and Mary on this trip.

The Spartans' early chances were turned away by VCU senior goalie Karen Wittman. She recorded two of her five saves during the opening six minutes.

"Karen's time has come," Stauffer said. "She's not the most technically sound goalie, but she keeps the ball out of the net. Krista Varady (a former all-conference and all-region goalie) had the same label."

The Rams controlled the remainder of the first half, stalling the Michigan State transition game and keeping the Spartans in their defensive zone. VCU had seven penalty corners and eight shots in the half.

The Rams were unable to convert on several scoring chances in the half but did not go into intermission empty-handed. Kelly Yoder scored on a penalty corner with seven seconds remaining on the clock. Stephanie Whitlow and Cindy Bano picked up the assists on Kelly's blast.

"We weren't sure how it was going to go," Bano said. "Practices aren't as competitive as games, so we're still getting ready for the grind."

The Labor Day grind became a lot easier when Alycia Yoder scored in the second half. She gave VCU a two-goal lead with slightly more than 20 minutes remaining. Alycia fired a shot that beat Spartan goalie Tricia Gann but rang off the goalpost. MSU's Terri Keranen kept Bano

FIELD HOCKEY



Ursula Howells/Commonwealth Times

WHERE'S THE BALL? Junior Jen Friend chases down the ball while freshman Patti Duffy looks on during the Lady Rams 2-1 victory over Michigan State.

from scoring on the rebound. Alycia then picked up the loose ball and scored her first goal of the season.

MSU's Stephanie Hart scored five minutes later, but that was as close as the Spartans came on the scoreboard. The game ended with Michigan State unable to take a shot on a penalty corner. The Rams dodged that bullet and ran off with the victory.

Between the Lines ... Patti Duffy's VCU career kicked off with a bang. She started and played every minute of Monday's game, an unusual accomplishment for a freshman on Stauffer's squad.

"The speed is the biggest adjustment. I was expecting more physical play," Duffy said.

Co-captain Cindy Bano says even the seniors feel some butterflies on opening day. "We were all a bit nervous; next game we will handle it better. We'll be ready for Duke."

The win was VCU's 10th consecutive regular-season victory.

Rams team effort key in 4-1 win Soccer squad wins opener against La Salle

E.S. Crooker
CT STAFF WRITER

It was a dark and stormy Saturday night at Cary Street Field, but the Rams were able to chase the ghosts away with a convincing win to open the season.

The VCU men's soccer team began the 1993 regular season in impressive fashion, breezing past the La Salle Explorers, 4-1, before a crowd of 140.

"It's very important to win your first game," said Rams Coach Lincoln Phillips.

Despite a slow start — scoring only one goal in the first half — VCU (1-0) turned on the turbo boosters in the second stanza, putting the game on ice.

Senior forward Leroy Wilson started the ball rolling 30 seconds into the second half, slicing through the La Salle (0-1) defense and scoring to give the Rams a 2-0 lead.

The Explorers answered Wilson's goal a half minute later with one of their own when Eric Cline scored to cut the margin to 2-1.

That was as close as La Salle got that night against a tight VCU defense.

SOCCER

At the 49:01 mark, junior midfielder Pancho Wright singlehandedly blasted through to the goal, scoring the Rams' only unassisted goal and building the lead to 3-1.

Junior forward Vladislav Bezborodov put the icing on the cake for VCU, scoring at the 70:01 mark to provide the final score for the game.

"Usually during the course of a game we start falling flat," said Phillips.

"This year we have more depth. That (helped) to keep the pressure on (during the game)."

The Rams said they hope to continue to execute pressure defense effectively during their grueling stretch of games.

After the home date with Howard University Tuesday night, VCU hits the road for a six-game road swing that includes stops in Charlotte for the UNC-Charlotte Tournament and a big showdown with the nationally ranked South Carolina Gamecocks.

The Gamecocks are new members of the Metro Conference in men's soccer.

The next home game for the Rams is Sept. 29, at 7 p.m., when they host traditional cross-state rival Old Dominion University.

Recreational Sports adopts system for intramurals

Intramural teams receive conduct grades

Leanne Anama
CT SPORTS EDITOR

In trying to keep with the spirit of friendly competition, VCU's Recreational Sports department recently adopted a system that grades conduct and sportsmanship for all intramural sports programs that are directed by Cary Street and MCV gyms.

Todd McCollum, assistant director of the recreational sports department in charge of intramurals, said this policy did not spring from an excessive problem with participants' conduct on and off the field, rather from a need to improve the overall program.

"This policy is modeled after one already implemented and successful at East Carolina University," McCollum said. "Sportsmanship wasn't terribly bad in the past but it wasn't where we wanted it to be.

"This is a way to show participants that they are responsible for their team, their spectators and their own conduct during a game. It's a measurable and objective way for captains and teams to know what (is) expected."

According to the policy, after each game the individual and his or her team will be rated by one or a combination of intramural sports employees. Teams or individuals also will have the opportunity to rate one another.

"Program supervisors are ultimately

responsible for the rating," McCollum said. "They receive input from the officials and teams are (then) given opportunity for input, but the program supervisor gives the final say."

The grading system mirrors the classroom letter-grading system, consisting of four grades — A through F — which carry meanings from excellent conduct and sportsmanship to poor conduct and sportsmanship. Each grade is worth points, with 4 points for an "A" and one point less for each grade lower. These points will help determine if a team consistently shows good conduct and sportsmanship during the regular season and is therefore eligible for the playoffs.

A specific denotation is carried by each letter grade. An "A" means a "team demonstrates good sportsmanship and maintains an attitude of complete cooperation with both officials and other team members."

A "B" denotes "team members verbally complain about some decisions made by the officials. Teams receive one foul or penalty."

A "C", or average rating, is when a "team shows verbal dissent toward officials and/or the opposing team. Captain exhibits minor control over his/her teammates, but is in control of him/herself. Team receives multiple penalties."

A below-average rating, a "D", is given when a "team constantly comments to the officials and/or opposing team from the

field and/or sidelines. Team captain has little control. Team receives more than one red card or more than one ejection from a single game or match."

An "F" denotes poor conduct and sportsmanship when a "team is completely uncooperative; team captain has no control; any team causes a game to be forfeited, other than by not showing, or unacceptable conduct such as three or more unsportsmanlike conduct and/or technical fouls; two or more ejections from a game and/or match; actual aggression toward an official/employee/opponent."

McCollum said that reaction to this policy has been positive so far but concedes it's still too early to tell.

Junior Ginger Russell said she feels "that having a rating system detracts from playing the game because you're not concentrating on the game but on rules surrounding it."

Although McCollum said the rating system was devised to "help keep the games fun and enjoyable for every participant and to have an atmosphere of good sportsmanship during competition."

But Russell states that "an atmosphere of good sportsmanship during competition should come from players, not from those in charge."

The
sports
season
never
ends
at
the
Times



CAMPUS BIBLE STUDY

A group of students and friends who seek a better understanding of the Bible and what it means for us today.

Each week, we study the Bible to discover more about God and His Will for us in our lives and to seek answers to the struggles that we face everyday.

Everyone Welcome! Snacks Provided!

Studies begin Sept. 7.

We meet in the Student Commons Building (see directory or info. desk). Studies are each Tuesday from 12:30 to 1:30.

Call **264-8040** for more information.

Please join us as we learn and study together!



BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, Sept. 13, 1993

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Commons, Commonwealth B

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1993

12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Commons, Commonwealth B



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NFL Picks



Week 2 Sunday, September 12

Chicago at Minnesota
Detroit at New England
Indianapolis at Cincinnati
Kansas City at Houston
New Orleans at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Green Bay
Phoenix at Washington
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh at L.A. Rams
Buffalo at Dallas
N.Y. Jets at Miami
San Diego at Denver
L.A. Raiders at Seattle

Art "The Swami"

Minnesota
Detroit
Indianapolis
Houston
New Orleans
Green Bay
Washington
N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh
Dallas
Miami
Denver
L.A. Raiders

"Pick 'em" Harter

Minnesota
Detroit
Indianapolis
Kansas City
New Orleans
Philadelphia
Washington
N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh
Buffalo
Miami
San Diego
L.A. Raiders

Bonardi "151"

Chicago
New England
Cincinnati
Houston
Atlanta
Green Bay
Washington
N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh
Dallas
Miami
Denver
L.A. Raiders

French "Bread Pizza"

Minnesota
Detroit
Indianapolis
Kansas City
Atlanta
Green Bay
Washington
N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh
Dallas
Miami
San Diego
L.A. Raiders

Leanne "I can"

Minnesota
Detroit
Cincinnati
Kansas City
New Orleans
Green Bay
Washington
N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh
Dallas
Miami
Denver
L.A. Raiders

"Blind Call" Cooksey

Chicago
Detroit
Cincinnati
Houston
New Orleans
Green Bay
Washington
N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh
Buffalo
Miami
Denver
L.A. Raiders

"Jersey J" Mederios

Minnesota
Detroit
Indianapolis
Houston
New Orleans
Green Bay
Washington
N.Y. Giants
L.A. Rams
Buffalo
Miami
Denver
L.A. Raiders

Sonny "I got you, babe"

Chicago
Detroit
Cincinnati
Kansas City
New Orleans
Green Bay
Washington
N.Y. Giants
L.A. Rams
Buffalo
Miami
San Diego
L.A. Raiders

Monday, Sept. 13

San Francisco at Cleveland

San Francisco
Last week:
12-2
Season to date:
12-2

San Francisco
11-3

San Francisco
9-5

San Francisco
9-5

San Francisco
8-6

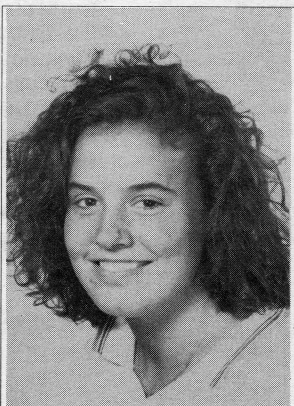
San Francisco
8-6

San Francisco
8-6

Guest picker
San Francisco
Last week's
picker: **8-6**
Season to date:
8-6

It was heard. "Finally, I am going to be ahead of the Swami. After three years, I'm finally going to be on top of the Swami." Not so fast Mr. Harter. Gage "Pick'em" Harter, now affectionately called Xerox because of his effort at copying every game the Swami had except the Raiders over the Vikings, was so confident that his one diversion would catapult him into the NFL Pick lead after one week that he made this brash statement. He was incorrect. The Raiders won and that wonderful Swami dominated week one with an impressive 12-2 record to maintain the top spot for the 49th consecutive week. Meanwhile, fly guy Jason Bonardi "151" came in third place, squelching rumors that his feigned sleepwalking onto the girls floors at Rhodes during shower time would be too much of a distraction to make him very competitive. As for the guest picker race, Dee Dee "I'm back" Hirsch stumbled with an 8-6 record leaving the door open for VCU basketball Coach Sonny Smith. It has been reported that Smith canceled basketball efforts last week so that his coaches could scout the NFL games in order to give him an advantage over that amazing Swami. Smith said of his chances, "I think 20 wins is within reach, oh sorry, I think 12 wins is within reach."

Athlete of the week



Shannon McMeekin

VCU's Athlete of the Week for the week ending Sept. 7 is Shannon McMeekin. A sophomore outside hitter for the volleyball team, McMeekin was named to the All-Tournament team at the North Carolina A & T Labor Day Tournament — after leading the Rams to a 4-0 mark and the tournament championship. McMeekin posted 67 kills (4.19 kills per game average), an attack percentage of 0.307 (67 kills, 21 errors, 150 attacks), 37 digs and eight service aces in the four victories.

Kissourine, Mobley leave basketball team

Brian French

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The VCU men's basketball team endured a double blow to its front court when it was announced that starting center Eugene Kissourine and back-up forward Alvin Mobley had left the program within the last week.

Kissourine quit to play professional basketball in Italy for a sum that is believed to be more than \$80,000 per year.

The seldom-played Mobley transferred to Bridgeport (Conn.) University, a Division II institution.

The loss of Kissourine is especially damaging, since he played in all 30 of the Rams' games in his first season with the team.

"We knew that he was going to leave if a second offer came," said VCU basketball Coach Sonny Smith on Kissourine's departure. "The shock was that he never came to us," which Smith said Kissourine indicated that he would.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed, although some believe it is likely to be more than \$80,000, since Kissourine earlier rejected an offer for that sum.

During his one season with the Rams, Kissourine averaged six points and 5.7 rebounds per game.

His impact, Smith said, was not so easily measured with numbers.

"This is a big loss (due to the loss of experience at the center position)," Smith said. "He would always get the ball in bounds and make the big play. During the Virginia Tech game (2/6/93), when the team as a whole was shooting poorly, he stepped up at the three-point line (shooting 3-for-3 for the game)."

Kissourine's replacement likely will come from a group of four players: seniors Rodney Ashby (6-7, 1.3 ppg, 2.0 rpg for VCU last season) and Bob Osborne (6-8, 0.5 ppg, 0.4 rpg), as well as freshmen Marc Jackson (6-9, 20 ppg, 17 rpg at Philadelphia Roman Catholic High School) and George Byrd (6-7, 15.0 ppg, 15.0 rpg at Gainesville, Fla. Eastside High School).

"It's going to be tough (to replace Kissourine)," Smith said.

Smith commented that Mobley left in order to earn more playing time.

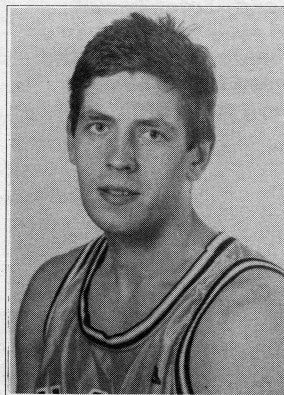
At Bridgeport, Mobley will be able to play immediately, since there is no one-year waiting period in transferring from a Division I to a Division II school.

During his only season with VCU, Mobley played in 10 games. He averaged 0.7 points and 1.1 rebounds per game.



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Eugene Kissourine

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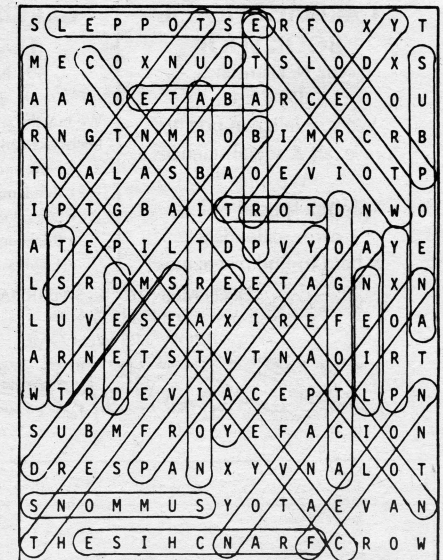
Sorry I missed you last issue — I was gearing up for the Redskins game. Leann says 'I hate eating spicy food. If I walk gingerly for the next hour, you'll understand why.' Bayer aspirin says my glasses are fogging up from Leann's. Boiles asks if you know how to treat a rash induced from Spicy Butt. See Ya.

Mark

I love you.

Congratulations Candy and Tony! Enjoy Cancun!

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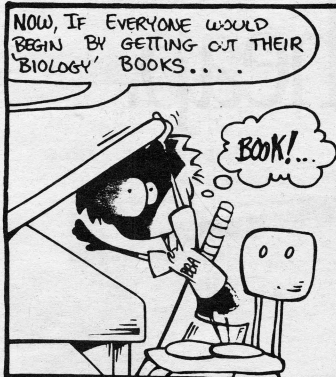


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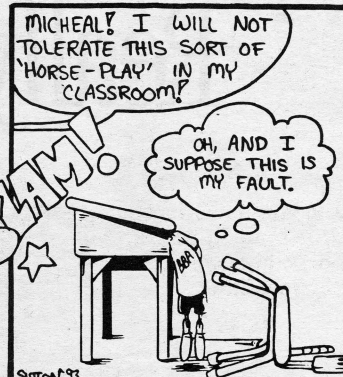
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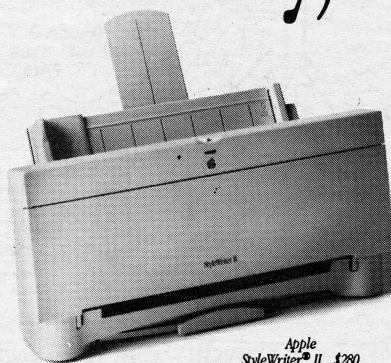
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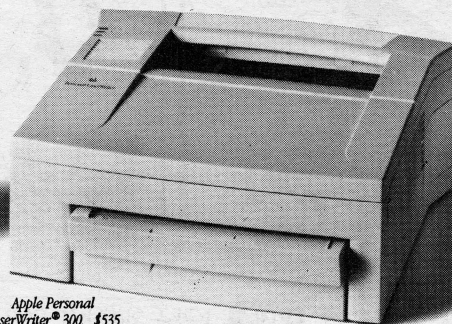
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