

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY — Partly sunny. Highs in the mid- to upper 70s. Lows in the low to mid-60s.

THURSDAY — Partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Highs between 75 and 80. Lows in the low 60s.

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

• Spectrum gets the low down on relationships. See the student survey on page 9.



WEDNESDAY, September 20, 1995

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 27, No. 10

5th District Councilman Richardson

VCU speaks about his resignation

Sherry Jones
CT STAFF WRITER

Henry W. "Chuck" Richardson's resignation from the Richmond City Council, stemming from his arrest Sunday night, has prompted mixed reactions from VCU students and administrators.

Duane Kay, president of VCU's Student Government Association, said he thinks Richardson's resignation was appropriate under the circumstances.

"I think that in a city that is trying to establish a war on drugs," he said, "...you can't have somebody leading that fight who is losing that war themselves."

Richardson, 47, who represented the 5th District, was arrested about 10:30 p.m. Sunday in Henrico County and charged Monday with three felonies: possession of heroin with intent to distribute, distribution of heroin and conspiracy to distribute heroin, Henrico County Commonwealth's Attorney Toby Vick said Monday.

The 5th District includes the Carytown business district, the neighborhoods surrounding Byrd Park and the Randolph, Oregon Hill and Woodland communities. Some of the district also includes parts of the VCU community.

INSIDE

See page 4 for a timeline of Richardson's arrests.

Richardson's problems with drug abuse first surfaced publicly in 1987, with another public incident following in 1994.

Tammie L. Taylor, 24, of Norfolk, was arrested at the same time and charged with the same three offenses as Richardson.

Scott Keeter, chairman of VCU's political science and public administration department, labeled the situation a "tragedy."

"He (Richardson) seems like a very bright guy with a very good grasp of the larger issues that affect Richmond," Keeter said. "This type of thing contributes to the further erosion of public confidence in public officials."

L. Victor Collins, director of minority student affairs, agreed.

"This was a tragedy that seemed to be waiting to play its way out," he said.

Naturally, he added, Richardson's resignation after 18 years of service will impact the 5th District as well as the city council.

"There was, in my view, no other choice," Collins said concerning Richardson's decision to resign.

On the other hand, Raymond Cadv., a political science major, said he thinks Richardson made his decision to resign too hastily.

"The fact that the man participates in an illegal activ-

ity," Cadv. said, "does not always have a direct correlation to whether he can be effective as a political administrator."

In recent years, Richardson has been noted for his contributions to his district, including securing police patrols, improving street lighting and planting trees in Carytown.

Angela Harris, a political science major, said she doesn't think people will remember him for his contributions. Instead, she said he will be remembered for his involvement with drugs.

"I don't want somebody who's selling drugs on city council," she said. "I think he belongs in jail, not representing our city."

Meanwhile, the city council is responsible for appointing someone to complete Richardson's term. The next regular council election is in May, and Richardson's term runs through June.

Jayfred Dotson, an administration of justice major, said he thinks the city and the 5th District will have no problem finding someone qualified to replace Richardson.

"I think he should have been fired before he resigned,"



Richardson

RICHARDSON continued to page 4 ➤

Budget cuts on Capitol Hill hit many students

Dan Lowrey
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A proposal now in Congress would cut funding for student loans and grants across the country by \$10.4 billion over the next seven years.

To students relying on Uncle Sam for tuition, this means one thing: increased monthly payments.

State lawmakers met Monday to prepare for a tidal wave of changes at the federal level that will change drastically the way Virginia operates. One change

now being debated in Washington signals nothing but bad news for student borrowers.

"There seems to be no way to meet the goal in Congress of cutting \$10.4 billion other than to increase the costs to needy students," said Richard Seaman, legislative fiscal analyst for the House Appropriations Committee. "The bottom line is the cost to students is going to go up."

Currently, 42,000 Virginia students receive Stafford Student Loans, federal fi-

LOANS continued to page 4 ➤

SGA debates meeting procedures

Group seeks efficient substitute for Robert's Rules

Laurence Wallace
CT STAFF WRITER

Lively debate occurred at Monday's SGA meeting concerning changes in the constitution — specifically concerning replacing Robert's Rules of Order. While members voted 17-0 during SGA's retreat to eliminate Robert's Rules from their constitution, the committee was divided about a new standard of operating guidelines.

SGA's constitution states, "Parliamen-



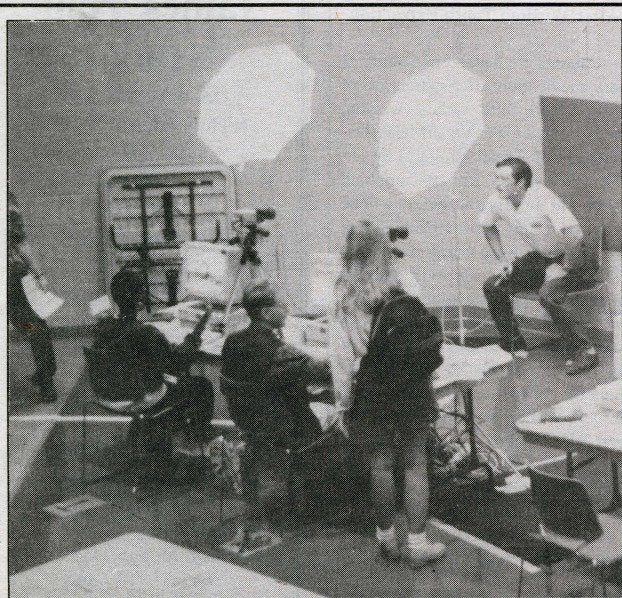
tary questions shall be decided according to Robert's Rules of Order." The rules outline how motions are made, how a debate is run and establishes order at meetings.

"Robert's Rules are set up for a more complex governing structure than what a student government allows," said Duane Kay, SGA president. "We are looking to create an easier way of governing."

The association is considering creating a position of meeting manager to officiate at the meetings. That job now belongs to the SGA vice president.

Charlie Bryan, SGA's training coordi-

SGA continued to page 4 ➤



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

NEW AND IMPROVED — VCU students line up in the commons to receive the VCU ONE CARD. Students on the academic campus can obtain the new ID between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. today and Thursday and 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday in the Commons Theater. For additional hours, call the VCU ONE CARD offices at 828-8385 (academic) or 828-8391 (MCV).

World NEWS

News from across the globe



WORLD/NATION



• Presidential candidate assassinated in Algeria

ALGIERS, Algeria — An independent presidential candidate was assassinated Sunday, casting further doubt on the legitimacy of an election already marred by an opposition boycott.

Abdel Magid Ben Hadid, 50, was shot to death in Boudouaou, 18 miles east of Algiers, a police official said on condition of anonymity. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Opposition groups contend the election, the first round of which is scheduled for Nov. 16, is a ploy to legitimize the military-backed government.

Meanwhile, Islamic militants screaming religious and political slogans burst into Boukrane, a village about 90 miles east of Algiers, slit the throats of 15 men, women and children and then bulldozed their homes, witnesses said Sunday.

• Farrakhan says his march also an apology to women

WASHINGTON — Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan says his planned Million Man March next month is, among other things, a gesture of apology to black women, who often must raise families alone.

"This is a march to say ... (men) are sorry for what we have done," Farrakhan told a stamping, cheering crowd of more than 1,000 that overflowed the Union Temple Baptist Church Sunday night.

Some black female leaders criticized exclusion of females from the scheduled Oct. 16 parade in Washington that sponsors hope will energize black men to rededicate themselves to church, family and community.

The muslim cleric's appearance in a Baptist church symbolizes the goal of black unity in organizing the march.

• Dahmer's parents to decide fate of son's brain

MILWAUKEE — Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer's remains were cremated Sunday, although his brain was preserved while his parents argue about whether to give it to scientists for study.

His father, Lionel Dahmer of Akron, Ohio, claimed his half of Dahmer's ashes on Sunday while arrangements were being made for his mother, Joyce Flint of Fresno, Calif., to receive the rest.

Nothing could be done with Dahmer's body until Christopher J. Scarver was sentenced in May for beating Dahmer to death in a Wisconsin prison.

VIRGINIA



• Government officials plan groundbreaking

POUND — Gov. George Allen, Secretary of Public Safety Jerry Kilgore and the director of the Department of Corrections will attend a groundbreaking next month for the Red Onion prison project.

The Oct. 3 ceremony will take place at the Red Onion site off Route 83 near the Wise-Dickerson county line.

The project design, construction cost and associated management fees are not to exceed a budget of \$68 million, with a total budget of \$72 million.

RICHMOND



• City seeks groups to join Mosque reopening parade

When the former Mosque reopens it might not have a name, but it will have a parade, and local groups and organizations are being asked to join in.

The Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks is encouraging groups, especially those in the performing arts, to be part of the Oct. 28 parade.

The parade will launch a weekend celebration of the reopening of the city-owned theater.

Entry rules and applications for the parade are available by calling 780-5704. The entry deadline is Oct. 6.

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Volunteers Wanted For Pain Medication Study After Wisdom Tooth Extraction

Patients are needed in a study of pain medication after extraction of two or more third molars (wisdom teeth) conducted at VCU/MCV (Department of Anesthesiology) by Dr. Don Price and Dr. Robert Campbell. After oral surgery, the patient will be required to stay approximately three to five hours in the recovery room to estimate pain intensity and pain relief after the study medication.

Volunteers must be healthy male and female patients, 18 to 50 years of age, and range 110 to 200 pounds. Benefits for participating include 1) surgery will be performed by an expert oral surgeon (faculty member of MCV); 2) surgical fees will be reduced by 30 percent to 50 percent; 3) patients will be given a \$75 honorarium for study participation, which will be sent by check within three weeks.

Information or scheduling may be obtained by calling Dr. Don Price at 804 828-1984, daytime or 353-5320, evening; or Cecilia in the Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic at 804 828-9754 or 828-9186.

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Richardson defined by outside actions

The Richmond Times-Dispatch called him "a disgrace."

Former Richmond Mayor Roy West called him "a man of immoral character."

Richmond's 5th District called him their representative to the city council but usually followed with a snicker.

Early Monday morning, Henry W. "Chuck" Richardson called it quits.

In response to another set of drug charges, the embattled Richardson ended an 18-year run with the Richmond City Council that oftentimes

Student COMMENTARY

Brian J. French

was as tenuous as his 12-vote margin of victory in the election that started his tenure. He phoned in his resignation — fittingly enough — from the Henrico County Jail at 3:15 a.m., five hours after his arrest on three drug-related felony charges.

Richmond Mayor Leonidas B. Young said Richardson "has done the right thing in resigning," and few of the now-former councilman's constituents and contemporaries seem to have disagreed.

Richardson's outspokenness in council chambers would have been enough to command attention, but his actions outside those chambers ultimately defined him.

October 1983: Richardson is arrested for drunken driving in Henrico County.

October 1987: After his arrest for possession of heroin and cocaine, Richardson would admit to an addiction to heroin and join a rehabilitation program.

April 1989: Richardson allegedly accepts \$6,000 from the FBI in late 1987 to inform on potential corruption within the city government, which would be the catalyst for an FBI probe of the councilman.

Combined with allegations and rumors about other miscreant activities, Richardson's police blotter and penchant for speaking his mind at all costs made him easy prey for the Times-Dispatch, fellow council members and disillusioned residents of his district. Many wondered if — or more likely, when — he ever would resign or be removed from office.

It took Sunday's round of arrests for the much-maligned Richardson to finally resign his seat.

As for Richardson's future, *post council*, one wonders if he ever truly will seek help.

He entered a drug rehabilitation facility — for the third time since 1988. His previous stays were likely of political motivation; now politics are no longer of concern.

If he is sincere about breaking his heroin addiction, then Godspeed. Otherwise, good riddance.

Regardless, it would appear that for Richardson, the other shoe has finally dropped — in the form of a boot out of city council.

Environmental studies director seeks three-fold change

Angela Battle
CT STAFF WRITER

VCU's Center for Environmental Studies has a new director, Greg Garmon, associate professor of biology, who said he now wears two hats.

"I'll still teach and my research activity won't diminish," Garmon said, adding that he has some specific immediate goals for the center.

Three to be exact.

The first, he said, involves encouraging and facilitating the interdisciplinary nature of environmental sciences at VCU.

"I want to use the center to pull together individual pockets of environmental educators and researchers — to integrate.

"For example, people at MCV are doing research on public health and the Kepone disaster. All of my research focuses on the ecology of the James River. The related focus — that collective approach can make a greater contribution."

Second, Garmon wants to increase the external visibility of the center by emphasizing its urban nature.

"People don't think of an urban institution as having a strong environmental sciences program," Garmon said, "or doing environmental research."

"To take things one step further I want to promote an exchange with the community outside of academia."

Workshops, seminars and courses targeted for certificate programs could help to accomplish the third objective. Opening these offerings to the public, Garmon said, will provide input and information for decision-makers and those responsible for managing natural resources.

Ultimately, he sees the center as a major regional resource that would contribute technical expertise and sound scientific data that can be used to manage most appropriately the commonwealth's resources.

An evolving philosophy for the center echoes in a distinction that reinforces Garmon's goals — that of the differences between environmentalism and environmental sciences.

"When I talk about environmental issues I am not necessarily talking about 'environmentalism,'" Garmon said, "which is a kind of social activism not based on objective science."

"It is not appropriate for an academic institution to get involved on the emotional level."

Professor's study traces segregation in area schools

YooRee Oh
CT STAFF WRITER

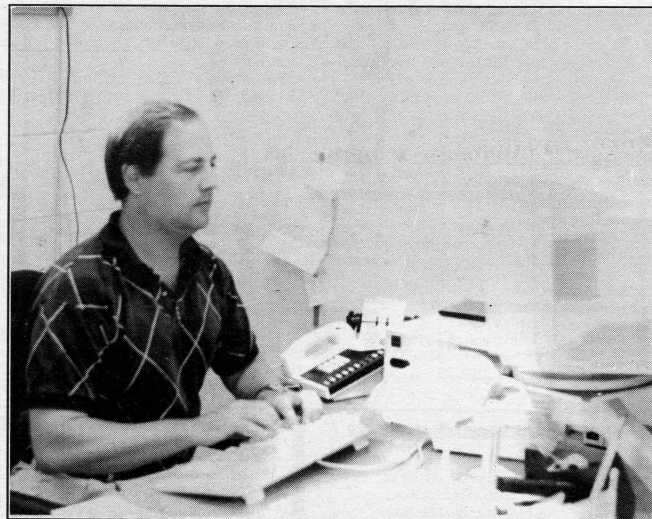
"Racism is very much alive," Sandra Nuttall said after listening to Samuel Craver's presentation of Richmond's experience with segregation at a University Honors Program Dessert Forum yesterday.

Nuttall, an assistant professor and faculty adviser in the College of Humanities and Sciences, attended the honors forum at the Valentine House along with some 30 VCU honors students.

"It's sad that we still see it today, but the barriers still exist," she said.

Craver, a professor in educational studies, presented to the audience of professors and students an overview of a project he and a former group of students conducted in 1992.

The project, titled "Black Richmonders' Experience with School Segregation and Desegregation: An Oral History of Educa-



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

MAN WITH A VISION — Greg Garmon, associate professor of biology and the new director of the VCU Center for Environmental Studies, wants to improve the external visibility of the center.

Since environmental sciences are becoming more technically oriented the director would like to see the center keep up with the technological pace. Thus, he's already pursuing a connection with the proposed School of Engineering.

"Environmental engineering is a new and rapidly growing field," he said. "To have that capacity — an entirely new field would be a major asset because there is no such program in the state."

The Center for Environmental Studies became a reality in the fall of 1992, when Elske v. P. Smith, former dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, was appointed interim director of the new center.

"The college already had a minor and certificate in environmental studies but these were not well-known," Smith said.

"One of my first goals was to try and get the programs known among students — publicize the certificate and academic studies."

She achieved this by broadening awareness in current environmental issues and relevant academic studies partly through

public forums. Topics ranged from water quality to property rights.

"The one on air quality in the fall of 1994 was the most successful," Smith said. "It generated a lot of student and community interest in the center to a greater extent than any before."

In May 1995 — after two years as director — Smith

retired and has moved to Lee, Mass. — the community where her son Ken lives. But retirement for Smith, an astronomer, includes continuing her environmental activities.

"I am working on a chapter about global-warming for a book, and in three weeks I leave for Kenya," Smith said. "I'll be working with an Earthwatch project on solar and wind power at the grassroots level."

When Smith needed an assistant in summer 1993, along came Andy Lacatell, a graduate from the master of interdisciplinary studies program concentrating on

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tion," was funded by the Ford Foundation. It has received national attention at universities across the United States.

The small, local audience listened as Craver discussed specific aspects of the project.

In his research of Richmond schools before, during and after segregation, Craver said he found a paradoxical set of conclusions.

"Nobody wanted to go back to segregation, that was clear," Craver said.

"What was uncovered was that there was a sense of pride, (outside the boundaries of) legal separation that the black community lost as a result of desegregation."

From interviews with indigenous Richmonders who attended school during such times, Craver said he found segregation carried a variety of definitions.

"The separate institutions gave the black community an identity," he said. "Although

black schools were usually underfunded and overcrowded, family traditions developed around that. Children wanted to attend the same school their parents did."

Having been brought up in the same time period, he added that segregation was an accepted condition.

"As a child, I never thought about it. I didn't know any black kids, I knew black adults, and I think young black kids back then were the same way," he said.

Nuttall reiterated that things haven't changed much.

"Richmond (back then) was a very cleverly racist place," Nuttall said. "It was still segregated, but it was quiet. Things were always perking below the surface."

She recalled a time when she was a graduate student at VCU when students were denied admission to the university solely because of their skin color.

"We've come far, but we still have a long way to go."

RICHARDSON

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Dotson said. "There's going to be somebody to move in and take his spot."

Jemaane Blue, a mass communications major, said while Richardson may have been an effective councilman, it is inevitable that he will lose his credibility after

this incident.

Along the same lines, Monica Wyatt, an accounting and finance major, said she thinks his constituents should be happy Richardson's gone.

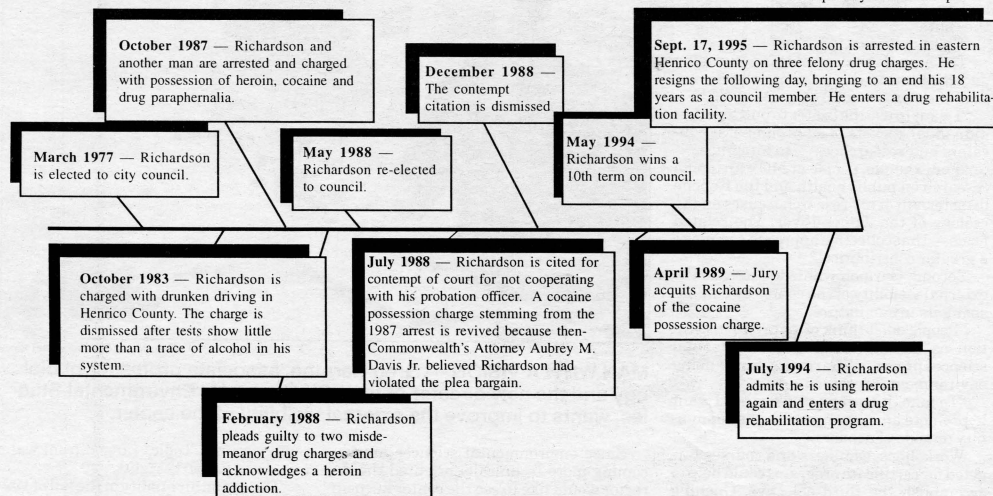
"I'm sure he's made an impact," she continued, "but I'm not sure whether it's

positive or negative."

According to local news sources, a videotape will serve as evidence in the prosecution's case against Richardson. The case is the result of an investigation spanning several months that focused on Richardson.

Information compiled from news sources.
Graphic by Valerie Thorpe.

Richardson's promise and problems



SGA

continued from page 1

nator, said he favors finding a more efficient way of conducting SGA meetings since last year's meetings lacked a sense of unity and often "debate shifted from issues to procedures."

Bryan said some senators will feel disenfranchised without Robert's Rules, and he wants to find a procedure that gives everybody a fair hearing.

"My only worry is that there will be enough discontent with that idea that it will bog us down," Bryan said. "I'm hesitant of taking a good idea and turning it into a bad process. You can't please everybody, but you can listen to everybody."

Bryan said he thinks closer attention should be paid to attendance at meetings and senators failing to attend should be held accountable.

William H. Duvall, SGA faculty adviser and vice provost and dean of student affairs, said, "I agree that if Robert's Rules is eliminated another procedure for Senate meetings should be outlined."

New procedures, he added, need to accommodate both planned and spontaneous motions.

If new guidelines are adopted, these would explain how to get on the meeting agenda, how to write a resolution, how to make a motion and what happens when a motion is made.

Also included would be how to recognize a speaker during a meeting, time limits on motions and voting on whether the Senate is ready to vote on a resolution.

At Monday's meeting the group unanimously passed a motion to form an ad hoc committee to create guidelines replacing Robert's Rules. Rebecca Riofrio, SGA's ad hoc coordinator, will head the committee and be responsible for its assembly.

Riofrio said replacing Robert's Rules will be liberating for a lot of senators who are stifled because of their lack of knowledge about the rules.

"Although the purpose (of the rules) is to run a meeting more effectively, in SGA's case it is inhibiting," she said.

Carmen H. Bell, administrative assistant to the vice provost for student affairs, suggested setting limits for the number of agendas permitted at meetings.

"SGA needs to decide how many items can be realistically handled at every meeting," she said. "Perhaps the executives could determine this on a first-come, first-served basis."

Kay said Robert's Rules slow the passage of bills because he thinks senators unfamiliar with the rules are hesitant to speak. SGA needs to find a way to keep the "debate from becoming meaningless," he added.

Sen. Clifton Davis, chairman of the appointments committee, said, "It's not the terminology but the procedure that confuses people."

Duvall was concerned that setting time limits could thwart the group from making quality decisions.

"Good lively debate — where different sides are heard — are what in the end allow the Senate to make good quality decisions," he said.

Sen. Sean Johnson of the services committee agreed, saying, "We can suggest time limits but make it understood that if another variable comes into play (debate) could be extended."

In other business, SGA executives unanimously approved asking the appropriations committee to match the \$10,000 already in place for SGA's student leadership fund. The original \$10,000 came from a rollover that was remaining from last year's SGA budget.

SGA is seeking to have \$30,000 by the end of the year and plans to begin rewarding scholarships by next fall.

Bryan said he thinks VCU needs to develop more student leadership, and in the future, he hopes VCU will offer a non-academic honors program that focuses on

CENTER

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environmental planning and sociology.

"I was working for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay," Lacatell said, "so I had experience along with my degree."

His role evolved from what he calls "making copies to basic literary reviews." For 18 months Lacatell worked on lead poisoning in Virginia, a project that grew from a proposal submitted to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

"This led to what I am working on now," Lacatell said, identifying his developing an educational brochure for the state health department on lead poisoning.

The MAIS graduate's involvement with state agencies in conjunction with the center targets Garmon's third objective.

"In the fall," he said, "I will be doing student advising for the academic programs and focus on getting our series of environmental training and technology workshops in place."

Lacatell, like Garmon, emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of environmental studies.

"The center likes to keep its hands in all departments, not just science but politics, policy," Lacatell said. "There are interesting subtleties to political and legislative aspects of environmental science."

He recommends BIO 114, "Introduction to Environmental Science" for first-year students.

"It will give the student an excellent foundation for further study," Lacatell said.

leadership.

"This is the beginning of a long-term project of figuring out how we can create a program that will rival the University of Richmond's Jepson School of Leadership Studies," Bryan said.

LOANS

continued from page 1

nancial aid for which the government pays all interest while the student is in school. VCU's financial aid office estimates 8,500 students take advantage of the Stafford Student Loan program.

The loss to Virginia still is uncertain because Congress has not worked out the details of education spending for the next biennium. President Bill Clinton already has threatened to veto it. Still state officials are looking at a worst-case scenario: the possibility that enrollment at state colleges may drop even lower.

How will Congress still be able to offer student loans to needy students?

Some ideas being considered:

- Require graduate students to pay interest accrued while in school.
- Eliminate the six-month grace period.
- Cancel an interest rate reduction planned for 1998.
- Increase the loan origination fee.
- Require all students to pay interest accrued while in school.

Also on the chopping block are Pell Grants and State Student Incentive Grants. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia estimates that 1,300 students will lose their Pell Grants if the minimum grant amount is raised from \$400 to \$600 as currently proposed in Congress.

Yet, the Stafford Student Loan program cuts will affect the most students. Together with potential reductions in federal welfare and Medicaid relief, educational needs promise to keep state lawmakers busy as they try to make due with a smaller piece of the federal pie.

He also encourages them to keep the integrative potential of environmental sciences in mind when considering course work.

Moreover, Lacatell said, he will assist any student with inquiries concerning environmental studies.

Garmon sees the expansion of current programs as enriching the role the center plays in the lives of VCU students, saying if enough relevant courses were offered on a regular basis the university could perhaps add a major and graduate programs.

"I have to convince individual departments that courses should be taught on a regular schedule," Garmon said. "Expanding the programs will attract students to VCU and its faculty."

An internship program offered through the center also provides hands-on experience for students enrolled in one of the environmental sciences' tracks.

In addition, a two-day conference on water-resource issues will draw environmental planners and policy-makers from around the state. Working in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Garmon's initiative offers specific approaches to solving the Lake Gaston pipeline controversy.

For the future, both Garmon and Lacatell predict the center will play a dynamic role in regional environmental issues.

"We have a great opportunity to study how man and the natural environment interact," Lacatell said. "We have a major urban university with the James River running 500 yards away."

Any student who demonstrates leadership on campus or in the community can apply for the leadership scholarship. council, which has not yet been formed, would select candidates for the scholarship.



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The Commonwealth TIMES

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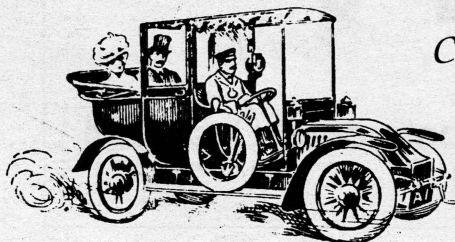
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The Commonwealth TIMES

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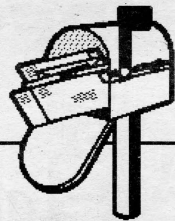
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Letters

TO THE EDITOR



Allen Heading in Right Direction on Welfare But Falls Short of Goal

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:

Once again, as he envisions large-scale reform of Virginia's welfare system, Gov. George Allen is following his Jeffersonian instincts in the right direction. Once again, he is failing to follow those instincts to a logical and ethical conclusion.

At a meeting of private-sector welfare providers in Fredericksburg, Allen noted, correctly, that we all "want to help those of us among us who are most in need so they will have some hope and freedom." He also argued, correctly, that "for too long, government has wrongfully assumed the rights and responsibilities of individuals and private entities." He added that "the government cannot, and in fact should not, do it alone." According to the Washington Times, he said government "can help promote the work ethic, self-reliance and a positive economic environment."

On this point Allen is wrong. Our experience in the past century shows quite the opposite. When the government gets involved in welfare, far from promoting these good things, it destroys the work ethic, undermines self-reliance and creates a troubled economic environment.

Why doesn't Allen take his Jeffersonian principles to their logical conclusion? That is, why doesn't he say outright that government should not be in the welfare business? That the private sector and the voluntary actions of individuals are better suited to help the poor? That we need a separation of charity and state as much as we need separation of church and state?

Allen has fallen under the spell of Great

Society rhetoric, which says that the government has a proper role to play in the provision of charity, that a "compassionate" society is one that uses tax-funded bureaucracies to subsidize poverty. Only when he shakes himself from that reverie will he be able to lead Virginia in a truly revolutionary — truly Jeffersonian — direction.

Professor Marvin Olasky explains, in his book, "The Tragedy of American Compassion," that virtue and compassion are not government characteristic. Only individuals and the voluntary associations they form can provide compassionate assistance to the poor. Compassion only occurs willingly, voluntarily.

Involuntary programs funded by tax dollars always fall short of their supposed goal of raising the poor out of poverty. After 30 years and \$5 trillion of aid to the poor, the poor still are with us, the inner city black family has been destroyed and single mother families are becoming the rule rather than the exception.

Private-sector programs, which offer assistance only with "strings attached," are far more effective — and far less costly — than government-assistance programs. The "strings" that are attached to these programs include things like: get a job,

stop using drugs, don't have sex out of wedlock, return to school, get married. Such "strings" mean that aid recipients must take responsibility for their own lives and learn to live with the consequences of their decisions.

These "strings" tie the recipients to their communities and those communities' highest moral standards. As a result, recipients of private charity are better able to rise out of their adverse circumstances and become productive members of our society.

In contrast, government programs are doomed to fail by this and any other standard. Writing in the monthly journal National Minority Politics (August 1995), Robert Woodson of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise notes: "Governments operate through bureaucracies which are not easily receptive to input from the population that is served and which add greatly to the cost of services (in some cases absorbing as much as 70 percent of the funds channeled through them). The cumbersome regulations imposed by these bureaucracies and the fact that the professionals who dictate these regulations are physically distant from the problems combine to make most government programs costly, misdirected and ineffective."

Deroy Murdock, an adjunct fellow of the Fairfax-based Atlas Economic Research Foundation, explains the difference provided by private organizations a few pages later in the same publication.

"Private charities physically see aid recipients when they come in for their benefits. This allows them to judge when things are going right or going wrong in their lives and respond accordingly. Public bodies tend to spew checks out of computers. When someone peers through the window of the envelope bearing his payment, no one is on the other side to see if he or she is missing these funds or sorely lacking something besides cash."

Private charities, because they are neighborhood-based, are able to provide more one-to-one attention and to take care of nonfinancial needs, spiritual or psychic, that computers and overworked bureaucrats cannot or will not address. Individuals, in other words, can show genuine compassion. Bureaucracies utterly lack compassion.

Gov. Allen should take whatever steps are necessary to take welfare out of the hands of bureaucrats and put it back where it belongs: with the family, the neighborhood, the church or synagogue and the union hall. Anything short of that betrays the Governor's self-ascribed Jeffersonian inspiration.

Sincerely,
Richard Sincere
Chairman, Libertarian Party of
Virginia

No Humor in Racial Issue

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:

I am writing in response to Ryan Templeton's Sept. 15 editorial regarding crossing the street. I agree there is a problem for pedestrians on this campus. Unfortunately, Templeton's attempt at humorizing the subject was childish and naive.

I could not believe what I was reading when he tried to convince his readership that the colors of pedestrian traffic lights are racist in nature! Is he really this desperate to fill the opinion page?

The color white is a color of purity and trust, not a symbol for the Caucasian race. And red, as everyone except Templeton

knows, signifies anger, danger and caution. The feelings associated with the different colors go back farther than American's 20th century racial problems.

It really upsets me that someone in Templeton's position (student paper contributor, medical student, role model) chose a subject that has nothing to do with race and turned it into one for no reason.

Certainly, this is not how we should go about curing this country of such problems.

Sincerely,
Wendy Allred
Junior, English

Lights Out, Nowhere to Go

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:

In reference to the front cover picture of Monroe Park and its headline "Lights Up — Time to Go" (Sept. 11), I want to voice my disgust. The headline is referring to the arbitrarily enforced law under which all citizens must leave the park by sundown. I say arbitrarily for it is only the homeless, who spend a great deal of time there as they have for years, who are being arrested for violating this law. Other citizens, or rather, citizens who aren't perceived as homeless and thus dangerous, are given special treatment by being allowed to remain in the park.

The caption beneath the headline stated, "Because of VCU student concerns for safety, a nighttime curfew has been instituted for homeless in Monroe Park." This highlights the obvious bias against the homeless imbued by the caption's author. To embody any sentiment of fairness, the curfew should be for all people or no one at all, not just for the homeless.

Secondly, how will clearing the park out at night make it safe? If no one — according to the law in its objective state — is to use the park, no one should be within its parameters at night, despite how much safety some believe a curfew will create. However, the hypocritical application of this law is grossly superseded by the attitudes which would allow such a policy to be implemented and accepted.

This is an urban setting, one which has a largely neglected homeless population. This "eyesore" will not be swept out of Monroe Park into a land far from Richmond by this short-term facelift called the curfew.

Now those who are down on their luck will be forced to find some other less-than-human location to lay their heads down — but not in Monroe Park, and certainly nowhere offensive to the students of VCU.

So what's next? Marital law for the entire city, which will be applied only to the "bad" people? This is not the way to create a safe environment for students and citizens.

Safety in an urban environment comes when all of the citizens' basic needs are fulfilled.

This is not happening in Richmond. It is every citizen's right to enjoy the rudimentary necessities of civilized life. Taking away an already inadequate place to rest for the night only creates more need.

Lastly, in response to the headline, "Lights Up — Time to Go," where would you have them go? Maybe somebody who used to sleep in Monroe Park has a good solution.

Sincerely,
Christine Cochran,
Junior, political science

Commonwealth TIMES

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Martha Shelton

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. The opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Commonwealth TIMES* or VCU.

We reserve the right to edit all letters for grammar, style and space. Letters should not exceed one single-spaced typed page. Letters must be signed and must include daytime and evening phone numbers. Editorial e-mail: eng3slr@hibbs. Mailing address: P. O. Box 842010, Richmond, VA 23284-2010. Drop box location: 1149 General Purpose Academic Building (outside of the *Commonwealth TIMES* office).

Editorial e-mail: eng3slr@hibbs

SPECTRUM

from one end



alendar

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

Concert: The APB/Special Events Committee presents Jabbering Trout at noon in the Commons Plaza. For more information, call 828-3648.

Athletics: The VCU women's soccer team takes on James Madison University at 4 p.m. at Cary Street Field. For more information, call 828-7000.

Athletics: VCU men's soccer takes on East Carolina at 7 p.m. at Cary Street Field. For more information, call 828-7000.

Coffeehouse: The Commons Collage features Jabbering Trout at 8 p.m. in Common Ground. For more information, call 828-3648.

Exhibit: Ben Blake's exhibit continues at Student Art Space in the student commons. For more information, call 828-3648.

Exhibit: John Runberg's exhibit continues at The Student Art Gallery in the student commons. For more information, call 828-3648.

Exhibit: "Video Art: The First 25 Years" opens at the Marsh Gallery of the University of Richmond. For more information, call 289-8276.

Concert: Battalion of Saints, which includes members of Ministry, play Twisters at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 353-4263.

Exhibit: "New Work," an invitational exhibition of new and established Virginia artists continues through Oct. 28 at 1708 Gallery, 103 E. Broad St. For more information, call 643-7829.

Exhibit: "Recent Acquisitions - Letters of William F. Slemons" continues at The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay St. For more information, call 649-1861.

Exhibit: "Observations from the Field: A

New Perspective on Pinhole Photography by Willie Anne Wright" continues at The Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 E. Clay St. For more information, call 649-1861.

Exhibit: "Watercolors," an exhibition of water color paintings by artist Steven Cushner continues through Oct. 14 at The Reynolds Gallery, 1514 W. Main St. For more information, call 355-6553.

Exhibit: "Paintings and Works on Paper," an exhibition by artist William Willis, continues at The Reynolds Gallery, 1514 W. Main St. For more information, call 355-6553.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

Recreational sports sponsors Well Aware Day from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Cary Street Gym. Fitness assessments also will be available at this program. For more information, call 828-3648.

Workshop: University Counseling Services sponsors a workshop on how to prepare for tests at 3:30 p.m. in the commons Forum Room. For more information, call 828-3648.

Performance: The Black Caucus performs its Annual Fall Step Show at 7 p.m. in Park Plaza. For more information, call 828-3648.

Fair: The State Fair of Virginia opens and continues through Oct. 1 at the Virginia State Fairgrounds on Strawberry Hill. For more information, call 228-3200.

Concert: Cold Gin, a Kiss cover band, plays Twisters at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 353-4263.

Lecture: "Kee Bird," a lecture with a slide program describing the recovery of the B-29 Kee Bird off the coast of Greenland, by photographer Tim Wright is presented at 7 p.m. by The Virginia Aviation Museum, 5701 Huntsman Road. For more information, call 367-0037.

State fair Event: "Party with the Animals," a series of animal-themed presentations is featured through Oct. 1 at the State Fair of Virginia. For more information, call 228-3200.

Performance: The Carpenter Center presents "Your Arm's Too Short to Box With God" at 8 p.m. For more information, call 782-3930.

Performance: Monte Warden performs material from his new album titled "Here I Am" at 9 p.m. at Theodore's, 201 Worthington St. For more information, call (201) 635-3146.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

Concert: The APB/Concert Committee sponsors a performance by Special Ed at 5 p.m. in Shafer Court. For more information, call 828-3648.

Performance: The Black Caucus performs its Annual Fall Step Show at 7 p.m. in Park Plaza. For more information, call 828-3648.

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Concert: Bio Ritmo plays Twisters at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 353-4263.

Concert: Fighting Gravity performs from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the season finale of Friday Cheers in Nina F. Abady Festival Park. For more information, call 643-2826.

Concert: Lazy Cain plays at 11 p.m. on the third floor of the Flood Zone. For more information, call 643-6006.

Concert: Medeski, Martin and Wood perform with Hotel X and Agents of Good Roots at the Flood Zone. For more information, call 643-6006.

Concert: The Richmond Symphony performs at 8 p.m. at the VCU Performing Arts Center. For more information, call 788-1212.

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TWISTED TRIO — Zone Sept. 22.



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Photo courtesy of RCA Records

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Concert: Millenium Falcon and Lefty play Twisters at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$3. For more information, call 353-4263.

Concert: The Flood Zone presents the Aware Show featuring From Good Homes, Jackopiece, Shannon Worrell and Wakeland. For more information, call 643-6006.

CALENDAR continued to page 10 ➤



Photo courtesy of Gramavision

TWISTED TRIO — Medeski, Martin and Wood play the Flood Zone Sept. 22.

Top decorator to visit campus today

Martha Shelton
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

Robert Cox, an associate of the Washington, D.C.-based interior design firm Lehman/Smith/Wiseman & Associates, is coming to VCU today to share his expertise.

Cox, an architect with degrees from the University of Maryland, University of Virginia and Catholic University, is responsible for reviewing drawings, working on-site and overseeing construction for the firm's clients. Cox will meet with students and give a presentation on interior design.

Cox was a last minute fill-in for Debra Lehman-Smith, who founded the firm in 1991 with Kenneth Wiseman. Lehman-Smith recently was named Designer of the Year by Interiors magazine. Her firm has designed facilities from high-end offices for law firms and financial conglomerates to complex sports facilities in which American athletes are trained.

Cox will visit VCU's School of the Arts' Department of Interior Design to share his experience and thoughts with a new group of students as they work on projects for the semester.

Charles Rendleman, president of the American Society of Interior Designers' VCU chapter, said that Cox's presence at VCU will give students an opportunity to learn from a professional.

"The students will have direct contact with a prominent (Washington) D.C. designer, and the value of his

point of view and expertise as a prominent designer," Rendleman said.

Cox arrives on campus today at 2:30 p.m. He will be given a tour of the department's facilities and meet faculty members until 3:30 p.m. At that time, he will be available to students on a first-come, first-served basis in the Pollack Building, Room 413.

Here he will talk with interior design students who currently are working on projects for the fall semester and with students who are developing their portfolios.

Students will ask for his input, Rendleman said, on the usage of space. Interior design students engage in projects that include designing and organizing space for retail stores, such as where to place certain clothing stands and how to lead consumers to a particular object being promoted.

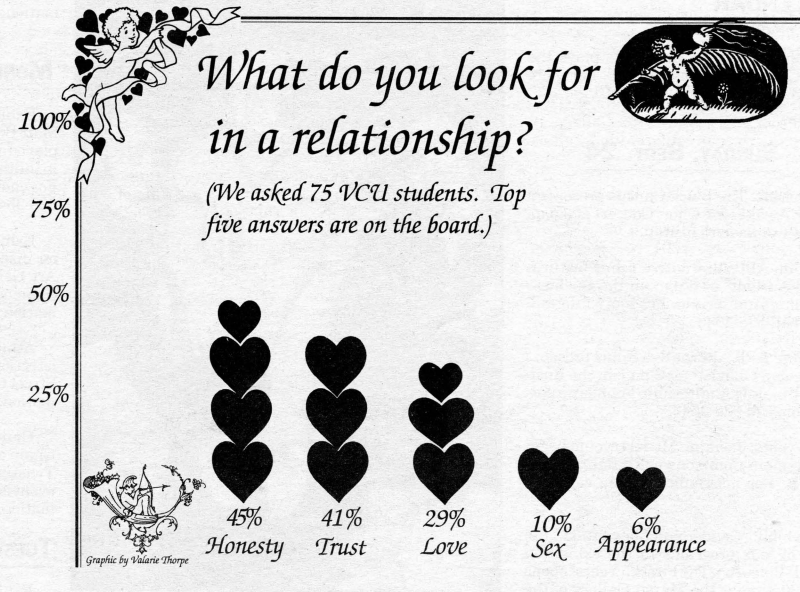
"They (the students) will ask him about (their) work currently in progress for his input as far as treating interior spaces, spaces people can use," Rendleman said.

Other projects on which the students are working, he said, include basic layouts for front office space, restaurants and hotel lobbies.

From 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cox will give a presentation in the University Student Commons' Capital Ballroom C.

Here, Rendleman said, Cox will discuss his design philosophy and past work and how his philosophy directs his work.

"We all collectively have the opportunity, through his presentation, to broaden our exposure to the design community," Rendleman said.



LOVE IS ALL AROUND US

This Commonwealth Times survey was designed for one purpose — to find out what makes relationships tick. Is it the chemistry? Or are all relationships cleverly hidden timebombs waiting to explode? Our own Latisha Brown asked randomly selected students on VCU's Academic Campus to give us their opinions on three main characteristics that are essential to a healthy and long-lasting relationship.

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Photo courtesy of RCA Records

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Concert: Millenium Falcon and Lefty play Twisters at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$3. For more information, call 353-4263.

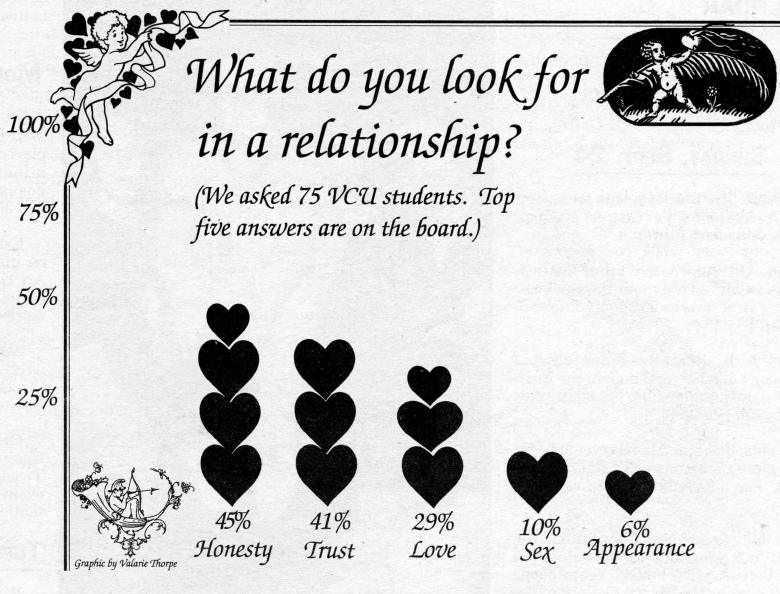
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CALENDAR continued to page 10 ➤



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ED TRIO — Medeski, Martin and Wood play the Flood Sept. 22.



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SCOTS gaining a cult following

Martha Shelton
CT SPECTRUM EDITOR

About 250 days of the year they travel the highway.

Playing everywhere from large amphitheaters to backyard barbecues, they probably are the most hip, yet most trashy, grit-playing musicians of our time.

They have fans from small trailer parks to townhouses that love to watch them crank out their rockabilly tunes and eat huge quantities of fried chicken.

Wait! Eat fried chicken?

That is exactly what you can expect at a show featuring Southern Culture On The Skids. Some would call it dinner theater, others might call it a food fight. But whatever label it receives, it's selling.

Dave Hartman, Mary Huff and Rick Miller make up SCOTS and have been together for about seven years.

Four albums and 10,000 cities later, Miller said, the sound has remained the same.

"It's kind of a crazy conglomeration of R&B, soul, surf rockabilly," Miller said. "We like to call it high cholesterol, toe-sucking geek rock."

SCOTS will perform at the Flood Zone tomorrow night promoting their fourth album "Dirt Track Date." It is a varitable gumbo of musical stylings that has developed during the course of three full-length

indie releases and countless singles. Miller, guitarist and vocalist for the band, described their new album to dirt track racing.

"We named our record 'Dirt Track Date' because dirt track racing and SCOTS got a few things in common," Miller said. "Both have a strong regional flavor and a low-budget style that leaves the raw edges showing."

"It's that do-it-yourself, run-what-you-bring attitude that puts 'em both over the top. Both are a rockin' good time, and you gotta rinse off when you're done," Miller said.

This album, Miller said, is a little more focused than the others produced by the band. "Dirt Track Date" is the first from SCOTS to be produced by a major record label, which, Miller said, helped a great deal.

"We were able to take about six weeks off of the road to record so we had time to get more focused," he said, adding that Geffen Records played a major role by providing studio time.

Although SCOTS may seem to be nostalgia freaks, Miller said, they just like to have fun.

One example of this might be the hurricane performance they played for the locals at Nags Head last month. As most of the tourist evacuated the beach, the locals gathered at a nearby club for an all-night concert by the band.



Photo courtesy of Geffen Records Inc.

KENTUCKY FRIED — Southern Culture On The Skids (SCOTS) plays the Flood Zone Sept. 21.

CALENDAR

continued from page 9

Concert: Alanis Morissette plays the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. For more information, call (818) 953-7910.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24

Concert: The Black Caucus presents a Black Awakening Choir Concert at 3 p.m. in the Commons Theater.

Film: APB/Alternative Films features "Cafe Au Lait" at 6 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. For more information, call 828-3648.

Film: APB/Alternative Films presents "Living in Oblivion" at 8 p.m. in the Business Building Auditorium. For more information, call 828-3648.

Tryouts: Jasmine Model tryouts begin at 7 p.m. in Commonwealth Ballrooms A and B. For more information, call 828-3648.

Exhibit: "Gender and Convention," the first of four programs in the exhibition titled "Video Art: The First 25 Years" opens at 2:30 p.m. at the Marsh Gallery of the University of Richmond. For more information, call 289-8276.

Festival: The Valentine Museum presents its Third Annual Festival Cultural Hispano, a celebration of Hispanic culture in Virginia featuring music, dance, arts and crafts displays and food. For more information, call 649-0711.

Performance: The Carpenter Center features "Your Arm's Too Short to Box With God" at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 782-3930.

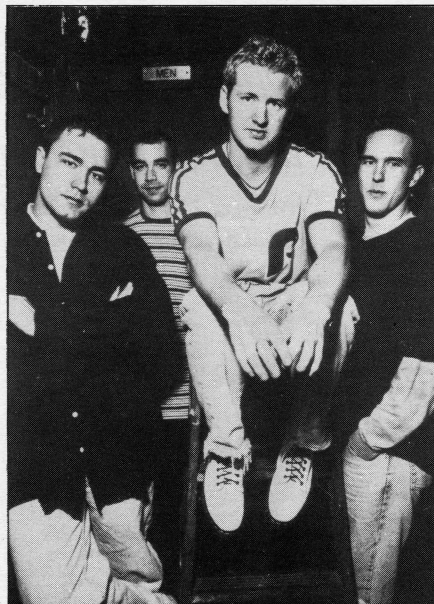


Photo courtesy of Giant Records

SMELL THE COFFEE — Wakeland plays the Flood Zone Sept. 23 with Jacko Pierce, Shannon Worrell and From Good Homes.

Concert: Eve's Plum plays the Flood Zone. For more information, call 643-6006.

Concert: The Richmond Symphony performs at 3 p.m. at the VCU Performing

Arts Center. For more information, call 788-1212.

MONDAY, SEPT. 25

Exhibit: Student artist Matt Brown's exhibit is displayed at Student Art Space in the student commons. For more information, call 828-3648.

Exhibit: A crafts show is on display at the Student Art Gallery in the student commons. For more information, call 828-3648.

Athletics: Volleyball registration opens at the Cary Street Gym. For more information, call 828-7000.

Concert: The Suede Chain and Nine Divine play Twisters at 10 p.m. The event is free. For more information, call 353-4263.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

Exhibit: Matt Brown's exhibit continues at Student Art Space in the student commons. For more information, call 828-3648.

Exhibit: A craft show continues at the Student Art Gallery. For more information, call 828-3648.

Athletics: VCU's volleyball team takes on Liberty University at the Franklin Street Gym. For more information, call 828-7000.

Athletics: VCU's field hockey team competes against University of Richmond at the University of Richmond. For more information, call 828-7000.

Concert: Tripping Daisy and Smoking Pipes play the Flood Zone. For more information, call 643-6006.

Concert: The Anti-Nowhere League and Blanks 77 play Twisters at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Mr. Pink, Archie Crisis and Pandora's Lunch Box perform at 11 p.m. Tickets for that show are \$2. For more information, call 353-4263.

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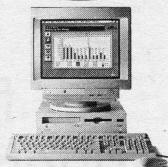
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1. Standard & Poor's Insurance Rating Analysis, 1995; Lipper Analytical Services, Inc., Lipper-Director's Analytical Data, 1995 (Quarterly). 2. Source: Morningstar, Variable Annuities/Life 4/12/95. 3. Of the 2,358 variable annuity funds tracked by Morningstar, the average fund has annual expenses of 0.78% plus an insurance expense of 1.24%. Source: Morningstar, Inc., for periods ending July 31, 1995. 4. Standard & Poor's Insurance Rating Analysis, 1995.

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Dawson has record-breaking week

An upset victory by the men's soccer team and a record-breaking performance by a senior volleyball player highlights this past week in VCU athletics.

Men's soccer

The Rams must have felt like they were on a roller coaster ride at Paramount's King's Dominion.

VCU (2-4) began the week with a shocking 1-0 victory over No. 10 William & Mary and ended the week with two disappointing losses to Navy and Northeastern in the Naval Academy Tournament.

On Friday the Rams were locked in a scoreless tie in the second half with the Midshipmen before Navy ripped off three scores in a six-minute span to gain a 3-0 win.

In its second match of the tournament, VCU was defeated 2-1. Northeastern scored the winning goal when Bjorn Hansen rushed through the Ram defense and set up Chris Lauretani with the game-winning goal. Kwaku Adu-Gyamfi scored VCU's lone goal of the weekend on an assist from Derrick Etienne.

Next home game: 7 p.m. tonight vs. East Carolina at Cary Street Field

Volleyball

The Lady Rams won three of four contests during the week, including a victory over Hampton in its home opener last Tuesday. VCU (6-5) defeated Hampton 15-5, 10-15, 15-10, 15-7.

Jessica Chapman and Mary Franke led the way as Chapman had 12 kills and eight digs while Franke contributed with nine kills and nine digs.

On Friday and Saturday the Lady Rams were host to the Holiday Inn Historical District Ram Invitational. VCU won two of three matches and was paced by the excellent play of Dawson. The Lady Rams' setter became

VCU's career assist leader and moved into second place all-time in digs. During the tournament she averaged 9.5 assists and 5.2 digs in 12 games.

VCU defeated Western Kentucky (3-1) and Loyola (3-0), while dropping a five-set match to Coastal Carolina. **Next home game:** 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26 vs. Liberty

Golf

The VCU golf team opened its fall season with a 10th-place finish in a tournament held last Monday and Tuesday. At the Kiawah Island Intercollegiate Tournament the Rams placed higher than nine of the 18 teams entered, finishing with a record of 9-8.

Junior John Rollins was the top finisher for the Rams. He finished tied for seventh overall and posted a three-round score of 218 (+2), shooting a 73-75-70 in the 54-hole event.

Rollins was the highest finisher among the 25 golfers competing from schools in Virginia. Miguel Reyes had the second-best total for the Rams with a 219 (+3).

Women's soccer

The Lady Rams had a difficult week, suffering back-to-back shutout losses to South Carolina and Campbell. VCU (1-4) and the Lady Gamecocks were scoreless heading into overtime of their match Friday before USC pulled out the victory.

The next day, the Lady Rams showed signs of fatigue in losing 4-0 to Campbell. For the season, forward Jamila Ashford leads the team in goals and points with three and six respectively. Christina Kenney is second on the team in points with four and leads the team in assists with two.

The Lady Rams will begin conference play this afternoon with a match against James Madison. **Next home game:** 4 p.m. today vs. James Madison.

—Compiled from news sources.

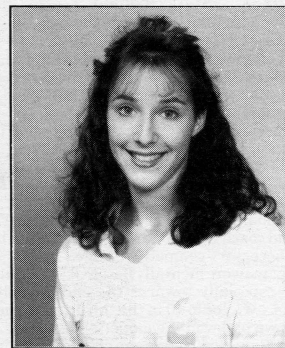
RAM NOTES



Athlete of the Week

Suzanne Dawson

(Sr., Volleyball, Boca Raton, Fla.)



The senior setter led the Lady Rams to a 3-1 record this week and rewrote the VCU record books along the way. Dawson became VCU's career leader in assists with 4,168.

For the week, Dawson had 18 kills, 146 assists and 69 digs in the Lady Rams' four matches. She was named to the all-tournament squad at the Ram Invitational.

SOLAIMANI

continued from page 16

AL Manager of the Year: Kevin Kennedy, Boston. The Red Sox are 10-and-a-half games ahead of the most talented team in baseball and are a day away from clinching the AL East. What else needs to be said?

NL Manager of the Year: Bruce Bochy, San Diego. Two seasons ago the Padres were the laughingstock of baseball. Since Bochy has arrived, he has helped a young pitching staff mature and helped make his team believe they could contend, which they did for much of the season.

Honorable mention goes to Dallas Green in New York and Jim Fregosi in Philadelphia.

AL Cy Young: Randy Johnson, Seattle. The "Big Unit" is baseball's most powerful pitcher. His stats are awesome. He has a 15-2 record and 260 strikeouts to go with an earned run average below 2.70. He could be the best lefthander since Sandy Koufax.

NL Greg Maddux: Greg Maddux, Atlanta. This just in! The award formerly known as the Cy Young award has been

changed in honor of the Braves pitcher who has taken home the hardware each of the past four seasons. Baseball's most dominant pitcher ever has a 17-2 record, 1.75 ERA and leads the league in complete games. By the way, he's second in innings pitched and third in strikeouts.

AL MVP: Mo Vaughn, Boston. When Jose Canseco was injured or wasn't hitting, Boston's first baseman was carrying the club on his back. Vaughn has 38 big flies on the season and has driven in a major-league high 119 runs. From the beginning to the end he has been there for Boston. His closest competition is Albert Belle. Belle has put up incredible numbers, but look at the team he has around him.

NLMVP: Dante Bichette, Colorado. I bet you were expecting to see Barry Bonds' name there. (Next year, he'll get No. 4.) In a normal year, Bichette's numbers would be triple crown material. He has a .337 BA, 37 taters and has brought home 115 Rockies this season. He's also tops in the NL in total bases and second in slugging.

FRENCH

continued from page 16

jury.

But Piniella kept his charges in order, Edgar Martinez kept hitting, and the M's now are leading the wild-card race and are a scant two games back of the free-falling Angels.

NL Manager of the Year: Rene Lachemann, Florida. Huh? The managers of the division leaders don't really deserve it; they were dealt a pretty hand.

Lachemann, on the other hand, took a talent-thin Marlins squad, which was further depleted by the loss of Bryan Harvey and Gary Sheffield and made them respectable. They could be contenders next year.

AL Cy Young: Randy Johnson, Seattle. Fifteen wins, two losses, 260 strikeouts, an ERA of under 2.70.

With Tim Lincecum's recent slump, there's really no contest.

NL Cy Young: Greg Maddux, Atlanta. And you thought Randy Johnson was a no-brainer. Concerning the earlier comments about publicity: No amount of awesome PR could give Nomo a snowball's

chance in Orlando of usurping Maddux.

AL MVP: Albert Belle, Cleveland. Granted, the Indians are loaded. The Red Sox, not so loaded.

Both Belle and Boston's Mo Vaughn are worthy contenders for the crown, but the edge goes to Belle because of recent and overall performance (as of Sept. 18 — 41 homers, a .310+ batting average, 50 doubles, 111 RBI and 107 runs scored, beating Vaughn in four of the five categories).

Both are equally important to their respective teams, but Belle's a touch better and gets the vote.

NLMVP: Barry Larkin, Cincinnati. He's not the only MVP candidate on his team (Reggie Sanders and Ron Gant are two others), and he doesn't have the best numbers of the trio.

What gives him the edge, though, is the intangibles. Without his clubhouse leadership skills, the Reds are in a dogfight with Houston and the Cubbies.

The .318 batting average and 44 steals don't hurt his cause, either.

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Curve Ball

• Who are the only two players to hit more than 30 home runs and steal more than 50 bases in one season?

A: Eric Davis and Barry Bonds

SPORTS

Inside

• Look and see who is the Commonwealth Times Athlete of the Week.

WEDNESDAY, September 20, 1995

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 27, No. 10

Pirates flatten Lady Rams

Terry Scanlon

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

If volleyball matches were limited to 10 minutes, the Lady Rams (6-6) would have won easily last night. The Lady Rams took an early 10-0 lead and looked to be in command.

But in reality a match is much lengthier and the Lady Rams did not win.

The East Carolina University volleyball team left Franklin Street Gym last night with a four-game victory: 9-15, 16-14, 15-11, 15-13.

VCU head coach Cheryl Carlson said she felt her team lacked the necessary competitive edge.

"I thought we were mentally flat. ECU was a little more aggressive, especially towards the end of each game," Carlson said. "We got to 10 in the third game, and I guess we thought we had won the game."

The Lady Rams led 10-6 at one point of the third game. ECU moved a third hitter up to the net and went on a 9-1 to finish off the game.

VCU captain Suzanne Dawson, who led the team in assists, 50, and digs, 18, said she thought the team started off well but that the pace of the game picked up, and they were not able to slow it down.

"We started off well with lots of intensity," Dawson said. "I think the team felt really rushed. Things just fell apart from there. We weren't getting in our positions."

The letdown prompted Carlson to make lineup changes. Senior Julie Blair and junior Cindy O'Brien were replaced by two freshman, Michelle Ellis and Courtney Grooms.

Carlson said she wanted to send a message.

"To make a point, I took them out," she said.

Five times the fourth game would be tied. The last coming at 12, but the Pirates proved to be too much for a VCU team that had four freshman on the floor.

Despite the loss Carlson said she was pleased with the youngsters' effort and said they only would get better.

"Teams better watch out for these four freshman (Grooms, Ellis, Mary Franke and Jessica Chapman) come October," she said.

Chapman led the team in kills, and Franke was second in assists behind Dawson.

Ahead for the Lady Rams is a long list of road matches. VCU will play at Franklin Street only once between now and Nov. 1. (The Sept. 26 home match vs. Liberty will be played at James River High School in Chesterfield County.)

This weekend they will compete in a tournament in Greensboro, N.C.

Dawson is looking forward to the next match as a chance to put this loss behind them.

"We'll just have to forget about tonight," she said. "(And) come out on the court on Friday and play as the VCU volleyball team knows how to play."

Carlson said they will start preparing today.

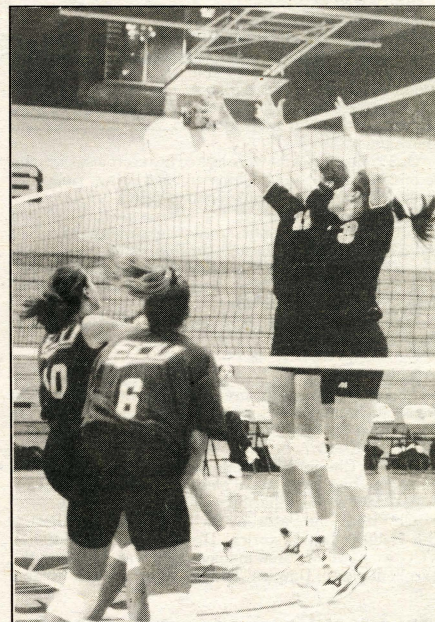
"We're gonna have a real tough practice (today)," she said.

Understanding the rigors that follow a tough loss, is Dawson looking forward to practice?

"No, of course not," she said.

CT PLAYER OF THE GAME

Suzanne Dawson — she had 50 of the 54 team assists. She also led the team in digs with 18.

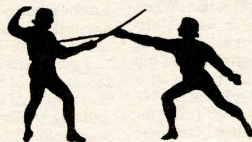


Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

KILLER — Jessica Chapman (11) and Julie Blair (3) block an ECU ball in the first game. Chapman led the Lady Rams in kills with 17.

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

SPORTS FORUM



Nomo awards for Hideo; Bichette Happens

Nobody remembers who the National Football League's player of the year is. Few people care who is the National Hockey League's choice for the same honor. (What is the name of that award anyway, isn't it "Lady" something, or is that another award?)

It doesn't really matter who wins the same honor in the National Basketball Association either, because that award is usually handed out to the most popular player.

On the other hand, Major League Baseball and its honors are almost as old as the game itself. To be an MVP or Rookie of the Year in baseball is truly special. When you win one of baseball's annual awards it sticks with you throughout your career.

As the season winds down its time for baseball writers across the country to cast their ballot.

Here's mine. Maybe one day, it will

count.

AL Rookie of the Year: Garrett Anderson, California. Four weeks ago the Angels had an 11-game lead in the AL West.

Although the lead has been trimmed down considerably, the Angels' outfielder is one of the main reasons the team is where it is. Anderson has a .330 batting average, has hit 14 homers and driven in 65 runs in just 93 games.

NL Rookie of the Year: Chipper Jones, Atlanta. After missing a year due to knee surgery, the Braves third baseman has bounced back and lived up to his enormous potential.

Jones has 21 dingers and has driven in 78 runs on the season. They are far and away the best numbers of any rookie.

By the way, I know some of you are saying to yourselves, "What happened to Hideo Nomo?" The Dodgers pitching sensation isn't a rookie. He pitched in Japan for many years, and when our players go play abroad they aren't considered rookies. So why should he be considered one?

With two weeks left until the end of another baseball season (which will be news for the bulk of you who stopped watching the sport, save for a week in Baltimore earlier this month), it comes time to cast a ballot for the plethora of awards annually bestowed among the best and brightest of baseball.

This is one man's partially formed baseball honors manifesto (no, not him, you weiner).

AL Rookie of the Year: Garrett Anderson, California. Though overshadowed by Jim Edmonds in the surprisingly potent Angels' lineup, Anderson has proved a key player in the Halos' unexpected run at the AL West crown with his 14 homers, 65 RBIs and .330 batting average. Cynics then may say he plays every bit as key a role in their recent slump, but no matter; Anderson still gets the nod over preseason fave Marty Cordova.

NL Rookie of the Year: Hideo Nomo, Los Angeles. And let the debate begin: Is

Today's topic concerns Major League Baseball's annual awards and which players deserve them. Who should be the Most Valuable Player in each league and which rookies had the most impact are questions that will be answered.

he a rookie?

Should a nondaily player get the award?

Isn't he getting it more because of publicity than performance?

First, don't ever confuse the Japanese League with "The Show," at best, its level of play ranks a half-notch above Triple A ball.

Second, while he doesn't play every game, he's involved in every pitch while he's out there. Chipper Jones can't say that.

Finally, you can't deny the publicity factor; almost every award and honor you can think of is awarded in some part due to the PR the winning candidate gets. Hideo Nomo is good for the game, but more importantly, he's just good. All 220 of his strikeout victims likely would agree.

AL Manager of the Year: Lou Piniella, Seattle. Even the new playoff format wasn't supposed to be enough to give the Mariners a shot at a playoff berth or division title after Junior's in-



Coveh Solaimani



Brian J. French

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