

WEATHER



TUESDAY — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid-80s. Low in the mid-70s.



WEDNESDAY — Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 80s. Low again in the mid-70s.

Commonwealth TIMES

MONDAY, August 5, 1996

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 1

INSIDE

• A day as a lifeguard. Find out if it's really the way it appears on TV. See EYE on pages 8 and 9.



Shawn Gary/Commonwealth Times

PAVING THE WAY — For the second consecutive year, VCU is working on Linden Street. Last year, the school pebbled the street. Workers are now laying bricks down to make the street more accessible.

VCU makes campus 'more accessible'

Pete Van Vleet
CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The university, in an attempt to become more accessible, is in the process of cementing and laying bricks on Linden Street between Floyd Avenue and Main Street.

For VCU this could be a motto.

First it was the pebbling of both Shafer Court and Linden Street and then the bricking of Shafer Court and this summer the bricks are being put down on Linden Street.

"Everything is going excellent," said Rick Duncan, one of the brick layers. "What they have done won't be very bad at all."

What was once the most coveted parking spot on campus will soon be a brick pathway between the Business Building and the University Student Commons.

The brick pathway runs from the Floyd Avenue intersection to the drain sewer just short of Main Street.

VCU bought the strip of road during the 1993-94 school year and closed it off to traffic. Last year, in a beautification process, the road was stripped of its original pavement and covered with tar and pebbles.

Linden Street continued to page 4 ➤

Ad Center ready to open Graduates benefit from Peace Corps experience

Hans Strapec
ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

The new VCU Ad Center is preparing for its first class of students. The center, the only one of its kind, has been three years in the making. Including renovations of the downtown site, there was research done throughout the country and in Richmond to determine what skills and abilities professionals in the advertising industry were looking for when hiring graduates. The Ad Center is also unique in that it brings together the business and creative aspects of advertising.

Art direction, copywriting and account management will be offered in a two year master's degree program that will emphasize integrated marketing and real world experience. New media such as on-line advertising also will be taught. Media buying and account planning are two disciplines the school plans to add to the curriculum once it establishes itself.

"We built profiles of the ideal graduate in a number of different areas — art direction, account management and copywriting," said Diane Cook-Tench, director of the Ad Center. "In our research we asked 'What do you need to really develop a strong career in the industry?'"

"We went to the best in the industry and did research. With focus groups we fine tuned the profiles. Then we built the program around the fine tuned profile."

The graduate faculties of the School of Business, School of Mass Communications and the School of the Arts also had some involvement in the development of the program.

"We built a program that took advantage of the strengths the university had to offer, coupled with the strengths that were on our doorstep because we are literally within blocks of one of the top 10 creative advertising communities in the country," Cook-Tench said.

The center will also have the latest technology for students to use. There will be computer areas with Macintosh workstations loaded with graphics software and media-planning programs. Students will be able to check out Powerbook computers to aid in their work. Also available will be hand-held videocameras, audio-visual and editing equipment. The center also has a site on the World Wide Web, a gallery area for students to display work and a state of the art presentation room.

Part of the graduate program will include a paid 12 week internship, in which the students will be working on real advertising accounts. Bringing reality into the program, a student can be fired from their internship for not performing their job well. A mentorship program connecting Ad Center students with advertising executives throughout the country is being

Ad Center continued to page 4 ➤

Shannon Bender
CT STAFF WRITER

The ability to travel, learn about new cultures and help people in need are three features of the Peace Corps. And for students with those interests, the Peace Corps may be the perfect place to get a job, and they just might have an opening.

The federal volunteer overseas service recruited 3,292 graduates during its on-campus recruiting efforts during the 1995-96 school year, leading the list of the top 100 employers responding to an annual recruiting survey by Black Collegian magazine.

"It will be one of the most important things you do in life," said Brendan Daly, press director of the Peace Corps. "You will be ready to take on new challenges much easier when you return."

Celebrating its 35th anniversary this year with 7,000 volunteers in 94 countries, the Peace Corps trains and sends Americans to newly developing countries to help those countries meet their needs for skilled manpower.

In August 1961, the first volunteers went overseas to help many of those countries after the Peace Corps was established by President John F. Kennedy with an Executive Order. Since then 143,000 vol-

unteers have served more than 130 countries.

"People have benefited from their experience with a feel of accomplishment," Daly said. "You learn about new cultures and more about yourself."

Volunteers, who usually serve for two years including a training period, are sent only to those countries that invite them. They work on projects requested by the host country in areas of education, health, agriculture and community development.

"Anytime you become involved in service, ultimately you are the largest recipient of the act," said L. Victor Collins, director of VCU's Office of Minority Affairs.

Collins, who counsels and offers advice in career exploration for students, said he would recommend the Peace Corps to graduates who want to grow and have a better understanding of the world.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and must be able to meet high medical qualifications. Skilled craft workers and those with professional training are needed, but a college degree may not always be required depending on the skill.

"In deciding on a volunteer we look not only at skills but also at a person's sense of adventure and sense of humor," Daly said,

Peace Corps continued to page 4 ➤

Health NOTES

News from the medical community



• Sentinel Lymph Node biopsy benefits patients with melanoma

A national study underway at VCU will determine if breast-cancer patients can benefit from a biopsy procedure that has been successfully used for skin-cancer patients. Patients with melanoma, the most serious kind of skin cancer, have benefitted from an advance that has reduced pain and complications of surgically determining if their cancer has spread.

For patients with cancer, the choice of follow-up treatment is largely dependent on a surgical biopsy that reveals whether the cancer has spread beyond its initial site. First signs of spreading appear in the lymph nodes, a part of the immune system that acts as a filtering system for the body. If the nodes show no trace of cancer, additional therapy may not be necessary. If the cancer spread, however, follow-up treatments could prevent a recurrence.

• Virginia's African-Americans, Hispanics and Caucasians differ on responses to HIV/AIDS

Caucasians, African-American and Hispanic Virginians differ in their knowledge about HIV/AIDS, and in their attitudes about who should be responsible

for prevention and treatment.

These research findings were presented at the 11th International Conference on AIDS that took place July 7 through July 12 in Vancouver, Canada.

The research was conducted by the Survey Research Laboratory of VCU in collaboration with the Virginia HIV Community Planning Committee.

The findings are drawn from two surveys concluded in 1995 to assess Virginians' HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and behavior.

According to conference organizers, 5,626 research abstracts were submitted from 125 countries, on topics in basic science, clinical science, public health and social sciences.

More than 15,000 participants are expected to attend the conference.

The surveys obtained 1,087 responses from Caucasians, 365 from African-Americans, and 492 from Hispanics. In the survey all groups tended to overstate the likelihood of transmission in several situations in which transmission is very unlikely or impossible, however, this tendency was stronger among Hispanic and African-American respondents than among whites. Most respondents in all groups had some appreciation of the effectiveness of condoms as a means of preventing the spread of HIV. Ninety-four percent

of Caucasians, 93 percent of African-Americans and 84 percent of Hispanics said that the use of condoms is a very or somewhat effective prevention method.

More than 90 percent of respondents in each of the samples said it is very important for individuals and their family to take responsibility for HIV prevention. The three groups differed in their views about the responsibility of others, with African-Americans and Hispanics indicating stronger support for a role for government, public schools and churches.

• Drowning is second leading cause of unintentional-injury death for Virginia's children and adolescents

According to a VCU study, drowning is a leading cause of unintentional-injury death for children and adolescents in Virginia, second only to motor vehicle accidents.

In the study, 163 drowning deaths of children and adolescents ages 19 and younger from January 1989 to December 1994 were recorded.

Analysis showed that Virginia's annualized drowning rate for children and adolescents was slightly lower than the nation's — 1.44 and 2.10 per population of 100,000 respectively.

The study also revealed that groups at particularly high risk for drowning included African-Americans and males. Most deaths occurred in the afternoon and evening hours, and 82 percent of the drownings occurred in the spring or summer.

• National trial for antacids vs. heartburn surgery begins at VCU

With more than two to three million people in possible need of surgery for chronic heartburn, VCU will compare the benefits of medication and surgery for severe heartburn.

The national trial being done at VCU's MCV campus, will compare Omeprazole, an effective acid-blocking medicine with few side effects, and laparoscopic surgery for gastroesophageal reflux disease.

Reflux disease is caused by a progressive weakening of muscles that allows stomach contents, made up of food, acid and other secretions, to flow back into the esophagus.

Symptoms include severe heartburn, regurgitation, belching, spasms and indigestion. The exact cause of the disease is unknown although diet, stress and hereditary factors play key roles.

Writers wanted for all sections.

Call the CT at 828-1058
for more information.

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Professor honored for dedication

Melissa Morera
CT STAFF WRITER

As part of the college of Humanities and Sciences 30th anniversary celebration, Lynn D. Nelson, professor of sociology and anthropology, will receive the Elske v. P. Smith Distinguished Lecture Award.

Susan E. Kennedy, associate dean for the College of Humanities and Sciences, said the award recognizes Nelson's creative teaching techniques and his dedication to his students.

Awarded every year since 1992, the award honors Smith, a former dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences.

"This is a nice honor — that indicates people have actually taken some note of my research and teaching," Nelson said.

One third of the year, Nelson said, he conducts research throughout Russia, studying such topics as its economic and political transition to democracy.

Nelson used this data to co-author two books, "Radical Reform in Yeltsin's Russia" and "Property to the People," both studies of Russian privatization. He's now working on a book that concerns Russia's elitist society.

Judyth Twigg, associate professor of political science and public administration, said she can't think of anyone more deserving of the Distinguished Lecture Award. Scholars and international organizations, she said, recognize Nelson's studies as a tool to assist Russia through their transition to democracy.

Furthermore, his reports are used in international government agencies, the media and for academic journals written in English and Russian.

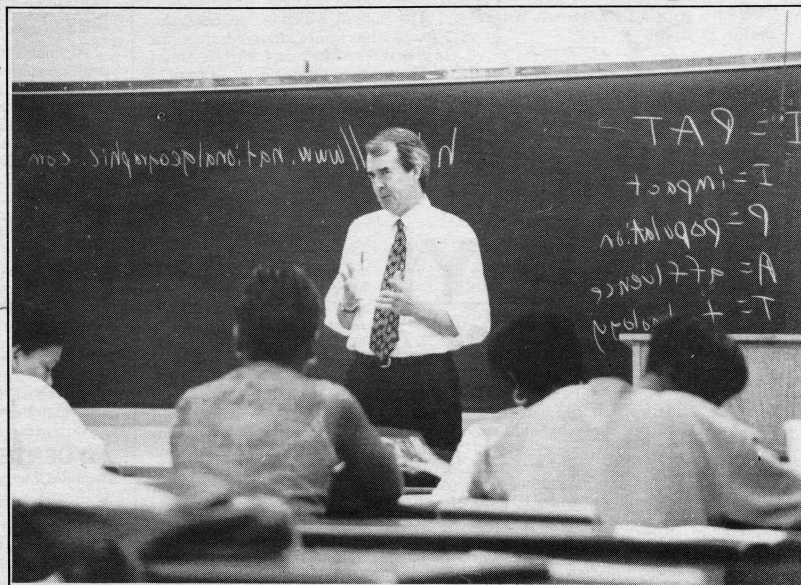
Kennedy said this knowledge and practical experience Nelson delivers back to his students.

"There is a marriage between his scholarly work and his teaching," Twigg said.

Nelson said besides sharing his research with his students, he encourages them to investigate their topics and emphasizes the importance of research and writing in his classes.

The 300 students in his Sociology 101 classes divide into writing labs, he said. They write essays using information from the lecture, their own research, the World Wide Web and Lexus-Nexus.

"I have them write about what's going on in the world," Nelson said. "After the assassination of Rabin (Yitzhak Rabin, prime



Shawn Gary/Commonwealth Times

AWARD WINNER — Lynn D. Nelson, professor of sociology and anthropology, shown here teaching a class, won the Elske v. P. Smith Distinguished Lecture Award. The award honors a faculty member who demonstrates excellent teaching techniques, a good service record and significant scholarly work.

minister of Israel) they wrote about ethnic hostility — the root of it and how it can be dealt with."

VCU students, Nelson said, have a wide variety of cultures and perspectives that contribute greatly to class discussions. When he arrived at VCU in 1972, he said, he was impressed by the innovation of the students and the faculty.

"People weren't afraid to try new things," said the Ohio State University graduate. "I'm really interested in studying different cultures and subcultures and what accounts for the various perspectives different societies have."

The professor called the Russian culture fascinating because of its rich tradition and strength. "It's a culture that thrives on drama," he said. "They have survived tremendous hardships."

Government grants enable Nelson to fund and

supervise a research team of about 30 people who collect statistical data from five regions in Russia — Moscow, Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Veronezh and Smolensk.

The people on the team live in these areas, he said, and while he's in the United States they continue the study. This year they have interviewed 12,000 people for statistical data.

Being the only American on the team, he said, he had to learn to speak Russian fluently. Kennedy said she finds Nelson's work exciting because it draws from so many disciplines.

He not only studies sociological efforts, she said, but also politics and economics.

"Someone of his great quality and consideration for the students really makes a difference," Kennedy said.

Business school teacher a leader in information systems

Shannon Bender
CT STAFF WRITER

As the state capital and home for many corporate headquarters and major information system organizations, Richmond has much to offer students and faculty in the School of Business.

"It's an exciting place for someone like me," said Jeff Hubona, assistant professor of information systems in the school.

He came to VCU in spring 1996 and teaches undergraduates in information systems while researching areas of user interface.

While computer science is more technical in dealing with the theory of computing and how computers are built, information systems involves more use-orientation in studying computer systems usage and development.

"I'm interested in the user aspect of human intelligence," said Hubona, who teaches courses in decision support systems, expert systems and system analysis and design.

Hubona has served on the academic and industrial sides of information systems as well as doing research for journals and

conferences in evaluating system designs and user interface.

"We are excited and pleased he has joined our faculty," said Richard Redmond, chairman of the Department of Information Systems. "We are impressed with his credentials."

Hubona received his undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Virginia before earning his master's degree in finance from George Mason University. He then spent almost 10 years in the industry.

While an executive of a consulting firm, Hubona said he found his work too stressful and decided to return to school. Moving south, Hubona completed his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of South Florida.

"He offers to the department a variety of talents," Redmond said. "We are looking forward to a long and productive relationship with him."

Hubona researches, trains and consults for area businesses through the off-campus programs in the Information Systems Research Institute.

The institute, which also is involved in job placement and special projects, works

with the public and private sectors in off-campus programs.

"One of the purposes of the institute is to foster communication with the community," Hubona said. "People look to the university for things that are happening in technological advances."

The institute brings in executives to interact and share ideas about technology, research and recent developments in the information systems field. It evolved naturally with local business executives coming to the university for advice in information systems.

"He has a genuine interest in helping us build our ties with the Richmond community," said James Wynne, director of the institute.

A visiting scientist for the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., Hubona conducts collaborative research in areas of artificial intelligence. In addition, he has a contract with Goddard Space Flight Center performing studies of third-dimensional visualization prototypes for mission control operations.

"He brings an element of the real world to the classroom with good examples of the applications that he teaches," Wynne said.

"He has brought an area of expertise that we didn't have before."

Jean Gasen, an associate professor of information systems, works with Hubona on a research project examining user interface issues.

They are studying how computers present information and what influence it has on a user's decision-making ability and performance.

"He brings a great deal of breadth and experience in research and consulting," Gasen said. "We felt that he would make a strong contribution to the department."

Gasen, co-chairman of the search committee for hiring new faculty, said the faculty selected Hubona because of his excellent research record and his strong technical background and experience.

Hubona said he likes being a professor and would like to continue to teach and do research at VCU until he retires. He would like to develop new courses in project management and object-oriented system analysis and design.

"The world is becoming a specialized place—it helps to have marketable skills," Hubona advised students interested in technical fields of study.

• 13th Annual Carytown Watermelon Festival

Watermelon, watermelon and more watermelon! That's what you will find at the 13th Annual Carytown Watermelon Festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug. 11, between Nansemond Avenue and South Colonial Street.

Offering two stages, the festival's music line-up is one you won't want to miss. On the main stage, in the Jefferson Bank parking lot, patrons can enjoy the music of Dog's New Clothes at 12 p.m., Alvin Breedon and the Virginia Cut-ups at 1:15 p.m., Used Carlotta at 2:30 p.m. and Li'l Ronnie and the Royal Kings at 4 p.m.

On the Plan 9 Stage, on Sheppard Street, performances include Baaba Seth at 1 p.m., Skuttlebutt at 2:15 p.m., Unified Punk Theory at 3:30 p.m. and Frog Legs at 4:45 p.m.

The festival also includes sidewalk sales by area merchants, 65 various arts and crafts vendors, food provided by local merchants and live music for all ages throughout the day. Jugglers, puppet shows, games and fun rides are available for the kids and admission is free. For more information, call 359-4645.

• Down Home Family Reunion

The sixth annual Down Home Family Reunion brings music, dance, food, crafts and traditional leisure activities downtown to Abner Clay Park, West Leigh Street and Brook Road, in historic Jackson Ward on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The festival, which is free, celebrates African-American folklore and is designed to link West African and African-American cultural traditions, while also demonstrating ways these practices have been absorbed by the American South.

For more information, call the Elegba Folklore Society at 644-3900.

• New rate structure at the Science Museum of Virginia

FYI
for your information

Starting Aug. 1, a new price structure went into effect at the Science Museum of Virginia. Deputy Director Jack Parry said in a press release making the announcement that visitors will notice several changes.

"We are raising some prices and lowering others. Beginning the first of August, the youth price for exhibits will actually drop," he said. "People who combine both the exhibits and a film in our OMNIMAX theater will get a discount. And visitors will no longer pay extra to see a planetarium show."

"Those shows will be included in the ticket to see museum exhibits. Basically, we have simplified our rate structure to reflect our customer needs."

Under the new price structure, exhibit tickets are \$4 for children four to 12 years old, \$5 for adults, and \$4.50 for seniors ages 60 and older. Film tickets are \$4 for anyone four years or older. A price break comes for visitors who buy tickets for both the film and the exhibits. The combination ticket is \$7 for children, \$8 for adults and \$7.50 for seniors.

For more information, call 367-6552 or 1-800-659-1727.

LINDEN STREET

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Although its looks may have been appealing, complaints arose from the skate borders and the wheelchair-users.

The latter of the two had a valid point and the university made the decision to make the area more accessible.

Carl Purdin, assistant director of Architectural Services, said the university had identified some areas that were inaccessible to wheelchair-users and is in the process of correcting those areas.

"The pathway is in response to many complaints that we have received," he said. "Obviously it was an inaccessible surface. This is being done to address that concern."

The new pathway will resemble that of Shafer Court, which had the same problem of accessibility.

Linden Street will not have the grid-like pattern of Shafer Court and will have fewer patches of loose pebbles.

VCU is funding the project, which costs

nearly \$100,000, with state funds.

Also being worked on at the same time is the Commons Plaza.

Gone are the cement triangle blocks and some of the trees.

In their place will stand park-like benches with tables.

Bart Hall, director of the University Student Commons, said the roots had damaged some of the concrete, making the area dangerous to pedestrians.

"The problem was at the base of the cement and the triangles were uncomfortable," he said. "Hopefully the new tables and benches will be better."

Hall said the new area will be more conducive to studying and other events that will take place in the plaza.

Lining the new Linden Street path will be park benches. A sample bench was on display at the commons during the summer.

AD CENTER

continued from page 1

developed with the board members.

"The idea is to link up every student in the center with a professional of high standing somewhere in the country. A person you could e-mail, send your work to quarterly and get feedback on it, someone

who feels a an ownership for you as a person," said Cook-Tench.

Cook-Tench said the Ad Center has gotten support from the Richmond advertising community as well as the advertising industry as a whole.

PEACE CORPS

continued from page 1

"because things may not always go your way."

Daly said volunteers may request going to a specific country, but a person's background will decide his/her destination. For example, a person having a health background in HIV/AIDS education may be sent to Chad, an African country with an AIDS epidemic.

"We match skills with the need of the country," Daly said.

A training period, which can last nine to 14 weeks, teaches the volunteers the language of their host country and its economy, geography, history and customs.

Within any given country 15 to 20 volunteers serve, but someone could be the only person assigned to a village. A living allowance is paid in the local currency for their service and scaled to the conditions of the host country. When volunteers leave the Peace Corps, they receive a readjustment payment of \$5,400.

"You live and work with the people and become part of the group — part of the culture," Daly said.

The federal agency budget of \$219 million depends on support from Congress.

"We get very good support," Daly said, with eight former Peace Corps volunteers serving in Congress. "We have people familiar with the Peace Corps."

Students wanting to gain a feel for the volunteer service while in school may look at the volunteer service program on campus called the AmeriCorps.

"The AmeriCorps is helping America at home," said Annie Lewis, director of the program. "For those students interested

in serving their community at home, it is a great learning experience."

"You will learn practical skills and hands-on experience that you would not have gained in college."

The domestic service program, also established by President Kennedy, can be found in every state in the country and has about 400 different programs with more than 20,000 members. VCU's program has 36 members including local area college students and residents in the community.

"The AmeriCorps sites across the nation have the same goal, and same mission — to make their communities a better place to live," Lewis said.

As with the Peace Corps, a student must be 18 or older, a U.S. resident and willing to make a one-year commitment. After they complete the program, members are given an education award that can be used for future tuition or to pay off loans.

A student volunteering for the AmeriCorps can add that experience to the 10-page detailed application required by the Peace Corps. With regional offices throughout the country, Arlington is the site for recruiting volunteers in Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Maryland. About 4,000 people are accepted each year.

Black Collegian Magazine found that employers planning to hire more than 2,000 graduates this year were two Chicago-based consulting and accounting firms, Anderson Consulting, LLP and Arthur Andersen LLP and Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

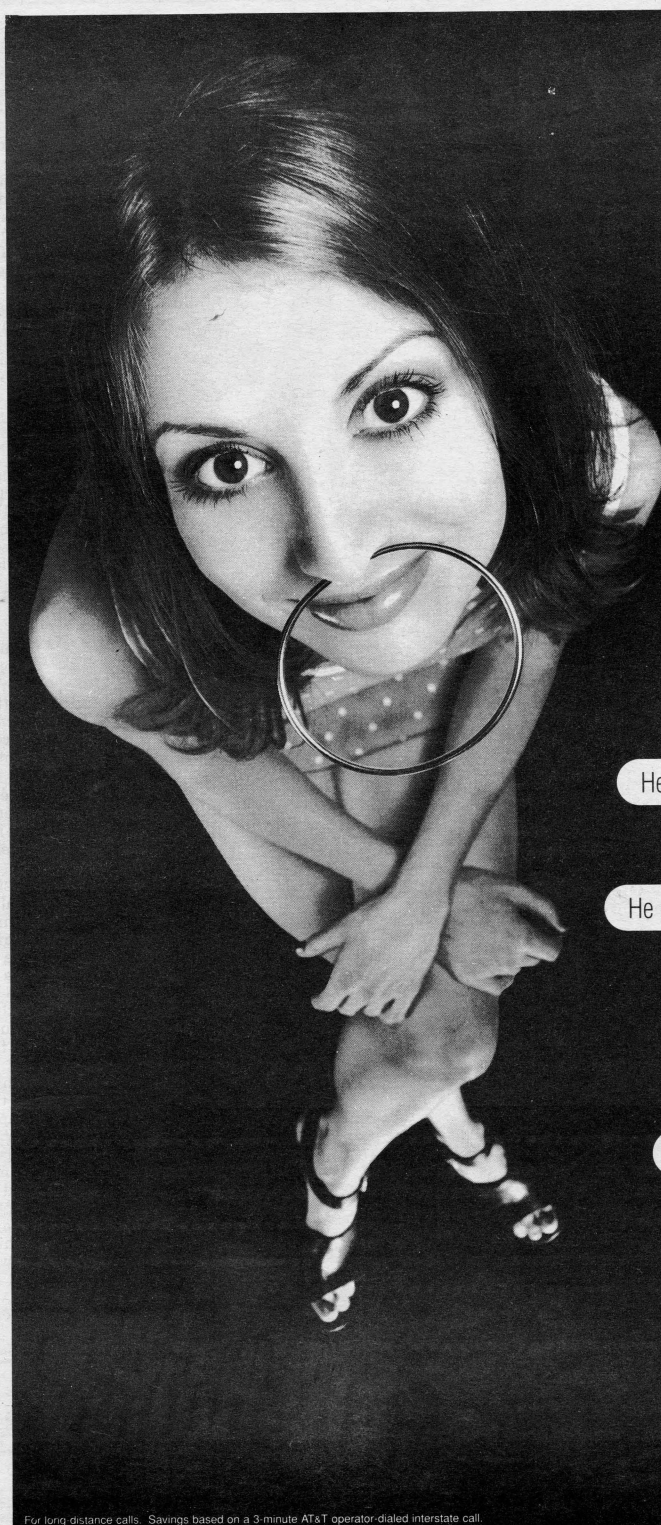
For more information, call Annie Lewis at 828-1579.

WRITE FOR NEWS.
Call Paul or Tricia at
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photo courtesy of University News Services

MS. PRESIDENT — Barbara J. Ford, executive director of the VCU Libraries, has been elected president of the American Library Association for the 1997-98 term.



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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

DO IT!

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:
This slogan—variations of which have been made popular by several companies—is a fitting mantra for new students to VCU. The variety of opportunities for involvement and participation is almost infinite. Activities, organizations and events that promote professional interest, personal development, social responsibility or just plain fun flourish across campus—mostly through the commitment and effort of other students.

Likewise, many services and conveniences are available to help make life on campus a bit simpler, and numerous information resources are available to keep you posted on how and where to take advantage of all that VCU has to offer. Finally, you will find most of the activities and events—and even many of the support services—are offered free or at a low cost to students.

So what is the catch? That's where "Do it!" comes in. All of these opportunities depend on you to take the time and invest the energy to "DO IT!" ... What ever "it" is. The benefits can include meeting new people, learning new skills, contributing to the university's success and discovering more about yourself. But "it" all starts with you! To help, here is a brief "DO IT!" list for the upcoming fall semester—check off items as you "DO IT!"

- do participate in New Student Orientation (Aug. 22 through Aug. 24) to become more familiar with all VCU has to offer and how to make the best of it.
- do enroll in VCU 101 to get a better start on your academic journey and seek out services like the Academic Success Program (828-6200).
- do use the security escort service (828-WALK) and learn safety tips so you may travel to and from campus without worry.
- do pick up and read a copy of the VCU Resource Guide (available at the student orientation program or at the commons information center. This is a wonderful tool available to everyone.
- do pick up a "This Month @ VCU" calendar each month in the commons or other campus buildings and call the commons information center (main lobby—828-1981) regularly to find out what is going on and how to participate.
- do learn to use the electronic information resources on the VCU Web site (<http://www.vcu.edu>) including the Student Activities Center site (<http://www.vcu.edu/safeweb/activities.html>) and use the student information kiosks around campus.

• do read the Commonwealth Times, The Vine, VCU Voice and watch Stay-in-Touch TV in the commons regularly to keep up with what is happening on campus.

• do visit or call the Student Activities Center (The commons information center, lower level/828-3648/VCU-Do IT!) and plan to stop by the organization fair (at the Common Plaza on Sept. 11) to find out which organizations you want to join.

• do commit to making a difference in the Richmond area by getting involved in one of the many community-service programs, such as the Carver Promise Project—just contact the Student Activities Center to find out how to get involved.

• do attend the lectures, films, dances, concerts, comedy shows, performances, exhibits and recitals presented by the Activities Programming Board (828-7550), other student groups and departments. These events are offered almost every day of the week.

• do make time to be involved in the decisions affecting student life by getting to know a member of the Student Government Association (828-7551) and consider becoming a member yourself.

• do get involved in the Commuter Student Lobby (828-6500), an advocacy group for commuting students or the activities of your residence hall if you live on campus.

• do enjoy the rich diversity of the people and cultures that form the VCU community by participating in some of the many programs and events sponsored by ethnic/cultural student groups.

• do use the convenient services in the Commuter Lounge (Commons Theater, first floor/828-6492) such as the off-campus housing bureau and rental lockers to make your time on campus easier.

• do something for yourself by making time to use campus recreation/fitness facilities (recreational sports/ 828-6220) or join an intramural team, register for an aerobics class or get involved with a sports club.

So, what are you waiting for? Don't let the parade of daily campus life pass you by ... participate ... get involved ... Do it!

Sincerely,
Bart A. Hall — Director
University Student Commons
and Activities

Commonwealth TIMES

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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).



Expectations

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:

A friend of mine has this saying—"Sometimes the obscure takes a while to see; the obvious takes longer." Well, this seems to apply to VCU. If I were in a position to offer advice to an incoming freshman, I would stress the importance of double checking, if not triple checking everything.

When I transferred to this institution a few years ago, I received a few more surprises than I had bargained for... especially when it came to paying for my higher education. I transferred from a community college and was very eager for a smooth transition. I won't say that I was upset with what happened but was more caught in a sense of wonderment. It was the same sort of feeling that I got when I heard the news report of the man who robbed a bank and tried to flush the gun down the toilet of a hotel room to avoid leaving evidence behind. What were these people thinking?

I was an eager heaver to make sure that everything was absolutely perfect. I turned in all of my stuff to the financial-aid office by Jan. 30, to ensure that I would know the status of my financial situation as soon as possible.

Well, the woman assured me that all would be revealed by at least April 15, and she even thanked me for turning my information in early.

"We need more students like you," she said. April came and went and I heard nothing.

I began to get worried and called VCU in late May, to be sure that I had followed procedures correctly.

Again the woman assured me I had done everything right. She said that it was "obvious" that I was on the ball and could expect a response any day now. At the end of May, with no word, I started to get a strong, bad feeling. I called the financial-aid office once again. This time, however, I was not in an especially good mood and

explained that I was told that I could anticipate an answer April. I still chuckle today at this response—the woman informed me—"Oh, we tell everyone that. You can't really expect anything 'til the end of July."

The fact of the matter is VCU has about 30,000 students, and that generates a lot of

paperwork.

The probability that everything will go smoothly is about that of Ike Turner producing a "making love workout" video seminar.

On the lighter side, there are some wonderful clubs, activities and cultural events that take place at VCU.

Ultimately, students will need to be responsible for their own fate.

A large part of the college learning experience is how to deal with life, and if a student can navigate the turbulent waters of the financial-aid apbomb, then everything else is a breeze. College can be the best four, six or eight years of your life, but it is your life and what you make of it.

Sincerely,
William Cooper

"Independence we often fight for; freedom we have to live."

— Anne Wilson Schaefer, author, 1994.

EDITORIAL

E-MAIL:

ENG3SLR@HIBBS

Sorry, Pam fans . . .

Dispelling the myth of

For many people, summer is analogous to sand, sun and surf. The roar of the ocean and the first whiff of the salty air captivate many a vacationer, beckoning them to the sea's watery arms. But danger lurks in even the most favored places.

For others, summer means taking the responsibility of protecting these summer hedonists. Beach lifeguards are an ever present part of the beach scene, ready to save a life in less time than it takes for a wave to break onto the shore.

The popular TV series "Baywatch" has given beach lifeguards a lot of attention. However, the perfect, hard-bodied models-turned actresses and actors portraying lifeguards distorts the reality of such a vital job.

According to Kent Hinnant, captain of the Virginia

Beach Lifesaving Service, "Baywatch" is unrealistic in terms of what the day to day lifeguarding process is all about.

"I think a lot of people want to come out here thinking this is where the action is and that's true to only to a degree," he said.

Unlike "Baywatch" where lifeguards are solving crimes and performing dare-devil acts, a typical day in the life of a Virginia Beach lifeguard starts at 9 a.m. when they report for work and receive their assignments. They then are given daily instructions as to what the water conditions are like and any special things they should look out for on that particular day.

They pick up their buoys and first-aid kits and head for their assigned stands, which are equipped with radio communications, by 9:30 a.m.

From about 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. they perform some type of drill, such as swimming, running or go over a medical scenario such as a neck or back injury.

"Whether they occur or not, you have to practice in case of something happening," Hinnant said.

Each lifeguard has a break in the morning, an hour for lunch and another break in the afternoon. The work day usually ends at 5 p.m. or 6 p.m.

The Virginia Beach life saving service runs on a four month seasonal basis. Beginning two weeks before Memorial Day weekend and ending two weeks after Labor Day, the service operates seven days a week. Typically, each guard works an average of five days in a week.

Each prospective lifeguard must have an American Red Cross or YMCA lifeguard certification, which "gets them through the door," Hinnant said. After that, they go through a long training program where each person is required to spend a certain amount of time working as an assistant lifeguard on a lifeguard stand with a senior lifeguard. In addition to these things, they must have a CPR card every year.

Although these things are very important, the most crucial requirement for the lifeguard hopefuls is a good performance in the competitive swim. At the start of the summer, they are lined up and the take the swim and only the best of the group are chosen.

"Everybody has to do it year to year. It's not like you can rest on your laurels from one year to the next," said Hinnant. "That way it keeps it kind of competitive and keeps the level of performance much higher."

He added that about 60 percent to 65 percent of the lifeguards return because some have graduated from college and are venturing out into their

careers.

"Being that they are career-oriented people, this is not an end in itself. This is something that's a building experience," Hinnant said. "The one's who start in their high school years, we like to look at as where else can a young person save a life?"

He added that the experience looks good on a resume because of the rigorous nature of lifeguarding at a beach rather than at a pool.

"Everybody needs to be saved, but there is much more going on out here. Everyday is a different day," he said. "You don't know what the water will be like. Today it can be relatively calm and tomorrow the waves can be five to 10 feet high. A pool remains the same. Currents are constantly changing. Tides are constantly changing."

The service performs about 250 serious life-threatening rescues in a summer season, he said. These are rescues that the lifeguards not intervened the person would have drowned or risked serious injury.

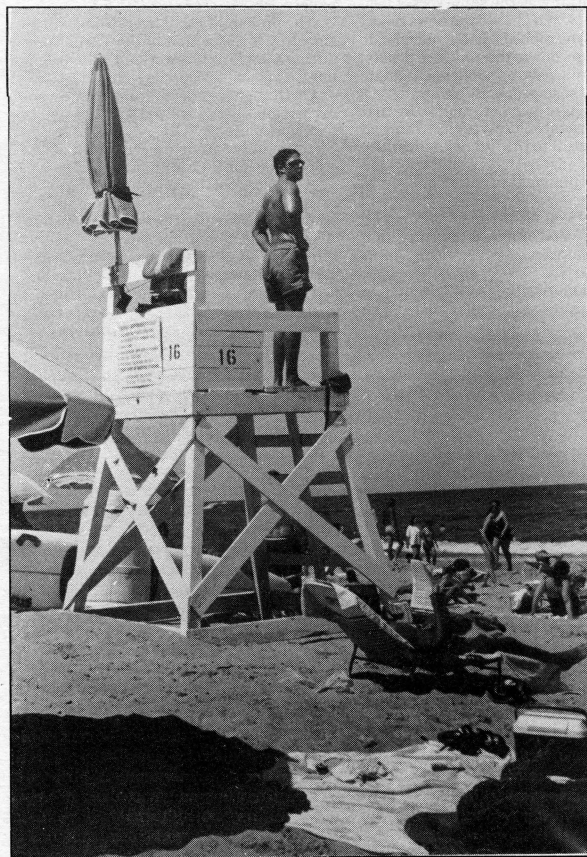
"That does not seem like a lot, but you look at all the preventative actions. We might have to deal with people as many as a couple thousand times a day in terms of blowing a whistle, trying to get people to come in a little closer so they don't get blown out to sea. This type of thing," Hinnant said.

"So we have to kind of keep that in perspective. A lifeguard, if he is really doing his job, won't have to make very many rescues because he is trying to participate and prevent. Trying to be pro-active (opposed to) reactive."

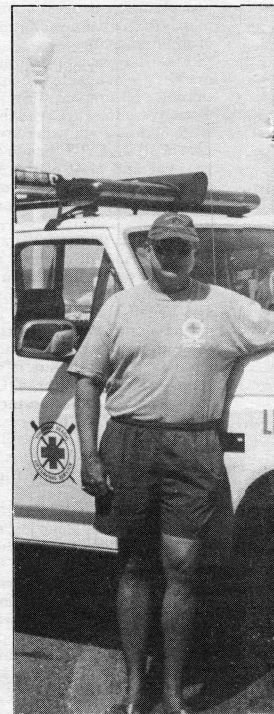
Because the lifeguards at Virginia Beach are positioned so close together, the level of safety is greater.

"Many beaches have as little as one guard where we have maybe three guards," he added. "When you have that you end up being more reactive. Obviously the guards do the best they can with what they have available, but when you have a much larger distance, the farther the sea the farther to run to, you're more apt to have more problems. This system here at Virginia Beach and for the state of Virginia is a tremendous asset."

On the back of each lifeguard stand, there is a swimmer's



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Sorry, Pam fans...

Dispelling the myth of Baywatch



By Sara Kukorlo

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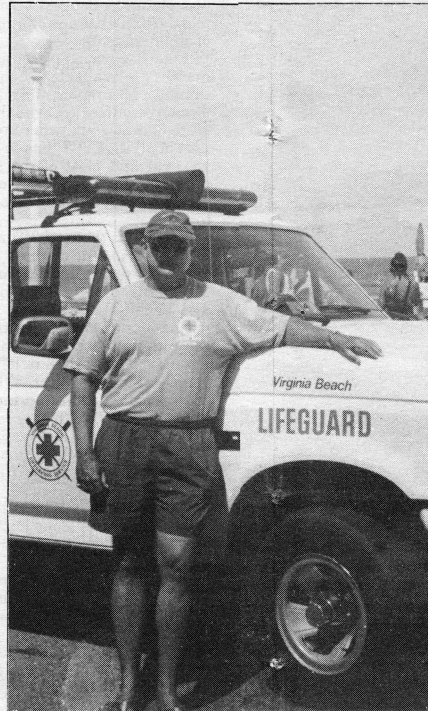
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responsibility code. Hinnant firmly recommends that beach visitors read this code, which contains many common-sense things, such as suggesting swimmers stay near a lifeguard, learn to swim and to not rely on a floatation device.

On a good note, Hinnant said there has been no drownings yet this season at Virginia Beach. Unfortunately, last year there were two unwitnessed fatalities, which means that no bystanders in the water or the lifeguards saw anything occur.

Hinnant explained that when there is such a great number of people in the water, there are many different medical problems.

"Everybody is a question mark," he said. "We have no idea. We don't know whether someone has eaten their breakfast, whether they have been up all night. I don't know how much alcohol they consumed in the last 24 hours. I have no knowledge whatsoever of what the person's condition is, so we have to be as cautious as we can. Sometimes people think we are being over cautious."

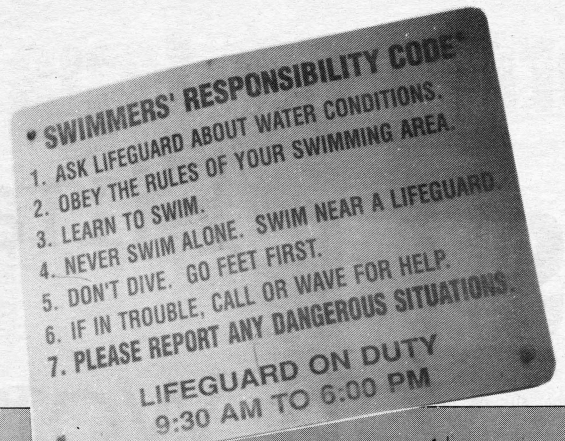
A person could have a diabetic situation where they pass out in the water. A person may be intoxicated or

someone could have a stroke or a heart attack, he said. When this happens and no one is around, the person just fades into the water unbeknownst to anyone. For that reason Hinnant advises that everyone swim with another person.

This drowning is what they call passive type drowning situation, where had it occurred on the beach it would have been considered an occurrence and could have been treated appropriately.

With "Baywatch" hot on our TV sets, misconceptions concerning beach lifeguards are prominent.

Hinnant said he thinks one misconception is the appearance of the lifeguard as not a particularly intelligent individual who is strictly interested in the girls or guys and



HEED THIS WARNING—Beach goers are cautioned to read the swimmer's responsibility code while enjoying the natural wonder of summer.

more in the party mode. He said some people have the idea that it is a laid back job.

"That's the kind of image some people have," he said. "They don't realize how sophisticated it really has become

over the years now that it has evolved. We're actually an emergency medical (EMS) agency."

He explained the service is a certified agency and all of the supervisors are emergency medical technicians and some are paramedics.

"If we had to deliver a baby out here on the beach we are prepared to do that," he said. "If we have a heart attack, I've got people out here for being on the scene to evaluate and be able to give the vitals to the rescue squad or the hospital. They can perform right along with the rescue squad."

Obviously some things mesh with one of the nation's (and the world's) favorite TV show, and Hinnant agrees that "Baywatch" gives somewhat of an idea of what goes on.

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JUST SAY THE WORD—members of the Virginia Beach Lifesaving Service are ready to save a life at any time.



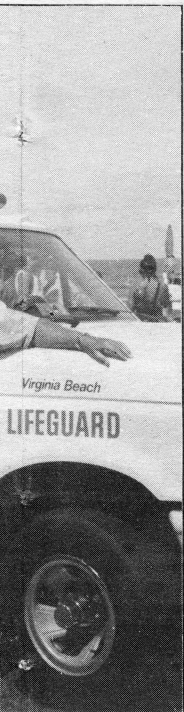
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Finally,
you won't mind
being carded.



Now when you use your Visa® card,
you'll save big at these places.



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Grace with a new face *by Angela D. Hill*

Shut down, remodeled, reopened or renamed — many nightspots in the VCU area have undergone change during the summer.

At 727 W. Broad St, Rockitz (formerly The Factory and Metro) has reopened but with a different focus. Live bands will be few and far between, and pool tables have been taken over the downstairs dance floor.

"We're aiming for a place for food and drink now," said C.J., seven-year veteran bartender. A fur-lined, much smaller bar now sits in the corner and many more booths occupy the front of the building. The crowd remains, however, essentially the same — early 20s and alternative.

The club had been shut down because of overcrowding on the upstairs dance floor, which they are no longer using, said C.J.

The painting of a huge smiling sun can be seen from West Grace Street and now decorates what was Marvin's Gathering Place and Eatery, now Chase's Place. At 308 N. Laurel St., the restaurant has been remodeled and offers a spiffed up menu in an effort to create a more upscale atmosphere.

"The insanity is gone," said Kathy, a bartender who also helped in the renovation. "People can still have a good time and get rowdy. But, they had better not break anything," she added.

Chase's Place currently is open from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., Tuesday through Saturday but may open for lunch in the fall.

Grace Street Cinemas, home of many art films and "Rocky Horror Picture Show" screenings, has returned to its original status as the Biograph. Located in the same 814 W. Grace St. building, the Biograph will continue to show films but plans to include art shows, live music and theater.

Liz Fairbaion, who's responsible for the Biograph's performance bookings, said the theater is looking to provide a more hospitable atmosphere, with events going on throughout the day rather than just at night.

Adding to the comfortable atmosphere are chess and scrabble tables set up by the windows.

Also new is the Biograph's Cafe, open daily from "11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. sort of," as the posted sign says. The cafe serves no alcoholic beverages but coffee and mostly vegetarian light fare.

On June 13, both Twisters, 929 W. Grace St., and the Hole in the Wall, 309 N. Laurel St., were closed down by the city of Richmond. Health and building code violations were cited by the Richmond city code official. Though no member of Twister's management was available, a sign posted on the building's front door indicated the restaurant plans to reopen as soon as plumbing, mechanical and electrical problems are repaired.

The owners of Hole in the Wall have not commented as to their plans for the restaurant.



THE THEATER FORMERLY KNOWN AS GRACE STREET CINEMAS has returned to its original status, the Biograph.

New exhibit 'Parked' at the Anderson Gallery

Jenny Swiger

CT ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

Only one car is allowed to park in front of the Anderson Gallery on the Franklin Street sidewalk.

And it's not only a car, but it's also part of a work of art created by children in the ArtCHAMPIONS program. The exhibit represents five weeks of work developing the theme "Reparking Your Karma," said Loretta Cooper, development director of the Anderson Gallery.

The car is divided in half, one half representing "good karma" and the other indicating "bad karma." Each side of the car is connected to a fence with pictures corresponding to the chosen karma. For example, paintings on the good karma fence include a drug-free school sign and a picture of the Red Cross logo. In contrast, the bad karma fence includes scenes of drugs and church burning. Seated in the driver's seat of each half of the car is a human figure created by the children from newspaper and tape. This is only the outside portion of the exhibit; inside, the exhibit continues with two decorated floor coverings and karma wheels crafted by the children.

A karma wheel is a large circle, containing several smaller circles, situated as gears would be, so that the turning of one causes the others to spin. This exhibit demonstrates that the actions of one person affect the lives of others as well.

Each smaller circle has its own theme and holds pictures taken by the children depicting that theme.

"Each child worked on at least one part of a project," said Kisha T. Skinner, a mass commu-



gram.

Some children worked on decorating a floor covering, some on the karma wheels, and some worked on the electronic display.

"The fence project and the video (project) pulled kids from different groups everyday. . .

That way each child had the opportunity to help," Skinner said.

Calendar

Monday, Aug. 5

Exhibit: "ArtCHAMPIONS," a display of works by children, continues at the Anderson Gallery, 907 1/2 W. Franklin St. It is part of a learning program designed to show inner-city youth that education is more than just classrooms and books. For more information, call 828-1522.

Exhibit: The sixth annual national juried exhibition continues at 1708 Gallery, 103 E. Broad St. More than 50 artists from throughout the country are featured in the exhibit. For more information, call 643-7829.

Exhibit: "Virginia in the 1950s" continues at the Virginia Historical Society at the corner of Kensington Avenue and The Boulevard. This display gives a glimpse into the culture of everyday life during this crucial decade in Virginia history. For more information, call 358-4901.

Film: "Dead Poets Society" is shown at noon in the commons Theater. For more information, call 828-6500.

Film: The suspenseful "Dangerous Minds" is presented at 5 p.m. in the Commons Theater. For more information, call 828-6500.

Wednesday, Aug. 7

Concert: Walter Bell and the Latin Jazz Unit perform at noon in the Commons Plaza. For more information, call 828-6500.

Thursday, Aug. 8

Concert: The Picketts, Seattle's hottest roots rock band, takes the stage at "Jumpin," the summer concert series at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2800 Grove Ave. Gates open at 6 p.m. for the performance in the Sculpture Garden. For more information, call 367-8148.

Concert: Cobblestone Brewery, 110 N. 18th St., presents Glue. For more information, call 644-2739.

Friday, Aug. 9

Concert: Splitting Atoms takes the stage at Cobblestone Brewery, 110 N. 18th St. For more information, call 644-2739.

Saturday, Aug. 10

Special event: A benefit concert featuring The Freds, the Frog Leggs and Used Carlotta is presented by WBUE 106.5 and Plaza Drive-In, Belt Boulevard and Hull Street Road. The gates open at 4 p.m. A Quentin Tarantino double feature follows. Admission is \$10. Food and favorite beverages are available at an additional cost. For more information, call 232-0022 or 330-5700.



ON THE HORIZON
Tori Amos appears
at the Carpenter
Center on Aug.
17th. For informa-
tion, call 262-8100.

Bio Ritmo — Richmond's very own salsa band that is rapidly gaining national attention. A high energy, danceable show is guaranteed.

BS & M — These local popsters have developed quite a regional following playing a mix of originals and college favorites.

Pat McGee Band — His band has just become all the rage, and there are those questioning the possibility of him following in Dave Matthews' footsteps.

the best bands in Richmond

Fighting Gravity — These local ska-gods are a favorite of college students all along the East Coast. Since they rarely play locally now, the shows always are packed.

Eddie From Ohio — Though from Northern Virginia, this folk-pop act is a popular draw at local night spots.

help wanted
NANNY WANTED — One for 2 children ages 1 and 4, part time, three days a week. Southside location, Boxley subdivision. Must be non-smoker, experienced with good references. Call Susan at 276-1968 at home and 378-0480 at work.
DRUM LESSONS — Beginner, intermediate; private, one-on-one. Call 358-3148 for details.
BAND SEEKING DRUMMER — Newly-formed, intelligent rock/progressive band seeks drummer. Call John at 358-1421.

miscellaneous
GRADUATE STUDENTS — Need LOW COST student health insurance? Call today for information and ask for Bruce Allen at 1-800-621-3863 or at 1-804-973-3731.
NEED A DOGHOUSE? — Extra large size DogLoo. Paid \$160. Asking \$100 or best offer. Call Traci at 359-7503.
ADOPTION — If you or someone you know can help us adopt a Caucasian newborn, please call Bern and Sandra Johnson at 853-3929. Homestudy completed, legal expenses paid. Lots of love promised.

for rent
ROOM FOR RENT — cooking privileges, available Aug. 1. Call Martha at 745-7572. Ideal for medical student.
Got a newstip?
Call 828-1058,
fax it to 828-9201,
or email
mac4pgw@cabell

Classifieds are accepted Monday through Friday in the offices of the Commonwealth TIMES, 901 W. Main St. Classifieds must be prepaid in cash, check or money order. Classifieds will be accepted by mail if full payment is enclosed.
The deadline for classifieds is noon Friday for the following Monday edition, noon Tuesday for the Wednesday issue and noon Thursday for the Friday issue. Classifieds are \$7 for the first 25 words or less, plus 10 cents for each additional word.

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NEW & RETURNING STUDENTS...

Free Food!

It IS COMING!

IT's cool!

But what is IT?

Do IT!

Come learn about IT on

Wednesday, September 11

Commons Plaza

10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

IT Rules!

Showcase of Student Organizations

Questions? Call Rob Aaron or Yolanda Jackson in the Student Activities Center at VCU-DO IT (828-3648)

VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, ethnic origin, gender, religion, political affiliation or disability. If you feel you may need special accommodations for participation in this event because of a disability, please contact Rob Aaron or Yolanda Jackson at 828-3648.

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No minimum balance.
No monthly check limit.
No kidding.

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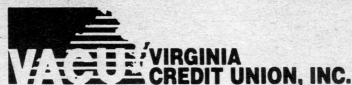
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Pete Van Vleet/Commonwealth Times

SWINGING AWAY — Former VCU center fielder Cordell Farley was selected in the 10th round by the St. Louis Cardinals. Farley lead the Rams in five offensive categories.

Farley

continued from page 16

the rest of his education paid for and he received a signing bonus.

Farley was drafted last year by the Dodgers but opted not to sign so he could attend VCU.

At 23 Farley almost had to leave for the draft if he wished to play professionally.

"He got a late start," Nichols said. "He needed to go out this year."

"He's going to have to move fast. If he can be in triple A in two years he'll be right on schedule."

Farley is now playing for the Peoria Chiefs of the Midwest Single A league.

"He'll do fine," Keyes said. "He's a guy who can make it to the big league level. He's ready."

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Through 7/17

	VCU	Johnson City	Peoria (A)
Average	348	.286	.241
Games	56	16	9
At bats	224	63	29
Runs	64	17	2
Hits	78	18	7
Doubles	14	4	0
Triples	4	3	0
Home runs	1	0	0
RBI	33	9	5
Walks	26	4	3
Strikeouts	33	20	6
Stolen bases	44	2	0
Caught steals	10	2	3
Slugging pct.	.460	.44	.241
On base pct.	.425	.338	.313

Tauma's the big man on campus

Terry Scanlon
CT SPORTS EDITOR

All this talk about the world's greatest athletes got me thinking about VCU athletics.

Alright, it's a little bit of a stretch, but it's the best lead I could drum up. So without further ado, the results of the first VCU OLYMPICS.

(Can you believe it's still without a sponsor?)

All medals have been awarded based on their performance during the past school year, and no effort has been made to include every sport just for the sake of getting their name in the paper. So that explains why you will not see any malarkey about a field hockey team that in reality couldn't beat an egg, and I promise there will be no mention of the former women's basketball coach who epitomized Linford Christie's Olympic spirit.

Men's team all-around

Gold - Basketball. Sure, they were supposed to win the Colonial Athletic Association title and go to the Big Dance, but considering our last appearance was in 1985,

Sonny's squad definitely deserves top billing. Dream Team IV they are not, but Mr. Smith is certainly aware that Ram-faithful will

now most likely expect another trip to the NCAA.

Silver - Golf. Jack Bell's small squad surprised the collegiate golf world by capturing two tournaments including the CAA title on their way to the NCAA East Regional Championship.

Bronze - Tennis. A fourth consecutive post-season appearance ended in disappointment for the Rams, who were ousted early in the regionals.

But their dominance throughout the regular season, which was demonstrated by their spot in the national rankings every week, despite losing their early season court time to Mother Nature.

Women's team all-around

Gold - Tennis. Eva Bard shocked the tennis world and most of VCU by posting a 14-4 record despite playing only one home game.

What's impressive is that the Lady Rams were invited to the NCAA Tournament for the first time (although they were forced to decline to a shortage of players).

Silver - Soccer. In their inaugural season the Lady Rams surpassed all expectations.

Most teams couldn't earn a medal by winning only seven games, but we're talking about an expansion team that didn't lose more than three in a row and won five of their final nine matches.

Bronze - No other qualifiers.

Men's individual
Gold - Olivier Tauma, tennis. The sophomore burst onto the college tennis scene losing only one match all season.

Tauma, a native of France, played most of the season as the Rams No. 1 seed and upset several top-ranked players in the country.

Silver - Bernard Hopkins, basketball. In addition to being named CAA Player of the Year, the 6-7 forward led the Rams to the NCAA tournament with an average of 16.3 points and 10.1 rebounds a game.

Bronze - John Rollins, golf. The CAA player of the Year posted a scoring average of less than 72 during the 1995-1996 season.



Bernstein

His second-round 67 at the CAA Championships helped VCU capture the team title by a comfortable 19-stroke margin.

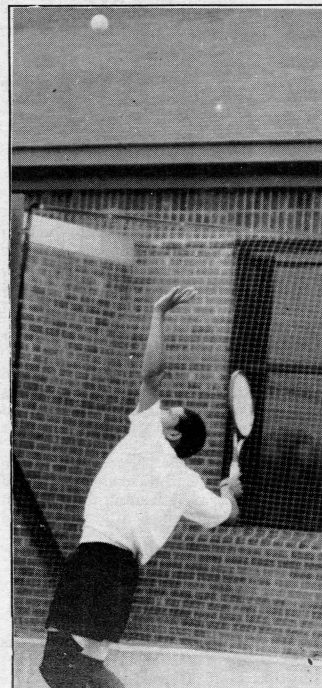
Women's individual

Gold - Christina Kenney, soccer. Kenney led the Lady Rams in both goals, 11, and assists, 7, while splitting time between midfield and forward.

The team's leader on and off the field, she created or played a role in most of the Lady Rams scoring opportunities.

Silver - Catherine Bernstein, tennis. The only Lady Ram in the national rankings all year, Bernstein's play as the No. 1 seed helped the team to their first post-season opportunity.

Bronze - Cindy O'Brien, volleyball. In all sports a solid defense is a prerequisite to success and volleyball is no different. O'Brien ranked 2nd nationally in the sport's leading defensive category — digs, averaging 4.744 per contest.



Terry Scanlon/Commonwealth Times

SUPER SOPH — Olivier Tauma earned the gold medal as the men's top performer in 1996.

■ The women's soccer team was 7-11-2 in its inaugural season last year.

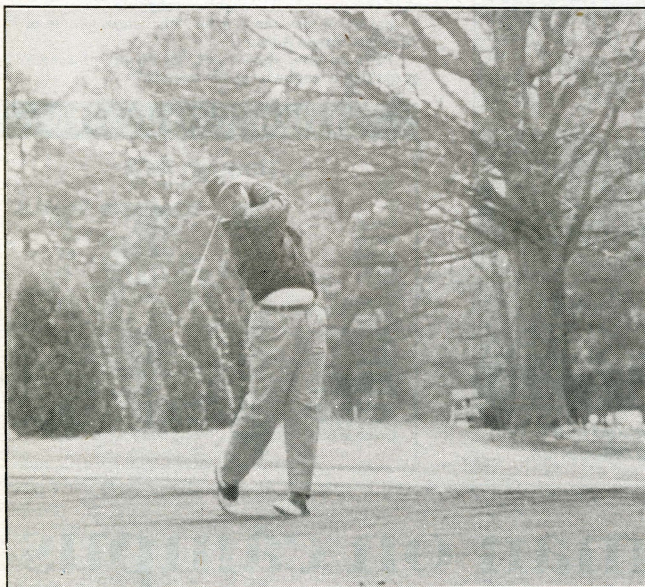
■ Check out our preview of the fall sports teams in the supplement.

MONDAY, August 5, 1996

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 28, No. 1

Rollins claims state amateur title



Terry Scanlon/Commonwealth Times

BIG SWING — 1995 CAA Player of the Year John Rollins won the Virginia State Amateur this summer at The Homestead.

Terry Scanlon
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The VCU golf season may have ended early in May following a disappointing finish at the NCAA East Regional tournament, but for John Rollins his career has just begun to heat up.

This summer the rising senior captured the Virginia State Golf Association Men's Amateur Championship at The Homestead's Cascade Course. Two weeks later the 1996 Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year placed eighth in the AMF Signet Open, the state's premier non-tour event that's open to professionals and amateurs. His four-round total of 2-under par was third lowest among amateurs in a tournament open to the state's best golfers including a former PGA Tour professional.

"I expect bigger things out of him," VCU golf coach Jack Bell said after Rollins earned the amateur title, adding that it would open doors in the golf world for Rollins. "Once your state amateur champion people want you to play in their tournament."

Truer words have not been spoken.

Rollins hasn't taken a day away from the links for more than two months, traveling from tournament to tournament and practicing at his home course, Meadowbrook Country Club, at every possible chance.

Having captured only one title at the college ranks, his triumph at golfing legend Sam Snead's stomping grounds sur-

prised many observers. Rollins, however, said he was confident prior to the tournament.

"I knew it could happen," he said. "It's just a matter of playing and letting everything fall into place."

In addition to his attitude, Rollins credits his caddie Robbie Hart and childhood friend Dawn Richardson for helping cruise through his final three matches including a lopsided 8 and 6 win over Troy Ferris, a student at Campbell University in North Carolina.

"When we left the golf course we never thought about golf," he said. "And when the next day came we'd just go out and play golf again."

His new champion status has prompted a lot of talk among his peers about his golf future.

Fully aware of the lucrative world of professional golf, Rollins spoke like a man twice his age as he professed the value of having an education to fall back on.

"A lot of people ask me about turning professional," he said. "I'm going to finish school and then see what happens."

"You're going to turn pro and you're going to do well," it's easy to tell yourself that. But you never know when something bad may happen. Playing golf might not work. You never know."

Before returning for what will hopefully be his final year of school, Rollins will try to unseat reigning national amateur champion Tiger Woods.

VCU outfielder selected by Cardinals in draft

Pete Van Vleet
CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Most college athletes dream about playing professionally. To strut onto the field under the gaze of thousands of fans. To play next to some of the best athletes in the world. To actually get paid to play a child's game.

For a majority of athletes this dream never comes true. But a select few do get the chance to live out that dream.

Cordell Farley, who played center field for VCU this spring, has been given that chance. The St. Louis Cardinals drafted him in the 10th round of the June amateur draft.

Farley graced The Diamond for only one year as a Ram, and he made the most of that one season by leading the Rams in batting average, runs, hits, triples and stolen bases.

The last category was the one that caught the eyes of the scouts.

"It was his speed that interested us," said Scott Nichols, the Mid-Atlantic scouting supervisor of the Cardinals.

"The fact is he's one of the fastest guys I've ever scouted," Nichols said. "You don't see that kind of speed. He's like Vince Coleman. He's got Deion Sanders type speed."

The Assistant to Player Development and Scouting of the Cardinals, John Vuch, said the scouts rated Farley high on his speed and outfield range.

The Cardinals rate their player's speed on a scale of 20 to 80. Farley received an 80 rating, the highest possible. "You can teach a guy to hit, but you can't teach speed," Vuch said.

Nichols said Farley's time from home to first was "in a word, phenomenal."

"For a right-handed hitter 4.3 seconds from home to first is average. 4.2 is above average, 4.1 is excellent, 4.0 is the highest. He (Farley) runs better than that. He goes off the board on our grading scale."

Once drafted, Farley quickly inked his name to a contract and was off to Johnson City, W. Va.

In the Rookie Summer League he hit .286. The team tried to turn him into a switch hitter in order to better capitalize on his speed. The Cardinals have put him on a special program to accomplish this, something not attempted at VCU.

"We didn't try that," VCU Baseball Coach Paul Keyes said. "He came to us raw. We knew he was going (to enter the draft) after this year so we tried to get him the most at bats possible."

Keyes talked to Farley after the draft and suggested he take the offer the Cardinals gave him.

"He got the right offer from the right team," he said. "If your going to pick a club that fits his style of play it's the Cardinals."

Terms of his contract were not disclosed, but Keyes said that Farley will be getting



Pete Van Vleet/Commonwealth Times

TAKING HIS FIRST STEPS — Cordell Farley, seen here in a game at The Diamond, has already moved up from the Rookie league.

Farley continued to page 15 >