

## WEATHER



**MONDAY:** Mostly sunny, breezy and warm. High 82 F. Low 55 F.



**TUESDAY:** Partly sunny. High 77 F. Low 53 F.

# Commonwealth TIMES

## INSIDE

■ What in the world is this??? Turn to Spectrum on page 7 for the sticky answer ...



MONDAY, September 23, 1996

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 28, No. 12



Rob Byrne/Commonwealth Times

**SHOW OF UNITY** — Students and guests listen to the spoken-word stylings of a local jazz poet during the Black Caucus Block Show Friday night in the commons plaza.

## Block show promotes unity

**Tricia Nguyen**

CT ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In a three-hour step show, about 2,000 students gathered to celebrate black unity on campus. On Friday, the Black Caucus held its annual block show in front of the business building auditorium.

Some students say it lasted too long, while others felt the timing was perfect.

Nevertheless, the message Black Caucus wanted to send was heard among all those attended.

"It was a very positive event. Everything went smoothly," said Revena Bey, vice president of Black Caucus and an event coordinator.

The show, she added, provided a good outlet for her organization. One of the goals of Black Caucus, Bey said, is to promote unity among all black organizations on campus.

However, Dita Bittenbender, a fashion merchandising major, said unity's not so easy to accomplish.

**BLOCK continued to page 4**

## Trustees give MCV a sound foundation

**Elisha Spencer**

CT STAFF WRITER

Even though the General Assembly approved the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals becoming a quasi-private enterprise, it still takes alumni and other leaders to help raise money to support the hospitals.

And that's where the trustees of MCV's Foundation Board come in.

"The board is very important in helping to raise money to support the programs at MCV, and there probably will be a continuing need for that," said Gilmer Minor III, a recently named trustee who serves as chairman, president and chief executive officer of Owens & Minor Inc., a medical and surgical company.

"I think it's a good cause," he said of the foundation.

Besides Minor, other recently named trustees include Dr. Peter W. Brown, Barbara H. Dunn, Marshall Gayheart and French H. Moore Jr.

Each trustee serves a three-year term and may serve four successive terms. Still, those serving as officers of the foundation or as chairperson of one of its committees when their terms expire can be re-elected.

A former member of VCU's Foundation Board for six years, Minor is on the board of directors of the Virginia Biotechnology Research Park and the Richmond Renaissance. Minor's company has served the health-care industry for 14 years.

Brown, a VCU clinical assistant professor in surgery, is a member of the Association for Academic Surgery, American College of Surgeons and the Virginia Surgical Society. Brown also serves as a director for America's Utility Fund, Bassett Furniture Industries and as a board member of Bon Secours Hospitals.

Dunn, a clinical associate professor in VCU's School of Nursing, has served on national and state-level editorial boards for nursing journals. In addition, she volunteers for nonprofit community agencies such as the YMCA of Richmond, St. Joseph's Villa, the Fan Free Clinic, Freedom House and Head Start.

An MCV alumnus, Gayheart, owns and manages Southgate shopping center in Culpeper, where he is a pharmacist. His memberships include the Virginia Pharmaceutical and the Rappahannock Pharmaceutical asso-

**FOUNDATION continued to page 4**

## New VP brings make-a-difference attitude to VCU

**Paul Whelan**

CT NEWS EDITOR

When Paul Timmreck resigned his post in July as secretary of finance for Gov. George Allen, it was yet another step in a career that began nearly 30 years ago.

Timmreck left Allen's cabinet to take a job as vice president of finance and administration at VCU. Thus a journey that began in 1963 when Timmreck was a freshman at the University of Michigan brought him back to a college setting.

During Timmreck's freshman year, something happened that had a profound effect on him and the entire country.

On Nov. 22, President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed. The assassination threw a switch in Timmreck that motivated him to make a difference in other people's lives. That motivation propelled him to South America.

After earning his master's degree in public administration from the University of Michigan in 1968, Timmreck headed to Maracy, Venezuela, as a member of the Peace Corps. There he worked with the city's planning commission.

Timmreck and his colleagues in Maracy achieved many

things including completing a census of the city's approximately 275,000 residents. But Timmreck says his greatest sense of accomplishment comes from his redesign of the city's refuse collection system.

### From humble beginnings

Garbage collection — something Americans sometimes take for granted — was unreliable in Maracy. Frustrated residents dumped their garbage in empty lots, Timmreck said. The garbage piled up and the piles became breeding grounds for rodents, roaches and other pests.

Timmreck worked with city planners to improve garbage collection. The city applied for and received a grant from the Venezuelan equivalent of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

With the money, the city bought modern garbage trucks to replace the dilapidated ones it had been using. Then Timmreck and city planners mapped out the most efficient routes for the new trucks to follow.

**TIMMRECK continued to page 4**

## VMI to enroll women

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LEXINGTON** — Virginia Military Institute opened its barracks and parade grounds to women Saturday, retreating from 157 years of male-only tradition as the price of keeping its public funds.

The decision came nearly three months after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that VMI's exclusion of women was unconstitutional.

While The Citadel in South Carolina decided in just two days to go along with the decision — and has four female cadets this year — VMI had put off acting while it weighed the possibility of going private to preserve its traditions and discipline.

After four days of debate, the VMI board voted 9-8 to admit women by the fall of 1997. Both Gov. George Allen and state legislators had urged VMI to go along with the Supreme Court's ruling.

Many alumni strongly opposed allowing women into the school in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"It's a sad day for VMI. It's a sad day for the state and

**VMI continued to page 4**



# Health

## NOTES

News from the medical community



### •Brain chemical linked to eating disorders

Treatments for obesity and eating disorders might be closer than scientists had suspected. Researchers have found a chemical in the brain that seems to suppress the appetite when the body is under severe stress.

Even though a close cousin of the brain chemical that senses stress and generates the "flight or fight" response, this natural appetite suppressor is anxiety free.

Since the suppressor does not cause anxiety, California researchers report in Science magazine that it has become an attractive target for weight-control drug therapies.

### •Twins joined at head separated after 10-hour operation

Doctors in Salt Lake City, Utah, separated Siamese twins joined at the tops of their heads after a 10-hour operation.

Doris and Bessy Gonzales were in stable condition at the Primary Children's Medical Center, where they were to undergo six more hours of surgery to graft outer membranes over their brains.

The Honduran-born infant girls will still be subject to years of surgery to restore their skulls.

### •Scientists close to diarrhea vaccine for children

A new vaccine has proved effective in

preventing a severe type of childhood diarrhea.

Aimed at the rotavirus, the vaccine is intended to curb the 1 million deaths the virus causes worldwide each year.

Even though, the virus is rarely fatal in the United States, it causes 3.1 million cases and hospitalizes about 50,000 children annually.

Provided that the vaccine is not too expensive, it could help underdeveloped parts of the world, where diarrhea is the greatest cause of childhood deaths.

Scientists have been working on the vaccine for 15 years and if approved by the Food and Drug Administration, expect it to be on the market in 1998.

### •Big payoffs for small defibrillator

The Food and Drug Administration has approved a smaller and cheaper defibrillator, which cardiologists hope will help save the 3,000 Americans who die of cardiac arrest each year.

Paramedics already carry defibrillators to restart a person's heart during the first critical minutes of the arrest, but the old models are often too complicated and expensive for most police officers and fire fighters to use.

The new device weighs only 4 pounds, half the weight of the smallest unit available now.

It costs between \$3,000 and \$4,000. A better buy from the \$5,000 to \$7,500 cost of the old models.

The new model, Heartstream Inc.'s ForeRunner, is also equipped with a computer screen that automatically analyzes and displays the patient's heart rhythm during the shocks.

The FDA approved the ForeRunner based on a study of 300 patients, which found that it worked as well as the larger and more expensive defibrillators.

There is one restriction, however, to the FDA's clearance: Airlines cannot be equipped with the device, since it has not yet been tested at high altitudes.

### •Anorexic teens psychologically same as peers

Despite noticeable differences in behavior between anorexic teens and other teens, a study performed by Swedish researchers revealed that tests show no distinguishable psychological differences between the two groups.

The researchers tested 51 adolescents with anorexia and 51 adolescents who do not have the eating disorder. Both groups were given an intelligence test, and the two had comparable scores.

The teens were tested in ten different areas including vocabulary, arithmetic and visual perception. For the group of anorexic adolescents, the average age of onset of the disease was 14.3 years.

### •TV causes depression in women

Women exposed to TV commercials that

put an emphasis on attractiveness and thinness usually became depressed.

In a study conducted by researchers at John Hopkins School of Medicine, 138 undergraduates from a Florida university were separated into two groups and show different types of recent commercials.

The first group was shown 20 commercials for beer, cars, make up, clothing and weight loss products. The other group was shown 20 commercials for pain relievers, cleaning products and insurance.

Women who before the videos were unhappy with the appearance of their bodies tended to be less depressed after the second set of commercials.

### •Breast cancer survival rate lower for African-American women

A recent study done in the Detroit metropolitan area indicated that the survival rate for breast cancer is lower among African-American women than white women.

African-American women diagnosed at less than 50 years of age were 1.68 times as likely to die of breast cancer as white women diagnosed in the same age group.

The study pointed to later detection, less access to health care and more aggressive tumors as possible reasons for this discrepancy.

The study evaluated approximately 10,000 women—18 percent African-American.

—compiled from news sources

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# NAACP calls Richmonders to make their voices heard

*Voter registration drive is one of seven held nationwide*

**Paul Whelan**  
CT News Editor

"You've got the power. Express yourself. Vote!"

That's the theme of the Voter Empowerment Program sponsored by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As part of the nationwide effort to promote voting among African-Americans, the Richmond NAACP held a voter registration promotion Saturday in front of the 7-Eleven at 1003 W. Grace in the Fan. Sponsors WCDX-FM Power 92, Richmond Free Press, Richmond Voice and members of the VCU and Richmond chapters of the NAACP were on hand giving free pre-paid long distance phone cards and coupons for free food to those who registered.

Jeff Wilson, president of VCU's NAACP chapter, took part in registering interested Richmonders.

"You have to remember that every time we have a drive like this, more people are then registered ... and remain registered," Wilson said, adding that they follow up with those who register to get them to vote.

When someone registers, the NAACP keeps a record of the person's name and phone number. As the election approaches, someone with the association calls the potential voter to remind them to vote. They also offer rides to the polls and provide information about polling stations.

## Casting the ballot

"We all remember the proud feeling of ownership we felt when we cast our first

vote," said the Rev. Kenneth Davis, president of the Richmond NAACP. "The NAACP wants everyone in the country to experience the pride that comes with voting. We all need to take a more active role in bringing our friends and neighbors into the democratic process."

The Voter Empowerment Program was announced at the NAACP's July convention as the association's main goal for the election year. The Virginia State Conference NAACP has set Sept. 29 as Super Voter Registration Sunday. It will be the biggest event for its Promote the Vote Emergency Drive.

7-Eleven is co-sponsoring the nationwide program, so two Richmond-area 7-Elevens hosted the voter registration promotion. The other location was 1301 Jefferson Davis Highway.

## City part of national event

Richmond was selected as one of seven cities to take part in the nationwide event. Registration drives were also held in Norfolk, Baltimore, Dallas, Denver, Seattle and Philadelphia.

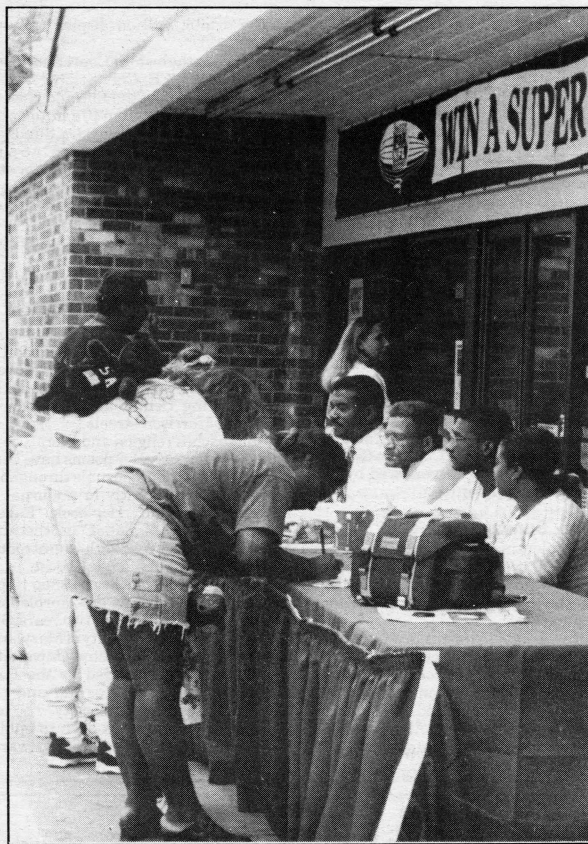
Steve Tusing, Richmond market manager for Southland Corp., which owns the 7-Eleven chain, said he was pleased Richmond was selected for the program.

"This kind of activity allows us to build better relationships within our community and to give back a little of what we have so gratefully received," Tusing said.

There are more than 5,400 7-Elevens operated and franchised in the United States and Canada. Customers can call 1-800-255-0711 for more information on the location of voter registration cards and for details on promotional events in their area.

The deadline for registering to vote for November's election is Oct. 5.

To register, call your local voter registration office. In Richmond, 780-5950; Chesterfield, 748-1471; Hanover, 730-6080; and Henrico, 672-4347.



Paul Whelan/Commonwealth Times

**PROMOTE THE VOTE** — Richmonders register to vote Saturday during a registration drive in front of 7-Eleven at 1103 W. Grace Street. On hand to sign-up voters were Walter L. Johnson, a member of the Richmond NAACP's executive board (seated, from left); fellow board member John R. Milton; Jeff Wilson, president of VCU's chapter of the NAACP; and NAACP volunteer Tyreasha Hall.

# Dole, Clinton agree on debates; Perot left out

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — President Clinton and Republican rival Bob Dole will face off in two debates this fall without Ross Perot, the two major-party candidates decided Saturday after nine hours of negotiations.

Representatives of the Dole and Clinton campaigns said they agreed to debate Sunday, Oct. 6, in Hartford, Conn., and Wednesday, Oct. 16, in San Diego.

Vice presidential candidates Al Gore and Jack Kemp will face off Wednesday Oct. 9 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

All three nationally televised debates will last 90 minutes, starting at 9 p.m. EDT.

"It means they're substantive and they're meaningful rather than just sound bites," Clinton's lead negotiator, Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, said as the teams emerged late Saturday from negotiations spanning three separate meetings and a total of 14 hours.

The second presidential debate is to be conducted town-hall style with voters asking questions, a forum which served Clinton well in 1992 and which his campaign insisted upon again this year.

Kantor said his group pushed for the inclusion of Perot and his Reform Party

running mate, Pat Choate.

"We did everything we can," Kantor told reporters afterward.

"The Dole campaign took the position they would not debate with Mr. Perot or Mr. Choate and there would not be debates unless we agreed."



**DECISION '96**

"It wasn't a bloody fight," said former South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell, Dole's lead negotiator.

Less than an hour before the final agreement was disclosed, Perot announced that he would file a lawsuit today in Washington seeking an injunction against sponsorship of the debates by the Commission on Presidential Debates if the Reform ticket was excluded.

"Courts have regularly struck down rules which say that incumbents get favored positions on the ballots. This is the

same kind of stacking the deck against minor-party candidates," Perot attorney Jamin Raskin said in a statement.

The bipartisan commission recommended last week that Perot be denied a spot in the debates because he has no "realistic chance" of winning the election.

Perot was widely viewed as a potential detractor for Dole in any three-way debate and the Dole campaign had insisted on abiding by the commission ruling.

After reaching an agreement Saturday, Campbell said, "Senator Dole looks forward to moving into these debates and having the opportunity to discuss issues. ... Those issues are going to be discussed publicly between two people and one of those two people will be the next president of the United States and that's as it should be."

The negotiators huddled behind closed doors at a downtown law firm all day Saturday, ordering out for pizza as they haggled over what Kantor said were 26 major issues.

With those issues now resolved, technical decisions such as the three moderators would be decided after a formal debate agreement is signed on Tuesday, Kantor said.

## Candidates' views on immigration

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Clinton and Republican nominee Bob Dole largely agree on how the nation should deal with immigration, legal and illegal. However they hold differing on two thorny aspects of the issue.

Dole would deny a public education to the children of illegal immigrants, while Clinton would keep the children in school.

The two also disagree over whether English should be declared the official language of the nation: Dole says yes, Clinton no.

Both candidates support modest cuts in legal immigration, and increased funding for the Border Patrol's efforts to stop illegal immigration. Under Clinton, the Border Patrol has put about 40 percent more agents in the field and begun the construction of a stronger fence along crucial sections of the Mexican border.

The candidates also agree that illegal immigrants should not qualify for most social services, including welfare.

Reform Party candidate Ross Perot favors a more lenient immigration policy, saying, "We don't want to build a wall around America."



**Monday, Sept. 23**

As part of its workshop series, University Counseling Services will sponsor a lecture on "How to be an Assertive Student" at noon in the Commons Forum Room. For more information, contact Joy Bressler at 828-6200.

**Wednesday, Sept. 25**

The Multimedia Development Center will sponsor a seminar on the usage of computer tools. The event will concentrate on "An Overview of HTML Editors and Image Mapping Tools for Client Side and Server Side Maps: Tips, Tricks and Specialized Software for Creating Web Documents." The seminar takes place at noon in the Commons Forum Room.

**Thursday, Sept. 26**

A lecture on "Meeting, Dating and Relating" will be held in the Common Ground at 8 p.m. The event is sponsored by the APB/ Lecture Committee.

**Sunday, Sept. 29**

The Valentine Museum will open its newest exhibition exploring the many perceptions of Richmond. Over 80 items will depict the city in "Imaging Richmond: Perceptions of the City."

Since its establishment in 1742, Richmond has been an attraction for artists, writers, visitors and newcomers. Through paintings, photographs, and prints, visitors can witness Richmond's cultural influences throughout time. Along with the images presented, a written description of Richmond will be included.

The exhibit will on display through Feb. 11.

Located in the historic Court End neighborhood at 1015 E. Clay St., the Valentine, the museum of the Life and History of Richmond, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, the museum operates from noon to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors and \$3 for children ages 7-12; children 6 and under are admitted free.

For more information, call 649-0711.

**FYI**  
for your information

**Upcoming events**

On Oct. 3, author and scholar Dorothy Judd Hall of Boston University will discuss "Robert Frost's Mystic Strain" at 7 p.m. in the VCU Meeting Center at the corner of Floyd and Harrison streets.

Hall teaches religion and literature at Boston University. Her poems have been published in various journals throughout the nation and recently in a journal in London called "Sufi." Her book, "Robert Frost: Contours of Belief," is the only critical study of Frost with an introduction by his daughter, Lesley Frost.

She has conducted a workshop in poetry and spirituality at the Marblehead Festival of Arts for the past two years. She has taught at the University of Maryland, Emerson College and Boston University.

The event is sponsored by the Religious Studies Major Program and the VCU Religious Studies Society. The lecture and book signing is open to public. For more information, call Cliff Edwards at 828-1224.

**FOUNDATION**

*continued from page 1*

ciations. He serves as a director of the Second Bank and Trust, the Loudoun Mutual Insurance Co. and the Culpeper Merchants Grocery.

Moore, an Abingdon dentist, is a member of the MCV Alumni Association as well as the Alumni House planning and fundraising committees.

He is a past member of VCU's Board of Visitors and formerly served as the university's rector, the person who heads the board of visitors.

A nominating committee recommends the list of nominees at the board meeting, said Edie Bleatler, administrative assistant to the executive vice president of the MCV Foundation, who in turn votes on accepting the five people nominated. The board then votes on the recommendations.

**TIMMRECK**

*continued from page 1*

Timmreck said he often rode his motorcycle through the streets of Maracy at night, sometimes following the trash trucks to watch his idea and efforts in action.

"The fun thing about it was...having an impact on people's lives," he said. "That's what government is about — service."

When Timmreck returned from South America, he went to work for the Citizens Research Council, a non-profit organization in Detroit. The council, funded by corporate and private donations, loaned its planning and problem solving expertise to local and state governments.

In 1975 Timmreck came to Virginia, where he later became a prominent figure in state finance. He has served as:

- secretary of finance
- director of the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget
- deputy secretary of the Office of Administration and Finance
- division chief for the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC)

And, of course, where there is money, there is politics. Timmreck says he became a player in an environment where "at times there's a certain meanness."

**Navigating rough political waters**

As secretary of finance, Timmreck served in the administrations of Democratic Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and Republican Gov. George Allen. The fact that he could survive two very different administrations is a testament of his reputation and ability, said Robert Holsworth, VCU professor of political science and public administration.

"He was a professional state government person who had a reputation for being very competent," said Holsworth, an expert in Virginia politics. "His particular skill and expertise overrode the politics."

When Timmreck resigned his post in July to take a job at VCU, Gov. Allen had this to say in a July 3 press release: "Indeed, Paul's leadership and sound principles helped guide the commonwealth through a difficult recession and have contributed to Virginia's respected national reputation for fiscal responsibility."

"No doubt, the same sound principles that have guided Paul Timmreck as secretary of finance will be a tremendous asset to the entire VCU community."

Delegate Panny Rhodes, R-Richmond, has been on the House Finance Committee for 5 years. She began serving on the committee during Timmreck's second year with Gov. Wilder.

"I think (Timmreck) was a very important influence on Virginia's financial stability," Rhodes said. "I think when you're in

Minors said the members meet four times a year and act independently so the MCV Foundation can maintain its tax exempt status.

"They (the trustees) support the programs and certain projects at MCV to make it a better institution, medical school and hospital," he added.

The three foundation's trustees emeriti — all residing in Richmond — are Joseph C. Carter Jr., senior counsel in the Hunton & Williams law firm; Robert C. Courain Jr., president of RECO Constructors Inc. Industries, and William H. Goodwin Jr., president of CCA Industries Inc., a holding company.

These men have served on a number of community foundations and boards including MCV's Board of Trustees.

Paul Timmreck's position dealing with the budget, financing ... those are consistent no matter what administration you're in."

Timmreck said he survived those two administrations by keeping his personal beliefs to himself. "Paul Timmreck has his priorities, but promoting my own agenda was not my job. My job was to serve the governor and his agenda" he said. "There are times you just bite your tongue."

Timmreck also said that of his accomplishments as finance secretary he was proudest that Virginia was able to maintain a AAA bond rating on general obligation debt.

Also, Financial World magazine rated Virginia the best financially managed state twice during the last three years. Before Timmreck became finance secretary, Virginia's highest ranking was 4th place.

**Hard work earns respect**

During his years in the state capitol, Timmreck earned the respect of many of the most powerful members of the Virginia General Assembly including former Senate majority leader Hunter Andrews, D-Hampton.

Andrews lost his seat in the Senate after the most recent General Assembly election in November. "He was one of the giants. I probably owe him more (than anyone else) for helping me get where I am today," said Timmreck, adding that Andrews selected him to be the first staff director for the Senate Finance Committee.

His position with the committee was a great learning experience. Timmreck said he received tremendous exposure to the budget process and the politics that go with it.

The most recent leg of Timmreck's journey brings him to VCU. As vice president of finance and administration, Timmreck has a broad spectrum of responsibilities. He oversees the university's construction and expansion plans.

In that capacity, he works closely with other vice presidents supporting them in their projects. He also ensures that the VCU's finances are run well and helps the university make wise investments.

But what could have possibly attracted him to VCU? Was it the \$139,000 salary reported by the Richmond Times-Dispatch? Timmreck says it was "the opportunity to change, for new faces and new issues" that brought him to VCU. And now that he's here he's finding it to his liking.

"There's a really can-do attitude here," he said. "The really fun thing is working with people who feed your excitement and optimism."

Now, 30 years later, Paul Timmreck is back in a university setting playing an important role in the lives of students, faculty and staff.

**BLOCK**

*continued from page 1*

"There's a lot of rivalry among the sorority sisters," she said. For instance, she said, members from the audience would criticize those on stage.

Furthermore, she added, even in organizations that fall under the same umbrella, some divisions still exist.

Even with the rivalries, the step show is a social event where people gather for fun and entertainment.

This year, the show's line-up consisted of more than just Greek organizations.

A drum ensemble performed as well as some religious groups.

Anthony James, a graduate student at MCV, said typical step shows that he's

attended were "nice hip-hop functions."

He said he would have liked to have seen more attention given to the fraternities.

"I thought it was pretty good," he said. "There should have been a little more pride shown." However, James noted, there were no instances of violence at the event.

While finding an area to stage the show was difficult, Bey added, the organization took precautions to guard against any damages. Equipped with an event staff, she said, the show turned out very favorable. The event, Bittenbender added, did foster a sense of school pride.

"There was a lot of school spirit," she said, "which is something VCU needs."

**VMI**

*continued from page 1*

it's a sad day for the nation as far as I'm concerned," said Robert Patterson, a 1943 graduate and lead attorney for the legal effort to maintain the male-only policy.

Senior cadet Brian Bagwan, 22, said there would be "no fundamental change. ... VMI is a lot more than having or not having women."

But Jabari Craddock, a 19-year-old junior, said many cadets were saddened to see the tradition end. "One day when I start a family, and my son comes to me and says, 'Hey pops, I want to attend an all-male military institute like you did,' I'll say, 'Son, I'm sorry, there are no more of them left,'" Craddock said.

If VMI had decided to go private rather than admit women on equal footing with men, the school would have had to raise a minimum endowment of \$200 million to generate the \$10 million in annual operating funds now supplied by the state, according to VMI Superintendent Josiah Bunting III.

The alumni also might have had to buy the campus, valued at \$137 million.

At the heart of VMI's uniqueness is its method of training young men under harsh, demanding conditions.

First-year cadets live in spartan barracks that offer little privacy, rise before the sun, observe rigid timetables and march single-file everywhere they go on campus.

They are also exposed to the "rat line," comparable in intensity to Marine boot camp, where they are tormented by older cadets.

The only changes VMI will make to the barracks will be to protect "basic human physical decency," such as building a separate shower for women and putting curtains on the windows.

And he added that he wasn't too concerned about the possibility that male and female cadets would start dating.

"Rats don't have time to date anybody," Bunting said.

VMI has been fighting to stay all-male since January 1990, when the Justice Department first threatened to sue on behalf of female would-be cadets.



## OPINION

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

## SGA Serves Student Body

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:

As the fall semester begins, I reflect on the excitement and the opportunity that awaits the more than 100 members of the new Student Government Association, the official governing organization of the student body.

The SGA is the most influential organization on campus. Members of the SGA include both elected and nonelected students serving as student leaders on over 60 committees of the Student Senate and of the university.

The list of committees includes the Activities Programming Board, the Student Services Committee, the Human Relations Committee, University Council, the Honors Council and the Student Media Commission.

The clearest evidence of the university's trust and confidence in student involvement in its decision making process is found in the annual appropriation of the student activities fees.

Each year, the university empowers the student body, through the SGA, to determine how more than \$300,000 of student activities fees will be spent. Nearly half of the amount is traditionally spent on

programming activities to enrich the student life on campus. Over \$100,000 is spent supporting over 70 student organizations to achieve quality programming for their members and the student body.

Membership in the SGA is completely open to all registered students. The SGA not only welcomes new students to become members, it needs and thrives on them. New students, both freshmen and transfer students alike, bring new concerns, expectations and ideas to the university. The SGA is the place for these issues to be heard.

To receive more information about joining VCU's most influential student organization, please call the Student Activities Center at 828-3648 or call our office directly at 828-7551. We can be reached on the Internet at sga-vcu@lists.vcu.edu. Our office is located in the Student Activities Center on the lower floor of the University Student Commons.

Sincerely,  
Charles W. Bryan

Bryan is speaker of the Student Government Association's student senate.

## Perot Clear Choice in November

DEAR EDITOR, COMMONWEALTH TIMES:

Ross Perot and Pat Choate is the only ticket that can restore this country to the greatness that it deserves. This is a critical presidential race, in which the future of this country will be decided. The choice before the voters could not be more clear.

Let the voters take a look at the record of the two major parties have given us in recent years. Our national debt is soaring. American jobs are being sent overseas. Our schools are failing US. Crime has turned our streets into battlegrounds. This is the record of the Democrats and the Republicans. Both have had their turns running this country, and both have failed us. Despite the deep philosophical differences the two parties claim, their results have been surprisingly similar. The reason is clear. The two major parties have ceased to represent the American people, and instead pander to special interest groups and extremists that dominate their party structure.

First of all, the two parties are more beholden to party loyalty than to loyalty to the people. They would rather lay the blame for problems at the other party's feet than work to solve these problems. Second of all, our campaign system has been corrupted by the money and influence of special interest groups. This is why the two parties often take such inconsistent views. This is

because various interest groups are calling the shots and deciding their agendas.

The Reform Party will meet these challenges. They are a grass roots organization which is loyal only to the American people. The Reform Party has called for cleaning up our campaign system, and is leading by example. Ross Perot has refused to take donations from corporate or special interest PACs (political action committees) while the other candidates continue to fill their campaign coffers with this corrupting influence.

Ross Perot and Pat Choate will challenge the two major parties to represent the people. Perot/Choate will address the greatest fiscal crisis this nation has ever faced; our national debt. It was Perot who highlighted this issue in 1992. The Reform Party will work to repeal NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) and other trade deals that have shipped American jobs to other shores. Perot will also protect the right of choice for women, reform our schools, and take innovative approaches in addressing our other national concerns. The Reform Party ticket is the ticket for a better future and a stronger America. A vote for Perot/Choate is a vote to end politics as usual.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth Wagner



Ben Ragsdale

The Truth  
Don't Come Easy

Bob Dole and Bill Clinton don't qualify for the character merit badge — or the presidency.

Recently in Baker, La., Bob Dole put it point blank to those assembled. "I'm not candidate Clinton. I'm candidate Bob Dole. I keep my word to the American people."

At the same time, the Dole campaign launched a major new TV ad highlighting character and honesty — obviously aimed at the moral and legal transgressions of President and Mrs. Clinton.

Last week, speaking in Philadelphia, Dole belittled the president's moral leadership and condemned the Clinton administration's "wink-and-a-nod" approach to drug use.

Observers are predicting that, if Dole's campaign fails to catch fire soon, we are going to see ruthless criticism of the Clintons' character come October. Surely the White House will be ready with a "rapid response" concerning the inconsistencies and the shady associations of Mr. Dole.

Trust in me...

So we soon can expect to see both Mr. Dole and Mr.

Clinton prowling the nation's landscape, devoting major attention to their "Who do you trust?" themes.

This question could dominate the campaign. Bob Dole believes it may be the key to his election.

The problem not just for the candidates, but primarily for the American people is their exhortations of superior virtue — or even virtue — do not ring true. There may not be a dime's worth of virtue between them.

Each day these men make more phony, cheap promises (cheap, because politicians are rarely held to a promise these days). A 15 percent across-the-board tax cut (from Mr. Dole)? No cuts in Medicare and Social Security benefits (from Mr. Clinton)? It's pure malarky.

Each day they and their flacks attempt to rewrite the past record. Bill Clinton, a longtime advocate of incentives to help get people off welfare, accepts a punitive Republican welfare reform bill. Bob Dole, a staunch Wall Street Republican, now says his top priority is helping working families.

Each day Dole and Clinton belittle their opponent's (remarkably similar) positions and promises. Witness their efforts last week to be the "toughest" on Saddam Hussein and this week's efforts to be the "toughest" on U.S. criminals.

They're also both claiming to be "toughest" on budget deficits. By November, they'll both be certified junkyard dogs but the electorate will have learned very little about the issues.

With all the verbal fisticuffs, truth is the victim and the public is the most insulted. And it is the public who suffers the permanent injury.

Empty Offerings

Bob Dole and Bill Clinton seek the most powerful office in the world, with huge problems on the horizon as well as staring them in the face.

Yet they have not only avoided the truths regarding what should be the major issues of the campaign (such as: how to continue paying for Social Security and Medicare, or what government services will be cut in order to balance the budget in seven years, or how to fight discrimination without affirmative action programs, or what should be the elements of U.S. foreign affairs policy since the demise of the Soviet Union), they have put forth no overarching vision for America's future.

Both have embraced "less government." Not only is that not much of a plan, it is deceiving. Government does not have to grow at a rapid pace, but Americans are ready to abandon very few of the functions performed by government. Neither Democrats nor Republicans will be voting to end the days of "Big Government."

Let's Set Some New Standards

The public should expect much from its candidates for high office. One thing should

be done now to counter the candidates' daily telling of tall tales and the failure of the media to challenge them.

We the people should take personal responsibility

for tough, wide-ranging scrutiny of how these men and their proposals might help the country.

We should absolutely hound both the candidates and their surrogates, asking what Dole and Clinton really said and did they mean it and how are they going to get it done. The same examination should be given to the motives behind "nonpolitical" acts by President Clinton such as the recent U.S. attacks on Iraq.

We should not expect the impossible, though such promises come easily from the lips of candidates.

We should expect simple, unadorned truth.

We should expect lots of unfiltered communication between candidates and those whose support they seek. We should destroy the dominance of the slick television political commercial. We should get more straight news of what candidates are saying and doing — and less news analysis.

And we should remember this about the truth: Like love, it don't come easy. We will have to fight for it, in a dozen forums. Some established power will have to be uprooted. Some of us will bear substantial sacrifice.

But we the people must find the means to make all candidates, and particularly those running for President of the United States accountable to average folks and not just to the monied interests.

So far we have failed and our democracy is not working.

Ben Ragsdale is a senior in the nontraditional studies program.

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if I leave him He says I'm imagining things  
**He says I'm crazy** **I was afraid** no one would  
understand **He says he will hurt the children**  
**if I try to leave** I thought he would change  
He says **no one else**  
will love me

**I feel worthless**

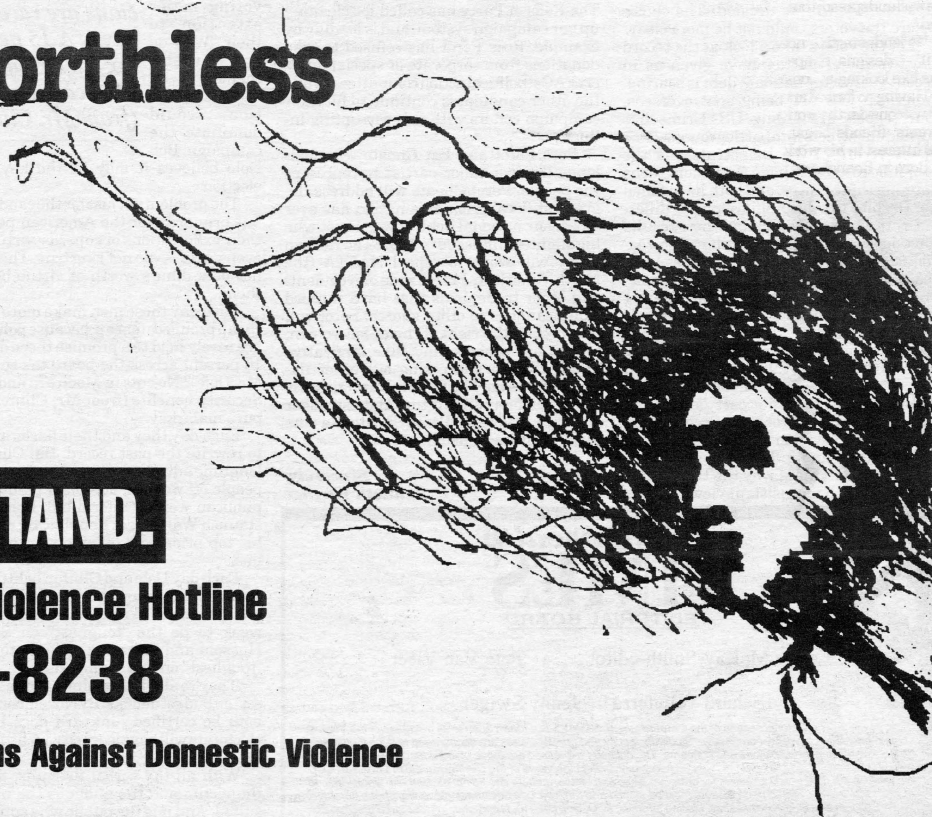
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# 'Paging Dr. Gum Artist'

Lynn Hafer  
SPECTRUM EDITOR

Jamie Marraccini, a second-year medical student at MCV planning on a career in pediatrics or family practice, has always loved gum.

"I think I was chewing gum before I was potty-trained and in the fourth grade I wrote a story titled, 'The Making of a Great Gum,'" he said of his passion.

This passion and his sensitive, artistic nature led him to become a gum artist in 1989, while he was studying electrical engineering at Virginia Tech. He said that at first it was not intended to be art, but that he always chewed gum and always saved it.

"I always had a big wad of gum jammed somewhere. At Tech, I did the same thing. Once, I placed it on the wall and spread it out," Marraccini said.

"Friends starting noticing things in it — designs, shapes, objects. It was like looking at constellations."

Having no formal art training, he did not consider the work art until his parents' friends began expressing real interest in his work.

Born in Roanoke on St. Patrick's

Day in 1970, Marraccini admits that engineering, medical school and gum art are an odd mix.

And to make the situation even stranger, Marraccini recently decided to put all his belongings (including his art work) in storage and discontinue having a residence.

Though motivated by the loss of an important relationship, Marraccini said his choice to be homeless is an attempt to grow and to have an "emotional and spiritual catharsis."

He said that he is not a street person but that he spends much time in the MCV study lounge, on roof tops or occasionally at friends' houses.



**MASTER PIECES**—Marraccini shows his largest work that depicts an outer space scene.

dingy, ugly color. Some dries darker and some lighter."

Marraccini said for "untested gums" he lets them age six months before using them in a work in order to be sure of their final color.

"The only true white is Carefree peppermint and I use Fruit Striped bubble gum for pastels."

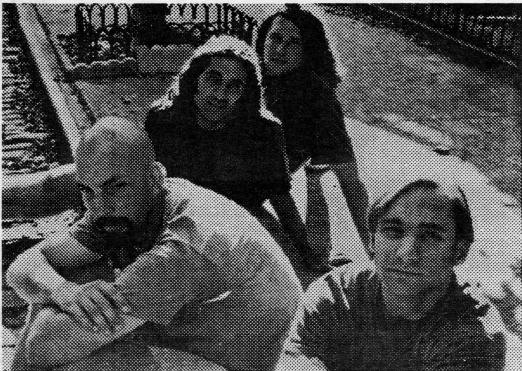
He also explained that Gonzo Grape Bubblicious turns black and that he is experiencing a color crisis due to the discontinuation of Snapping Apple Bubblicious that he said is the only forest green available. He also said he enjoys blending the gums to create new colors.

Marraccini's use of color is remarkable. He said people are always amazed to find out that his work is made from gum because of the bright, vivid colors he uses. And though he said that there is always some revulsion about the used chewing gum, people are surprised by the detail he creates.

"The gum justifies the art," Marraccini explained. "The fun is in the chewing and the art is the regurgitated expression of the fun. I think it shows that thrown-away things still have shape and meaning."

Marraccini currently has completed ten gum art works including a series of two pieces entitled "Heads and Hands" that are interesting multi-color creations of tiny heads on a contrasting color hand background. The detailed teeth, lips, hair and distinguishing characteristics of each is amazing.

# THE TOP TEN



Virginia natives Emmett Swimming shine at No. 3

## WRXL-FM XL102

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 10. "Virtuality"         | Rush               |
| 9. "Jerk"                | Neurotic Outsiders |
| 8. "My My"               | Seven Mary Three   |
| 7. "Big Chair"           | Recharound         |
| 6. "Open Up Your Eyes"   | Tonic              |
| 5. "Download" (I Will)   | Expanding Man      |
| 4. "I was Wrong"         | Social Distortion  |
| 3. "Blame" (L.A. Remix)  | Gravity Kills      |
| 2. "Bound for the Floor" | Local H            |
| 1. "Aneurysm" (Live)     | Nirvana            |

## WRVQ-FM Q94

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 10. "Standing Outside . . ."    | Primitive Radio Gods  |
| 9. "Where It's At"              | Beck                  |
| 8. "Mouth"                      | Merril Bainbridge     |
| 7. "I'm Still in Love With You" | New Edition           |
| 6. "Counting Blue Cars"         | Dishwalla             |
| 5. "My Boo"                     | Ghost Town DJ's       |
| 4. "Stupid Girl"                | Garbage               |
| 3. "Spiderwebs"                 | No Doubt              |
| 2. "Sad Caper"                  | Hootie & The Blowfish |
| 1. "Falling in Love"            | La Bouche             |

## WBZU-FM 106.5 The Buzz

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 10. "Ed Scorchio"      | Weezer             |
| 9. "1979"              | Smashing Pumpkins  |
| 8. "Popular"           | Nada Surf          |
| 7. "Jerk"              | Neurotic Outsiders |
| 6. "Mable"             | Goldfinger         |
| 5. "Bittersweet Me"    | R.E.M.             |
| 4. "Soundtrak to Mary" | Soul Coughing      |
| 3. "Arlington"         | Emmet Swimming     |
| 2. "Down Together"     | The Refreshments   |
| 1. "Charm"             | Wild Colonialis    |

Marraccini said that a small work takes approximately 40 or 50 hours to complete and a large work takes up to one year to complete. He also said that a 24 inches by 48 inches work contains up to 3,500 pieces of gum.

After the gum has aged, he softens it with a mixture of two parts saliva and one part warm water. He spreads the gum on the board and uses a pocket knife to help sculpt the details.

Marraccini would like to attract

national attention for his work and plans to contact the gum companies about a sponsorship or commercial use of his art. He also plans on trying to get an appearance on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and joked about a "Friends" episode based on his unusual craft.

Fortunately for Richmonders, they will not have to wait for Marraccini to gain national fame. His remarkable works will be on display in April at the MCV Main Hospital.



# Commonwealth TIMES

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- ☐ Spectrum
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- ☐ Sports

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**Qualifications:** Please list all prior relevant job experience or writing background. Describe contributions you feel you can make to the operations of the Commonwealth Times.

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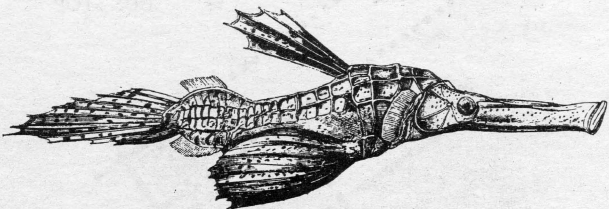
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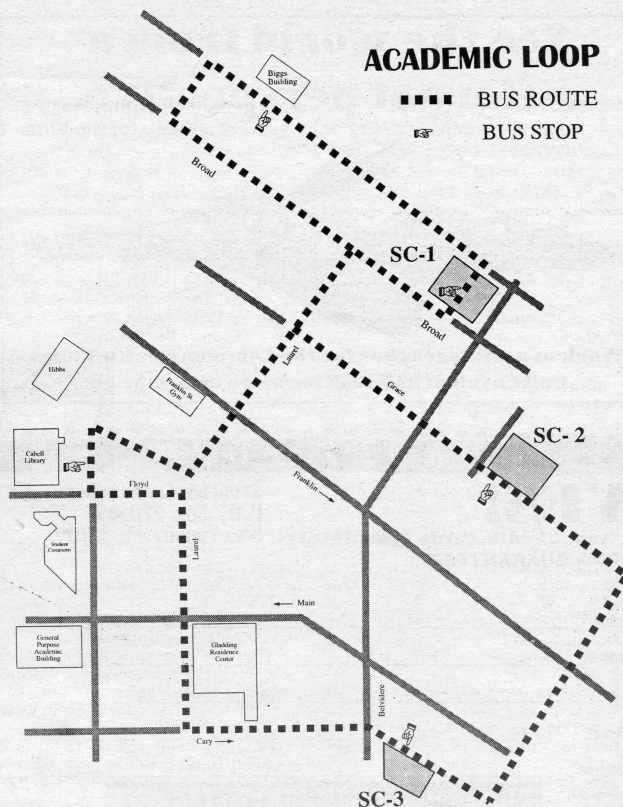
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# Golfers on hot streak; look to continue roll

**Terry Scanlon**  
CT SPORTS EDITOR

The VCU golf team heads to the lower cascades golf course at The Homestead Monday and Tuesday with a shot of winning their first two tournaments of the fall season.

Playing basically with two veterans, the Rams captured the Kiawah Island Collegiate Invitational two weeks ago. This week they face teams from across the commonwealth in the Virginia Intercollegiate. Working in VCU's favor is the absence of the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech.

At Kiawah the Rams were led by Donny Lee, the 1996 Colonial Athletic Association Newcomer of the Year, and John Rollins, CAA Player of the Year last season.

"We had a young team and to play that well is a really good start to the season," said Rollins, who held off second-place finisher Lee in the final round of the 1996 CAA Championship by four strokes.

But Rollins didn't mind being second fiddle at Kiawah. Lee shot 11-under-par to capture the individual title and Rollins finished third, four strokes back.

"I loved it. If I can shoot 7-under par in every tournament and a (VCU) guy beats me then our team will be doing pretty well," said Rollins, who averaged a team-best 73.0 strokes per round last semester. "When you play as a team that's what you want."

Coach Jack Bell has no intention of easing up on his players just because they've won a tournament.

"The more you win the harder you have to work," said Bell, who has guided his teams to three conference titles in the past five years. "The better you play the more people expect."

Bell compared improving as a team to

cutting strokes off of a handicap.

"It's easy to go down to a 10-handicap, but if you want to get from 10 to scratch you have to work hard," he said. "You can't be satisfied with 11-under-par or 7-under-par."

Even though by all statistical measures VCU was the second best team in the state last year to the noticeably-absent Cavaliers, Bell remains wary about his teams' chances.

His chief concern is the playing conditions in the mountains.

"Teams that play up on the hill have a big advantage," Bell said.

He's concerned that not only will his players misread putts, but that they might catch more fliers off the thinner rye and bluegrass fairways.

"You get a lot of putts that break away from the mountain," Bell said.

"And you get a much tighter lie off bermuda than you do off the mountain grasses."

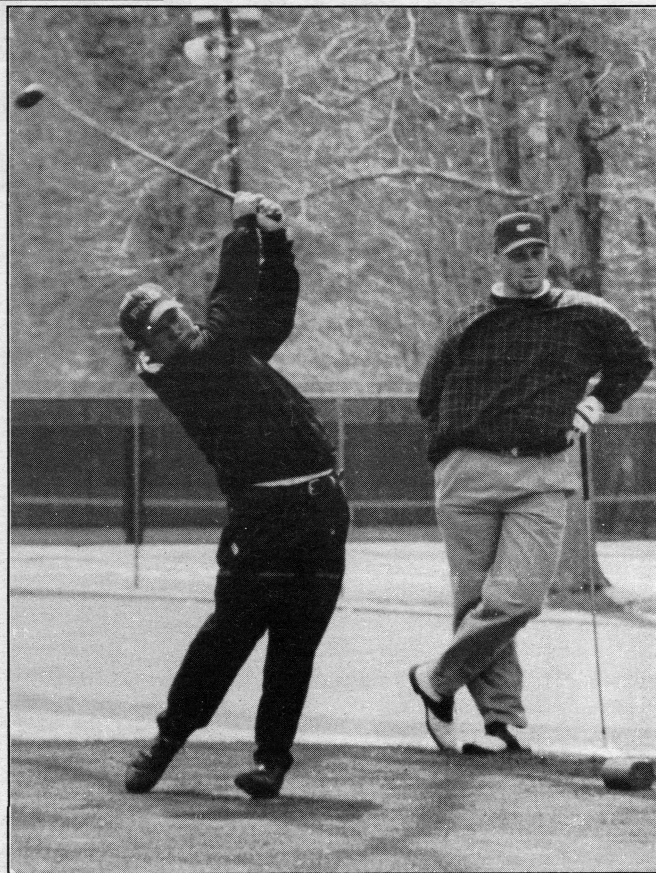
Most courses in Central Virginia have bermuda grass fairways, but in the cooler mountain climate, cool-season grasses such as rye and bluegrass are more common.

Joining Rollins and Lee in the lineup for the state tournament this week will be junior Miguel Reyes, who usually played No. 3 for the Rams last year. Reyes spent much of the offseason south of the equator and therefore didn't get to play much, but he's expected to be back in form by mid-season.

VCU's fourth is freshman Reg Millage. He shot even par in his first career tournament and Bell said he thinks Millage will help add more consistency.

Four other players are competing for the fifth spot.

Sophomores Ben Manga and Pat Shelton, who each saw limited tournament play in the spring, appear to be the front-runners.



Terry Scanlon/Commonwealth Times

**DYNAMIC DUO** — VCU golfers Donny Lee (left) and John Rollins (right) have high hopes for the team as they prepare for the Virginia Intercollegiate Monday and Tuesday.



Pete Van Vleet/Commonwealth Times

**TEERING OFF** — Sophomore Colleen Engelhard prepares to launch a shot off against Radford in the team's home opener. The Lady Rams lost 3-0 Sunday and their 16th in a row.

## FIELD HOCKEY

*continued from page 12*

ing her first appearance in goal for the Lady Rams. "They would get a ball and charge through our defense."

The Lady Highlanders found the back of the cage one more time at the end of the second half.

With less than 30 seconds remaining, Osmond found junior Margaret Reid, who put the ball safely out of Gurley's reach.

Sophomore Jenna Stewart said the team lost their concentration at the end of the first and second half.

"We shouldn't be giving up scores like that," she said. "We need to work on staying intense until the end of the game."

Radford out shot VCU 29 to 7 for the game and 13 to 2 in the second half.

Radford coach Jeff Woods said the team relied upon controlling the ball and experience to push Radford to the conference victory.

"Short passing was the key for us," Woods said. "The short passes was on and we controlled the ball pretty well without many turnovers."

Beyond the sharp, short passes, Radford also used the entire field to its advantage. The Highlanders would shoot the ball upfield to a forward to start their fast breaks.

"They played smash hockey," Danaher said, adding that they would send the ball from one end of the field to the other. "It

(smash hockey) can be effective. It was effective against us."

The experienced Highlanders, with 11 upperclassmen, overpowered the freshman laden VCU squad. At one point in the contest nine of the 11 Lady Rams on the field were freshman.

"It's a whole new team," Danaher said. "Three months ago these girls were playing in high school."

"We're in a state of influx. The dark side was last year. It's turning and you can see the bright spots. We're going to come on a stretch here soon. We just need three people to step it up."

Stewart said she expects the team to start winning any time now.

"We have a lot going for us," Stewart said. "We get better every game. We're still learning how each plays."

"After we get one game under us we will be back on the ball."

The Lady Rams will try to break the streak at Davis & Elkins next Saturday. VCU beat Davis & Elkins last year 2-0 in the season opener.



P. Danaher



■ The VCU women's soccer team has won its last six home games dating back to last season.

■ Read about VCU's only undefeated team. See page 11 for details.

MONDAY, September 23, 1996

Commonwealth TIMES

Vol. 28, No. 12

## VCU deadlocked in Cary Street debut



Terry Scanlon/Commonwealth Times

**FULL SPEED AHEAD** — Darrell Etienne streaks past a Loyola (Md.) defender Saturday night at Cary Street Field. The two teams played to a 1-1 tie.

## Field hockey team loses home opener; skid at 16

*Lady Rams 0-6 this season*

**Pete Van Vleet**

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The VCU field hockey team lost their sixth game of the season and 16th in a row in losing to Radford 3-0 at Cary Street Field yesterday.

Including the end of last season the Lady Rams (0-6, 0-2) have dropped 16 consecutive games.

The Lady Highlanders (5-3, 1-1) started the scoring with 10 seconds left in the first half.

Senior Jennifer Payton scored a controversial goal off a pass from senior Holly Osmond after a penalty corner hit. VCU coach Phil Danaher said the ba

come to a complete stop before Osmond centered the ball to Payton.

"The ball had not stopped and even Radford was saying the ball hadn't stopped," he said.

Radford scored again in the opening minutes of the second half. Freshman Laura Morrow broke the Lady Rams' defense and fired a shot past VCU's freshman goalie Devin Gurley.

Gurley said the defense had a difficult time controlling the Radford offense, especially the fast breaks.

"We had a hard time recovering on breakaways," said Gurley, who was mak-

**Terry Scanlon**

CT SPORTS EDITOR

Penalty kicks in soccer are uncommon, but when they occur they usually provide the difference between winning and losing.

After seemingly gaining the winning edge Saturday night against Loyola (Md.) on a penalty kick in a match that was scoreless for first 90 minutes, the men's soccer team lost their lead in the same manner they obtained it — on a penalty kick.

The 1-1 tie was the Rams (2-1-2) second consecutive deadlock, and LU's (1-2-2) fourth overtime contest of the season.

"I didn't think either team was doing well with the chances they created," said VCU coach Tim O'Sullivan. "Games like that are usually decided by some type of free kick. Two penalties, that's maybe a little bit different.

Just a little more than three minutes into overtime, a pack of Loyola defenders tackled a streaking Derrick Etienne.

"I just saw me and the goalkeeper so I was going full speed," Etienne said. "I knew the guy was trailing me so I knew I was eight going to get a shot off or he was going to foul me. I just kept going and sure enough he fouled right inside the box."

Sophomore forward Trevor Spencer then put the Rams on the board. Spencer dribbled the penalty kick left under a diving goalkeeper. O'Sullivan said there was no decision when it came to choosing the man to take the kick.

"Trevor's the best in training and I feel comfortable with him so he takes our free kicks," O'Sullivan

Ten minutes later, Ram defender Tony Waugh batted a Loyola shot in a goal-saving effort. The officials, however, awarded LU a penalty kick of their own and they deadlocked the match at one.

"I was coming towards (Mike Burke, LU forward) and I was expecting him to get a

touch on it," Larkin said in describing the play leading up to the free kick. "I slipped and ended up just stopping it for him. He came up and shot it off Tony. Just an unlucky slip."

LU's Kevin Alvero drilled a shot behind a diving Larkin to complete the game's scoring.

In a penalty kick the pressure is on the kicker and not the keeper, because the odds weigh greatly in the shooter's advantage.

"You just guess a side and hopes he hits you. That's all you can do. It's worked for me a few times, but more often than not it doesn't happen," Larkin said. "If he saves it he's a hero. If he doesn't, oh well."

Heading into this weekend's game, Rams coach Tim O'Sullivan wanted his team to get the ball in the net with greater frequency.

Etienne, who was fouled on the play that led to the penalty kick, said increased scoring opportunities is just a matter of time.

"It's only the second game I've been playing up front with John Moffatt. The chemistry is there, but its going to take some time before we actually know each other front and back. A couple more practices, a couple more games I think we'll be dangerous up front," Etienne said.

O'Sullivan said his team is great at keeping possession in the midfield, but they aren't able to push the ball up and therefore most of their scoring chances are a product of an individual performance.

"We need to learn when to keep possession, but also when to get behind the defenses and create chances as a group," O'Sullivan said.

VCU's small roster was even shorter with the loss of Ricardo Capilla Ramos for this season, Guillermo Henriques and Brian Mahon. Mahon is nursing an injury and Henriques served his suspension from a red card against Vermont.

## Strange but true, fans have impact

**Terry Scanlon**

CT SPORTS EDITOR

Rowdy, unruly, obnoxious—even loud — none of these are used with great frequency when describing VCU's fans.

During Saturday's men's soccer game at Cary Street Field, however, a group of Rams fans seated in a small bleacher section behind and to the left of the goal at the east end of the field were asked to move to the bleachers on the north side of the field in the second half.

The group led by former Rams star Kwaku Adu-Gyamfi were banging on drums and cowbells as well as singing, chanting and taunting the Loyola (Md.) keeper.

"That's part of the game. That's what makes it enjoyable. Get used to it," said VCU captain Mervyn Wright. "Imagine 30-40,000 people doing it. You can't ask everybody to move."

The head referee warned Adu-Gyamfi in the first half and told him to remain seated after observing him roaming the

area behind goalkeeper Jim Larkin.

The group swelled from about a dozen to 20 or 30 in the second half when the teams switched sides, and they chided the Greyhounds keeper for being a little portly with chants such as "Don't eat the ball."

Loyola coach Bill Sento agreed with the call.

"(The referee) must of figured that maybe it was quite a distraction," Sento said. "They don't like to have them behind the goal they like to have them off to the side. I thought it was a pretty decent call."

Rams goalkeeper Jim Larkin, who has international experience with the Canadian National team couldn't comprehend the decision.

"I've played in Brazil and all these countries and they're throwing ice and cups at the referees and cups and they don't get thrown out of the game," he said.

"But for making too much noise? I don't know what's going on there"