

WEATHER



SATURDAY — Sunny with a high of 76 and low of 53.



SUNDAY — Sunny and windy with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the 50s.

Commonwealth TIMES

COMING UP

• The Commonwealth Times will be outside the Commons Monday giving away free music.

FRIDAY, October 3, 1997

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 29, No. 15

Strumming Away the Day



VCU students Rob Deguzman and Rodric Nave enjoy a relaxing afternoon sitting on the benches outside Monroe Park.

Peter Martin/Commonwealth Times

Graduate program enrollment up

Bucking a national trend, VCU sees a 200-student increase

David S. Brooks
CT STAFF WRITER

Enrollment in VCU's graduate programs leaped again this fall with an estimated 200 students more than last year's 5,823, said Jack Haar, dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

"We're certainly bucking the (national) trend by increasing at all," he said, referring to the slower growth trend in the nation's graduate programs.

Basing his estimate on an unfinished enrollment census, Haar said the first half of it showed an additional 109 first-year and advanced-graduate students — an increase of 2.6 percent. When finished, the second half will account for certificate and non-degree-seeking students.

Daniel Reeves, one of VCU's 919 graduate faculty members and the director of graduate studies for the School of the Arts, called his school's 12 graduate students a "significant" number when added to the previous 260.

Most graduate students in the arts have their own studios spaces, and extra students can create "a major crunch," he said, pointing

out that the school is "pretty close (to its limit) now."

Moreover, Haar said a special committee began last year to try to determine optimum enrollment for VCU's graduate school.

"When we started I thought ... in each of the schools there would be some bottom-line number," he said. "There's no one answer ... (but) we collected a lot of information and that information is still being used."

Reeves said the graduate programs continue to improve in their pursuits of high-caliber students regardless of enrollment limits. The arts school also offers off-campus programs in Northern Virginia and in the Tidewater region.

In addition, he said, the theater department last year extensively promoted its new relationship with Theatre Virginia, where students can earn equity points for a professional theater that allows them immediately to go on stage.

With the Internet, learning distance now enters the picture so graduate students can continue their jobs while pursuing a

degree. These students, Haar said, shouldn't have to leave their jobs, and VCU will offer its first graduate courses via the Internet next fall. Faculty needs, however, will limit the class to 12 students.

William L. Dewey, vice president for research and graduate studies, said the graduate school received money last year from VCU for a new program called "Awards of Excellence" — a fund containing about \$200,000 to help VCU become more financially attractive through scholarships.

The board of visitors, he said, approved the allocation as part of the university budget.

Such scholarship funds may help recruit graduate students, but some would like to see more funding for graduate-specific activities. Although these students also pay student activities fees, Haar said, they receive no money from the fund for activities.

Nonetheless, the Graduate Student Association, re-established this past spring, can request funds from the Student

Bill to simplify student loans

WASHINGTON-(U-WIRE)—The House Education and the Workforce Committee unanimously approved a bill Wednesday that would alleviate a backlog of more than 84,000 federal student loan consolidation requests resulting from a law intended to simplify and speed the college loan process.

The bill is a direct response to Education Department administrative problems created by the 1996 direct loan consolidation program, which allows students and recent graduates to simplify their bookkeeping, while offering a variety of payment options. The department put a freeze on new applications and announced that more than 84,000 applications were backlogged.

The emergency bill would allow immediate consolidation of federal student loans through separate program within the Department of Education—Federal Family Education Loans—for one year. Unlike the direct-loan program, which bypasses to their schools, FFEL loans are processed through banks and creditors.

The bill would move processing of the direct-loan consolidation requests to FFEL for one year. Both FFEL and Direct Student loans would enjoy federal interest rates equivalent to those of the direct loans during that year. Students could seek consolidation through local institutions without the red tape of the over-

burdened government office.

The bill is scheduled to come before the complete House of Representatives on Oct. 20 under procedural rules that allow certain bills to get speedy consideration. The measure could be signed into law as early as Nov. 1 if the Senate passes the measure in time, but its proposed funding is expected to create a controversy in the Senate.

"The act will help students who are currently unable to consolidate student loans," said Rep. Howard McKeon, R-Calif. "I have total lack of confidence in the Direct-Loan Program."

The Emergency Student Loan Consolidation Act would cost an estimated \$25 million, and the money would be taken from the administration budget of \$532 million, some fear the cuts would send the direct loan program into further crisis.

The debate over the Direct Student Loan Program is expected to continue in the coming year. The Education Committee is expected to recommend replacing Department of Education administration of the federal loan programs with a separate entity within the department that would operate like a private contractor as part of the 1998 reauthorization package.

Story written by Jennifer Flescher from Medill News Service Northwestern U.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL DAY

• The event will run from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday in the Commons.

• Students can talk to recruiters from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• Free parking will be available at Monroe Park.

GRAD continued to page 3 >

In Brief . . .

•On-line publications may feature electronic copyright tags

Material posted on the Internet may feature a new, voluntary system for electronically tagging them with copyright information. The Association of American Publishers hopes that publishers will adopt the system for books, articles and scholarly journals to make it easier to obtain information about the origin, ownership and use restrictions of material.

The system may encourage more publishers and producers to distribute and sell material electronically without fear of unauthorized reproduction. In addition, supporters say it will make it easier for users to get permission to use copyrighted works.

•Studies attribute violence to biological factors

Three different studies by a professor of psychology at the University of Southern California have concluded that biological factors influence violent behavior in humans.

Adrian Raine led a team of researchers that concluded that children who had lower heart rates at a young age acted aggressively to stimulate their heart rate to a more normal level.

A second study compared the brains of 41 convicted murderers with the brains of 41 other people. Researchers found a lower consumption of glucose in several regions of the murderers' brains, including the prefrontal cortex, which inhibits aggressive behavior.

The published results of the third study suggests

male children whose mothers had rejected them by trying to abort the fetus or by institutionalizing the child soon after birth were more likely to commit violent acts by age 18. Birth complications were also found to cause neuropsychological damage in a child, weakening self control and predisposing the child to violent outbursts.

•Michigan campus police officer kills suspected attacker

A police officer at the University of Michigan has been placed on leave after shooting and killing a man suspected of stabbing a woman in a university apartment.

Police officers responded to calls and found Kevin V. Nelson repeatedly stabbing Tamara Williams. After Nelson refused orders to stop the attack, an officer shot him, university officials said in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Williams, who shared an apartment with Nelson, died with at least 10 deep stab wounds, police said.

It was the first time that one of the campus guards has fired a weapon in the line of duty since they became deputized police officers in 1990. House panel rejects limiting sale of encryption software

By a vote of 35 to 16, the House Commerce Committee defeated a measure that would have limited the domestic sale of encryption software.

The committee chairman, Rep. Thomas J. Bliley Jr., R-Va., received a letter from a dozen leading scientific organizations opposing government efforts to restrict the exchange of encryption information.

Encryption encodes on-line messages so that people lacking the proper keys cannot access them. The government argues that terrorists and other criminals could use the coding technology to foil law enforcement techniques,

such as wire taps and electronic intercepts. But designers of encryption software say that adding features that would make it easy for authorized government agents to decode messages would slow the development of the technology and threaten privacy.

•Recall of diet drug means less money for university

Following a government recall of the diet drug dexfenfluramine, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will be without the \$2 million it raked in from patent-holder royalties.

A share of the money already received goes to Richard J. Wurtman, the professor of neuroscience who discovered that dexfenfluramine, marketed in the United States as Redux, could aid in weight loss by controlling craving for carbohydrates. A U.S. recall was prompted by reports of dangerous side effects.

•College in southern India restricts women's attire

Christ College, in Bangalore, India, has forbidden women from wearing jeans and skirts, saying such close-fitting garments are indecent.

Administrators at the conservative Christian college are encouraging female students to wear saris or a *sawar-kameez*, the traditional baggy trouser and shirt combination.

Although the college's vice principal says the ban on jeans would instill discipline, female students complain that the order discriminates against them because males will still be allowed to wear jeans.

Greater Richmond Area

Graduate and Professional School Day

Monday, Oct. 6, 1997 11 am - 4:30 pm

VCU Commons, 907 Floyd Ave. (between Cherry and Linden, enter from Main or Floyd)

Recruitment: More than 80 universities represented on site to discuss with you their graduate and professional school programs.

Workshops: Expert help on financial aid, essay writing, test-taking strategies and more.

The VCU Graduate School and Career Center invite all university students and community members who are interested in pursuing a graduate, medical or law degree.

Sponsors: Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, Randolph-Macon College, University of Richmond, Saint Paul's College, and Virginia Commonwealth University have joined forces to make this program especially informative.



The World Is At Your Fingertips!



The Center for International Programs is pleased to announce its Fall Workshops for Study Abroad. Come and learn about creative opportunities to enhance your VCU education!

Study Abroad Brown Bag Lunch: Bring your lunch and talk with returning study abroad students. Learn all about the full range of international options available to you.

Dates: October 8, October 17, October 24
Time: 12:30 pm to 2 pm

Exchange Basics: Learn more about the most affordable way to study abroad! The services and experiences you can expect on an exchange program will be presented. A variety of exchange options and the methods to apply to each of them will also be discussed.

Dates: October 14, October 22, November 4
Time: 3-4 pm

ISEP Application Workshop: This workshop is designed to assist students who have already decided to apply for an exchange through the International Student Exchange Program. Learn how to make your application stand out in the crowd! We will review each piece of the application process and discuss your choices and chances for placement.

Date: November 7
Time: 2-4 pm

Summer Study Abroad: VCU will offer a variety of summer faculty-led programs in a wide range of disciplines. You may want to take a short-term program alone, or add one on to a semester or academic year. We will give you the latest update on what will be available for Summer 1998.

Date: November 19
Time: 2-4 pm

All Workshops will take place at:

The Center for International Programs
Virginia Commonwealth University
Conference Room 101
916 West Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23284

For more information contact the Study Abroad Office at 828-8471.

Commonwealth TIMES

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Political activist urges campaign finance reform

VCU alumnus speaks out against 'bought politicians'

Chris Dovi
CT STAFF WRITER

Campaign finance reform, the current hot topic on Capitol Hill, came to VCU Wednesday when Ben Ragsdale, former press secretary to a former Virginia attorney general, political activist and VCU alumnus began his lecture circuit tour advocating grass-roots political involvement.

Ragsdale, 53, ran for Congress in Virginia's 4th District when he was just 26.

"I found out that you can't run for political office without money," he said.

This eventually led Ragsdale to his current campaign as an activist calling for an end to big money contributions to political campaigns.

"I am concerned today about the state of our democracy," he said, cutting to the heart of what he said he sees as the greatest threat to the U.S. political system. "Big campaign contributions from wealthy special interests, almost entirely from within our country, have corrupted America's elected leaders."

Ragsdale spoke to a small but enthusiastic crowd in the business building auditorium, expressing his worry that many elected officials have come to see their role as "one of placating" interest groups who have given the large donations necessary to put them in office "rather than maintaining their focus on America's general welfare."

Chiding public officials for their inability to see that their real duty lies in guarding the interest of the voters,

and not with the small but powerful groups whose money fuels "attempts by one candidate to disparage another," Ragsdale called for legislators to adopt the McCain-Feingold bill — legislation that would set limits on funding and spending in campaigns for political office.

He described the disturbing willingness of politicians to accept the necessity of pandering to special interests as a part of getting elected. He quoted Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, who said that such pandering to lobbying groups was "the American way" at a much publicized event in Florida earlier this year.

"The politicians tell us that everybody does it — that this is the system and they have to play the game," Ragsdale said. "Well, it may be the politician's way, but it is not the American way. It is the wrong way and it must be changed."

The former press secretary also challenged the brazenness of some of the more vocal representatives of the special interest groups in justifying their sometimes illegal activities.

He referred to Johnny Chung, a former Democratic National Committee fund-raiser, who told Tom Brokaw in an interview, "I see the White House like a subway — you have to put in coins to open the gates."

Ragsdale, for whom this appearance at VCU marked the beginning of his tour on the lecture circuit, found further fault with a common argument used by lobbying groups and politicians who, he said, are simply interested in maintaining the status quo.

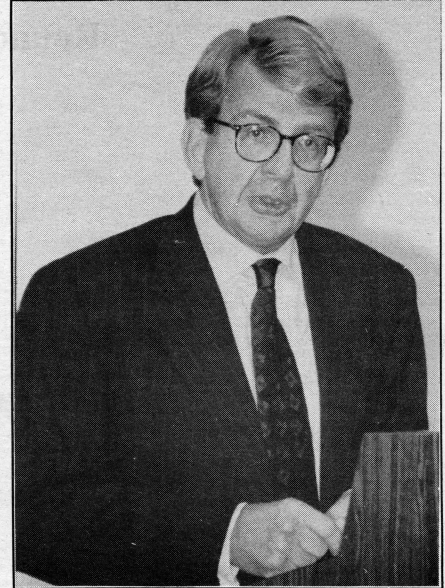
He chastised opponents of reform for their use of the First Amendment as an excuse to battle proposed change: "We have heard a lot of solemn, patriotic talk about our First Amendment right of free expression. I certainly believe in this fundamental freedom... But the arguments of those Republican senators who are claiming that contribution limits are unconstitutional are fallacious."

The ordinary voter's voice is lost in a sea of big money, Ragsdale said: "If campaign contributions and spending equal free speech," he said, "then God help the ordinary American."

At the heart of Ragsdale's message came a call to action by the common voter. He repeatedly advocated the need for a grass-roots movement at the most basic level, saying the current trend toward increased apathy is a danger to the very root of our political system.

To rely on the politicians to change the current system, he said, is an exercise in futility.

"The reform of our political system is too important to be left to the politicians," he said. "Our voices need to be



Chris Dovi/Commonwealth Times

STOP THE CORRUPTION — Political activist and former VCU student Ben Ragsdale attacks campaign finance at a lecture Wednesday in the business school auditorium.

heard all over America, admonishing all those politicians who defile and debase this democracy and strangle the American spirit."

He outlined his vision for restricting big money influence in politics, beginning with asking legislators to support the McCain-Feingold bill. The bill, he said, would set necessary limits to contributions and spending.

Also advocating individual involvement, he encouraged every voter to take action through letter-writing, making telephone calls and petitioning elected officials.

"To make politics healthy again, we have to restrict the money." Boiled down, this was the message that he hammered home again and again, refuting critics who would disparage his cause.

Check Mate



Peter Martin/Commonwealth Times

John, a VCU student, contemplates his next move in an afternoon match of chess outside the library.

Students invited to explore career options

Ben Wasson
CT STAFF WRITER

VCU will host the Graduate and Professional School Day on Monday, Oct. 6. More than 75 representatives from national universities will be on campus to speak with students.

The annual event, held either at VCU or the University of Richmond, returns this fall after taking a year off.

Susan Gunn, director of the VCU career center, said she expects between five to six hundred participants.

"We have recruiters on a waiting list to attend this event," Gunn said.

Because admission to graduate programs has become increasingly competitive, Gunn said students can gain an edge by meeting recruiters in person.

Furthermore, students will have the chance to learn more about other graduate programs.

Barbara Griffin, dean of the graduate school at the University of Richmond, said students can get a clearer idea of post graduate goals by attending.

"Sometimes we can talk to a student, find out what they are interested in and direct them into a specific program," Griffin said.

In addition to meeting recruiters, students can practice

taking standardized tests conducted by Kaplan, pick up school applications and learn more about financial aid.

Donald Asher, author of "Graduate Admissions Essays: What Works, What Doesn't and Why" and a contributing writer for other magazines will speak on improving applications to graduate programs.

GRAD

continued from page 1

Government Association, which basically controls the allocation of the student activities fees.

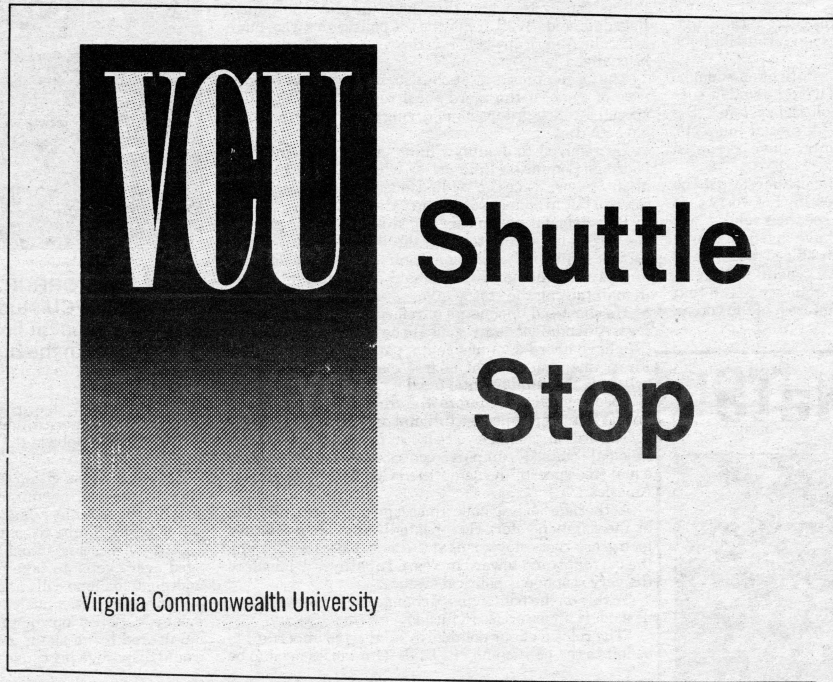
Jennifer Smith, acting president of the GSA, views the increase in graduate enrollment as a positive aspect because it could help the association as well as the individual students.

"It's wonderful... (It's) more people to work with on the graduate level (and) to network," she said. "As graduate students a lot of us learn from one another."

Besides promoting an open channel of communication among students, the graduate dean and the president, Smith said, the GSA officers hope to provide more activities for graduate student participation plus more social interaction.

Haar affirmed the notion by saying, "They could be a really formidable group."

??? Riddle ???
Round and round and round they go -
where they stop -
EVERYONE knows!?!



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Lindsay Kastner

Education reform sounds great

Now show us the money

John T. Hazel Jr. and his Virginia Business Higher Education Council are right about the needs of Virginia's colleges — they are extreme needs, and they must be met.

Hazel was also right when he noted that there is never a good time to confront politicians with unsavory realities, though campaign time may be one of the worst.

The group called for massive state support for Virginia's higher education institutions — more than \$9 million in the next two years. They are correct in surmising that it is crucial for Virginia's students to be educated in keeping with the high-tech times. It is necessary for the state to build its own competent work force to fill jobs in today's technologically driven workplaces. And it is also necessary to lure technologically minded students into Vir-

ginia schools, where they may likely remain after college to seek high-tech employment. Virginia has plenty of jobs to fill.

Hazel's group was more than correct in saying that tuition costs should not rise in order to compensate for the state's educational needs. Tuition is high enough already and increased costs would only make a decent college education accessible to fewer individuals.

Changes in the education system and improvements on the technological front take time. Consequently, no student is going to pay a fattened tuition bill in order to attend a school whose instructors are underpaid and where technology has only recently begun to be dabbled in.

But the group did not specify where funds necessary to boost Virginia's higher education system are to come from. It did

not specify a tax increase, but remained adamant that the money is a necessity and that tuition should not rise. What other sources of financial enrichment are there? Should the higher education system receive money slated for public secondary schools? Should bond referendums be proposed? Should VCU and other schools hold bake sales and raffles?

Hazel seemed extremely unclear as to how the money should be obtained.

A tax increase is rarely something warmly embraced by the public, but it would be an effective means of raising revenue for the schools. And improved education would benefit the state in a multitude of facets.

However, assuming higher taxes don't go over well with citizens, perhaps the state should simply petition Ted Turner's contemporaries for the much-needed funds.

Maybe the spirit of giving will spread as far as the walls of Bill Gates' new home. He would hardly notice a \$9 million donation.

Should the higher education system receive money slated for public secondary schools? Should bond referendums be proposed? Should VCU and other schools hold bake sales and raffles?

Censorship cometh Stanford newspaper strips opinion from the opinion page

LANSING, Mich. — (UWIRE) When the Stanford Daily stated it would not cover Chelsea Clinton differently from other students, Jesse Oxfeld found out the hard way that the newspaper wasn't joking. Oxfeld, a columnist for Stanford's student newspaper, attempted to write a column on the effect that Chelsea's presence would have on students.

What Oxfeld may have not expected was the effect the column itself would have on his job.

Seeming to forget the "opinion" in opinion page, Daily Editor in Chief Carolyn Sleeth refused to run the column without revisions and fired Oxfeld.

Although the paper's policy of not covering Chelsea is a good idea and sends a positive message about an individual's right to privacy, enforcing it can go too far — as seen in Oxfeld's case. Chelsea's presence at Stanford is a current issue and therefore fair game for editorial comment, by any opinion page writers.

The decision to let Chelsea live a private life is admirable. But enforcing it should be done with caution.

The minute a staff member writes for the opinion page, he or she is allowed to express a viewpoint whether or not the paper agrees with the statement.

To censor these statements defies the purpose of columns by telling writers what opinions they may and may not express.

Discussing what happened, the paper's

editorial board said community columnists would have been allowed to write about Chelsea because they are not staff and therefore do not represent the paper's views.

Yet, when these issues are brought up by staff members, who are also members of the community, the issues become off-limits.

Such double standards have no place on a page that has been specifically designated for open expression and ALL of the community's voice, including newspaper staff members.

To quote a phrase in Sleeth's editorial, "The Daily's opinion page has always been and will remain an open forum for the expression of ideas and opinions."

In light of the recent events, this is a hypocritical statement.

Even if Oxfeld's dismissal was not solely based on his column, as Sleeth claimed, the decision not to run it quells individual

rights to freedom of speech.

Oxfeld's past actions and his publicly announced desire to become Chelsea's pundit — he has already offered his opinion to media outlets such as CBS, MSNBC and National Public Radio — have given him a somewhat tainted image.

But everyone is entitled to an opinion, and Oxfeld was hired as a columnist.

The purpose of the Daily's Chelsea policy has been defeated. Even more attention will now be focused on Stanford and its student body, including the "firsts."

Newspapers must not contradict themselves by offering an "open forum" they don't plan to uphold; nor should they enforce a policy on a page where it is not needed.

— State News
Michigan State University

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pay-for-print not really 'sneak attack'

You know, other than McDonald's moving into the Commons, the only other real "big" issue on campus has been the pay-for-print services. Now I'm sure everyone's pissed off. I mean, TWELVE WHOLE cents is a lot of money — and I'm sure it's only VCU that does this as well, like NO OTHER university has a technology fee or some type of pay-for-print service running. Sure Kinkos' COPYING only costs eight cents a sheet, but that's copying, not printing. Then there's cost for time on the computers as well. Boy, Cabell's looking better every second... But the thing that gets me is people. I happened to go to the open forum that the SGA held with the issue of pay-for-print, and while I was there all I heard was that "Free printing is a courtesy" and that "It was a sneak attack." Well let me tell you, sure free printing is a courtesy... to those who don't abuse it and print a whole stack of paper in a matter of minutes. And I hardly think it was a "sneak attack," because, as I recall, the pay-for-print computers were up a while before pay-for-print actually started. People could have and did ask what that computer was for. Then the library itself was handing out handbills with notices on it saying that it would be going the route of pay-for-print. So to the guy that says "it was a sneak attack," why don't you try being more concerned with a better cause than pay-for-print?

OK, so why am I supporting pay-for-print? OK, fair enough question. I myself happen to work down at Cabell as a computer monitor in the B8 computer lab; not only that, but I am also the computer manager of the Johnson/Rhoads Hall computer labs. Before pay-for-print in Cabell, we would go through at least 10 stacks of paper a day; people would print out crap that would just end up in the recycling bin. I've seen print jobs that have eaten up ALL the paper in the printer — 1-inch thick jobs that people just leave behind and don't pick up. Now we barely go through one stack, or, at least during my shift, I've never had to add paper to the printer.

You know, I've come to realize it's all about change. People really do not like change. For better or worse, people just abhor change, but they're going to have to get used to it, because it's here and it's not going anywhere, so deal with it.

John Emanuel
VCU Student

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Angela D. Hill — executive editor

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TELL THE UNIVERSITY
WHAT'S BUGGING
YOU.

write a letter to the editor

Do you have any super-small practice amps?" John Flansburgh asks the man behind the counter, a shaggy fellow with his hair tucked up in a rastafarian hat. We've just stepped into Main Street Guitar and Drum in downtown Charlottesville, a block down the street from Trax, where They Might Be Giants is scheduled to perform tonight. An upcoming radio appearance and a lack of portable gear have brought on this side trip in the middle of our interview.

"We've got an ancient little Harmony sitting over there." On the floor in the corner sits a beaten-up relic, so old that I wonder if it came from Mr. Jefferson's collection at Monticello. Flansburgh notes that it's not totally factory stock (the speakers are "a fine Radio Shack brand, I see"), but it works and the price is right. He promises to be back at 6 p.m. to pick it up, and by doing so buys out the store's electric equipment collection.

While other musicians might shun such antiquated equipment, Flansburgh seems more than content with his purchase.

"Well, it's about to become part of my collection," he says—his collection being a motley grouping of instruments, synthesizers, old records, drum machines and even answering machines that have been the craftsman's tools of They Might Be Giants' experimental efforts.

Primitive technology seems to be embraced by the band; for instance, the 19th century recorder used for "I Can Barely Hear You" makes even the most old-fashioned equipment seem high-tech.

Other bands may be satisfied with producing the same-sounding records from year to year, while They Might Be Giants has been consistently eclectic in their musical styles.

Songs on their most recent studio effort, "Factory Showroom," ranged from the disco-funked "S-E-X-X-Y" to their poppy cover of Cub's "New York City." After adding a full-backing band to the act with the album "John Henry", their musical styles branched out even further; they were no longer limited by being a duo of musicians with a couple of instruments each.

Their penchant for experimentation carries over into their live

shows, which often afford the listener a drastically different product.

"What we've done live has always been about 'the live thing,'" Flansburgh says. "There are lots of things that work spontaneously, or in a temporal way, things in the moment that aren't designed to stand up to repeated listening. It's more about doing the show, and everybody witnessing this thing."

"We change the arrangements around a lot, and there's a lot of improvisational stuff that really changes a lot from night to night. Like, a couple of nights ago, we did a version of "The Guitar" and it ended up being about 7 minutes long. There was this whole open-ended improvisation that just kind of took off."

But Flansburgh notes that they aren't like most bands who jam on stage. "A lot of people start doing music because they're into improvisation, and that's their forte, that's what they're good at, and they kind of learn a bag of tricks of how to perform in a spontaneous way, but they still rely on a repertoire of things," he says. "What's interesting to me about the kind of improvisation that we end up doing is that we're really the opposite of that. We're really a band that's interested in formal idea and songwriting and song structure. We're conservative in the way we put our songs together in a certain sense—our songs have verses and choruses and the words rhyme, and there are things about them that are very old-fashioned. Yet, we've spent so much time performing on stage that, actually, for a bunch of uptight guys, we're really relaxed about it, and we find ourselves capable of doing things that I don't think we ever dreamed we could do. We have spontaneous things happening in the show that just seem really unlikely."

"We're really not hippies. Most people who are into jamming just don't want it to ever stop. For us, that was never that crucial. In a way, our improvisation ends up having an intensity to it that's essentially unique in the rock thing, because most bands either do the straight 'These is our songs, this is how they go,' or 'This is our jam, whatever.' We've definitely evolved into this thing where there's this whole bunch of musical exploration in the middle."

The band's detractors often cite their music as being simple: simplicity to the point of confusion. In an age in which most artists are concerned with writing seemingly meaningful music about relationships and death, songs about ex-presidents and metal detectors seem a little out of place. Flansburgh says that, "we've resisted any kind of overarching themes, or rock operas."

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW!

BY SHAUN IRVING

HUMAN

An interview with

SKULL

John Flansburgh

ON THE

They Might Be G

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Do you have any super-small practice amps?" John Flansburgh asks the man behind the counter, a shaggy fellow with his hair tucked up in a rastafarian hat. We've

just stepped into Main Street Guitar and Drum in downtown Charlottesville, a block down the street from Trax, where They Might Be Giants is scheduled to perform tonight. An upcoming radio appearance and a lack of portable gear have brought on this side trip in the middle of our interview.

"We've got an ancient little Harmony sitting over there." On the floor in the corner sits a beaten-up relic, so old that I wonder if it came from Mr. Jefferson's collection at Monticello. Flansburgh notes that it's not totally factory stock (the speakers are "a fine Radio Shack brand, I see"), but it works and the price is right. He promises to be back at 6 p.m. to pick it up, and by doing so buys out the store's electric equipment collection.

While other musicians might shun such antiquated equipment, Flansburgh seems more than content with his purchase.

"Well, it's about to become part of my collection," he says—his collection being a motley grouping of instruments, synthesizers, old records, drum machines and even answering machines that have been the craftsman's tools of They Might Be Giants' experimental efforts.

Primitive technology seems to be embraced by the band; for instance, the 19th century recorder used for "I Can Barely Hear You" makes even the most old-fashioned equipment seem high-tech.

Other bands may be satisfied with producing the same-sounding records from year to year, while They Might Be Giants has been consistently eclectic in their musical styles.

Songs on their most recent studio effort, "Factory Showroom," ranged from the disco-funked "S-E-X-X-Y" to their poppy cover of Cub's "New York City." After adding a full-backing band to the act with the album "John Henry," their musical styles branched out even further; they were no longer limited by being a duo of musicians with a couple of instruments each.

Their penchant for experimentation carries over into their live

shows, which often afford the listener a drastically different product.

"What we've done live has always been about 'the live thing,'" Flansburgh says. "There are lots of things that work spontaneously, or in a temporal way, things in the moment that aren't designed to stand up to repeated listening. It's more about doing the show, and everybody witnessing this thing."

"We change the arrangements around a lot, and there's a lot of improvisational stuff that really changes a lot from night to night. Like, a couple of nights ago, we did a version of "The Guitar" and it ended up being about 7 minutes long. There was this whole open-ended improvisation that just kind of took off."

But Flansburgh notes that they aren't like most bands who jam on stage. "A lot of people start doing music because they're into improvisation, and that's their forté, that's what they're good at, and they kind of learn a bag of tricks of how to perform in a spontaneous way, but they still rely on a repertoire of things," he says. "What's interesting to me about the kind of improvisation that we end up doing is that we're really the opposite of that. We're really a band that's interested in formal idea and songwriting and song structure. We're conservative in the way we put our songs together in a certain sense—our songs have verses and choruses and the words rhyme, and there are things about them that are very old-fashioned. Yet, we've spent so much time performing on stage that, actually, for a bunch of uptight guys, we're really relaxed about it, and we find ourselves capable of doing things that I don't think we ever dreamed we could do. We have spontaneous things happening in the show that just seem really unlikely."

"We're really not hippies. Most people who are into jamming just don't want it to ever stop. For us, that was never that crucial. In a way, our improvisation ends up having an intensity to it that's essentially unique in the rock thing, because most bands either do the straight 'These is our songs, this is how they go,' or 'This is our jam, whatever.' We've definitely evolved into this thing where there's this whole bunch of musical exploration in the middle."

The band's detractors often cite their music as being simple: simplicity to the point of confusion. In an age in which most artists are concerned with writing seemingly meaningful music about relationships and death, songs about ex-presidents and metal detectors seem a little out of place. Flansburgh says that, "we've resisted any kind of overarching themes, or rock operas.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW!

BY SHAUN IRVING

HUMAN

An interview with

SKULLS

John Flansburgh of

ON THE

They Might Be Giants

GROUND

"I think that the popular song form has got a lot of promise to it. In a way, it's sort of what people relate to. I'm sure they [listen], and they're trying to figure out why Kurt [Cobain] killed himself, and that's a whole way of experiencing music that means a lot to people. But, for me, I find Alice Cooper talking about sleeping with dead people just as authentic."

I think that in some way is a sign of people running on empty, and basically our albums are just collections of songs. We just put together the best songs at any given time, and their relationship to one another is sort of mysterious. It's hard to say how one given song fits in with another, other than to say that they were written around the same time."

And what about the intentions of their music? Is there an underlying meaning to their music that the listener is supposed to infer themselves? "I think the reason that there's so much confusion about what our intentions are is that they change from song to song pretty radically." He adds that their songs, "contain a metaphor. And a lot of people aren't paying very much attention during the metaphor portion of their English class, and they're really used to getting the first person singular, 'This is what I'm feeling,' singer-songwriter thing. And sometimes we write songs that really aren't from our point of view. And it's a tricky thing, I think a lot of songwriters struggle with this thing where they're trying to expand the parameters of songwriting."

"What's different about being a novelist to being a songwriter—and it's sort of unfortunate, because there's no particular reason for it—is that if you're a novelist, and you write a really interesting book from the perspective of a rapist, then nobody's going to call 911 or ponder in a review whether or not the author is mentally ill. Nobody wonders about novelists being mentally ill, which is strange because there are probably just as many mentally ill novelists as there are rock performers."

"I think that the popular song form has got a lot of promise to it, and there's a lot of interesting things you can do with it, and I just wish that there was an easier way to break out of the confines of persona-driven songwriting. In a way, it's sort of what people relate to. I'm sure they put on their whole album, and they're listening between the lines and they're trying to figure out why Kurt [Cobain] killed himself, and that's a whole kind of way of experiencing music that means a lot to people. But, for me, I find Alice Cooper talking about sleeping with dead people just as authentic. Maybe

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As for future projects for They Might Be Giants, they recently began writing songs for a new studio album.

"We've got about ten songs written for it, half of them are good, the other half aren't good enough. There are a couple of songs that are from the last sessions that we've been doing in the show for a while that we're probably going to include on this next set." Flansburgh also mentioned that TMBG may be releasing what would be a first for them: a live album.

"We did this recording last year that came out really well for the SPIN radio network in Pachyderm Studios," the same studios where Nirvana's "In Utero" was recorded. "It was a funny little experience; there was a small studio audience there, and we had been doing a lot of touring, and we had a 7-piece band, and everyone was really in top form and everything was really together, and it was just this really opportune moment to go in and record the show. It came out really great and I hope that it sees the light of day, because it does have sort of a spark to it that our typical studio work doesn't even try to get to."

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Like warmed over butter

Chris Dovi
CT STAFF WRITER

Not Half bad. I would hardly go so far as to heap compliments on "Siren," Colony's second album and first on major label MCA, but I am not stretching too far when I say that it's not half bad.

Colony, who hail from Colombia, MO., seem to approach their art as an ode to REM, pre-"Green." Plentiful guitar hooks and folksy vocals, accompanied by one of the

MUSIC REVIEW: COLONY "SIREN"

most dead-on impressions of REM's bassist's backing vocals that you could hope to trip over, are abundant throughout this album. Ben Mink, who produced k.d. lang's Grammy-winning album, "Ingénue," was on board to work his magic.

Colony's opening track, "Breathe," is everything that you could ask for in a good pop song—excellent hooks and non-offensive lyrics that only occasionally venture into the realm of the silly, and even then they are sung with a conviction that fails to rescue so many other acts in their own time of need.

Track five, "Over the Lines," put me to sleep. The problem lied in too much time trying to soar, unfortunately air traffic control seemed to have been put them in a long holding pattern.

But, ah, just when I was about to return to my more routine activity of television watching, along comes "Go," a rather thoughtful and deceptively upbeat tune.

The stand-out song is definitely "All My Heart." This tender ode to la-Paul McCartney boasts more musical complexity than the rest of the album combined.

There is no groundbreaking music made on this 12-track CD, but then groundbreaking is a rare occurrence these days, and you could certainly do worse than "Siren." I can promise you this album is twice as good as some of the bilge that I have bought recently—hey, do I get to keep this?

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miscellaneous

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Lady Rams prepare to squash UR Spiders

George Templeton
CT STAFF WRITER

The Lady Rams (3-6, 1-1) play at the University of Richmond on Friday in a very important conference game for both teams.

"We're still in good position because it is still early in the season" said VCU coach Lisa Zifcak. "We have six games left and three of them are winnable games and three of them we're underdogs."

"If we can win and get to 2-1 I think that will give us a lot of momentum going into our next few games because we will have beaten a good team at their place."

VCU has been in a recent scoring drought that has caused the Lady Rams to be shut-out in four out of their last five matches.

"We have done a better job of possessing the ball and now we just need to work on putting our chances away," Zifcak said. "We need our players to step up when the game is on the line and want to put the ball away." Richmond also is desperate, the Spiders are trying to avoid going 0-4 in the conference.

"Richmond's record is misleading. They

have played two of the top teams in the conference and lost one game they should have won," said Zifcak. "I don't look at them as an 0-3 team, they're at home, this is the city championship and we're going to have to play really well to win."

The Spiders are led by the 1-2 offensive punch of Brook Sands and Kirsi Cronk.

Sands is fourth in the CAA with 22 points (11 goals). Sands' 11 goals are a school record for goals in a season. Kirsi Cronk is tied for 6th in the CAA with 16 points (3 goals/ 10 assists). Cronk's 10 assists are a school record for assists in a season.

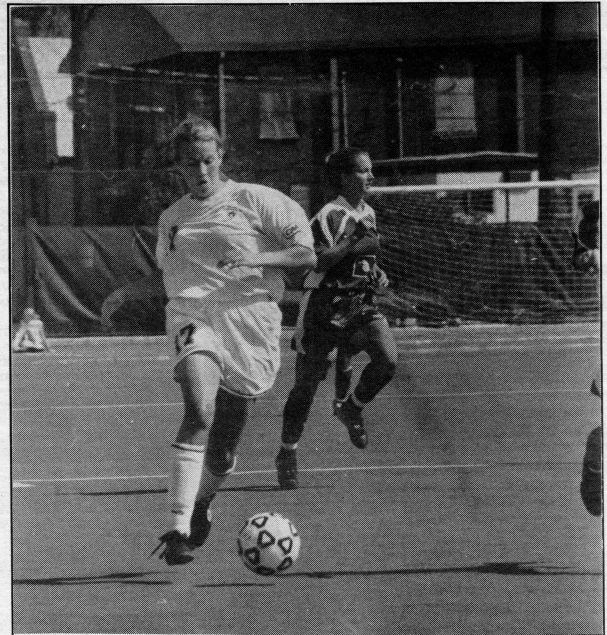
"We're not going to try and do anything special on defense, every team has good offensive players," said Zifcak. "We're going to make them deal with us and try to worry about getting our opportunities and finishing them, instead of worrying about how to stop the other team."

In recent games, VCU has played well in the first half only to come out early in the second half and make costly errors that have cost the Lady Rams games they could have won.

"This has happened to us two games in a row now, and I think that history should be the best teacher," Zifcak said. "The players know what can happen when we don't put a goal away early and then come out flat in the second half. I hope we have learned that even if we don't score we need to keep up the intensity for 90 minutes," she said.



Zifcak



Peter Martin/Commonwealth Times

MOVING ON — VCU's Rebecca Ruth advances on American's goal Saturday. The Lady Rams lost the match 2-0 and are sixth in the CAA.

Women's field hockey captures first victory

It has been a tough season for VCU field hockey. On Sunday, the season got a little better as the Lady Rams beat Appalachian State 2-1 for their first win of the season.

Heather Nelson scored the team's first goal and Jenna Stewart scored the game-winning goal as VCU came from behind in the final 10 minutes to move its record to 1-9.

On Wednesday, the Lady Rams lost a heart-breaker to the University of Richmond Spiders, 1-0.

The game remained scoreless until 1:15 before halftime when Richmond scored to make the score 1-0. The loss dropped the Lady Rams to 1-10 overall and 0-3 in the CAA.

Sophomore goalie Jodi Dodson was a stand out in the net for VCU making 13 saves to keep the Lady Rams in the game.

VCU had several scoring chances in the second half but were unable to con-

vert. They stayed in the game despite not receiving a penalty corner the whole game.

The Lady Rams will close out the season by playing five of their last eight games at home starting with Old Dominion on Saturday, Oct. 4.

The Lady Monarchs have won their first 10 games this season and are 3-0 in CAA play.

Before facing the Lady Rams, they head to College Park, Md., to take on the Maryland Terrapins.

ODU brings in the CAA's top scoring team with five of the top six scorers in the conference. Leading the way is the CAA's leading scorer, freshman Marina Digiacomio (15 goals/10 assists/40 points).

The Lady Rams will need top scorer Heather Nelson (3G/0A/6TP) and Dodson (35 goals allowed) to step up if VCU is to have a good showing against ODU.

— compiled from news sources

VCU Athletics

Saturday, October 4th

Field Hockey
vs.
ODU
1:00
Cary St. Field



Volleyball
vs.
JMU
2:00
Franklin St. Gym



Sunday, October 5th

Women's Soccer
vs.
Mercer
11:00am
Cary St. Field



*All VCU/MCV Students admitted FREE with valid ID.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTES

	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 8	
MEN'S SOCCER (6-1-1, 0-0-1)	LAP'TTE	PENN	HOWARD	VCU'S MATCHES THIS WEEKEND WILL BE PLAYED AS PART OF THE HARTWICK NIKE INVITATIONAL IN HARTWICK, NY.
WOMEN'S SOCCER (3-6-0, 1-1-0)	UR	MERCER	ODU	CURRENT LADY RAM COACH WAS AN ASSISTANT COACH AT MERCER FROM 1993-95 BEFORE COMING TO VCU.
VOLLEYBALL (6-12, 0-0)	Oct. 4 JMU	Oct. 7 UYA	Oct. 17 GMU	THE LADY RAMS WERE SWEEPED BY THE DUKES IN THEIR LONE MATCH IN 1996. THE SCHOOLS MEET TWICE THIS SEASON.
FIELD HOCKEY (1-10, 0-2)	Oct. 4 ODU	Oct. 11 St. LOUIS	Oct. 16 UYA	THE LADY RAMS WERE KNOCKED OFF 16-0 BY THE LADY MONARCHS LAST SEASON IN NORFOLK.

indicates home games.

The Picks



"Monkey Boy"
Anderson



"Space for"
Leiss



Templeton
"The Rat"



"Skip The
Intern"



Trish
"The Dish"



"Bleach Blond"
Southworth



"Joe Gibbs"
Rogalsky



"Misanthrope"
Dovi



"4.0"
Franke

NCAA

Maine at Richmond	Richmond Ohio St.	Richmond Iowa	Richmond Ohio St.	Richmond Ohio St.	Richmond Ohio St.	Richmond Ohio St.	Richmond Iowa	Richmond Iowa	Richmond Ohio St.
Iowa at Ohio State	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.
Miami at Florida State	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Washington	Washington	Washington
Arizona St. at Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington
Washington St. at Oregon	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.	Washington St.
Notre Dame at Stanford	Notre Dame	Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Notre Dame	Stanford	Stanford	Notre Dame	Notre Dame
Colorado at Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Colorado	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado

Washington at Philadelphia	Washington Buffalo	Washington Buffalo	Washington Buffalo	Washington Buffalo	Washington Buffalo	Philadelphia Buffalo	Washington Buffalo	Philadelphia Buffalo	Washington Buffalo
Detroit at Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo	Buffalo
Tampa Bay at Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Tampa Bay	Green Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Green Bay	Tampa Bay	Green Bay
Cincinnati at Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville
Dallas at NY Giants	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
Kansas City at Miami	Miami	Miami	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami
Pittsburgh at Baltimore	Pittsburgh	Baltimore	Baltimore	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Baltimore	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh
Minnesota at Arizona	Arizona	Minnesota	Minnesota	Arizona	Minnesota	Arizona	Minnesota	Arizona	Minnesota
Tennessee at Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Tennessee	Tennessee	Seattle
San Diego at Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland
NY Jets at Indianapolis	NY Jets	NY Jets	NY Jets	NY Jets	NY Jets	Indianapolis	NY Jets	Indianapolis	NY Jets
New Orleans at Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	Chicago	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans
New England at Denver	New England	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver	Denver

RESULTS

Last week:	16-4	15-5	13-7	15-5	14-6	14-6	14-6	11-9	17-3
Season to date:	54-26	53-27	51-29	50-30	47-33	47-33	46-34	46-34	45-35
Percentage:	.675	.663	.638	.625	.588	.588	.575	.575	.563
Games Back		1	3	4	7	7	8	8	9

■ Upon returning from their excursion to the "Big Jack," "We Want Dallas" Rogalsky and "Tickle Me" Templeton gave a report to VCU McPisnister Eugene P. Trani on which aspects of the new stadium are suitable for use in the Siegel Center. This "Lewis and Clark" of the CT told Trani that by far the number one aspect of JKC was, unlike the campus of a certain university in Richmond, not littered with hideous signs for an artery-clogging fast food restaurant. Unlike that certain school where one might hear, "Would you like fries with that transcript?" there was no hint of that in Raljon. Imagine the uproar if someone asked "Would you like fries with that first down?" No that is not a misprint, "Mighty Aphrodite" Franke really did go 17-3 last week. The equine scourge of the Women's Tennis Association first appeared lost at seas, but she is surging forward and is nipping at the heels of "Dumbell" Dovi to get out of the basement, which she has occupied since Week One. In an effort to get in touch with the feminine side of journalism, the CT has contacted Marv Albert about giving a seminar to the staff. MCV also plans to bring in Albert, who may very well become Victoria Secret's newest lingerie model, to speak on the benefits of good dental hygiene. Speaking of teeth, the VCU Police have requested funding to bring in Professor Mike Tyson to teach a self-defense course entitled "Your Teeth, Your Safety: How to Fend Off Attackers Using Your Molars." Trish, who is known as "Booby Call" Nguyen to her professors has moved up a spot but has lost an Associate Editor. The increased workload means less time for her to study football, but she claims that her womanly intuition will guide her to future moves to the right. After a careful study of the Sports Office's decor, "Disastrous" Dovi and "Fort Wayne" Franke have concluded that the place is nothing but "rum, sodomy and the lash." Obviously they are not well-schooled on decorating to have to steal quotes from Winston Churchill to describe walls. "Monkey Boy" Anderson hung on to the top position, but "Billboard Boy" Leiss is hasn't given up yet. Templeton "The Rat" was so disturbed at seeing the replay of the Juvenile Delinquent of the Century stealing a homerun for the Yankees in last year's ALCS on NBC a hundred times that he slipped and fell three games back after being tied for the lead. He has recently been committed to an institution when he began repeating "Must horsewhip the truant bastard" over and over in his sleep.

SPORTSWIRE

•Marshall's rise creates dilemma for WVU

Last month, Marshall University, in their first year as a Division I-A school, and West Virginia University renewed their football rivalry after 74 years.

West Virginia won 42-31 and after the game, J. Wade Gilley, president of Marshall, proposed that the two teams play each other next season in Charleston.

Gilley estimated that the game could raise \$500,000 and he suggested that the proceeds go to the Special Olympics.

His proposal was quickly rebuffed by the President of West Virginia, David C. Hardesty Jr.

"We will not suggest how you run your program and, in the future, we hope that you will show us the same courtesy."

•Manning delivers in the clutch

The University of Tennessee's star quarterback Peyton Manning arrived at the University Center on the Monday before the Volunteers' big game against the University of Florida and found more than

1,000 students in line to buy tickets to the game.

There were only 700 tickets available, and Manning went that some would walk away disappointed.

Manning ordered \$100 worth of Domino's Pizzas and had them delivered to the students in the back of the line.

When word got out of his good deed, fans called sports radio programs asking whether Manning had violated NCAA rules by giving out the pizzas.

But those rules cover athletes receiving gifts, not giving them.

•Car accident kills BYU football player

Terrence Harvey, a Brigham Young University cornerback, was killed in a high-way accident three weeks after arriving at the school.

The 21-year-old sophomore from Las Vegas was pronounced dead at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center from severe bruising of the heart after the accident near Provo about 9 p.m. Monday.

•Detroit and Washington to get WNBA teams

Washington and Detroit will be awarded WNBA expansion teams the Associated Press learned Tuesday.

The two new franchises are already fighting over which one will be awarded former ABL star and defector Nikki McCray.

Sources close to the league confirmed the selection. The two franchises will bring the WNBA up to 10 teams. Nicknames have not been chosen for the teams which beat out Orlando in the selection process.

•Marv Albert offered radio job

Former NBC sportscaster Marv Albert hasn't ruled out a job on a Tampa, Fla. radio station his agent said Wednesday.

"We've received many offers," agent Evan Bell said of the offer from WFLZ-FM's M.J. and B.J. Morning Show.

"We'll talk to anybody. But don't interpret that to mean that we are taking this seriously."

WFLZ wants Albert to broadcast three daily one-minute sports commentaries. The station says that it will offer Albert a six-

month \$100,000 contract.

Bell said it was doubtful that Albert would accept any offer until after his sentencing Oct. 24.

Albert faces up to a year in jail and \$2,500 in fines after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge and embarrassing revelations that included wearing women's undergarments.

**Write for
Sports.
Call 828-1058
and ask for
Joe or Tom.**

Because so many students attend evening classes, the Commonwealth Times asked students from Greg Weatherford's newswriting class to gather responses from 8 to 9 p.m. Thursday, September 15, 1997, to the following question:

What do you think of the proposal to establish an African-American studies major at VCU?

"I think it's OK. It would help eliminate primitive ideas toward African Americans. A lot of students have the wrong idea...[It] would help people learn more about [their] heritage [and] general public knowledge." — **Edward Bates**, 23, freshman, accounting, Liberia.

"That would be a great idea...I'm really excited. I hope to take a couple classes myself." — **Mike Leisch**, 18, freshman, business, Alexandria.

"Sure. Great. Really excited." — **Diane Rossini**, 18, freshman, art, Fairfax.

"[I'm] against it [and] affirmative action." — **Brian McWalters**, 25, graduate student, economics.

"[It's a] good idea...familiarize with culture." — **Lanre Aijola**, 23, senior, computer science.

"I don't know much about it." — **Jonathan Lowe**, 24, senior, criminal justice.

"I didn't even know." — **Sena Felt**, 30, pre physical therapy.

"I think it's a good idea." — **Marleen Shurtleff**, 21, sophomore, music education.

"VCU has a wide selection of majors as it is. Sure!" — **Michelle Johnson**, 19, sophomore, Spanish.

"No opinion." — **Kevin Hsu**, 19, undecided.

"I think it will help further people's education of African culture." — **Peter Owusu**, 21, pharmacy.

"I don't know much about it...[It's] not much use [if it's taken from an] historical point of view only." — **Laura Smith**, 21, freshman, computer science, Pittsburgh, Penn.

"Pretty nice. I heard about it through

African American Studies at VCU

friends." — **Edward Bangurah**, 21, senior, biology, Washington, D.C.

"I hadn't heard much about it." — **Mike Herman**, 34, senior, psychology, Youngstown, Ohio.

"It would be great! Most schools don't teach it. All other foreign histories [are taught]. Why not one for African Americans?" — **Marcy Watters**, 28, business management, Richmond.

"Sounds good." — **Clair Ewell**, 19, undecided, Richmond.

"I never thought about it." — **Takisha Samuels**, 19, criminal justice, Fredericksburg.

"I haven't read anything about it." — **Mark Jones**, 28, sophomore.

"It sounds pretty good." — **Larry Porter**, 23, first year graduate student, criminology.

"It's well deserved for blacks at VCU. It will help others understand the culture. I love it... We need it here to give people a positive view of who we are and what we're all about and replace any stereotypes." — **Thelma Stockton**, special student, human resources, Richmond.

"It's long overdue. It will draw people to VCU. VCU will receive much needed exposure." — **Steven Crockett**, 26, Junior, finance.

"I have no idea." — **Vu Huyhn**, 21, senior, biology.

"I think it's a good idea if you would be teaching history and involved in education as a major." — **Danielle Johnson**, junior, Richmond.

"It's a good idea because knowledge is important." — **Jennifer Villaral**, 19, sophomore, psychology, Richmond.

"I think if the demand is there, we could definitely do it." — **Paula Morgan**, 28, junior, business.

"I don't know much." — **Jennifer Tingley**, 21, sophomore, criminal justice.

"I think it's a great idea, but I don't know if people will do it." — **Amanda Delehanty**, 25, junior, business.

"I don't know much about it. Yes, if it's beneficial to them. I don't know where you could go with it, but if it will benefit those students, they should go with it." — **Jennifer Reilly**, junior, mass communications.

"What kind of job would you be able to get with it?" — **Doug Taylor**, 18, freshman, real estate and urban land development.

"I don't think it's necessary. [VCU] should incorporate African history into regular classes so everyone could get a little knowledge of it." — **Roger Skeen**, 22, sophomore, business and finance.

"African Americans need to know about their heritage. Young brothers need to be trained about thoughts and issues. I haven't taken and African American studies, but I do want to. There is so much diversity. We need to learn more than the European ways." — **Eric Lee Tyler**, 20, sophomore, business, Richmond.

"I think it's great. It'll bring professors and other students African American studies has a lot more to offer at VCU." — **Beth Fike**, 23, junior, business, Richmond.



"It'd be fine. They should look into establishing majors in other areas. I don't see anything wrong with it. But I don't think they should stop there." — **Nathan Archer**, 18, sophomore, painting and printmaking.

"I haven't really thought about it. I know about the classes and have taken African Caribbean dance. It depends on what the major is comprised of. But I wouldn't object to it." — **Heather Smith**, 21, senior, fashion merchandising.

"It's cool." — **Jackie Borja**, 22, sophomore, fashion design.

"Cool. It's a good way to develop expertise in a specific area. There are very few schools that offer it." — **Sharon Ezzeldin**, 21, senior, fashion merchandising.

