

# COMMONWEALTH TIMES

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

Vol. 1—No. 34

Thursday, December 11, 1969

Tel. 358-7061, Ext. 394



AT LEFT: Gilbert Shaw and Michael Barlow rehearse for 'Harry, Noon and Night' - VCU's first experimental theater with Barksdale. The play is scheduled to open next week. (See Page 8.)

Times Photo by Paul Belote

## Also in this issue:

Duo-pianists to air weekend recital.

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Ray Hodges reflects on 30 'productive' years.

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The Times salutes VCU's 'Beautiful People'. Editorial Essay.

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Dr. Robert Armour of the English Dept. reviews 'Becket'.

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## Technology expansion proposed to Brandt

By Larry Clark

Times Staff Writer

During a meeting December 1 with President Warren W. Brandt, a group of students and faculty members from the School of Engineering and Technology requested the governing body of the university to reconsider its decision to transport the present technical program to a community college level.

The group requested rather that it be expanded into a four-year technology program.

According to Delmar Dayton, DDT Richmond, one of the student representatives to attend the meeting, there is no evidence to

indicate that Dr. Brandt has any plans of altering his previous stand.

"It seemed to me that he has already made up his mind on this issue," said Dayton. "That is, moving us..." into a community college instead of "...allowing the four-year program.

Dayton did state, however, that the Order of Technicians, the group that makes the decisions for the School of Engineering and Technology, is still hopeful of convincing Dr. Brandt that the four-year program is necessary.

"Facts in our favor will be presented to Dr. Brandt and Dr. Brooke in a meeting which hasn't been scheduled yet," he said.

He cited several reasons for the necessity of such a program. A qualified engineering technologist, he pointed out, can teach in industrial arts schools and can also serve as a communications bridge between technicians and engineers.

Dayton further explained that it is now impossible for a student to obtain more than, engineering-technology anywhere in the state of Virginia. He argued that it is unreasonable to compel a student to pay the extra tuition fees for attending an out-of-state university or college. If a four-year program in this field were introduced at VCU, it would be very beneficial to students who are interested in pursuing engineering-technology as a career.

"It would be ideal for VCU in its role as an urban university," he added. "This program is definitely needed in our community...because of the shortage of industrial teachers in this area...and because of the expanding industry."

He cited figures released from the Department of Labor which attested to the

(Continued on Page 2)

## Direction 'uncertain' for VCU

VCU will definitely expand, but the direction is uncertain.

According to Dr. Roger Smith, vice president of Planning Operations, contrary to the belief of most students that VCU could expand any direction, it is not certain that the university will go through Oregon Hill.

VCU is employing two firms, who after careful study, will submit a master plan for expansion. This master plan will be weighed heavily and greatly considered by university officials.

### 'Integrate, not separate'

Dr. Francis J. Brook, vice president of Academic Affairs, Dr. Smith and two representatives from the firms went to a meeting of the Parent Teachers Association of the Oregon Hill school. At this meeting they tried to explain the situation and answer questions for the residents. They were told that the planners would take into consideration the needs of the community as well as those of the university as best they could.

In his talk, Dr. Smith said, "We are trying to integrate, not separate, ourselves from the city." He concluded in saying that at the present time no answers can be given as to the probable route of expansion.

## School outgrows 'personalized service'

By Warren Morgan

Times Managing Editor

At one time, she could recognize every administrator's or faculty member's voice over the phone, or anyone who walked by the operator's cage in the Administration Building. That was only four years ago. Times have changed rapidly, she said.

Mrs. Helen Ross, an operator for 12 years, added that there was a time when those at the switch board would take messages for faculty members away from their offices and place them in letter boxes located in the lobby. "The school is too big for that now."

This type of personalized service, ended six years ago with the increasing school growth. On the thirteenth of December at 12:01 a.m., another personalized service will have gone by the board.

On that date, the Centrex system, or Central Telephoning System, of dialing will go into effect at VCU. The Academic Center is the last of the larger state bodies to adopt the system; MCV already has it.

The Centrex system will do away with the switch board on campus. (However, the present staff of operators will remain to man an information desk during day hours.) Instead, all calls will go through the Centrex switch board down town. Frequently-called numbers will be more easily reached from off-campus, and service will be combined with the Medical Center.

Under the new system, the outside caller will dial his party directly with a seven digit number, 770-, followed by the extension number. The new system will aid those who know their party's number, but will temporarily inconvenience a caller without the number or a state directory. "I'd hate to be around here that Monday morning when everyone finds the telephone numbers have been changed. Talk about a headache!" one state employee observed.

To get outside, the number "9" is dialed. When a dial tone is heard, a seven digit number can be dialed.

The changeover will be made on a Saturday morning, 12:01 a.m. when the lines are quiet.

Part of the problem will be alleviated in two ways. Any caller without knowledge of his party's number will be able to call the state information operator at 770-0000. He will in turn call the information desk on campus and relay the number to the caller.

Also, student directories have the Centrex numbers of administration and faculty members as well as those of dormitories and offices on campus. Individual numbers, such as dormitory residents, will have to be acquired from these sources.

The Centrex system is being adopted to expand the present system to a greater extent and at less cost than could have been achieved by the present method. Before deciding on Centrex, consideration was given to expanding the present switchboard and the number of operators. In time, this would have proven to be too costly.

Switchboard tie-ups should be no problem say state officials connected with the system. A larger number of calls can be made into the campus, thus ending the frustration of trying for several hours to reach the switch board in order to reach an on-campus party.

Restrictions will be placed on long-distance calls from dormitories. Such calls will have to be made through the switchboard. Any student trying to dial a long-distance call directly will hear a buzzing sound. Such calls can be made by switching the cost to another number or on a credit card, or by a collect call.

Some problems occurred at the Medical Center with students trying to make free long-distance calls, a Centrex spokesman said. Each call was traced to the party receiving the call, and in most cases the originator of the call was found.



## Pianists to perform in duo concert

Duo-pianists Mary Jane Fitzpatrick and Sonia Vlahcevic, faculty members of the VCU Department of Music, will present a recital at the Monumental Church on Saturday, December 13 at 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Vlahcevic teaches theory, literature and structure, and applied piano. She received both her B.M. and M.M. degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Mass.

Miss Fitzpatrick is an instructor of applied piano and of music appreciation. She holds a B.A. degree from Mary Washington, and an M.A. with a master in piano literature and performance from the University of Iowa.

Three years ago, the two discovered they shared a mutual interest in ensemble performance. Miss Fitzpatrick said, "We began reading through four-hand and two-piano literature. At this point, we discovered that we held similar musical view. Our interpretation of various styles, even our approach to the study of a score, were similar. We

also found that we both utilized duet or four-hand literature in teaching."

While the performers are enthusiastic about the contemporary era, they have also managed to come up with three earlier, and equally unusual, compositions. Mozart's Larghetto and Allegro in E-Flat, Rondeau Pour Deux Pianos in C, op. 73 by Chopin, and Variations in G, op. 64 by Nicolai von Wilm.

Commenting about the Chopin number which also exists in a piano solo Mrs. Vlahcevic said "We feel it is more successful as a two-piano work."

Three works on the program are by living composers. Each is representative of the composer's national style, and also are compositions previously unheard in the Richmond area.

The two did a television tape for ETV last November entitled "VCU Presents" and a concert for the Musician's Club in February. More recently they opened the Musician's Club Artist-Member Concert on November 21, honoring the late president, August Beck.

The public has been invited to the December 13 recital.



Miss Mary Jane Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Sonia Vlahcevic  
Four Hands Practice for December 13 Recital

Staff Photos by Larry Haale

## Paint poses problem

If you want to paint your room and you're tired of waiting for maintenance, go right ahead - and don't.

However, in certain instances, students can receive permission to paint a room - in the basement or lower floors of a VCU-owned building. Permission can be received from Milton L. Wallace, Director of the Physical Plant.

But chances are you can't because of the "safety" factor involved, in addition to the fact, according to Wallace, that a student job is generally inferior to those of his painters.

In the past, he said, when students were lent brushes, rollers, paint, etc., he had had to write them off the books because these things could never be reused by the workmen.

Wallace prefers instead to pay approximately \$50 per room to have each of them painted by his workmen. The present VCU painters number six, with a supervisor. Without outside contracting, according to Wallace's figures, it would require seven to ten years to paint every room on campus. By rotation, the painters repair the most dilapidated rooms and leave certain jobs to outside contract workers.

## Mouth INC. makes debut on campus

Mouth INC. a newspaper of happenings, personals, and events had its debut on Wednesday, December 3.

It owes its birth to VCU freshmen: Steve Denison, Jourl, Fairfax Station; who serves as both publisher and managing editor and John Kennedy, Artl, Pfafftown, N.C., who is both art editor and chief artist.

Denison said he began thinking about starting a periodical such as Mouth INC. after becoming acquainted with a Washington paper "Happenings" and thought it would be a good thing for VCU.

## Group pictures to be taken by Cobblestone

Campus organizations wishing to have their pictures in the 1970 Cobblestone should contact the Cobblestone office, Ext. 471 between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

## Technology

(continued from page 1)

rapid expansion of industry in recent years. He went on to explain that in 1959 there were approximately 550 technical engineers employed in various firms across the country, but it is anticipated that by 1970, there will be a need for one million persons with this sort of training.

This, he argued, illustrated graphically the need for additional persons to teach, as well as to work in, this field.

"If there's a need for it," Dayton said, "they could at least look into it."

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens. I hope we can convince Dr. Brandt to change his mind."

## Commonwealth Times

901 West Franklin st.; Richmond, Va. 23220

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# Hodges sees curtain rise on his last play

By Ellen Hawthorne  
Times Features Editor

Thirty years after coming to the school to head the drama department and over 100 plays later, Raymond Hodges watched last night as the curtain was raised on his final production here.

With "Becket" Hodges makes his dramatic exit from his three-decade role as a director at VCU and in June he retires from the faculty.

During his years here he has seen the department grow from a single drama major to the 212 enrolled this semester.

"I was the department when I came here," the retiring chairman laughed. Now there is a full-time staff of 11 and three part-time faculty members.

The slight, white-haired gentleman with a ready smile reminisced about his early years at Richmond Professional Institute.

## Shortage of males

One of the first major problems was the shortage of males. Before the war, "there were never more than 25 men," Hodges said.

"In theater a shortage of men always presents a problem," he commented.

His first production was a group of one-act plays; two had all-female casts and the third had one male in it.

But his students, though few in number, were always enthusiastic. When they decided to do a musical, they wrote their own music for the show. "And it was very grand music," Hodges added.

Hodges came to RPI in 1940 after doing graduate work at Columbia University. He was selected by Dr. Henry Hibbs, then president of RPI.

"Dr. Hibbs got his doctorate at Columbia and when he wanted someone he went back to Columbia," Hodges said.

When he and his wife and son came to Richmond they took up temporary residence in the Administration Building, in a small room now used as a modern language laboratory.

## Dorm was "home"

His first "home" here was in a girls dormitory at 813 West Franklin, which was demolished to make room for the gymnasium.

"Salaries were dreadfully low then," Hodges smiled "and the school needed another housemother..."

The newly-opened dormitory "was named after my son- the girls called it Barry Hall," Hodges said.

His next residence was another dormitory, 819 West Franklin, also torn down when the gymnasium was built.

Hodges, who can remember when Shafer Street Playhouse was the gymnasium and the library a stable to the Administration Building, has watched his department evolve and become a major component of the school.

"At first the students were largely from Virginia. Now they come to us from as far north as New Hampshire, as far south as Florida and as far west as California," he commented.

"The variety helps," he continued.

"It helps from the standpoint of

recognition and adds to the spirit of competition."

He tries to keep up with his students once they are out of school. He can point with pride to the achievements of many.

Among the successes is a former

student, Barry Folds, who is now co-producing an off-Broadway musical. A very recent success story comes from Ron St. Germain, a senior here who soon will join the cast of the rock musical "Hair" on Broadway.

Hodges foresees the department continuing to grow even though the school is now an urban university.

"We're back in the school of The Arts now. So long as it hangs on to its professional status, we're all right.

"The one thing that has made us unique in the South is that we're a professional school," he added.

## Likes rock musicals

Discussing the rock musicals of today, Hodges said he thought "some are very exciting." He said he was looking forward to seeing "Your Own Thing," a rock musical coming to the Mosque early next year.

And in talking about the clothesless trend in theater, he made the comment, "After nudity, what can you do?"

"The only thing for certain about theater is that it is changing," he added, "as it always has. I think square theater will probably come out of it all."

He cited the Broadway musical "1776" as an example of what might emerge.

Of his years teaching and heading the Department of Dramatic Art and Speech, Hodges said that "no two days have ever been the same."

Asked which play he found most challenging and rewarding to direct, his face lighted up. "The one you're doing

at the present moment...is always the most exciting."

After his retirement in June, Hodges will remain in Richmond eight months of the year and will reside in Essex, New York, at Lake Champlain for the remaining four months, running an antique shop there.

"I want some time left in my life," Hodges said, to do things he hasn't been able to do with his busy schedule. His retirement years will provide him with time for some writing, possibly teaching a graduate course at a nearby school and maybe even some directing for a local dinner theater. Add the antique shop to all that and it sounds like his golden age will be a very active one.

No replacement for the retiring chairman has been named. A committee has been set up to find someone qualified to fill the position. But it just may be a long, long search. He's a hard act to follow.



Raymond Hodges, Chairman of Dramatic Art and Speech

He Will Retire From Faculty This June

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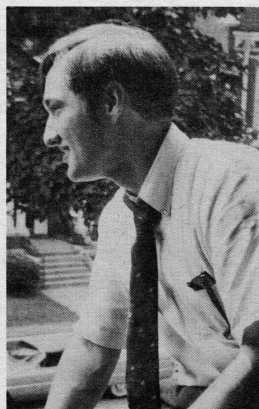


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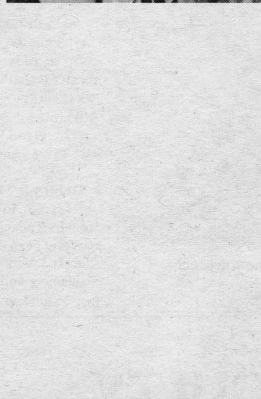
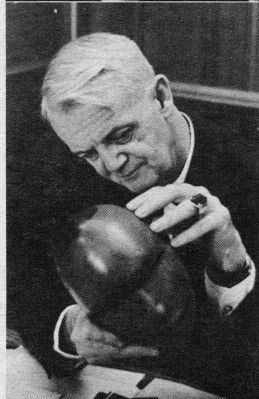
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*"Who's Afraid...?"*

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**SGA President**

*The Diplomat*

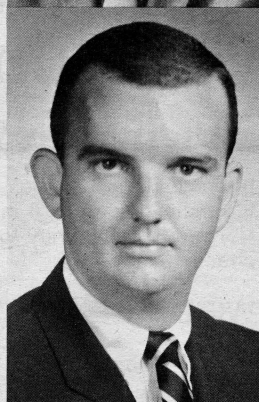


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*No Facades*

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*"Hello, How Are You?"*



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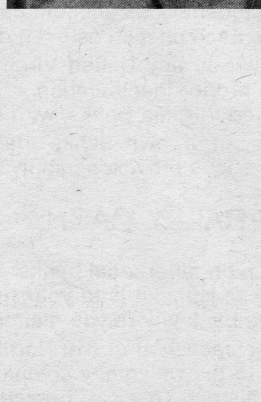
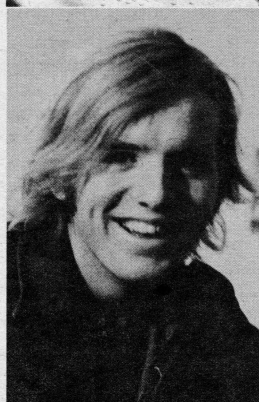
*Money Can't Buy....*

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Drama Major

*Dimples and Curls*

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English Department

*He Etches to Learn*

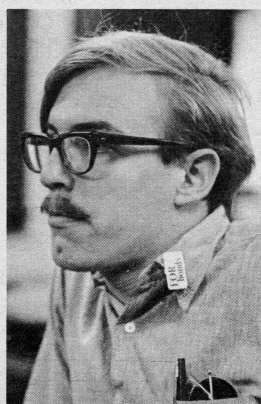
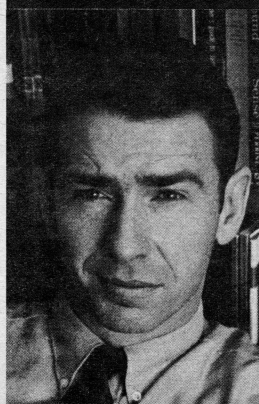


**Rick McCann**  
Spectrum Editor

*Poet Laureate?*

**John V. Ankeney**  
Engineering Technology Head

*"Where Have All the Technicians Gone?"*



**James Pendleton**  
English Department

*"From Script to Stage"*

**Ralph Cramer**

*The Do-It-Yourself-Kit*

**Mrs. (Dr.) E.A. Duke**  
English Department

*The Other Half*



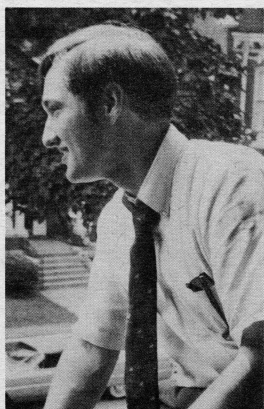
# Times editorial essay



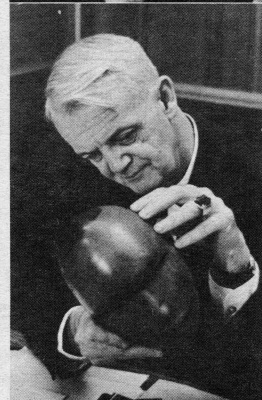
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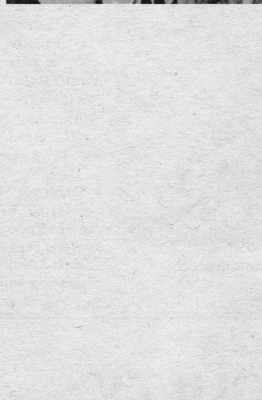
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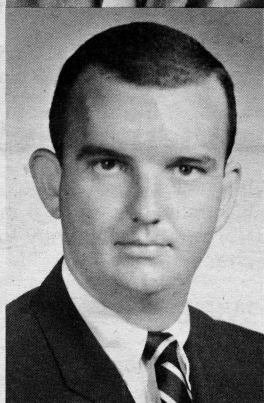
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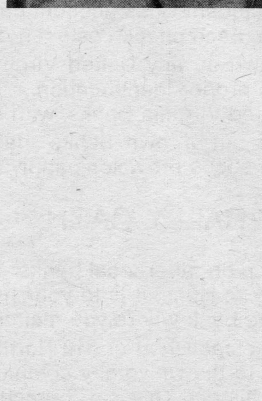
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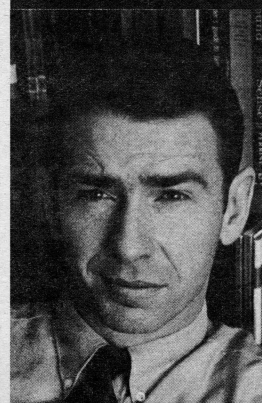
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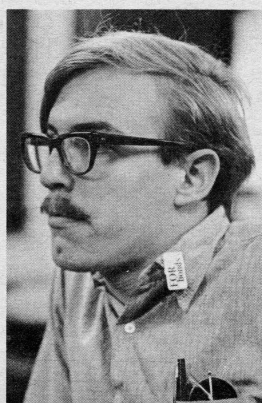
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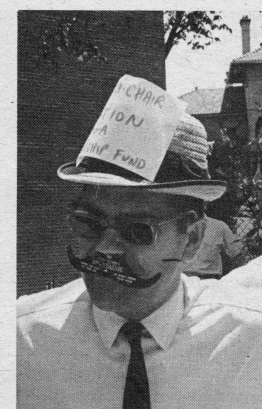
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*The Do-It-Yourself-Kit*



**Mrs. (Dr.) E.A. Duke**  
English Department  
*The Other Half*



**Across**  
(LEFT TO RIGHT)  
**Dr. Raymond Rhinehart**  
English Department  
*"Grecian Urn"*  
**Miss Thelma Biddle**  
History Department  
*All-American Girl*  
**Ron St. Germain**  
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*She Purrs Provocatively*



## The Beautiful People

Some of the VIP's are now the "BP"—the Beautiful People.

Examples of persons of national acclaim in this seemingly *boundless* yet exclusive clique could be the Kennedy clan, Jackie and Aristotle, the Ford family, politicians such as Mayor Lindsay, famous athletes such as Joe Namath, and the countless television and film celebrities. Just to name a few of the latter: Liz and Burton, Arlo Guthrie, Katherine Hepburn, Dustin Hoffman, Flip Wilson, Omar Sharif, Peter Lawford, Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross and Michael Caine. Even *artists* such as Pablo Picasso are associated with this sundry group of the elite.

And authors, too. Truman Capote is in with the beautiful ones. Then there is royalty in the Beautiful People. Princess Grace of Monaco graced herself from Hollywood to royalty on the Riviera, and Princess Radziwill (Jackie's semi-beautiful sister) belongs to the international jet set as well.

In some cases of the Beautiful People, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, for most are considered attractive because of power, wealth or glamor. After all, not all the so-called Beautiful People are physically pleasing. It has also been said that beauty is power. Yet if one examines some of the members of the acclaimed BP, it is interesting to note that physical beauty truly is not necessary.

Take Tiny Tim, for instance. He's so ugly that he is cute. And he is usually classified as one of the Beautiful People. Physical beauty is absolutely useless to him (where would he be with it?), yet he is supposedly beautiful in his righteous, peaceful manner.

Indeed the Beautiful People live in a jet set whirl of their own. But it has been often observed that the average citizen wants to identify with these persons to experience glamor vicariously.

Perhaps the Beautiful People are attractive to some of us just because they possess that certain charming characteristic—charisma. At any rate, the peons continue to idolize them, watch them attentively on television, and read about their extravagant lives in the cheapie movie magazines and some of the "slicks" such as *Look* and *Cosmopolitan*.

Truman Capote, a frequent acquaintance of Princess Radziwill, has often been linked with the Beautiful People when interviewed on the infinite television talk shows. Truman is an excellent example of the biting Beautiful People. In a clever publicity stunt on the

Tonight Show which stars Johnny Carson (another BP), Truman facetiously labeled authoress Jacquelin Susann a transvestite and said she should audition for the role of Myra Breckinridge in the film from Gore Vidal's bizarre novel. The authoress of pill-popping and love machinery, while generally ostracized by the BP, did come back with a clever retort of the calibre of a Beautiful Person. Carson, in attempting to give her equal time, invited Jacquelin Susann on his show and asked, "Well, what do you think of Truman?" to which she replied something to the effect: "I think he was one of the greatest presidents."

The VCU Academic Center, a small world of its own, has Beautiful People, too. And like the nationally and internationally acclaimed BP, they're not all necessarily associated with each other—what with students, faculty and administrators in the same academic community.

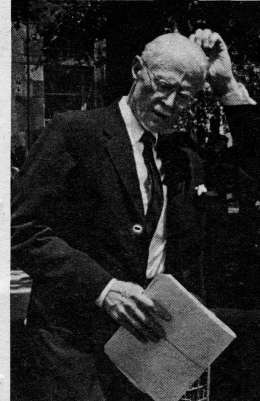
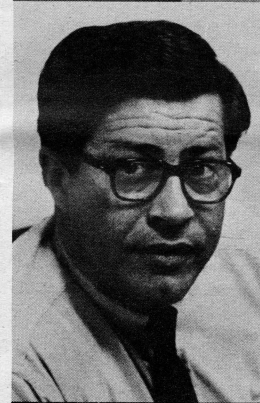
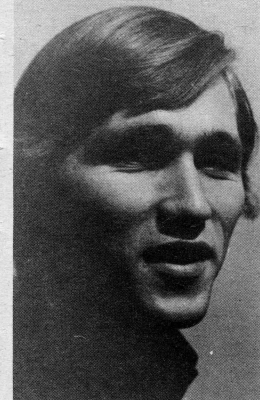
But while some of our Beautiful People may be suave, talented and even glamorous in demeanor, our local BP naturally take on a different connotation from the jet set. Here they are the participants, the innovators revered in their respective schools and departments or organizations. They are the ones who remember names and in some cases contribute charisma to the campus. In essence, they are the campus personalities.

We don't attempt to include all of the extraordinary persons on this campus, but we do have at least a cross section of many who have not only given something of themselves to the university, but who are also identifiable individuals.

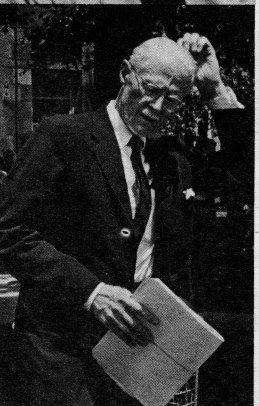
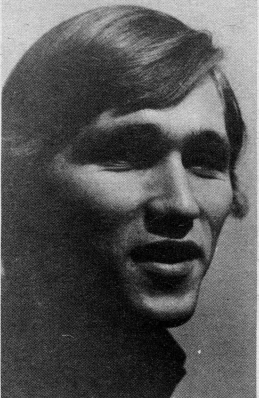
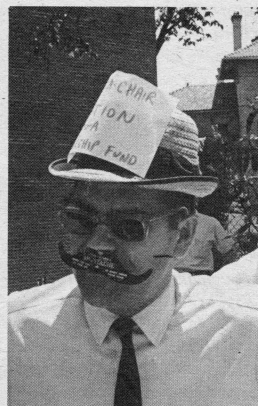
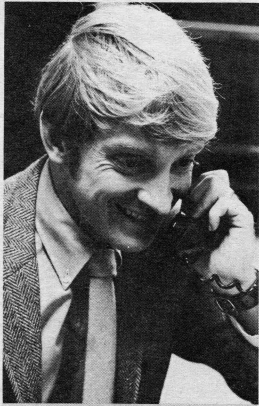
You can easily detect a VCU BP if he is usually in the same mood, whether it is one invigorating with enthusiasm, happy-go-lucky, demanding, or just plain bubbling over with nervous energy.

Other characteristics of the local Beautiful People are their *involvement* and alertness to what's going on. These out-going persons have a certain high-spirit zest for not only the school, but for life. They give of their time unselfishly and in most cases display a good measure of tact.

While it is impossible to generalize about these diverse members of our community, it is safe to say that they contribute much to the university atmosphere.







Across

(LEFT TO RIGHT)

Dr. Raymond Rhinehart  
English Department  
"Grecian Urn"

Miss Thelma Biddle  
History Department  
All-American Girl

Ron St. Germain  
Drama Major  
Headed for "Hair"

Dr. Charles Renneisen  
Dean of Students  
Dean of Dilemmas

Bill Oliver  
SGA Executive Assistant  
Ambitious Caesar

Bill Patterson  
Sophisticated Soul Brother

Dr. Thomas O. Hall, Jr.  
Philosophy Department  
Religion is Relevant

Mrs. Sarah White  
Sociology Department

Down

Dr. Herbert Burgart  
Dean of School of Art  
Arty Administrator

Coach Donald Bowles  
Crew Calculator

Mrs. Hilda Noel Shroetter  
Evening College  
She Purrs Provocatively

# The Beautiful People

Some of the VIP's are now the "BP"—the Beautiful People.

Examples of persons of national acclaim in this seemingly *boundless* yet exclusive clique could be the Kennedy clan, Jackie and Aristotle, the Ford family, politicians such as Mayor Lindsay, famous athletes such as Joe Namath, and the countless television and film celebrities. Just to name a few of the latter: Liz and Burton, Arlo Guthrie, Katherine Hepburn, Dustin Hoffman, Flip Wilson, Omar Sharif, Peter Lawford, Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross and Michael Caine. Even *artists* such as Pablo Picasso are associated with this sundry group of the elite.

And authors, too. Truman Capote is in with the beautiful ones. Then there is royalty in the Beautiful People. Princess Grace of Monaco graced herself from Hollywood to royalty on the *Riviera*, and Princess Radziwill (Jackie's semi-beautiful sister) belongs to the international jet set as well.

In some cases of the Beautiful People, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, for most are considered attractive because of power, wealth or glamor. After all, not all the so-called Beautiful People are physically pleasing. It has also been said that beauty is power. Yet if one examines some of the members of the acclaimed BP, it is interesting to note that physical beauty truly is not necessary.

Take Tiny Tim, for instance. He's so ugly that he is cute. And he is usually classified as one of the Beautiful People. Physical beauty is absolutely useless to him (where would he be with it?), yet he is supposedly beautiful in his righteous, peaceful manner.

Indeed the Beautiful People live in a jet set whirl of their own. But it has been often observed that the average citizen wants to identify with these persons to experience glamor vicariously.

Perhaps the Beautiful People are attractive to some of us just because they possess that certain charming characteristic—charisma. At any rate, the peons continue to idolize them, watch them attentively on television, and read about their extravagant lives in the cheapie movie magazines and some of the "slicks" such as *Look* and *Cosmopolitan*.

Truman Capote, a frequent acquaintance of Princess Radziwill, has often been linked with the Beautiful People when interviewed on the infinite television talk shows. Truman is an excellent example of the biting Beautiful People. In a clever publicity stunt on the

Tonight Show which stars Johnny Carson (another BP), Truman facetiously labeled authoress Jacquelin Susann a transvestite and said she should audition for the role of Myra Breckinridge in the film from Gore Vidal's bizarre novel. The authoress of pill-popping and love machinery, while generally ostracized by the BP, did come back with a clever retort of the calibre of a Beautiful Person. Carson, in attempting to give her equal time, invited Jacquelin Susann on his show and asked, "Well, what do you think of Truman?" to which she replied something to the effect: "I think he was one of the greatest presidents."

The VCU Academic Center, a small world of its own, has Beautiful People, too. And like the nationally and internationally acclaimed BP, they're not all necessarily associated with each other—what with students, faculty and administrators in the same academic community.

But while some of our Beautiful People may be suave, talented and even glamorous in demeanor, our local BP naturally take on a different connotation from the jet set. Here they are the participants, the innovators revered in their respective schools and departments or organizations. They are the ones who remember names and in some cases contribute charisma to the campus. In essence, they are the campus personalities.

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# Hodges leaves lasting impression

The success of Ray Hodges' last production was made possible by several wise choices. First, he chose a good play; I had forgotten how good a play 'Becket' is. The single-minded strength of Becket, the love Henry had for his friend, the conflict between Church and State, the picture of Medieval life — all these themes make for forceful drama.

The story of the historical Becket is too well known to need retelling here, and Jean Anouilh attempted to follow history. He placed his emphasis on Becket's decision to obey the Honor of God before the Honor of England: thus the conflict between the two who represent God and the Crown. An interesting intellectual question is raised, however, by a mistake in Anouilh's source which made Becket a Saxon. One of the themes of the play is the antagonism between the Saxons and the Normans, a theme accentuated by Becket's Saxon background. History now knows Becket was as Norman as Henry, but the play is more interesting because Anouilh did not know it. History may be a good drama, but drama need not be good history.

Second, Mr. Hodges chose well his lead actors. David Califf as Becket is warm, believable, noble, and sanctified; but frankly, it is the role of Henry II that interests me most. Edward Sala began in the first scene rather weakly, in which he seemed to miss the paradoxical political point he was making. But he improved with every scene, showing control of himself and his role. His grasp of the irony of his situation gave the play a feeling that was at once both human and philosophical. He played the humor well, but was only fair at showing anger.

The other actors presented mixed performances. The young men who tried to play the various parts of old men were, for the most part, unsuccessful; but this transition is always difficult to make. Special credit, on the other hand, must be given to Marc Ramsey for his acting as the King of France, to Lee Chew for his part as The Pope, and to Charles Maloney as a Cardinal. And a final word of praise to Lynn West, who played Gwendolen, of lilting voice and her pretty face.

There were some rough spots. The pace of the play was far too slow, and I found the long black periods between scenes particularly tedious. There were technical problems that should be corrected. The lighting was uninspired, and at times the sound effects drowned out the lines that were being spoken. I was most irritated when the actors swallowed lines or delivered them to the flats. Frequently, I was unable to hear what they were saying.

I suppose this is as good a place as any to complain about the theater. Surely VCU should be able to find better quarters for a department with so much talent. No actor should have to compete with fire engines and motorcycles outside and bad acoustics on the inside. And a coat of paint would help.

But I digress. Of Ray Hodges may I say that he has left his impression on the University after thirty years of inspired contributions. I am sure he can remember putting on plays in worse theaters, and he should be proud he has brought the department from its small beginning to where it now is. All of his efforts, including 'Becket', have been to the honor of VCU.

—Robert A. Armour



Dr. Robert Armour, Assistant Professor of English, received his BA degree from Randolph-Macon College in 1962, his MA from Vanderbilt in Nashville in 1963, and his doctorate in 1968 from the University of Georgia.

A member of the English faculty, Dr. Armour reviewed the final dress rehearsal of 'Becket' — staged primarily for drama majors to observe and criticize before opening night.

## Star is 'classic example of...blending'



Jackie DeShannon: A 'Genuine Multi-faceted Talent' Who Writes And Performs 'What The World Needs Now' — Though Not Her Original Composition — Put Her At The Top

Every now and then, a genuine multi-faceted talent appears. Not a writer who sometimes sings, or an actress who sometimes writes. But, and honest to goodness multiplicity of talent.

Recording star Jackie DeShannon is a classic example of this blending.

She is a highly acclaimed singer, the writer of more than 600 songs which she and other giants of the music field have recorded and she is an actress currently much in demand.

She is—to put it simply—a singer-writer-actress. And she really isn't much concerned with the order in which these are put. In her own candid fashion, she says, "What I am is a singer and songwriter and actress in any order. It's like a parent with three children who loves them equally."

Jackie has packed an immense amount of experience into her 24 years. She was born on August 21, 1944. Six years after her first August 21, she had her own radio show. She has been singing or writing or acting ever since.

She comes by the musical facet of her talents as naturally as one can. Her mother was a blues singer who also has her own radio show. And, her father was a performer. His involvement was primarily with folk and country blues tunes. An aunt—to whom she was particularly close—studied classical music at the Chicago Conservatory of Music. With this varied background Jackie developed a love and appreciation of all types of music. This has had its effect on her success as a songwriter.

Her versatility is also reflected in the unusual range of artists with whom she has appeared in concert. She has been equally at home with the Beatles, Harry Belafonte, Roger Miller and James Brown.

Because of Jackie's early and continuing involvement with gospel music, the soul so evident in her performances is natural. Very early in her career, she toured with the Platters, and with a group known as the Cookies, two of whom later became members of the Raelettes.

In addition to recording for Imperial, Jackie has performed as a singer in clubs, in concert, on television. Her treatment of the Hal-David Burt Bacharach pop classic "What the World Needs Now" won her four Grammy nominations. Her latest single, "Put A Little Love in Your Heart" quickly climbed the charts to become a million seller, earning Jackie a gold record. Because of the kind of material she sings, fans have dubbed her "Lady Love."

She has co-starred in numerous TV productions including such shows as "My Three Sons," "Wild, Wild West" and "Name of the Game."

She has starred in an impressive list of television variety shows including specials with Jack Cassidy and Buddy Greco, the Joey Bishop Show, the Jackie Gleason Show, Flip Wilson Special, the Glen Campbell Show, the Andy Williams Show and has presented an Oscar-nominated song on the Academy Awards telecast.

During that same period, songs she has penned have been recorded by everyone from Brenda Lee to the Byrds.

To escape the pressures of this busy career, Jackie often wanders through museums to be closer to Bonnard, De Vinci or Rembrandt. She likes just to relax on the swings. Sometimes she prefers to view a foreign film.

One radio-television columnist, Donald Freeman, turned words that Jackie had used to describe the Beatles around to describe her. The words were "magic and reality, and also craftsmanship." These are truly descriptive of Jackie DeShannon.

## Book to make debut

A teacher evaluation booklet, the "Perspective," will make a spring debut in the first large-scale attempt of this kind at VCU, according to Stephen Guinn, Director of the SGA Research Bureau.

Over 200 professors were chosen at random and all of each professor's sections were administered the evaluation sheets. All professors could not be evaluated at one time because of physical and financial limitations in the Bureau.

VCU computers will be employed in the mechanical evaluation.

The "Perspective" has been under study for three years. Last year a small version was released and so far few professors have refused to cooperate.

In each evaluation, the instructor lets prospective students know his course requirements and provides a description of his classes.

A study by the Faculty Senate confirmed the concept of student evaluation to help serve student needs at

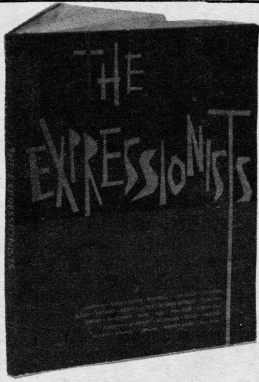
pre-registration. "This is a documentation of the student grapevine," according to Guinn.

The evaluation should also help benefit the professor by allowing for better instruction. One faculty complaint in the past for non-publishing faculty was a lack of means of evaluation, Guinn said.

The "Perspective" will be distributed free for pre-registration next spring for the fall semester.



## Take Advantage of Cheap Words!



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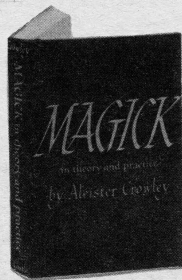
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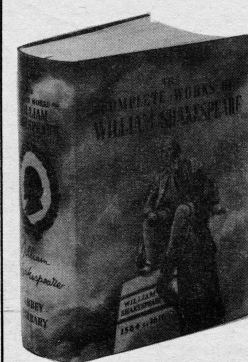


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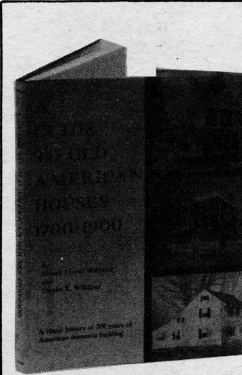
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# 'HARRY,

After walking across Broad Street and down Lombardy for half a block, you can enter a small partially circular building with a sign cryptically marking it "Massey, Wood, and West." Don't be fooled, though. This is really the Barksdale Experimental Theatre, which will present "Harry, Noon and Night" as its first production.

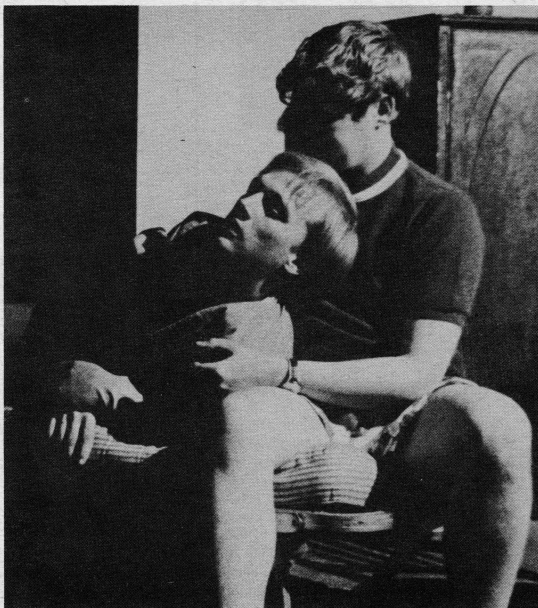
The Ronald Ribman play will be presented December 18, 19, and 20 by the VCU Drama department and the Barksdale Experimental Theatre group. It is being directed by Curt Sayblack, who says the theme is the artist in quest of seeing things as they really are.

Gregg Wetzel plays the artist, Harry, and Mike Barlow his "lover and roommate" Immanuel. Gilbert Shaw and Jim Park play the other two main characters, Archer and Soldier.

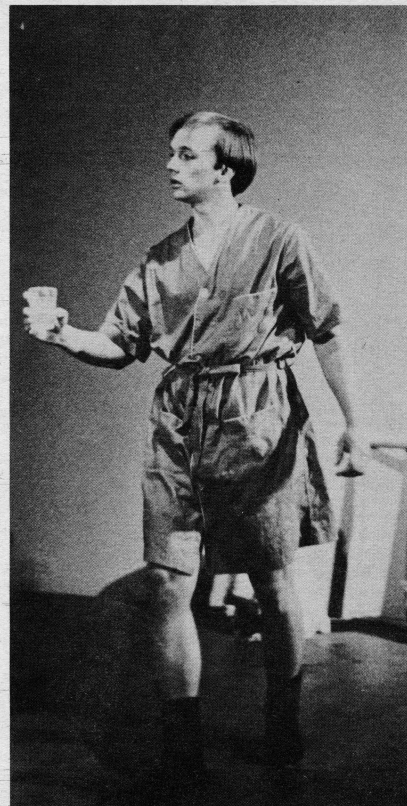
Since there is only one square corner in the room, the stage is a triangular wedge in the corner. The audience sits in 78 seats which are close enough to the stage for true audience involvement.

Audience members will enter the room through a door to the left of the stage. They can sit in any of the brown seats that follow the curve of the wall behind them. The long side of the triangular stage will face the audience, allowing a maximum area for performers' actions on a small stage. Sayblack and other stage crew members are excited about the unusual stage and feel that it will add to the quality of the play.

Harry and Immanuel provide the contrast in character for the play. Immanuel is satisfied with living in his delusions, while Harry is searching for truth in life. These two, living in



"Priests are infallible," says Archer to Immanuel  
Gilbert Shaw is speaking to Mike Barlow as he tries to comfort him



Immanuel before he tries to seduce Archer  
Barlow plays a homosexual in the Ribman play

## NOON

"What about your mother in Nashville?" Harry asks

Greg Wetzel tries to get Jim Park away from prostitute, portrayed by Gayle Ramsey



Germany in the mid-1930's are the center of the action of the play.

"I can't anticipate the audience reaction," said Sayblack. He explained that the unusual plot and theme would lead to varied comments about the play.

When the play was first performed off-Broadway, Joel Gray and Dustin Hoffman played the two lead roles. Ribman, the author, has won the Obie award for other works.

Sayblack said that the play is being done with Barksdale's help because of lack of school funds. "Harry," which Sayblack is doing as a requirement for a directing course he is taking, gets only enough money from the state to pay the playwright's royalties. Sayblack had to seek outside help, and Barksdale was the answer.

Barksdale has been wanting to set up an experimental theater based in Richmond for some time. The Lombardy street building that they are using now provides as excellent choice for the location since it is in the center of Richmond.

The young director is a senior drama student from Anandale, Virginia. He recently toured with a summer stock company out of New York. His interests are in the technical end of performing. He plans on going into stage managing or technical directing as a career.

Enthusiastic about Barksdale's interest in "Harry" and its theme, Sayblack could only elaborate, "I thank God that Barksdale has guts."

Photos by: Paul Belote

Text by: David Kirby

## & NIGHT'