

WEATHER



MONDAY — Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs in the upper 50s. Lows in the upper 40s.



TUESDAY — Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 60s.

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

• The hour to be happy. EYE looks at happy hour in Fan bars. See story page 6.



MONDAY, September 25, 1995

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 27, No. 12

Spanish music focus of festival

Jill Myers

CT ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Hips swayed, dresses twirled and backs arched as the sounds of horns and spanish guitars blared through speakers set up for the Third Annual Festival Cultural Hispano Sunday at the Valentine Museum on Clay Street.

Despite a one-hour delay on the sound system and the looming shadows of clouds, the festival drew a crowd of about 1,000 people almost as colorful as the dancers' costumes.

"(The festival) I think is the greatest way of uniting the Hispanic community," said Angel L. Morales, program director of several Hispanic radio programs in the Hampton Roads area.

So much bad publicity is given to Hispanic people, he continued, that gatherings such as this one are an effective way of showing the positive side of Hispanic culture.

"I don't blame the U.S. for having a negative image. They only have what they see in the media, and what they see is bad," he said. "To me, it's (the festival) is very important because Hispanics have many contributions, and they need (to be) recognized."

Another reason for much of the Hispanic community's lack of recognition, the Puerto Rico native said, is because many of them — at least in the Hampton Roads area — blend in with the rest of the community. The festival, in part, remedies that.

Nelly Montavo and her son, Edwin Arroyo, also felt this year's festival wasn't recognized as much as it might have been, partly because of the overcast day and partly because the event wasn't publicized enough.

"I only heard about it from her this morning," Arroyo said, pointing to his mother. "I know a lot of my friends that would have liked to come."

Montavo came from Lorain, Ohio, which she described as a small steel-mining town with a lot of different nationalities. There, she said, her community exposed her to much of her Latin-American heritage.

"You're not exposed to it here," she said, adding that the Hispanic community is spread out throughout the Richmond Metro area. Many El Salvadorians live in southern Chesterfield, whereas many Puerto Ricans live in the West End, she said.

To help keep her heritage alive in the family, she sent Arroyo to spend a year with his uncle in Lorain.

"I loved the culture," he said as he was buying a T-shirt with "Puerto Rico" imprinted on the front.

FESTIVAL continued to page 4 ➤



Jill Myers/Commonwealth Times



La Bamba

STREET BEAT — (above) The band Mariachis Los Palmeros from Atlanta took the stage Sunday at the end of a blocked off portion of Clay Street. The street was the main site for the Festival Cultural Hispano. (Right) Cristina Herrera de Nassif sings light Spanish opera for about 300 in the basement of the Valentine House. Performing with her is Carmen de Vicente, one of the only two constanuelas concertists in the world.

Arguments swirl about PMS

Cynthia St. Jacques

CT STAFF WRITER

When an elusive set of medical symptoms receives classification as a disorder and treatment regimens are established, doctors and patients alike usually rejoice.

But debate has surrounded the recent classification of premenstrual dysphoric disorder as a psychiatric condition.

Women already are stigmatized by PMS jokes, and many feel that classifying the symptoms as a psychiatric disorder will

serve only to further brand sufferers.

The Association of Women Psychiatrists has led the argument against having PMS and PMDD classified as psychiatric disorders.

"While this is a time of greater awareness, we still do not want women to be further stigmatized," said Susan G. Kornstein, director of psychiatric services at VCU's Women's Health Care clinic at Stoney Point.

PMS continued to page 4 ➤

Sororities discuss AIDS, alcoholism

Allison Brown

CT STAFF WRITER

Elizabeth C. Bell, assistant director for student activities who also oversees Greek affairs, told the Panhellenic Council yesterday she will be leaving VCU for Davidson College in Charolette, N.C.

She will be taking the position of assistant director of residence life. After the meeting ended the members gave her a cake and said their goodbyes. Sept. 29 will

be her last day.

Carolyn Farley, who teaches a VCU 101 class, will take Bell's place temporarily.

Ten council members representing five sororities — Alpha Sigma Alpha, Phi Mu, Alpha Gamma Delta, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Phi Sigma Sigma — discussed the success of this year's much-anticipated fall rush, when women could sign up for one of the sororities. More women pledged, and more women were retained than at last year's ceremony.

PANHELLENIC continued to page 4 ➤

Health NOTES

News from the medical community



• Dietary fiber prevents disease

Doctors are fighting disease with fruit and cereal.

In September's issue of Harvard Women's Health Watch, health scientists are urging people to increase consumption of dietary fiber to prevent diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

Several epidemiological studies suggest that diets high in fiber protect against colon cancer, breast cancer and constipation. In addition it also has been reported to reduce cholesterol levels. The National Research Council recommends increasing fiber intake by consuming five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day and six or more helpings of whole-grain breads and cereals.

• Second annual golf open supports MCV Burn Center

This October golfers can enjoy one of the last games of the season while supporting MCV Hospitals' Evans-Haynes Burn Center.

The Second Annual Golf Open begins at noon Oct. 4 at the Crossings Golf Course in Glen Allen. The event, sponsored by the American Fire Sprinkler Association's Virginia Chapter, is open to the public. Golfers with the longest drive and the drive

closest to the pin will be awarded prizes.

The \$95 registration fee covers greens fees as well as a barbecue dinner. Business sponsorships are available for \$100. For more information call Becky Steele at 550-9600.

• Blood drive saves lives

MCV Hospitals and Virginia Blood Services are gearing up for upcoming community drives, and they urge everyone to donate blood and bone marrow.

Virginia Blood Services bone marrow drive will be run from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 28 at 12th and Main Streets. Marrow donors can join the National Bone Marrow Registry, which allows their marrow to be screened for donation. Minorities are strongly encouraged to donate. For more information call 828-6248.

• Thin is in, fat is deadly

A study published Sept. 14 in the New England Journal of Medicine should add incentive for women to lose those unwanted pounds.

Findings show that women weighing at least 15 percent less than the U.S. average have lower rates of premature death than those who are heavier. Furthermore, women who placed into the heaviest cat-

egory had more than twice the death rate of the leanest women.

By claiming at least 300,000 lives a year, obesity and weight-related problems places second—just behind cigarette smoking—as one of the leading causes of premature death in the United States.

• Prudential faces possible legal action

As of early last week, the National Children's Cancer Society is considering bringing legal action against Prudential Health Care System in support for the late Chase Anton, the 3-year-old Chesterfield County boy who was diagnosed with leukemia in May of last year.

PruCare denied funding for the Anton family that would have covered the cost for the needed bone marrow transplant, a figure that could exceed \$250,000.

Asking lawyers to review the family's contract with Prudential, the society said they may ask for a court order to get the HMO to provide coverage for the transplant.

• Symposium to bring light to spinal cord injuries

VCU's Rehabilitation and Research Center on the MCV Campus will present a

symposium, "SCI Management: A Lifetime of Planning," from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Richmond Centre, 400 E. Marshall St.

The symposium, designed for health-care professionals, will focus on the challenges facing individuals with spinal cord injuries.

Topics to be discussed range from depression to career changes to legal issues.

There also will be a demonstration of how virtual reality can be used in the recreational rehabilitation of individuals with spinal cord injuries.

Mary Pickerill, R.N., will be a keynote speaker and will discuss the importance of planning in the rehabilitation process. Other topics to be discussed include supported employment, nutrition, and therapy for substance abusers.

The Rehabilitation and Research Center conducts research and provides interdisciplinary care and education for persons with disabilities.

MCV Hospitals is one of only four programs in the nation designated as a model system for individuals with spinal cord injuries by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

— Compiled from news sources.

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Commonwealth TIMES

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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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Monday through Thursday
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday — by appointment only

FYI

for your information

Winds of Change

"Fall Begins and Autumn Leaves," a program about where leaves get their color and why they change is scheduled for 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Science Museum of Virginia. The program is free with science museum admission. For more information call 367-6552 or 1-800-659-1727.

Female Trouble

Mary Piper, author of "Hunger Pains: The American Women's Tragic Quest for Thinness" and "Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls," speaks on "Life in the Hurricane: Growing Up Female in America" at 7:30 p.m. in Cannon Memorial Chapel, University of Richmond. For more information, call 289-8472.

Calm Down

A workshop on test strategies and managing test anxiety is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Sept. 28 in the commons Forum Room. For more information, call Joy Bressler at 828-6200.

Ad to Your Day

The School of Mass Communications' AD center, the school's third graduate track, will be officially announced to the public and media 10 a.m. Sept. 28 during a press conference in the Commonwealth Ballroom.

Dance the Weekend Away

A dance festival to benefit ill children is slated for Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 at Holiday Inn-Central, 3207 N. Boulevard.

The "Step Up to Country" and Make-A-Wish Foundation festival will include workshops, competitions, exhibits, line dances and performances by various dancers.

For details, call 262-3305

Way Smart

USA Today has begun their search for 60 of the best college students to be named to their 1996 All-USA Academic Team.

Three teams of 20 students will be selected and will be recognized in a special section of the paper. Each of the first team members will receive a \$2,500 cash award plus dinner in Washington, D. C.

A panel of educators will select the winners, who must submit a description of his or her "outstanding endeavor" in his or her own words.

For more information, call Carol Skalski at (703) 276-5890.

Walk This Way for Charity

American Diabetes Association, Richmond Chapter, 10K walk-a-thon steps off from University of Richmond Stadium at 10 a.m. (registration's at 8 a.m.) Oct. 1. Pledges benefit American Diabetes Association. For more information, call (800) 254-WALK (9255)

Richardson: A friendly voice in a hectic arena

Kisha Washington
CT STAFF WRITER

Many students, faculty and staff don't know the person at the end of the phone line when they call the Office of Student Affairs.

Her name: Rosa Richardson, the executive secretary for VCU's Office of Student Affairs.

Henry Rhone, VCU's vice provost for student affairs and Richardson's boss, said Richardson provides the first line of communication when people call the office.

"I feel that she has the right temperament for the job," he said.

Many people perceive the student affairs office as having an unusually hectic environment, but Richardson produces a serene aura to the workplace.

Sandra Osborne, work-study student in the office, agreed.

"She's a cool and calm person even when people are demanding of her," Osborne said.

Richardson's presence appears relaxed and friendly as she talks in a soft tone.

"My job consists of me answering the phones, keeping Mr. Rhone's calendar, doing any typing that needs to be done, filing and keeping supplies ordered," Richardson said. "Keeping Mr. Rhone's calendar is enough right there by itself."

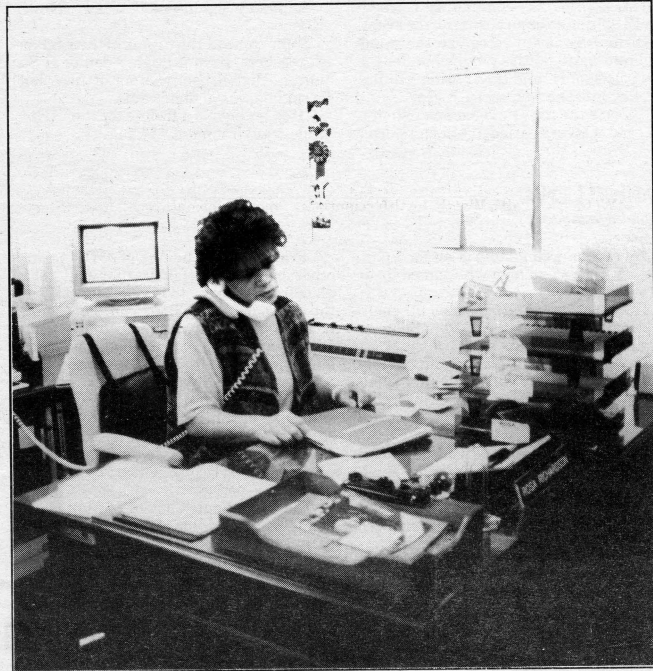
A native of Victoria, Richardson moved to Richmond in 1974. After graduating from high school, she attended the Southside Vocational School in Crewe, before joining MCV's pharmaceutical chemistry department as a secretary. Before Richardson's move into the student affairs office in 1989, she worked five years in student activities.

Richardson plays dual roles, one at the office and one at home. The mother of a teen-ager, she said her 14-year-old daughter keeps her very busy.

Rhone, a father of three teens, said he



Unsung Hero



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

TEMPERMENT FOR THE JOB — Rosa Richardson, executive secretary for VCU's Office of Student Affairs, provides a relaxed, friendly atmosphere in a hectic environment.

thinks it's important for people to know Richardson is a mother as well as someone who deals daily with students.

Both Rhone and Osborne called her a hard worker.

"She's a very serious worker and doesn't procrastinate with work that needs to be done," Osborne said. "I believe that she deserves a break."

Rhone affirmed that Richardson keeps busy throughout the day. "She is proud of her work and is able to juggle a lot of things at once," he said.

Richardson said she is satisfied with her current employer and has no ambitions to further her career.

"I like my job and try to do it better and better," she said.

Deadline for research grants approaches

Jeannine Rosado
CT STAFF WRITER

VCU's junior faculty members investigating any area of cancer can receive up to \$15,000 through a grant. But hurry. The deadline comes on Oct. 1.

The American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant was awarded to the Massey Cancer Center, and associate professor Thomas Huff, chairman of the grant review committee, said it will "provide the seed money" to permit promising new projects.

Investigators, he said, also can use this money to gather preliminary data to compete for national research grants.

Executive committee member Gregory Buck, also an associate professor, called this money critical for junior faculty members because it is difficult for them to receive funds from other sources.

In previous years, grants tended to cover

Up for grabs

- Who — Junior faculty members investigating any area of cancer
- What — Up to \$15,000 in grant money
- When — Oct. 1 deadline

basic sciences with primary-care physicians receiving most of the grants. Huff said, however, that many grants went to the nursing faculty.

Elizabeth Fries, assistant professor of psychology, is among last year's winners. Her grant, she said, is perfect for her project on smoking behavior.

The project involves attempts at chang-

ing the smoking behavior of "a population that is very resistant to change," she said. It studies the attitudes and behaviors of employees in the tobacco industry in Mecklenburg County.

The grant money enables Fries to hire a research assistant, buy some research materials and conduct on-site activities. Work-site surveys and contests that praise employees trying to quit smoking are included in the study.

Because of the high number of applications that cover wide ranges of cancer, the committee consists of 47 investigators, all experts in different areas, to ensure accuracy in reviewing applications.

Of this group, 16 are executive committee members who are members of the cancer center faculty.

The executive members serve as the permanent voting panel while the executive committee and the investigators review the applications.

Write for NEWS.

Call James or Jill at 828-1058 for more information.

FESTIVAL

continued from page 1

Yvonne Benner, editor and publisher of the state's Spanish community newspaper *El Sol* and co-chairwoman of the event, said the organizers recognize the many different nationalities grouped under the term "Hispanic" and try to bring a different flavor to the festival each year.

"This is the first time for Spanish music... but it is very varied. It's not all salsa,"

she said.

And not everyone there was Hispanic, either.

Some came at the urging of their Spanish teachers. Bryant Pugh, a senior at St. Vincent High School, was one of those, but he said he was glad he came.

"It gives people a feeling for their (Hispanics') environment," he said.

PANHELLENIC

continued from page 1

A welcoming ceremony is set for 4 p.m. Oct. 1 for the 47 women who signed up at the rush.

They also discussed a number of beneficial programs that will run from September through early next year.

The SAIL program — Students Actively Involved in Leadership — will offer seminars from September through November about how to form a successful organization.

OCTAA — On Campus Talking About Alcohol — will present numerous seminars discussing why people drink, how to help a friend with an alcohol problem and other related topics. These seminars started in early September and will run until Nov. 9.

"Friendship in the Age of AIDS" is another beneficial seminar that will take place from 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Oct. 12 in the Commonwealth Ballroom. This seminar will tell how two friends are dealing with the reality that one of them has AIDS, and how people need to be aware that AIDS can affect anyone.

The final program discussed was LINK, which is a community-service program. It starts when spring break arrives and students need something to do. LINK offers community-service activities for students during this period.

The Panhellenic Council's future plans include consideration of a deferred rush in early 1996, setting the budget and getting new stationery.

PMS

continued from page 1

Kornstein also heads the committee on research for the Association of Women Psychiatrists.

The term PMS, she said, is used too loosely.

Seventy-five percent to 90 percent of all women experience mild symptoms associated with their menstrual cycle. But only 3 to 5 percent meet the criteria for PMS and PMDD.

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which as a result of the debate lists PMS and PMDD only in the appendix, sets strict criteria for diagnosing the disorders and ruling out any other underlying medical or psychiatric disorders.

There must be a persistent pattern of symptoms such as depression, anxiety, anger, lethargy, difficulty concentrating and out-of-control feelings that seriously interfere with work, relationships or social activities.

"I've seen patients with PMDD who have lost relationships, withdrawn from families and friends, become violent with family members and even become suicidal," Kornstein said. "Fortunately, treatment can help sufferers manage their symptoms and regain control of their lives."

Symptoms most commonly start in a woman's teens to late 20's and seem to be worsened by stress and aging.

Extensive research into the possible causes of PMS and PMDD, including estrogen and progesterone imbalance, vitamin deficiencies, thyroid abnormalities and psycho-social factors has been inconclusive.

The complex interplay of the biological and psycho-social factors seems to be the key to understanding PMS and PMDD, Kornstein said, adding that a multi-disciplinary approach works best.

At VCU's PMS clinic, patients on their first visit are evaluated by a psychiatrist, a nutritionist and an obstetrics and gynecology nurse practitioner. The team then tailors the treatment to the individual.

Some patients may respond to lifestyle changes such as diet modification, regular exercise and stress management. Kornstein cautions against the use of alcohol, which can actually increase depression and irritability.

"Healthy lifestyle changes clearly work for some," she said. "But for others medication or short-term therapy may be necessary."

There is hope, Kornstein explained, for women who suffer from monthly emotional extremes. While more research is needed, most women show improvement with lifestyle changes, education, support and medication.

Tell us about your Unsung Hero. Call James or Jill at 828-1058.



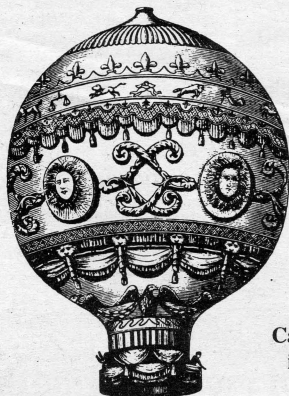
Unsung Hero

The Commonwealth TIMES

is now hiring a photography assistant.

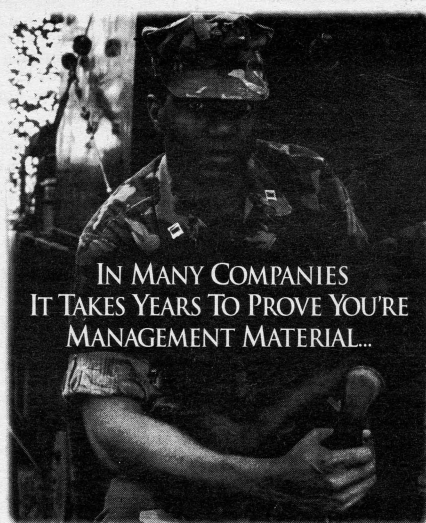
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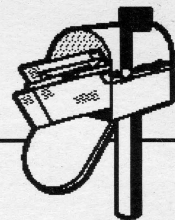
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MARINE OFFICER

If you have what it takes to be an Officer of Marines, please see Captain Wisniewski or Gunnery Sergeant Miller in the Student Commons from 10 AM - 2 PM on September 26, 1995. We can also be reached at 1-800-552-9548.

Letter TO THE EDITOR



A Message to Students from the President of the United States

Dear Student:

This is a busy time for you. But while you are choosing classes and making decisions that will help you build a good life for yourself, the Congressional majority is working to make drastic cuts in education — in your student loans, in national service and even in your scholarships. And the cuts will jeopardize the future you and your generation are working toward.

I want you to know that I oppose these cuts. I will do everything in my power to fight them and to see to it that the dream of higher education remains real for all Americans. I will do this, not only by defending the opportunities of those of you who are already in college, but also by opening the doors further to make sure that even greater numbers of deserving Americans have the chance to stand where you stand today.

For the first time in a long time, leaders from both parties are resolved that we must balance the federal budget. From the day I took office, I've been committed to this goal — to getting rid of the budget deficit that quadrupled our national debt in the 12 years before I came to Washington. So far, we have made great progress. In three years, we have cut the deficit nearly in half, from \$290 billion to \$160 billion. Now we are ready to eliminate the deficit entirely. On this, the Congressional majority and I see eye to eye.

But just how to get rid of the deficit is another matter. The Congressional majority wants to balance the budget in seven years and do it while giving an unnecessarily large tax cut. But to do these things, the majority in Congress would make enormous cuts in education.

My balanced-budget plan would take more years than Congress' to eliminate the deficit, but that's a small price to pay to keep your scholarships, your student loans and national service safe and well. It also would preserve our ability to protect the environment and the integrity of Medicare for our older citizens.

Balancing the budget is more than numbers. It's about our values and our future. Education always has been the currency of the "American Dream." When I was your age, it was assumed — based on our long history — that each generation would have a better life than the preceding one. More than anything else, a good education is the way we pass this vision on to those who come after us.

The facts speak for themselves. Earnings for those with no post-secondary education have fallen substantially in the past 15 years. The only people for whom earnings have increased steadily are people exactly like you — those Americans with more education. Every year of higher education increases your earnings by 6 percent to 12 percent. Those years also mean a stronger overall economy and richer lives for those who have them.

Balancing the budget will be good for our economy and your future if it's done right. But balancing the budget won't do us much good in the long term if your generation does not have the education it needs to meet the challenges of the next century.

Just think about what the Congressional majority's plan, if it went through, would do to you, your classmates, and any of the one out of two college students who receive federal aid. It would:

- Raise the cost of student loans by \$10 billion in seven years by charging you interest on your loan while you are in school. This would increase the cost of a college education by as much as \$3,100 for undergraduates and \$9,400 for graduate students.

- Deny up to 360,000 low-income students desperately needed Pell Grants in 1996.
- Shut down Americorps, our national service initiative, which gives thousands of young people the chance to earn and save money for college while serving their country.

By contrast, my balanced-budget plan builds on the national consensus that we must help people help themselves, through the power of education. It eliminates both of our deficits: our budget deficit and our educational deficit. My plan cuts wasteful spending by more than \$1 trillion, but it also increases investments in education by \$40 billion during the next seven years.

Think about how my balanced-budget plan would help guarantee your future and all the hard work you're about to put into it. It will:

- Increase funding for Pell Grants by \$3.4 billion. Almost 1 million more students would benefit from the scholarships. And we would raise the top award to

\$3,128 by the year 2002.

- Expand Americorps to let even more young Americans serve their communities and go to college.

- Protect our direct-lending program, which makes student loans more affordable, with more repayment options, and saves taxpayers, parents, and students billions of dollars.

I just returned from Pearl Harbor, where I took part in ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. In the late 1940s, when the veterans we honored left their loved ones to go off and serve their country, they were the age most of you are now.

When they came home, the country recognized their service and their potential, and it responded with the G.I. Bill, which guaranteed a college education to every returning veteran. Those who served weren't given a handout, and they didn't want one. They were given the opportunity they needed to take responsibility for their lives.

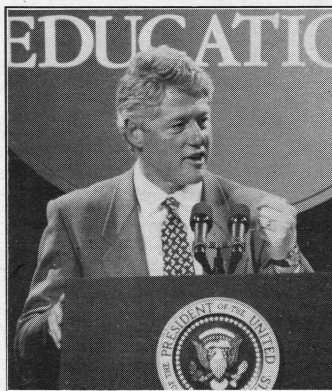
Your generation has its own battles to wage. You face the choice of doing something right and difficult — or something easy and wrong.

In taking on the responsibility of education yourselves, you have chosen the right and difficult path. You did the work you had to get into college. You may be working now to pay your way. And your family may have worked long hours and made great sacrifices to help you get where you are today.

You deserve the nation's support. And your future success likely will repay our common investment. I do not accept the arguments of those who condemn irresponsibility in young Americans and then seek to deny the nation's helping hand to the millions of you who are doing the right things.

I hope you'll support my efforts to protect education and balance the budget. The fight for education is the fight for your future. In my life — and in the lives of countless Americans — education has meant the difference between the impossible and the possible. It should be true in your lives, too. With your help, we'll keep it that way.

Sincerely,
President William J. Clinton



"By contrast, my balanced-budget plan builds on the national consensus that we must help people help themselves, through the power of education. It eliminates both of our deficits: our budget deficit and our educational deficit."

President William J. Clinton

Commonwealth TIMES

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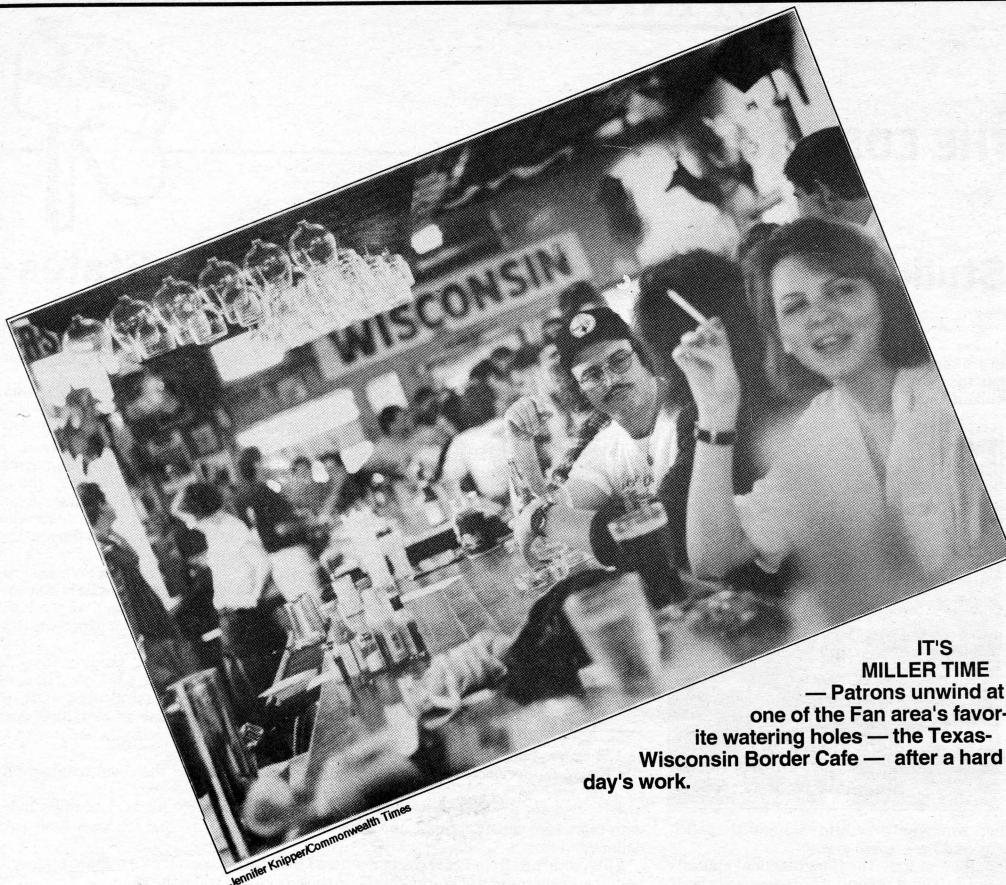
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"Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not; it is the first lesson that ought to be learned; and however early a man's training begins, it is probably the last lesson that he learns thoroughly."

Thomas Henry Huxley, Technical Education (1877)

Editorial e-mail — eng3slr@hibbs

Use it!



IT'S
MILLER TIME
— Patrons unwind at
one of the Fan area's favor-
ite watering holes — the Texas-
Wisconsin Border Cafe — after a hard
day's work.

Jennifer Knipper/Commonwealth Times

Leila M. Ugincius
CT STAFF WRITER

Happy hour.

The term is pretty self-explanatory, and most of us understand exactly what it implies: affordable drinks.

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Ray Mirza, a 22-year-old biology senior who rarely drinks in bars, speculated it arose to help people unwind after work.

"Bars offered it for the working-class people who've had a tough day at work," Mirza said. "You usually only see four or five old people who have to deal also with wives and old age."

Davilee Criss, a senior theater major with a business minor, guessed that businesses created this in hopes of curing financial problems.

"Happy hour happened when a new bar needed to get some clientele," the 21-year-old said. "So they had happy hour so people would come after work, have a drink,

loosen up and spend money."

Many bar managers said happy hour was a way to stir up business during the off-peak hours. Interestingly, the same managers said business does not really improve during the price-break hours, particularly among students.

A peek inside the Texas-Wisconsin Border Cafe, 1501 W. Main St., during happy hour this past Friday revealed no one who appeared to be younger than 35, except for the waitress.

The Bamboo Cafe on Main Street, too, had an older crowd.

Two 40-plus men and a friend of the bartender were the only customers at the Half-Way Point on Robinson Street at 7 p.m. on this night.

The Point's bartender/manager, Josh Ferris, said even with the 25-cent price cuts "students can't afford it. They're just getting out of class too. Usually the responsible ones are getting on their homework."

Criss said it's the early hour that deters her from indulging in these drink specials.

"I'm just not ready to drink at that time. I'm more likely to go out on a weekend night and later."

Kara, a criminal justice sophomore who wouldn't give her last name, shared Criss' sentiment.

"It (stinks) because it's always too early," she said. "It's like Murphy's Law — you always walk in after happy hour is over."

Some bar owners have taken note of this lack of student business. The Sidewalk Cafe, John & Norman's Restaurant, The Hole in the Wall and Buddy's Place, for example, no longer (or never did) uphold the happy hour tradition, claiming that "every hour's happy hour," or "our prices are always special."

But seek and ye shall find cheap, early-bird alcohol drinks at many Fan District restaurant/bars. Several local bars were gracious enough to participate in a little

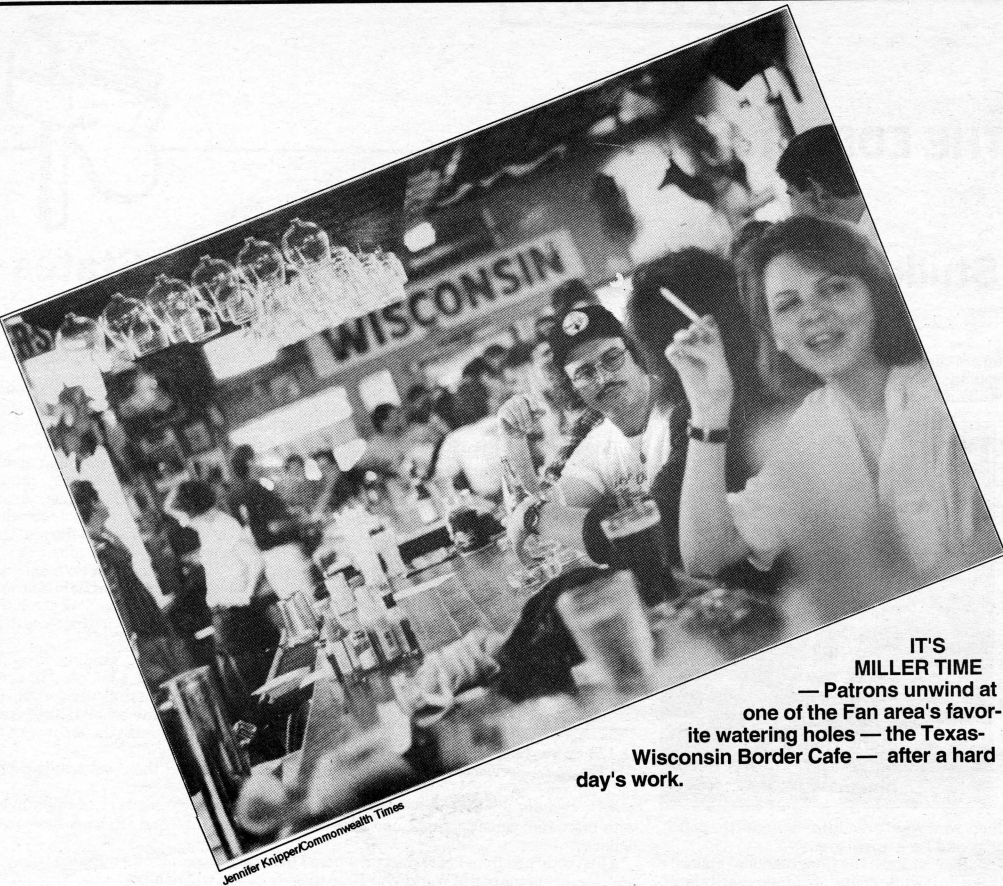
survey. Not only does happy hour not last for merely a single hour, but most bars vary significantly in their "happy" times and prices.

For instance, the Avalon Restaurant, 2619 W. Main St., offers happy hour from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. To make things easy, they knock an even 75 cents off of everything from wines to liquors to their 50 different selections of beer.

Happy hour at El Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant, 1324 W. Cary St., lasts from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mixed drinks usually priced at \$3.95 cost a mere \$3. Their Mexican beer, which normally sells for \$2.25, is knocked down to \$1.85. And margaritas cost an even \$3, down

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IT'S
MILLER TIME
— Patrons unwind at
one of the Fan area's favor-
ite watering holes — the Texas-
Wisconsin Border Cafe — after a hard
day's work.

Jennifer Knipper/Commonwealth Times

Leila M. Ugincius
CT STAFF WRITER

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from the regular \$3.75.

Between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., you can get the hand-crafted beer at the Richbrau Brewery, 1214 E. Cary St., for \$2.50 per pint and \$1.50 per half pint.

Bogart's Restaurant, 203 N. Lombardy St., knocks roughly a dollar off all drinks between 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Twisters, 929 W. Grace St., discounts everything from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., including 75-cent Natural Light drafts, \$1.25 domestic bottled beers and house highballs for \$1.75.

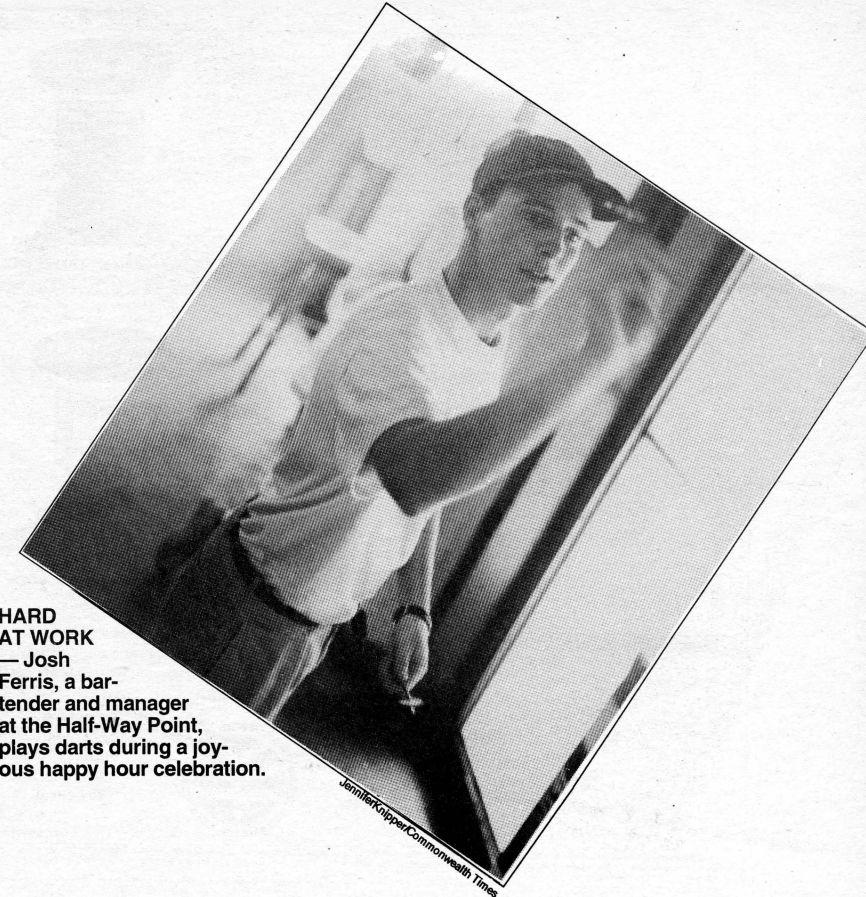
All draft beer at Coyote's on Main Street costs \$1.50 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



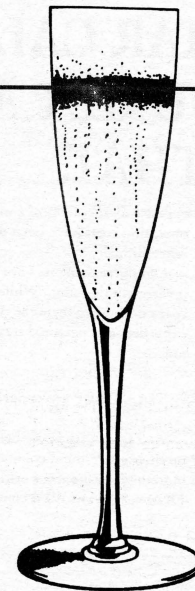
Cheap Beer & Cheer

No matter where the term 'happy hour' originated, it translates into big savings for parched college students

HARD
AT WORK
— Josh
Ferris, a bar-
tender and manager
at the Half-Way Point,
plays darts during a joy-
ous happy hour celebration.



Jennifer Knipper/Commonwealth Times



HANGOVER HELPERS

After staying for happy hour and perhaps a wee bit longer, some of us may not be in the best of shape the morning after. Here are some nonscientific, nonsensical, unguaranteed remedies tested and suggested by students and bartenders:

BEFORE PASSING OUT

- drink lots of water
- gobble up some aspirin
- eat peanut butter

THE MORNING AFTER

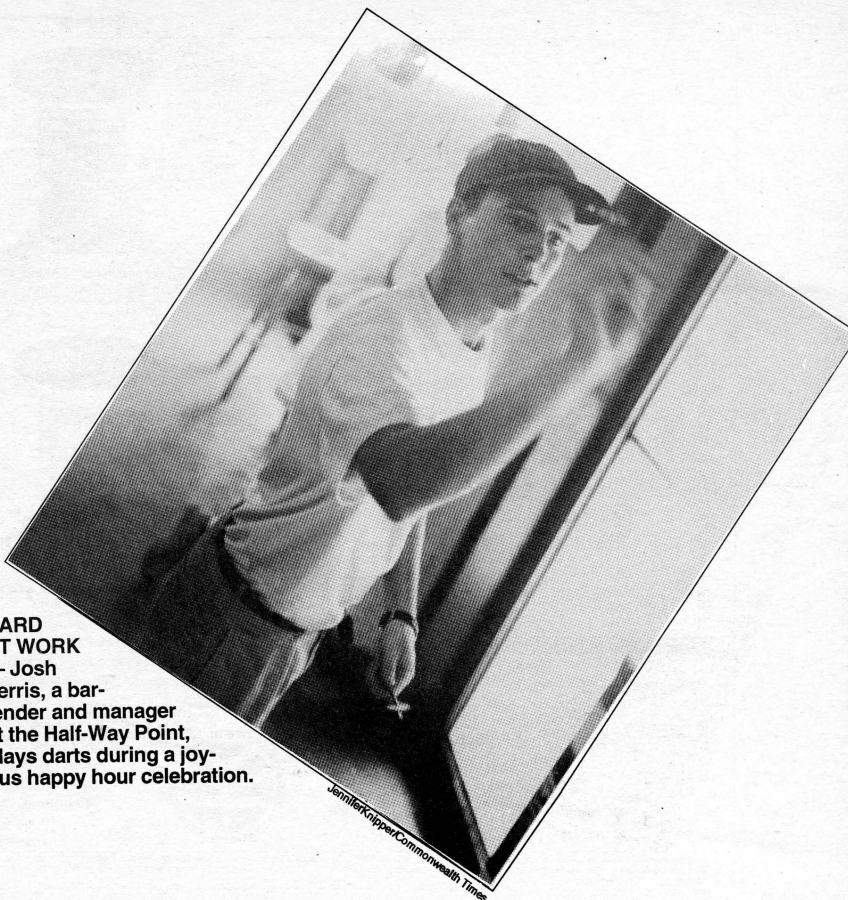
- drink a Red Eye (beer with a splash of tomato juice)
- drink Gatorade
- throw up (as early as you can)
- have a Bloody Mary
- have just one drink of whatever beverage you had been drinking the night before
- eat a big, greasy cheeseburger
- go back to sleep
- take plenty of aspirin



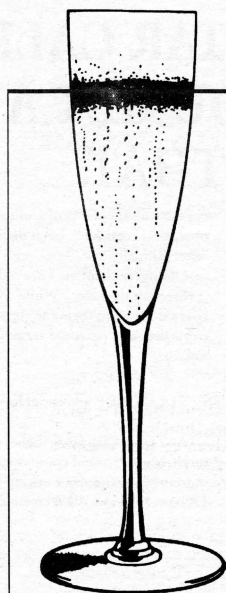
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1. Standard & Poor's Insurance Rating Analysis, 1995; Lipper Analytical Services, Inc., Lipper-Director's Analytical Data, 1995 (Quarterly). 2. Source: Morningstar, Variable Annuities/Life 4/12/95. 3. Of the 2,358 variable annuity funds tracked by 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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A performance for the average Joe/Jane

Charlin Bolin
CT STAFF WRITER

It's back.

The Richmond Symphony kicked its 1995 winter season Friday night at VCU's Performing Arts Center.

The performance was titled by the symphony as its "Kick Back Classics," a chance for the average Joe and Jane to introduce themselves to one of life's finer forms of entertainment.

The night was not filled with caviar and champagne and there weren't many performers wearing tuxedos or \$500 Vera Wang cocktail dresses.

Instead, most of the performers wore black suits or black dress slacks and a blouse, providing for a much more comfortable atmosphere, unlike performances at the Carpenter Center.

The 1995-1996 year marks conductor George Manahan's ninth season with the Richmond Symphony. Ironically, Manahan is the symphony's third conductor.

Unlike the last time I attended a performance by the symphony, Manahan now has a beard, but his love and enthusiasm for music has remained the same.

Manahan trained at the Manhattan School of Music and eventually was nominated to the faculty upon graduation. He spends part of this time as principal conductor of the Minnesota Opera.

Instead of spending his summers lying on the beach, Manahan continues his relentless pursuit of making the classics accessible to us all by conducting the Santa Fe Opera Company.

In 1994, Manahan and the Richmond Symphony were recognized by the American Society of Composers and Publishers for their never-ending commitment to 20th century music and composers.

The society also awarded first place to Manahan and the Richmond Symphony for the society's division of "Adventuresome Programming of Contemporary Music." This award was no surprise to either party. This will be the symphony's second time in two years and the third time in the history of the symphony that it has received this award.

A special guest performer with the symphony last Friday was Jon Klibonoff, a world renowned pianist. Klibonoff is noted as a versatile recitalist, soloist and chamber musician. He has performed in the United States and abroad, receiving countless awards.

Although classical music might not appeal to the majority of students at VCU, the experience is worthwhile. If you give the music a chance, clear your mind and just listen, you will understand the music's ability to move and touch your heart while allowing your imagination to soar.

Because the stage in VCU's Performing Arts Center is much smaller than the stage at the Carpenter Center, the orchestra was about one-fourth of its actual size.

During the first half of the performance, Manahan went to the roots of classical music with a rendition of Mozart's Divertimento in D major. This piece, written by Mozart at the age of 16, was composed primarily for strings.

The piece is broken into three sections, the Allegro, the



Symphony Review



THE RIGHT DIRECTION—George Manahan is only the third music director to lead the Richmond Symphony in its 38-year history.

Andante and the Presto. The Allegro reminded me of the old Bugs Bunny cartoons when he was being chased through the woods by Elmer Fudd.

This piece was extremely fast (a real test to see who had practiced) and high in pitch.

The second section was a bit more mellow. It reminded me of the film "Steel Magnolias," particularly the scene where Sally Fields said "I can jog to Texas, but my daughter can't."

The tone was deeper to match the mood.

Usually the violins take center stage and let the other instruments fill in, but in this case the roles were reversed. The basses and cellos told the tale, and the violins filled the void of melancholy.

The third section of the first piece was similar to the first. It seemed almost playful and whimsical. The tempo was fast and the pitch was high. It reminded me of a child's quarrel.

It normally begins with children playing, then something happens (like whoever owns the baseball decides to change the rules in the middle of the game and threatens to leave because he has the ball.)

In this case the quarrel was between the cellos and the basses with the violins. Beginning low and then bursting

with great sound and vigor.

The second of Mozart's pieces was concerto No. 23 in A Major for Piano and Orchestra. Here Klibonoff made his debut. Even before Klibonoff touched the keys he was sitting on the piano bench rocking to the tempo with his eyes closed, piano-focusing.

The second piece also was broken into three sections: the Allegro, the Adagio and the Allegro Assai. Unlike the first piece, this piece was a bit harder to differentiate between its sections. Everything blended together so smoothly that it really did not matter.

This piece included a larger section of the complete orchestra. The woodwinds joined in with the strings for a really light combination of music. The whole piece seemed like a fairy tale. You could just picture watching an old movie where the crucial scene depicts a European castle during a grand ball.

The strings and the woodwinds come in moderate tempo and medium pitch and then they stop. Klibonoff jumped off the piano bench and went through the air whenever his portion of the piece was complete.

The first half of the second piece reminded me of "Romeo and Juliet." It told a story of two lovers through music instead of words.

The second portion of this piece was quite sad. The pitch was low, the tempo slow and the tone solemn. The sound reminded me of a man who had just lost the love of his life and was in great and undeniable pain.

The strings and woodwinds came in simultaneously first low and then with full force, emulating the feelings of he who had lost.

This piece reminded me of "Doctor Zhivago," a truly romantic story of a married man who falls in love with another woman, while still loving his wife. I guess you could call this piece Mozart's version of the blues.

This piece really got Klibonoff into a fury. There was so much feeling of hurt, pain and suffering that even the listener could not help but feel his pain.

By far this was my favorite piece of the evening.

After intermission the piano was wheeled off stage for Stravinsky's The Fairy Kiss: Divertimento. This piece lasted 45 minutes. I love the classics, and I can listen to opera, but 45 minutes seemed to be a bit long.

This piece sounded like an extremely long cat-and-mouse chase. At times the tempo was fast and the pitch high, then the tempo would drop drastically, similar to a cat stalking the small unknowing mouse.

The last piece was also by Stravinsky, but this time it included the piano, Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra. I liked this piece. It reminded me of a Shakespearean play where the main character makes a pact with the devil. Through the music you could tell when the deal was made. In the end, the main character loses the deal and unwillingly goes with the devil to live in eternity among fire and penance.

I said that music could open your mind. Although my renditions of the music differ greatly than those of my peers, one thing we share is appreciation and love of music.

The symphony will return to VCU for more performances this fall. Tickets are inexpensive and it makes for a fun night of entertainment.

New film uses unique approach for success

Shanti Narelle
CT STAFF WRITER

Finally, a realistic story about true love has reached the cinemas. Unlike many sappy Hollywood romantic comedies, "The Brothers McMullen" offers an insightful, comical and intriguing alternative.

Eddie Burns, who wrote, directed and starred in the movie, displays his talent in his cinematic debut.

"The Brothers McMullen" possesses the

charming qualities of most successful independent films.

The film relies on its plot and dialogue to carry it, unlike many films that rely on expensive Hollywood technology, gratuitous sex scenes or car crashes.

Filmed in Burns' actual Long Island home and on location in Manhattan, N.Y., the settings are realistic and recognizable. The film includes many of his real-life friends, including his girlfriend who portrays his fictitious love. These characteristics are what make this film unique and original.

The three McMullens, Jack, Barry and Patrick explore themes of brotherhood,

Catholicism and modern-day romance. Although they share a family history, each brother has developed his own beliefs concerning love and marriage.

Many of the film's funniest and most insightful moments arise from conversations among the three brothers about their current romantic challenges and their different ways of approaching various issues.

As Catholics, they constantly must deal with the discrepancies between what is religiously correct and acceptable and what is socially or personally acceptable.

Each brother is faced with his own romantic dilemma. The eldest, Jack, is mired in confusion about his commitment to

marriage as he struggles with the temptation to commit adultery.

The noncommittal middle brother, Barry, is cynical about the existence of true love.

Through the course of the movie he is forced to re-examine his viewpoint as he finds himself falling in love for the first time.

Patrick, the youngest brother, provides several moments of comic relief as he struggles to integrate his romantic life and his devout Catholic beliefs.

If you are looking for a refreshing realistic drama-comedy, you must see "The Brothers McMullen!"



A black and white photograph of a person sleeping, with their head tilted back and eyes closed. A piece of torn paper is stuck to their forehead. The paper has the word "SNOOZE" at the top, followed by a paragraph of text. The person is wearing a light-colored, textured garment.

SNOOZE

You slept through morning classes. And now you're gonna blow off the afternoon. The sad thing is, your parents have no clue. They think you're working hard. They're convinced you're busting your butt. They're so damn proud. If only they could see you now. Lying there like a lump. Suddenly guilt sets in. You feel so low. Quickly, you reach for the phone and surprise the folks with a call. Ahhh, now you can sleep in peace.

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Classifieds are \$7 for the first 25 words or less, plus 10 cents for each additional word.

This poem was inspired by Samantha W. and with love I dedicate this to her:

PARADISE

Your skin is dark and beautiful like a sandy black beach.
Your movements flow gracefully like the ocean.
In your eyes I can see the sun set over the horizon.
And in your smile I can see it rise again.

Your breath is the breeze that caresses me to sleep at night.

The twinkle from your eyes are the stars in the sky.
Your kiss is the dew drop that falls on my cheek and wakes me for a new day
Your touch warms me like the rays from the heavens.

Your voice is the sound of rare and exotic birds singing
Your scent is like tropical flowers dampened from the mist of a waterfall

You are an island surrounded by love.

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—Love today

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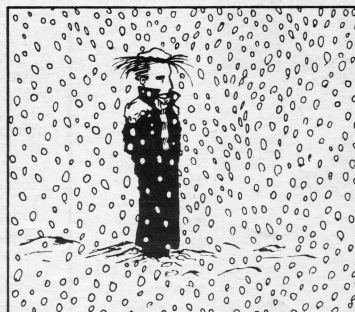
— Jeff Shesol

Thatch



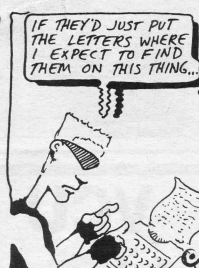
— Eddy Harrington

Glum



Freak and Spike

— Robb Lane



Curve Ball

Q: Before losing to Virginia Tech Saturday, how many consecutive games had the University of Miami won against unranked opponents?

TV

SPORTS

Next Issue

• Find out who is the CT Athlete of the Week.

MONDAY, September 25, 1995

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Spiders overpower Ram ruggers, 37-12

R.J. DeVaan

CT STAFF WRITER

The University of Richmond used a strong second-half surge and superior size to hand VCU's rugby club its first loss of the season Saturday afternoon at Leigh Street Field.

Things began to go wrong early for VCU (1-1). Hooker Ty Schmah, a key to the Rams' scrum attack, went down with a knee injury in the first 20 minutes, forcing Steve Marshall to fill in for the rest of the game.

VCU scored most of its points in the first half, as outside center Chuck Brown ran the ball into the try zone. The following extra-point kick gave the Rams a 7-0 lead, but the Spiders came back to score two field goals to cut VCU's lead to 7-6 at halftime.

Unfortunately for VCU, Richmond owned the second half. The Spiders made it to the try zone five times and scored each time, surging to a commanding 37-7 lead. The only score for the Rams came when scrumhalf Scott Wenger made good on a penalty try.

One reason the Spiders controlled possession and held a huge advantage in tries was their front line, which dominated the smaller Rams.

"They were obviously in a lot better shape than us," Brown said. "They were a lot bigger than us, and they were pushing us all over the field."

Despite an opening-game victory against Washington and Lee, Brown and team member back second row James Lyon described this season as a "transition year" for the Rams.

"We don't have many senior players on the team. We have a lot of inexperienced players but tough players," Lyon said. "A lot of our forwards aren't used to playing together. We're getting better, though."

The Rams' next match is Saturday at Leigh Street Field against William & Mary. It's a big game for the team, since it needs to win at least one Virginia Rugby Union East Division game to get a berth in this year's VRU tournament Oct. 28 and Oct. 29 in Roanoke.

"We're going to have a hard week of practice going into the game," Lyon said about the William & Mary game. "We'll bounce back from this loss."

The club practices at Leigh Street Field and is always looking for new players to help them have a winning season. If anyone is interested, call 649-RUGBY for further details.



File photo

SCRUMMED — The VCU rugby team was manhandled by the University of Richmond 37-12 Saturday at Leigh Street Field.

Fencing club open to all

Jamil St. Hilaire

CT STAFF WRITER

Now consisting of 40 members, the VCU fencing club still is going strong after 15 years of competition.

The club has about 15 to 20 competitions a year, 10 of which are against in-state teams such as John Hopkins University, the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. The fencers compete individually.

Currently, VCU has 10 fencers who compete regularly, and they have the opportunity to participate in championship play.

There are three levels of fencing championships: The state or divisional championship, the regional championship and the national championship, which will be held this year in Cincinnati.

Because it is a club sport, the team doesn't have the same advantages as a varsity team. A varsity team receives its funding from the athletic department, and the university provides coaches and equipment.

Clubs receive money from the Student Government Association and also get some personal funding. They are organized and

led by students who provide equipment, time and effort.

The sport of fencing is played by two people wearing black netted masks and white and gray suits. A wire runs from "score box" through the suit, up the sleeve and to the sword.

A person scores a point by touching the gray part of their opponent's suit with the sword.

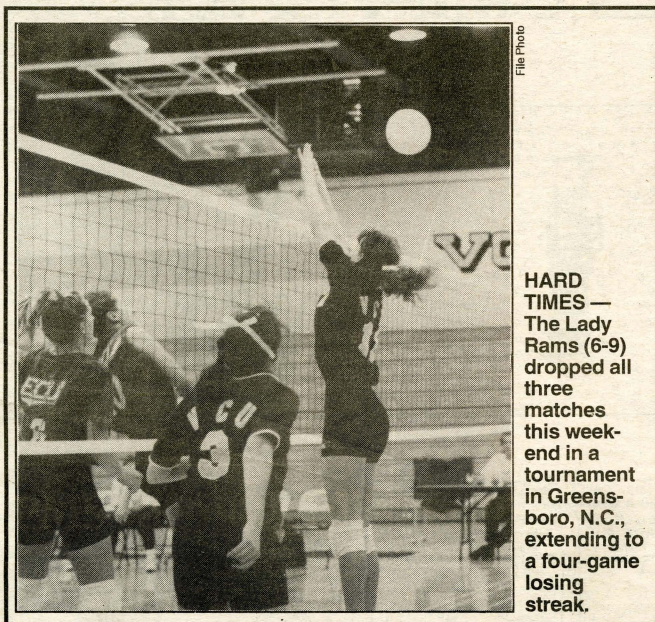
A colored light goes off in the "score box." The light is either red or green, depending on who scored. A white light goes off for touch on the white part of the suit.

There are five touches to win a game and 15 touches to win a single-elimination tournament. There are complications and different forms of touches.

Dan Vunck, the head coach of the fencing club and chairman of the Virginia Division, said the key to being a good fencer is having experience, speed, agility, good timing and intelligence. Strength and gender are nonfactors.

"It's (fencing) the only sport where women compete on an almost equal level with men," Vunck said.

The fencing team meets from 7:45 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays at Frank Street Gym.



HARD TIMES — The Lady Rams (6-9) dropped all three matches this week-end in a tournament in Greensboro, N.C., extending to a four-game losing streak.



VCU

at home



Tuesday, Sept. 26

at James River High School

Friday, Sept. 29

Saturday, Sept. 30

Volleyball vs. Liberty

Women's soccer vs. Wake Forest

Men's soccer vs. UNC-Asheville

7 p.m.

7 p.m.

7 p.m.