

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY—Mostly sunny.
Highs in the lower 70s. Lows
in the mid- to upper 40s.

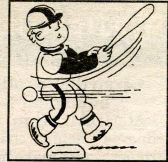


THURSDAY—Mostly sunny.
Highs in the lower 70s. Lows
in the 40s.

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

• Baseball's back
in full swing, from
a movie about Ty
Cobb to the return
of the major
leaguers. See
stories, page 7
and 12.



FRIDAY, April 7, 1995

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 26, No. 68

VCU professors back in court

*Three-judge panel
hears appeal*

Scott Bass
CT NEWS EDITOR

Another episode of the continuing legal saga involving five male VCU professors and VCU came to a head Wednesday during a hearing in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Although a decision isn't expected for a few months, a three-judge panel — H. Emory Widener Jr., Blane Michael and Robert F. Chapman — now must decide to uphold or reverse senior U.S. District Judge Richard L. Williams' denial of summary judgment to the five professors, led by Ted J. Smith, associate professor of mass communications.

Richmond attorney Bradley B. Cavado, arguing Smith's case, claimed VCU denied male faculty members \$441,791 in pay raises afforded to inequitably paid faculty members in spring 1992.

"There was a blind preference given on the basis of gender," Cavado told the judges, arguing that the pay raises were awarded without evaluating performance factors. "The main components of the pay raises were ignored."

Cavado, who filed the appeal last September citing a violation of Title VII under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, based his argument on a salary equity study completed by

COURT continued to page 4 ►

NO TIME TO MAKE THE DOUGHNUTS



SEE YA — Workers bulldoze the Golden Donut on Cary Street Monday afternoon. The area is to be used as a parking area.

Scott Bass/Commonwealth Times

VCU enrollment on three-year skid

Richard Tallaferra
CT STAFF WRITER

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently reported that despite the lower number of high school graduates, enrollment figures at colleges across the nation are on the rise. The number of students attending VCU, however, has fallen slightly since 1992.

James Alessio, director of University Enrollment Services, said the lower number of high school graduates contributed to VCU's enrollment decrease even though 130 more freshmen enrolled last fall than in 1992.

"Demographically, the pool of high school graduates has decreased over the past several years," Alessio said, adding that the smaller group of entering freshmen also created a ripple effect, causing smaller class sizes in addition to overall enrollment reduction.

But Alessio sees that as possibly changing since more high school students should be graduating, mostly because of the expected "dramatic growth from children of baby boomers."

Education costs are another factor in lower enrollment figures. As those costs shift from government to students, many students cannot meet the increasing ex-

pense.

While more freshmen and transfer students enrolled between 1992 and 1994, graduate enrollment fell from 1,444 to 1,363. Alessio attributes this to the shifting demands in the workplace.

VCU's School of Business's enrollment, which fell by 1,025 between 1990 and 1994, provides one example of those changing

Salary cutbacks to impact faculty

VCU summer faculty will feel the brunt of budgetary cuts resulting from projected enrollment shortfalls next fall, according to a memorandum from Sue Ann Messmer, vice provost for continuing studies.

The memo, which was sent to faculty members, announced the adjustment of faculty salaries for the 1995 summer session. The plan calls for placing a cap of \$3,700 per three-hour class.

These cutbacks will not affect faculty members making less than \$52,890, the memo stated. Those making more than this amount, however, will face salary adjustments.

The reductions, Messmer wrote, will range from \$45 to \$4,482 per three-credit course. While saving VCU approximately \$200,000, these cuts could impact 123 faculty members.

Other cuts being considered include eliminating \$200,000 in travel costs, curbing \$900,000 in library materials purchases and other funds and decreasing by \$140,000 the amount of interest that goes unspent from VCU's private endowment, according to an article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

In addition, some faculty members could see contract-length cuts such as 12-month contracts being reduced to 10- or 11-month terms.

These staff changes could result in \$400,000 in savings.

demands.

Howard Tuckman, dean of the school, said lower enrollments represent a nationwide trend for business programs.

"Many students attended business schools guided by the opportunity to find jobs," he said, but as many corporations

President offers funds to relocate historic structure

*Jacob House controversy
continues*

In an effort to keep a historical structure intact, VCU President Eugene P. Trani offered private funds to relocate the structure at 610 W. Cary St. to an individual or community group.

The structure has been the cause of debate among Oregon Hill community groups and VCU ever since the university decided to construct its planned School of Engineering on the building site.

The announcement, sent in the form of a letter, was given to several community groups after a review by VCU officials on how to proceed with the construction of the engineering school.

VCU has three options for the structure currently at the site — incorporating it into the plans of the school, relocating it or demolishing it. Trani said incorporating it would be too costly and would not accommodate the university's needs for the site.

The estimated \$105,800 that it will cost to relocate the structure would be paid by the VCU Real Estate Foundation Board, a private organization that acquires and manages property for the university.

— Compiled from news sources.

ENROLLMENT continued to page 4 ►

WORLD/NATION



• Iraq denies allegations of biological weapons

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi officials Wednesday denied charges the country still is seeking to make biological weapons, calling them "political fabrications" by Washington, aimed at keeping the United Nations oil embargo in place.

President Clinton said Tuesday that Iraq "could be regaining" a capacity to produce biological weapons, while Secretary of State Warren Christopher said there was "strong evidence" Iraq had such intentions.

• Gynecologist indicted in switched-sperm

ROME — Police closed the office of a Neapolitan gynecologist charged with secretly impregnating a patient with sperm not from her husband, but from a donor who passed on a hereditary disease.

An indictment issued Tuesday also charges Raffaele Magli with using only two sperm donors to fertilize eggs that resulted in "hundreds of thousands" of births, "in violation of the most basic protocol of bioethics."

Magli, 40, apparently is the first doctor indicted in alleged abuses of Italy's highly unregulated but quickly growing field of "test-tube" births.

The doctor has denied the charges.

• Widow sues over death of minister in drug raid

BOSTON — Attorneys filed suit Wednesday against the city of Boston seeking damages for the death of the Rev.

Accelyne Williams during a bungled drug raid last year. The suit was on behalf of his widow, Mary H. Williams.

Williams, 75, died of a heart attack when SWAT officers mistakenly raided his apartment.

The lawyers, flanked by large pictures of Williams when he was brought out of his apartment on a stretcher, held a press conference after the filing.

They declined to say how much they are seeking. The city has offered \$600,000 to settle.

VIRGINIA



• Parole unlikely for woman who conspired in murders

GOOCHLAND — Elizabeth Haysom had her first meeting with a Virginia Parole Board examiner Wednesday. But the parole board's history suggests that it is unlikely to grant Haysom parole from her sentence for conspiracy to murder her parents. She becomes eligible Aug. 7.

Virginia Parole Board Chairman John Metzger said the chances of Haysom receiving parole are less than 4 percent.

Only 4 percent of inmates convicted of violent crimes such as the 1985 killings of Derek and Nancy Haysom are paroled when they first become eligible.

Elizabeth Haysom's former lover, Jens Soering, was convicted of killing her parents in their Bedford County home.

Haysom pleaded guilty to two counts of accessory to murder before the fact and was sentenced to 90 years in prison.

She is serving time at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland County.

• Mother held for leaving son alone with father

MANASSAS PARK — First, a 2-year-old boy's father was jailed on child-beating charges. Now his mother has been arrested for leaving the child alone with him.

Manassas Park police took the 23-year-old Donna Parsons of Brentville into custody last Friday and charged her with violating a protective court order by letting her husband have unsupervised visits with her son.

She also was charged with cruelty and injuries to children. Her arrest warrant stated she did not seek medical attention for the boy when he obviously was hurt.

Wayne Parsons, 22, was arrested Feb. 22 for allegedly beating his son so hard that he broke the boy's leg and caused inner ear injuries.

Prince William police said the battering happened because the child was crying.

Donna Parsons has been released on \$10,000 bond. A court date has yet to be set.

RICHMOND



• Two city students chosen for program in Germany

Two Richmond Technical Center students, James Goodall Jr. and P. Norwin McDonnough, have been selected to spend 10 weeks in Germany as participants in the Ameurop Cultural Relations Fellowship Program. They leave today.

The cultural exchange program was started in 1980 by Dr. Kurt A. Korber — a German industrialist and founder of the Korber Foundation.

This year 43 high school juniors from Virginia and North Carolina were selected as Cultural Relations Fellows. Students

must be enrolled in a vocational or technical curriculum to be eligible.

Goodall, a George Wythe junior who studies pre-engineering and electricity at Richmond Technical Center, will intern at Mercedes Benz in Stuttgart.

McDonnough attends Kennedy High School and studies principles of technology at the technical center. He'll intern at Korber A.J. in Hamburg.

CAMPUS



• Nobel winner to speak at MCV

Nobel-award winner Martin Rodbell, an affiliate professor of biochemistry, will be this year's lecturer at the "Innovators of Biochemistry" series, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 10 in Room 1-044 of Sanger Hall.

Rodbell's pioneering research into the way hormones communicate with cells earned him the 1994 Nobel Prize for science. Much of his work was conducted at the National Institute for Environmental Health.

Prior to his findings, the scientific community had little understanding of how cells received hormone signals. All they knew was that hormones, such as insulin, growth factors and adrenaline, had an important effect on cell behavior.

Rodbell's discovery of G-proteins—signal molecules that transfer messages from hormones to cell nuclei—explained the mystery of cellular response to external compounds. By carrying messages to cells, G-proteins facilitate hormones' signals to spur tissue or cell growth.

A reception will follow the lecture in the Larrick Student Center. For information, call Renee Hickman at 828-9762.

—Compiled from news sources.

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CRIME SHORTS

For emergencies, contact
VCU Police at 828-1234 or
use the ERTS phones

3/21

• Grand larceny

A female student reported that between 11 a.m. 3/8 and 11 a.m. 3/21 an unknown person removed her bicycle and lock from the bike racks outside the General Purpose Academic Building.

Total value: \$254

3/29

• Arrest for indecent exposure

George Boggan was arrested at 1:05 p.m. for indecent exposure and disorderly conduct.

3/30

• Arrest

William Brandon was arrested at 11:44 a.m. for possession of cocaine and another charge at 910 W. Franklin.

3/31

• Assault

A female student reported that she was assaulted by a known party on the fourth floor of Gladding Residence Center.

• Petit larceny

A female student reported that her backpack and its contents were stolen from Shafer Court.

Total value: \$140

• Petit larceny

A female student reported at 9:15 a.m. that two boxes of Girl Scout cookies had been stolen.

Total value: \$5

4/2

• Assault

A female student reported that she had been assaulted by a known party on the sixth floor of Johnson Hall.

4/3

• Grand larceny

A male subject reported that between 2:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. an unknown person removed property from an insecure location on the first floor of the Hibbs Building.

Total value: \$1,200

4/5

• Vandalism

A female employee reported that between 1:30 p.m. 4/4 and 5:30 a.m. 4/5 an unknown person(s) painted graffiti in various areas of Shafer Court.

• Grand larceny

An female MCV employee reported that between 8:12 a.m. and 11 a.m. an unknown person removed her personal property from its insecure location.

Total value: \$330

AmeriCorps provides community relief

Bill Bucco

CT STAFF WRITER

Ask not what your community can do for you. Ask what you can do for your community.

AmeriCorps members have been asking this question — and answering it — for almost two years. And VCU students from all walks of life will have the chance to find their own answers during Citizen Involvement Day Monday, April 10.

AmeriCorps, sometimes referred to as a domestic Peace Corps, is a national service initiative President Clinton signed into law in 1993. Participants provide service to their local communities in areas such as education, public health and safety.

In return, the participants, including many college students, receive a living allowance and an educational award.

"The spirit of the program as designed by President Clinton is citizenship," said Susan Gunn, interim director of the University Career Center. "We all can gain something for ourselves personally and give back to the community by being active citizens."

VCU's AmeriCorps program places an emphasis on working with young people in Richmond.

RamsCorps, an AmeriCorps division in the School of Education, consists mostly of education majors who serve as teaching assistants at Whitcomb Model Elementary School. The participants concentrate on those students risking academic failure.

In all, 32 part-time and four full-time people — not all VCU students — serve at four Richmond sites: Whitcomb, the Community Health Initiative Program of Richmond, the Garfield After-School Enrichment Program and the South Richmond Health Center.

Annie Lewis, coordinator of VCU's Cooperative Education Program and internships, serves as a program official with

Organizations participating in the volunteer fair:

The Daily Planet
Professional Mentors Inc.
The Virginia House
Civitan Workshop
American Lung Association
Richmond AIDS Ministry
Virginia Blood Services
Virginia Treatment Center for Children
American Red Cross
The Salvation Army
Freedom House
Richmond Association for Retarded Citizens
Offender Aid and Restoration of Richmond
Big Brothers and Big Sisters Services Inc. of Metro Richmond
Family and Children's Service of Richmond
Family Crisis Center
Hunter Holmes McGuire Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Stuart Circle Center
Bethlehem Community Center
AmeriCorps
VCU Student Activities

VCU's AmeriCorps Program. She described the program as one in which participants become immersed in such communities as Gilpin, Whitcomb and Mosby courts as well as Blackwell.

AmeriCorps members serve Richmond's youth by becoming teaching assistants, leading a Girl Scouts troop, taking children on field trips, tutoring or mentoring.

Those who work in health care assist in providing physical examinations, immunizations and physical therapy. They also try to involve parents in issues such as teen-age pregnancy through health-care workshops.

Part-time members work 900 hours, an average of 20 hours per week, and receive \$3,820 for living expenses plus a \$2,363 educational award.

Parthy Smith, training and support coordinator and an AmeriCorps member, emphasized the impact members have on the communities' youths.

"I see them as role models for the children they are working with," she said.

But Gunn, whose career-center staff assists students in finding jobs, said she sees other benefits of belonging to AmeriCorps.

For one, she said, students' experiences in the program enables them to build a nice resume.

Since citizenship via community service is the major thrust of AmeriCorps, the participants do not receive academic credit for their involvement.

Instead, Lewis identified attitude as more important than skills or other abilities when joining AmeriCorps.

The program, she said, looks for "people that are dedicated to making a difference. People that care about the community. People that think that one person makes a difference."

Monday's Citizen Involvement Day — featuring a panel discussion, a volunteer fair and voter registration — continues the spirit of community service.

CITIZEN continued to page 4 ►

Opportunity knocks

School systems search for teachers among students

Paul Whelan

CT STAFF WRITER

An estimated 279 students, alumni and faculty attended VCU's Education Job Fair Wednesday.

Along with the visitors, recruiters from 45 different Virginia school systems — including a few from Texas, Ohio, North Carolina and Maryland — filled the Capital Ballroom in the student commons.

"A lot of (school) systems have jobs they are trying to fill," said Camilla Jones, assistant director of the University Career Center and job fair organizer. "Some of them have contracts ready to be signed."

The education job market is very good for some fields, Jones said, specifically for math, science and special-education teachers.

Judy Davis-Dorsey, director of human resources for York County Schools, said her school division needs occupational and physical therapists for special-education positions.

The increased need for special-education teachers resulted from several things, Davis-Dorsey said, pointing to legislation

that expanded these programs.

Jackie Sellers, an assistant principal at Fauquier High School in Fauquier County, said special-education instructors are high on Fauquier's wish list as well, but her main goal is to inform as many people as possible about her school system.

"We're here to spread the word about Fauquier County," she said.

Danville representative Reamonn Gunn said Danville City Schools focused on recruiting minority teachers because these instructors are necessary to keep up with the city's growing minority population.

Although recruiting minorities is a priority, Gunn said it wouldn't keep the school system from pursuing other qualified students.

"The No. 1 goal is to recruit the best and the brightest teachers we can for our school division," Gunn said. "The bottom line is whether or not you recruit any teachers." A principal at John M. Langston Junior High in Danville, Gunn earned a master's degree in public school administration and supervision at VCU in 1992.

"I'm a living example of this fair," he said.

Jones said almost 200 students attended

last year's fair, and she was pleased with this year's student turnout, as well as their professional manners.

"Most students came dressed up and prepared with their resumes in hand," Jones said.

One of those who attended prepared was Dawn Henderson, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in education.

After talking with six different school systems, Henderson stood in line to talk with representatives from Chesterfield and Hanover counties were by far the longest.

"I think since most students have already settled here (they) would like to stay in the area," Henderson said. "It's easier than having to relocate."

Henderson, a student teacher at Patrick Henry High School in Hanover County, said she sees teaching as the logical application of her bachelor's degree in French.

"I love the French language and culture," Henderson said. "I see teaching as a practical use of my skills."

For her and many other students, the fair was an opportunity to showcase their job skills in hopes of landing teaching jobs.

COURT

continued from page 1

a university committee in August 1989 that documents finding disparities in female and male salaries. Based on the study, VCU implemented pay raises to 172 female faculty members to remedy an imbalance Cavado said was misleading.

"There's no segregation," Cavado said, noting that the study revealed scores of inequitably paid male faculty members as well. "If the study did establish something it was that men and women faculty were being paid inequitably."

VCU, represented by state attorney Guy W. Horsely Jr., argued that the study was narrowly tailored to address a gap in how male and female faculty members were being paid.

"The law is that once you determine there is a pay gap you have to do something about it," Horsely told the judges, contending the study wasn't used to determine the overall faculty pay scale. "It was very narrowly tailored to remedy what VCU found

to be a sex gap in pay."

Cavado argued the study excluded essential factors such as discipline, rank and market trends that would have eliminated the gap between male and female salaries.

The judges questioned why Cavado failed to conduct further research that might have proved his theory.

"That's not our burden. They (VCU) have to justify their discrimination against men," he said. "You don't have to bite into an apple if you know it's rotten."

Horsely argued "a lack of evidence" was precisely why Williams awarded VCU summary judgement.

"If there had been no pay gap, there would have been no pay-gap adjustments," Horsely said. "They say because we didn't measure performance as a variable that the study is false. That is simply not true."

Cavado disagreed.

"You don't just assume they're performing equally," he said. "And that's what VCU did, which is nuts."

ENROLLMENT

continued from page 1

began to lay off employees, business school enrollments began to decline.

The loss resulted in the cancellation of some classes, and budget cuts forced cutbacks in events and activities.

"Students' organizations are very important," Tuckman said, "and our ability to host student events is critical."

For teachers, these cutbacks mean limits on photocopying materials and making long-distance telephone calls.

In the classroom, some cannot teach the courses they prefer because of cancelled class sections.

Tuckman, however, remains optimistic that enrollment will rise again, and he is making "every effort to recruit high-quality students."

While business school enrollment fell, the opposite occurred in the College of Humanities and Sciences.

John Borgard, associate dean, credits a general increase in health sciences majors as a key reason.

"Seven or eight years ago, interests in that area were much lower," Borgard said. "Now, interest has skyrocketed."

Combining the School of Community and Public Affairs last year with humanities and sciences also helped increase enrollment.

Borgard said moving community and public affairs to other areas of the university especially helped accomplish the school's community affairs mission.

One benefit of the merger brought forth the Center for Public Policy that falls under the umbrella of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration.

Former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder has

been named as a faculty member of the center.

Borgard said students major in the humanities and in the sciences because of the perceived quality of its programs.

For instance, students planning to become teachers first earn a bachelor's degree from an area within humanities and sciences, then proceed to earn a master's in education from the School of Education.

Although humanities and sciences enrollment continues upward, the School of the Arts experienced decreases and increases in its enrollment the past two years.

"The resources were not available to employ additional instructional staff and support for enrollment (for 1992-93)," said Murry DePillars, dean of the school, explaining the loss of 155 students that year.

But the following 1993-94 academic year, the university was unable to meet its enrollment projections. Therefore top administrators asked the art school to increase its enrollment.

Regardless of enrollment figures, the art school's standing as one of the best in the nation has remained intact.

"The general university enrollment has no impact on our reputation," he said, "unless there are budget reductions."

Some students previously voiced complaints concerning some facilities.

DePillars said these problems resulted from the conditions of those facilities. For instance, some classes in Franklin Terrace contain small rooms and low ceilings, DePillars said, suggesting that tearing into the structure would be the only way to solve the problems.

Although the Fine Arts Center is expected to be completed in 1997, he said, the school could face problems in maintaining its same level of enrollment because of the sizes of its various departments.

CITIZEN

continued from page 3

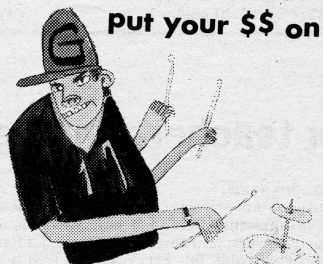
The panel discussion from noon until 1 p.m. at the VCU Meeting Center highlights five Richmond leaders widely known for their community work.

Panelists include city council members Timothy Kaine and Viola Baskerville; David Hicks, Richmond's commonwealth attorney; and the Rev. Robert L. Taylor, former pastor of the Fourth Baptist Church. John Moeser, chairman of urban studies and planning at VCU, will moderate.

The volunteer fair from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Commons Plaza provides opportunities for people to volunteer their services through such organizations as the Family Crisis Center, as well as the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Services of Richmond.

In addition to the volunteer organizations at the fair, VCU AmeriCorps members will assist in registering students and others to vote. Voter registration continues from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily through Friday, April 14.

the FINAL 4 Put your \$\$ on these...



mike watt

the h+k



The Hank Panky
Songs for the chival heart.
Written by Hank Williams Jr.
Expressed by The Hank
"hanky panky"



Mike Watt "Ball-Hog or Tugboat?"
The man behind FIREHOSE and The Minutemen gets in the ring and wrestles with his friends on his debut solo album.
"ball-hog or tugboat?"



Korn "Korn" - Described by the L.A. press as shades of Rage Against the Machine meets Pantera meets Tool with a soul-shaking vengeance.
"korn"

sponge



Sponge "Rotting Piñata" - a passionate mix of off-kilter melodies and guitar rock. Laced with adrenaline and pop invention...
- L.A. Times
"rotting piñata"

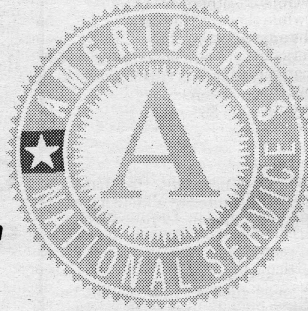


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Citizen Involvement Day

"BUT WHAT CAN I DO?"



Volunteer Fair

Local agencies serving in the areas of education, environment, human needs, and health and safety will attend to promote volunteer opportunities within their organizations.

April 10 — Commons Plaza, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Panel Discussion

City Council members and community leaders will identify issues and needs in the Richmond community along with how citizens can get involved in improving our community. Panelists: Councilman Tim Kaine, Councilwoman Viola Baskerville, Commonwealth's Attorney David Hicks and Rev. Dr. Robert L. Taylor. Moderator: Dr. John Moeser.

April 10 — VCU Meeting Center, noon until 1 p.m.

Voter Registration

VCU AmeriCorps members trained in voter registration will register students and community members during the Volunteer Fair, as well as during a week-long campaign on- and off-campus—April 10-14.

April 10 — Commons Plaza, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

OPINION

Stephen Johnson

Science Matters

Yes, understanding science is important. In fact, with such knowledge you may be able to apply new angles to ideas in other fields. My favorite branch of science, biology, is ubiquitously useful in everyday life but it, like other branches of science, seems to pale in comparison to more attractive fields in our culture such as finance, business, theater and advertising.

It isn't necessary for everyone to carry around the concept of photosynthesis or root uptake of soil nutrients. It is more important for a larger percentage of the population to have a greater appreciation of those things. Not many people stop to realize how so many of the tiniest animals, such as spiders, contribute to the maintenance of the environment. In fact, more people probably squash all spiders because there are some poisonous ones.

Guilt by association.

Then there are the truly comic things that relate to scientific knowledge, or the lack thereof. For example, in regard to the one hour change in time for daylight savings, a local news anchor said, "the sun would rise an hour later and also set an hour later." You know, it's one thing for a student to confuse an ovary with a bladder (on a fetal pig, of course), but I once had a student inform me that she didn't eat plants or animals! Instead, she informed me, she ate pasta!

Of course most people know that pasta is made from wheat, an undisputed plant. That doosey is just an example of ignorance run amok. It's never good to think that pasta, or anything that you eat, is an otherworldly substance. It is good to be informed and to know something about how this world functions. If you don't see that now, I think someday you will.

Stephen Johnson

Reduced Standards Won't Lead To Safer Campus

A recent issue of Style Weekly Magazine carried a story about how VCU had reduced its admissions requirements to counteract enrollment shortfalls. This same story mentioned that George Mason University and Old Dominion University were not experiencing reduced enrollment.

Why is VCU suffering from enrollment reductions while the others are not?

I think the answer must lie partly in the perception of safety at these universities. I have no experience of George Mason, however, I know that ODU students have a greater perception of safety on campus.

When I was at VCU from 1986 to 1991, I often was approached by panhandlers. I don't remember any encounters with panhandlers that were unpleasant. There was one in particular who shrugged me off with disgust when I told him I had no money for him. In fact, I didn't have any money on me at all. What really angered me was that I gave this particular panhandler a dollar on two previous occasions.

While these panhandlers may be no problem, they increasingly are becoming perceived as potential threats. This is given

as the reason for business closures on Grace Street, and there are increasing reports of hostile encounters with panhandlers.

VCU is an inner-city school. There is no barrier between the city and the campus, making the presence of panhandlers (and who knows what else) ubiquitous.

The problem is one of perception. There have been problems, no doubt, on the GMU and ODU campuses. When I lived four blocks from the VCU campus, I never experienced any unsafe situations.

Strangely, in April 1992, while I was on the campus at Kansas State University, I was brutally attacked by four assailants. After spending a year merely four blocks from the VCU campus without ever being even mildly accosted, I certainly never expected to be beat up on the supposedly safe campus of KSU.

So, even though VCU may not be any less safe than other universities, it may be perceived as being less safe. Certainly reducing standards to increase enrollment should be only a very short-term solution to the problem. It may be more necessary to give VCU a better safety image.

Letters to the Editor

More Mystic Mayhem



Dear Editor,

Thank you for your coverage of the hypnotist James Maples in the article that appeared in the Monday, April 3, paper titled *Mystic Mayhem*. However, once again, your writer failed to mention the sponsor. The article stated that the hypnotist came to VCU, but who brought him here?

James Maples did not just happen to show up because he was bored in Witchata. The Activities Programming Board and its lecture committee spent time, money and put forth a lot of effort to schedule and prepare for his appearance at VCU.

We were excited that the writer used our theme for Spring Fest, *Mystic Mayhem*, for her headline. The APB Executive Board worked for several weeks to develop the *Mystic Mayhem* theme and it was used in our publicity campaign, which included fortune cookies and frisbees. Also, the *Mystic Mayhem* was not a "series," but the annual week of special events that takes place the last week of March.

All other publicity around campus mentioned APB, why was it disregarded in your article?

Not acknowledging the work done by VCU students hinders recruitment and retention. Therefore, it reduces the chance of getting quality programming. APB committees go to great lengths to bring music, movies, special events, dances, comedy and many other activi-

ties for the VCU student body to enjoy.

APB consists of nine committees made up of volunteers who each put in hours ranging from seven to 20 each week. We are a small team expected to do a great deal of planning and organizing. It appears to the APB that the CT (another student-run organization) should be working with us for the benefit of VCU and its students, but it seems you are trying to do the exact opposite.

By simply mentioning the sponsor of an event, you provide the credit, recognition and respect the student organizers have earned for their efforts to bring the programs to campus. In addition, this information would give the reader insight to the program's funding source. It is our idea that many students may want to know that their student activities fees pay for these events.

Please note this is the second letter we have written to your editors concerning this same matter. Previous to this letter, APB and BSA expressed the same questions about the Nathan McCall lecture. Please make a correction this time.

Sincerely,

Linda Moccio, APB Chairperson
Stephanie Shepherd, APB
Publicity and Public Relations

Thanks To Phi Beta Sigma

Dear Editor,

I wanted to publicly thank the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. for inviting our organization to be a part of the Second Annual Larry Brown Memorial Scholarship Step Show. I feel the benefit itself was more than enough reason for our organization to break our traditional trends to participate. We are not traditionally a stepping sorority, thus making our debut "step" appearance in their show.

Through the nervousness, the missing step-team member (with an ill son at home), the one hour until show time teaching of the steps to another sister from Morgan State University's Beta Chapter, the slips, the mistakes and the commentary, I had a wonderful time and so did my brothers and sisters that joined us from Virginia Union University, Morgan State University and Bowie State University. In times of stress there

is nothing like turning to a sister or a brother for support. Especially if the sisters and the brothers belong to other greek-lettered organizations, as well as to your own.

As members of greek-lettered organizations we sometimes tend to stick within our own cliques, but I am happy to say, although I was nervous and a bit scared to go on after the internal trouble, my sisters and brothers from all organizations were there to cheer us on. Just another sign of UNITY that makes me smile.

So once again, thank you to Phi Beta Sigma, and for Larry Brown who had to be watching me as I descended from the top of the commons stairs because I did not fall. THANK YOU FROM THE LADIES OF PHI ALPHA PSI SORORITY, INC.

Revena M Bey

Commonwealth TIMES

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Our offices are located in room 1149 of the General Purpose Academic Building; our campus mailbox number is P.O. Box 842010.

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.

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Karl Pearson, "The Grammar of Science," 1892

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Cobb's compassion unveiled

Jim McNamara
CT STAFF WRITER

Fans looking for lots of baseball action will be disappointed in director Ron Shelton's "Cobb," as there are but a few flashbacks. Those looking for a key to Cobb's complex personality will find the film pays off in spades.



The film, set in 1960, begins with sports-writer Al Stump, played by Robert Wuhl, receiving a phone call from Cobb, played by Tommy Lee Jones, asking him to help write his biography. Cobb is well aware of his reputation as an SOB, and he wants the young, impressionable Stump to sanitize his life story for his self-serving needs.

Stump first meets Cobb at his home in Lake Tahoe, Nev., where he finds the ballplayer slowly dying of cancer, dependent on assorted painkillers — including injecting himself with morphine — and drinking booze as if it were water.

Compulsive and restless, he tells Stump about his need for female companionship. The men take off on a terrifying ride to Reno, Nev., in a blinding snowstorm, almost driving off a mountain road.

From living with Cobb and from their crisscrossing rides across the country, Stump is shocked by Cobb's brutish behavior, his racism and his contempt for modern ballplayers.

He also is fascinated by Cobb's intellect, the people he has met, his fierce pride and his shrewd business instincts, having become a millionaire through investments in Coca-Cola and General Motors Corp.

The defining moment in Cobb's life appears to have been the premature death of his father, a man he loved and admired. A physician and prominent member of the Royston, Ga., community, he was murdered when he returned home to catch his unsuspecting wife with her lover. Mistaken for a burglar, he was shot and killed by his wife.

Or so it was thought.

The film, based on Al Stump's 1994 book about Cobb, reveals that Cobb told Stump that Mrs. Cobb's lover murdered his father. Whether Cobb was protecting his mother from having her good name tarnished isn't revealed, but she was acquitted of the crime.

There are several flashbacks capturing Cobb's fury on the base paths. Although he was the master of the hook slide, Shelton shows Cobb sliding into and running over defensive players. It is a legend that Cobb openly sharpened his spikes to gain a psychological edge on his opponents. In "Cobb," director Shelton doesn't dispel the legend.

The film briefly alludes to an infamous moment in baseball history, which may have caused the first organized — albeit brief — strike.

In the summer of 1912, Cobb was mercilessly heckled by a man named Claude Lueker, who taunted Cobb with invectives about his parents and his heritage. Cobb asked that the heckler be removed from the ballpark. The request fell on deaf ears. When the next invective flew, so did Cobb, going 12 rows deep into the stands and pummeling the startled Lueker.

Fellow spectators, too stunned to react, sat motionless until a fan told Cobb that

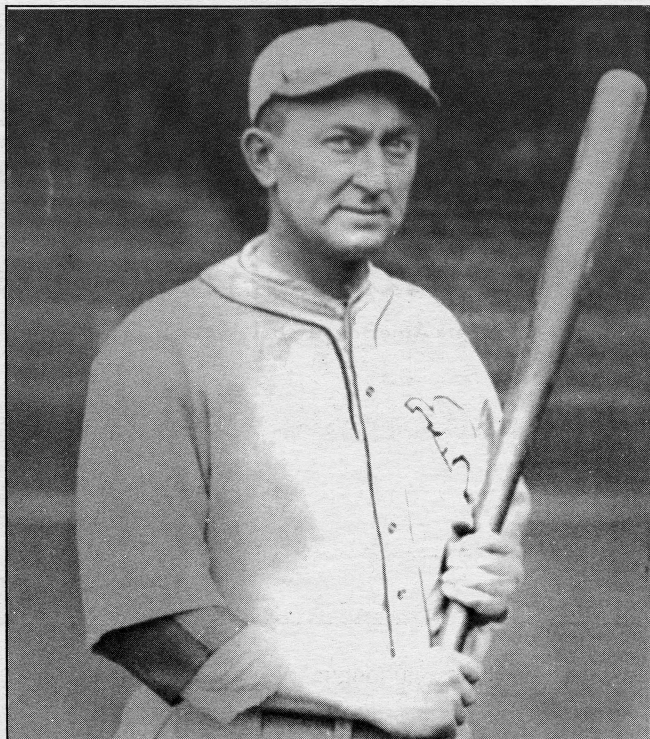


Photo courtesy of A. S. Barnes and Company, Inc.

BATTER UP — Pictured above at age 40, Ty Cobb batted .357 for the Philadelphia A's in 1927 and .323 during his next and final season.

the man was handicapped, having hooks for hands.

"I don't give a damn if he has no feet!" Cobb said.

Ban Johnson, the American League president, suspended Cobb, whereupon the rest of the Tigers team said they would not play again without Cobb. A group of college players were gathered in place of the Tigers team, and they lost the next game 24-2. Cobb told his teammates to go back to work, which they did.

The film also touches on another incident in the summer of 1912, an incident unrelated to baseball.

Driving his car in Detroit with his wife, he was flagged down by three men. When he refused their request for money, they attacked him and one man stabbed him. Amazingly, Cobb ran after them.

He caught one of the muggers and pounded his head with his revolver. Running after the second mugger, he trapped him in an alley and pistol-whipped the man's face. He didn't wait for the authorities but later admitted to once killing a man.

In addition, Cobb appears at a Las Vegas nightclub, drunk and hurling racist insults. He also is shown giving a hooker \$1,000 at gunpoint to spread the word he was great in bed. At the time, he was impotent.

Shelton presents the rarely known com-

passionate side of Cobb. He set up an educational fund in his hometown, gave money to hospitals, supported indigent players and campaigned for the election of former teammate Sam Crawford to the Hall of Fame.

Tommy Lee Jones gives a ferocious, warts-and-all portrayal of Cobb. While Jones doesn't look anything like Cobb, he certainly embodies Cobb's volatile personality and combative streak.

As sports biographies go, this is at the top of the list, thanks to the riveting performance of Jones. It is vastly superior to the shamefully bad "Babe," which starred John Goodman a few years ago.

Starring
Tommy Lee
Jones and
Robert Wuhl.

Directed by Ron
Shelton

Rated R
Now showing at
Cloverleaf Cinema

"Cobb"



The indelible Ty Cobb

Jim McNamara
CT STAFF WRITER

Who is the greatest baseball player of all time? Is it Babe Ruth or Ty Cobb?

One could argue until blue in the face about the merits of each player. One thing is certain — each player's lifetime statistics are staggering, Cobb's in particular.

Consider the following:

Cobb won 12 batting titles, nine of them consecu-

tive from 1907 to 1915. If he had won the title in 1916, all 12 titles would have been in consecutive seasons.

Ted Williams was the last man to hit .400 — hitting .406 in 1941. Cobb did it three times — hitting .420, .410 and, at age 35, .401. He hit .357 at age 40 and .323 in his next and final season.

Cobb left an indelible mark on the 1911 season, getting 248 hits, 47 doubles, 24 triples, 147 runs scored, 144 RBIs and a .420 batting average. What would this translate into in 1995 dollars?

He was the first man to win the Triple Crown, the first player/manager, the first player to hold out for more money and the first man elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

When he retired from baseball in 1928, he left behind two records that were considered unreachable — most lifetime hits with 4,191 and most stolen bases, 892. These records were broken almost 60 years later by Pete Rose and Lou Brock, respectively. It should be noted that it took Rose almost 3,000 more times at bat than Cobb to accomplish his feat.

Cobb played the game with an arrogance and recklessness unsurpassed in baseball history. He was especially a demon on the base paths and would spike players that did not give him the base line.

It was not uncommon for him to yell at opposing players and tell them he was coming down on the next pitch. He often would have the catcher and pitcher on edge to induce wild pitches and errant throws into the outfield.

In the famous baseball book "The Glory of Their Times," author Lawrence Ritter addressed this issue to former player Rube Bressler.

"Infielders didn't know what the hell he would do next," Bressler said, "and neither did he until the last split second."

Other athletes had similar superlatives for Cobb. Casey Stengel, who played briefly for the Yankees and managed them when they dominated the game from 1949 to 1960, said, "It was like he was superhuman."

Yet Cobb was easily the most detested ballplayer of his era. His aggressive "damn the torpedoes" style, his violent temper and his penchant for getting into fights rubbed players, coaches and managers — not to mention fans — the wrong way.

Ty Cobb died July 17, 1961. He outlived two children and was practically disowned by two others, so it comes as a tragedy — though no surprise — that the most despised player the game has seen had only three people from his playing days attend the funeral of the "greatest player of all time."

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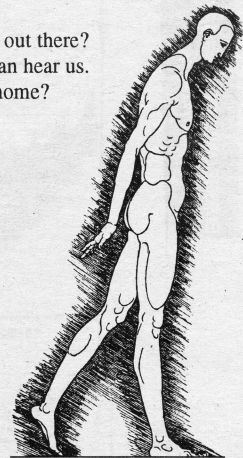
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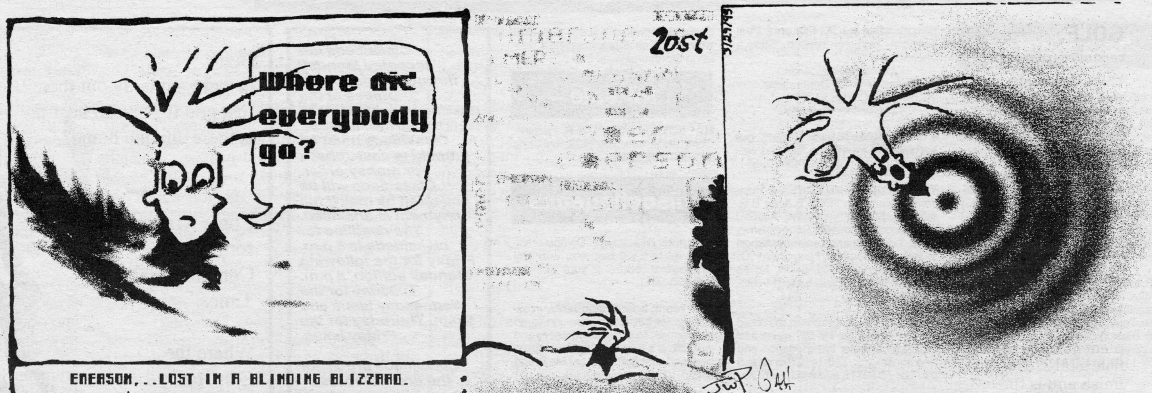


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VEETS
by "Jillian"

EMERSON'S NEIGHBORS
by Jason & Andy



PLUGGED IN
by Angela Wingle



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by Eddy Harrington



GOLF*continued from page 12*

rally, Goldstein would like to play that well one day, and believes he can.

Goldstein finished tied for first at the Ben Hogan Intercollegiate Tournament in Fripp Island, S.C., earlier this season.

Goldstein feels that he has a complete game. No really strong suits, but no real defects either.

"I hit the ball a long ways (250 to 280 yards). I roll it pretty well on the greens. I think those are my two strongest points," Goldstein said.

The lone senior on the squad, Mike Benner finished first at the East Carolina University-Emerald Intercollegiate tournament in New Bern, N.C. Benner's 54-hole total 218 led VCU to a first place team finish and is the lowest three-round total for VCU this season.

"It was my first collegiate tournament win, so it was a pretty big win," Benner said.

Benner is confident his team can qualify for the NCAA.

"We all have the potential to play well," Benner said. "It's just a matter of coming together at the right time."

Curve Ball Answer: Pittsburgh, 17

Write for SPORTS.
Call 828-1058 for the scoop.

PRO*continued from page 12*

out of work. Now, they once again are able to provide for their families.

The players generate beaucoup bucks for their home city.

Local bars and hotels, as well as businesses in the vicinity of the ballpark, once again will see plenty of revenue thanks to the players.

During spring training with replacements, Florida and Arizona lost an incredible amount of tourism dollars. No-

CON*continued from page 12*

my Atlanta Braves would have won, by the way) and months of listening to — and unfortunately looking at — Bud Selig, then the ends should have been significant changes to the game. Instead, I am left with the same system that has led to all this player strife.

If the recent onslaught of trading activity is any indication of the state of the major leagues, then the strike did little to help baseball. The Montreal Expos, the team with the best record last season, traded away its best pitcher and reliever for little or nothing in return. This shows small-market teams' inability to survive in today's system. As the top salaries continue to rise, teams such as Pittsburgh, San Diego and Montreal never will be able to compete because they can't hold onto

body wanted to pay money to see scabs on the field. Training sites that would usually draw 5,000 people were lucky to see 200 fans in the park. With the players back, both states are expected to cover their losses.

I know there are many sensible reasons for why the players should have stayed away until an agreement was reached. But I am a baseball fan who is just happy to know that on opening day Ripken will be at shortstop for the Orioles with his record intact, instead of some no-name construction worker standing in his spot.

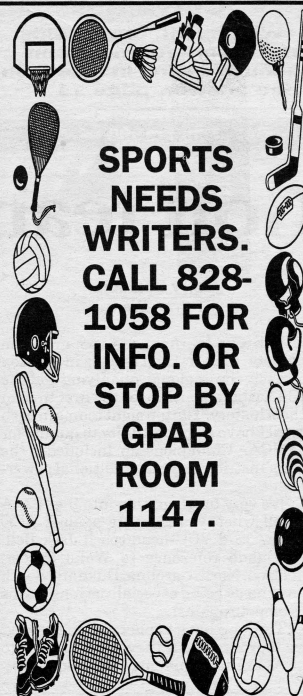
high-priced talent.

A major issue of the strike was a luxury tax that would in essence serve as a salary cap. The inability of the players and management to work out a deal has caused these small-market franchises to unload quality players at basement prices.

How long do you think the owners will allow this to happen before locking out those superstars?

While it goes without saying I'm thrilled to be watching the true baseball players back on the field, it is the bottom line I am worried about. I would much rather sacrifice April and May for the chance to see October, when the real stars shine. Memories in sports tend to be short, but I remember how I felt the day the players walked away.

Nothing is worth going through that again.



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NOTICE OF ACTION BY MCV CAMPUS HONOR COUNCIL

Charge: A second-year student was charged with cheating by receiving assistance during an exam.

Action by Honor Council: Finding of guilty. Assignment of grade of "F" in the course and placed on Honor Probation. Grade carries transcript notation "grade assigned by MCV Campus Honor Council."

Curve Ball

• Which NHL team holds the record for most consecutive wins in a season? See answer, page 11.

SPORTS

Next Issue

• A look at the new women's soccer program.

FRIDAY, April 7, 1995

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 26, No. 68

Golf team seeking first trip to NCAA

Terry Scanlon
CT STAFF WRITER

With two tournaments remaining on the slate, the VCU golf team is in position to reach the regional qualifying for the NCAA Championship for the first time in school history. The top eight teams in each district have an opportunity to qualify for the NCAA Championship. Included in the Rams' district are some traditional powerhouses.

"It's very tough getting into the NCAA in golf when you compete against ACC teams," said VCU head coach Jack Bell. Bell made reference to Wake Forest, Clemson, North Carolina, Duke and South Carolina as being especially strong teams to compete against.

"The boys have to play well in the next two tournaments if they want to get into the NCAA tournament," Bell said.

Monday in Charlotte, N.C., is the first round of the Metro Conference Golf Tournament and the Rams are very confident about their chances.

"I'm hoping to win the Metro. I know we can do it. I'm pretty sure we will," said junior Geoffrey Goldstein.

The VCU golf team has fared pretty well, finishing first twice and third twice in four tournaments this season.

In their most recent event at the Silver Lakes Intercollegiate Tournament hosted by Jacksonville State University, sophomore John Rollins captured the individual title while leading the team to a first place finish. Rollins' 54-hole total of 219 was highlighted by a VCU season-best 69.

"It is always nice to win something," said Rollins, a graduate of Meadowbrook High School. "When I shot the 69 I was not out there for myself. I was trying to help the team as much as I could."

"I predict he will be the next great player to come out of Richmond," Bell said of Rollins.

"He has the capacity to be a Lanny Wadkins or a Curtis Strange," said Bell. Wadkins and Strange are perhaps the two best golfers on the Professional Golfers' Association Tour from the state of Virginia. According to Bell, Rollins has the one ingredient necessary to be a tour professional—the ability to hit it long and straight.

The lowest scoring average on the team, 74.6 strokes per round, belongs to Goldstein, who grew up playing with Phil Mickelson. Mickelson, a three-time NCAA champion and current tour professional, is considered by many golf experts one of the finest young players in the game today.

"It's been amazing to watch him play," Goldstein said of his former golf foe. Natu-

GOLF continued to page 11 ►



SWINGIN' — Senior Mike Benner and the VCU golf team set their sights on the NCAA championships.

1995 VCU Golf Results

Team Finish

3rd of 20
3rd of 24
1st of 19
1st of 12

Top Individual

John Rollins and Miguel Reyes 226 (T13)
Geoffrey Goldstein 76-70-72 — 218 (1st)
Mike Benner 71-76-71 — 218 (1st)
John Rollins 76-69-74 — 219 (T1)

Tournament

South Florida Invitational
Fripp Island Intercollegiate
East Carolina Intercollegiate
Jacksonville St. Intercollegiate



Point/Counterpoint

Every week two writers will use the CT to voice their opposing opinions on a particular sports topic.



Today's topic deals with the issue of whether Major League Baseball players should have agreed to end the strike without a collective bargaining agreement with the owners.

They're back!! (This year, anyway)

Baseball is back!!!!

Last Friday, Major League Baseball players decided to come back to work after the National Labor Relations Board concluded the owners were negotiating with the players in bad faith.

My counterpart feels the players shouldn't have come back without an agreement because the players may strike again. I disagree.

The players needed to come back and they needed to do so for the fans.

Subjecting the fans to the replacement "scab" players would have been an even greater injustice to them than this eight-month strike has been. Bringing in scabs and calling them major leaguers is an insult to the fans' intelligence.

The following is what the fans could see with the players' return and what they would have seen with the replacement players...

Reality: "There's a blast by Frank Thomas; that ball is outta here! What an arm on Randy Johnson, that pitch was



Coveh
Solaimani

over 95 mph! Cal Ripken just broke Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played!"

Replacements: "Look at that pitch by Marty Clary. It must have reached 80 on the radar gun. Pedro Borbon looks great out there. Oops, I hope he didn't just have a heart attack."

What would you rather see Thomas hitting a baseball into orbit or a bloop single by a replacement player?

The players' return also could help to keep some franchises alive. If Pittsburgh had to support replacement players, the team would have lost millions of dollars.

The estimated attendance for a full season of scabs would have been almost 500,000. With the return of the players, Pittsburgh should bring in at least 1.5 million people. The Pirates will have a competitive team and with a reduced payroll they may be able to survive in Pittsburgh instead of relocating.

While on the subject of survival, think about all the vendors and stadium workers who once again will be paid. Without the players' return, a lot of people still would be

Baseball now may cost fans later

The strike is over, the real players have returned and the nation's pastime is back. But all is not well in Mudville.

The players return to the field this Friday under the same dark cloud they walked away from in August when they began the longest strike in professional sports history.

Although the players have returned, there is no collective bargaining agreement in place.

The league will be operating under the same system that caused the players to walk out and caused the league to cancel the World Series for the first time since 1904.

The fans who suffered through eight months of dysfunctional rhetoric and posturing by the likes of Donald Fehr and Bud Selig, may have to do it all again.

If at any time during the season the players get pissed off with management there's nothing stopping them from walking out on the game and the fans once again. So, in effect, by coming back prior to

negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement, the players and management are setting the stage for another play stoppage.

But this time, the results may be much worse.

Imagine if you will: Cal Ripken only a few games short of the consecutive games played record. Ken Griffey Jr. chasing Roger Maris' single-season home-run record with 50 taters to his credit. Then imagine Fehr announcing yet another strike that would dash not only the great accomplishments of these players but also the hearts of the fans.

My counterpart might suggest that the players should return for the fans, no matter what the circumstances are. Yet I maintain if the players felt things were so bad they had to strike for more than eight months, then coming back without any changes to the current system can't benefit the fans.

If we believe, as I often hear we do, that the ends should always justify the means then frankly I feel cheated. If I had to deal with the loss of the World Series (which



James
McMahon

PRO continued to page 11 ►

CON continued to page 11 ►