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FUMA
a hot spot
for college
football
recruiters

Sports /Section D

Feeding frenzy

20,000 horseshoe
crab eggs over
easy, please

Virginia /C1

What's the buzz?

Beekeeper
following
family
tradition

Flair /G1

SUNDAY

Thunderstorms today. High 75;
low 60. Tomorrow, storms possi-
ble. High 72; low 55. /B8

\$175

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CITY EDITION

Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23293

VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER
A MEDIA GENERAL NEWSPAPER

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2000

MEMORIAL DAY 2000

Tomorrow, as many as 6,000 people, including many World War II veterans, will gather on a hilltop in Bedford to dedicate a national memorial to D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy.

The small town of Bedford, midway between Roanoke and Lynchburg, is an unlikely place for a "national" anything.

But Bedford and D-Day are uniquely connected by a tragedy. Twenty-three Bedford men were killed in the invasion, most of them within 15 desperate minutes of arriving at Omaha Beach.

The loss was especially stunning in close-knit Bedford, where everyone knew everyone.

SACRIFICE

On July 17, 1944, 41 days after D-Day, the invasion came home to Bedford. It was the day the Western Union telegraph machine wouldn't stop. . . .

BY BILL GEROUX

TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

BEDFORD

On the night of June 5, 1944, Viola Parker took the radio to bed again. She had been sleeping with it for weeks. It was a heavy box of polished wood, bulky and strange to curl up with. But it was convenient. She no longer could sleep for more than a few hours without waking up and switching it on.

Viola kept the radio tuned to a station in Washington, D.C., 200 miles from her parents' farm in Bedford. The station had all the national news and surely would announce when the Allied invasion of Europe began.

Viola felt certain that her husband, Earl, would be involved in the invasion. He had spent two years training in England for just such an attack. Now everyone said the assault was imminent, and Viola wanted to know the moment it started.

She did not expect to hear anything specific about Earl on the radio, of course. Even Earl's own letters weren't specific. He wrote faithfully, about once a week, but military censorship rules kept him from writing about what he was doing, where he was.

The soldiers in Earl's unit liked to quote a poem about the restrictions:

Can't write a thing
The censor to blame
Just say I'm well
And sign my name

Can't say where we're going
Don't know where we'll land
Couldn't inform you
If met by a band.

So Earl wrote about movies he had seen around camp, "somewhere in England." He wrote that he had visited Scotland while on leave and seen a castle. He closed every letter by saying how much he missed Viola and their infant daughter, Danny.

Earl never had seen Danny. His Virginia National Guard unit had been rushed overseas while Viola was five months pregnant. Earl and Viola had picked the name Danny because they felt certain the baby would be a boy. When a girl emerged instead, Viola stuck with the name rather than change it without consulting Earl.



Wives and friends visited six Bedford soldiers at Camp Blanding, Fla., in 1942. Standing, from left, are: Edith Bornstein and J.D. Clifton; Sherman Watson and his wife, Vivian; George Crouch and his wife, Beunis; John L. Wilkes and his wife, Bettie; and Earl Parker and his wife, Viola. In front are Elaine Coffey and Bedford T. Hoback. Most of the men wouldn't survive D-Day.

Viola had saved all of Earl's letters and re-read them often. She found them reassuring but also unsettling in a way she did not discuss with anyone. The letters' vagueness had begun to make Earl seem vague. He seemed to be fading away.

Viola was constrained in what she could write, too. The government's Office of War Information cautioned families on the home front not to distract the men overseas with words of doubt and deprivation. Home-front news was supposed to stress the positive if at all possible: how healthy everyone was, how busy, how diligently they were doing their part in the war effort.

Viola accepted the censorship as a necessity. Bedford, like many American com-

PLEASE SEE BEDFORD, PAGE A5 ▶



Viola Nance, the former Viola Parker, slept with a radio to hear word of the D-Day invasion that included her husband, Earl Parker. She died in 1996.

BILL GEROUX

'Paygo funds' proper?

Discretionary use leads to questions

BY CARRIE JOHNSON

TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Members of Richmond City Council annually divide \$1 million of taxpayer money that they can spend without a vote or comment from the public.

Each City Council member is allotted about \$100,000 in discretionary funds a year. That money — originally intended for improvement projects such as sidewalk repair and tree planting — is now used for everything from coffee cups for constituents to catering community meetings.

The fund is legal, and council members say it's necessary to meet the ever-increasing demands of their districts. But some government watchers are asking: Is it proper?

"You could fund a real old-fashioned political machine with this kind of money," said Steve Calos, executive director of Common Cause of Virginia. "When I heard about it, two words came to mind: slush fund."

For years, the City Council set aside money in the capital budget for improvements in each member's district. But as time passed, they decided they needed another resource for non-capital items, according to the city auditor's office.

In 1995, the council created what they call "paygo funds," discretionary money designed to give members more flexibility in meeting citizens' demands.

That year, then City Manager Robert C. Bobb sent a letter establishing the guidelines, which the council has refined slightly over the years.

A city employee controls the funds, and council members must submit a request in writing to draw from it. The city clerk's office keeps a record of the expenditures and makes it available to the public.

Under the guidelines, acceptable uses for the paygo funds include sidewalks, curb and gutter repairs,

PLEASE SEE FUNDS, PAGE A12 ▶

Summer interns call their own shots

Competition for top students is fierce

BY RUTH S. INTRESS

TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

The biggest hurdle of Jeff Dunn's summer job hunt is over: He finally decided which offer to take.

Four companies pursued him: a California Internet group, two New York investment banks and a Silicon Valley venture capital firm. J.P. Morgan, the venerable financial behemoth, even flew him to New York for a day of schmoozing with executives and dining on Wall Street before chauffeuring him back to the

airport in a company limousine.

All that for a 12-week internship. Not bad for a guy just old enough to legally drink and still a year away from his college graduation.

Not a novel internship at all. But not a ship program at atypical, either. William and Mary. Page A10.

With unemployment rates at a 30-year low and employers hungry for computer-savvy young workers, companies across Virginia and the United States are snatching up college students for summer intern-

ships in hopes of wooing them ultimately to come back full time.

"They try to get you to choose them over everybody else," said Dunn, a University of Virginia finance and management information systems major. "It's like the companies are selling themselves more than the kids are."

The competition to hire students like Dunn is fierce. And no wonder. At 21, he has



Dunn

top grades, advanced computer programming skills and a track record managing \$600,000 in actual money at U.Va.'s McIntire School of Commerce.

Such credentials put him in line for elite internships at top pay, about \$900 a week. Even students in non-technical fields and those working outside major metropolitan areas are commanding at least double the minimum wage paid interns in decades past.

So intent is Capital One on luring top-notch students that it gives summer interns the same \$1,000 signing

PLEASE SEE INTERNS, PAGE A10 ▶



BOB BROWNTIMES-DISPATCH

Kelly Hiegel, 19, a VCU engineering/computer student, is working on Virginia Power's mainframe computer at the North Anna nuclear power plant.