

M A G A Z I N E

Virginia Commonwealth University Summer 1986



INSIDE BLACK MIDDLE AMERICA  
CHANGING TIMES FOR DENTISTRY  
CORRESPONDING WITH THE TERMINALLY ILL



## ARTS

**Lectures**  
The following lectures are cosponsored by the Anderson Gallery. All lectures are free and open to the public.  
**September 22:** Photographer John Pfahl, 3 pm, School of Business Auditorium, 1015 Floyd Avenue. Cosponsored by the Department of Photography and the Art Foundation Program.  
**October 13:** Sculptor Garnett Puett, 3 pm, School of Business Auditorium. Cosponsored by the Department of Sculpture and the Art Foundation Program.  
**October 15:** Painter Edouard Duval-Carrie, 4 pm, Student Commons Theater, 907 Floyd Avenue. Cosponsored by the Office of the Dean of the School of the Arts.  
**October 20:** Painter Luiz Cruz Azaceta, 4 pm, Student Commons Theater. Cosponsored by the Department of Painting and Printmaking and the Office of the Dean of the School of the Arts.

**Symposium**  
**October 17, 18:** Mountain Lake in Richmond—A Critical Symposium, 9 am-5 pm, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Grove Avenue at the Boulevard. Cosponsored by VCU's Department of Art History and the museum's Department of Twentieth-Century Art. For more information, call (804) 257-1064.

**Anderson Gallery**  
The Anderson Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-6 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 pm. The gallery is closed during July and August.  
**September 9-October 5:** Theresa Pollak Retrospective Exhibition. John Pfahl: photographs from *Altered Landscapes*, *Power Places*, and *Missile Glyphs*. Student proposal shows.  
**October 14-November 6:** Edouard Duval-Carrie paintings. Garnett Puett sculpture. Luiz Cruz Azaceta paintings. Student proposal shows.

For more information about these and other events, contact the Anderson Gallery, 907 1/2 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-1522.

## ATHLETICS

**Soccer**  
**August 30:** Alumni game, 2 pm.  
**September 6:** University of the District of Columbia, 2 pm.  
**September 10:** at Newport News Apprentice School, 7 pm.  
**September 13, 14:** at University of Maryland, Baltimore County Tournament, TBA.  
**September 18:** at Old Dominion University, 7:30 pm.  
**September 20:** at Coppin State College, 2 pm.  
**September 24:** James Madison University, 2 pm.  
**September 27:** Virginia Tech, 2 pm.  
**October 4:** West Virginia University, 2 pm.  
**October 11:** at Averett College, 2 pm.  
**October 15:** at Randolph-Macon College, 3 pm.  
**October 18:** St. Andrews Presbyterian, 1 pm.  
**October 19:** East Carolina University, 2 pm.  
**October 22:** at the University of Richmond, 3 pm.  
**October 25:** at Kutztown University, 2 pm.  
**October 28:** Mary Washington College, 3 pm.  
**November 6:** at the Sun Belt Tournament, TBA.  
All home games are held at the Cary Street Field of the Cary Street Recreational Complex.

For more information, contact the Athletics Department, 819 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-1RAM.

## EVENING STUDIES

**Fall 1986 Registration**  
All registration takes place in the Mosque Ballroom at the corner of Laurel and Main Streets.  
**August 19-21:** Regular registration, 3:30-7:30 pm.  
**August 23-30:** Late registration and add/drop, times vary.  
**Spring 1987 Advance Registration**  
**November 26:** Deadline for registration by mail.

For more information, an Evening Studies Bulletin, and a registration packet, contact the Office of Evening and Summer Studies, 901 West Franklin Street, Room 107, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-0200.

## MANAGEMENT CENTER

**August 7, 8:** Managing the School of Business, the Jefferson Sheraton Hotel, Richmond. Registration fee is \$115 per participant. This Fifteenth Annual Conference is sponsored by VCU's School of Business in cooperation with the Southern Business Administration Association. For a registration form and more information, contact the Management Center, 1015 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-1279.

## MEDIA INSTRUCTION

VCU has developed a schedule of courses by television that differ from on-campus courses only in the delivery method. Course content, requirements, assignments, evaluations, and testing are the same. Delivery of basic content via television offers accessibility and flexibility to adult learners who may have other obligations that prohibit travel to campus every week for traditional courses. Courses may be viewed at home over local educational television, public cable, or in the James Branch Cabell or Tompkins-McCaw Libraries. Most courses require six additional class meetings on-campus in the evening or on the weekend. Enrollment may be done by mail or at regular in-person registration (see Evening Studies calendar listing).

**Audio-Teleconference in Audiology/Speech Pathology**  
**September 10-December 17:** Auditory Processing, Cognition, and Languages (ASP 512), three graduate credits. For registration information, call the Department of Speech Pathology/Audiology, (804) 786-0431.

**Telecourses in Humanities and Sciences**  
**Beginning in September:** Write Course: Freshman Composition (ENG 101), three undergraduate credits; Shakespeare (ENG 241), three undergraduate credits; Topics in Political Science: Power and Politics (POS 391), three undergraduate credits; Loosening the Grip (An Understanding of Chemical Dependency) (REH 321), three undergraduate credits.

**Telecourses for Teachers**  
**Beginning in August:** Seminar: The Planet Earth (EDU 594), three graduate credits; Topics in Education: Middle Schools (EDU 651), three graduate credits; Interaction: Human Concerns in the Schools (EDU 651), three graduate credits.

**Audio-Teleconference Class for Nurses**  
**Beginning in September:** Dynamics of Professional Nursing (NUE 302), six credits. This audio-teleconference class includes a Petersburg receive-site. For registration information, call Betsy Bampton in the School of Nursing, (804) 786-0720.

For registration information and additional information about these and other audio-teleconference and telecourse offerings, contact the Office of Media Instruction, Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service, 301 West Franklin, Richmond, VA 23220; (804) 786-0344.

## MUSIC

**1986-87 Terrace Concert Series**  
All concerts are held in the VCU Performing Arts Center, 922 Park Avenue, 8 pm. The Terrace Concert Series is sponsored by the Department of Music, School of the Arts, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The series is supported by the CSX Corporation.  
**September 27:** Fine Arts Quartet with pianist James Tocco.  
**October 22:** Amherst Saxophone Quartet and Mendelssohn String Quartet.

**Other Concerts**  
**October 7:** Slovak Chamber Orchestra, 8 pm, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Grove Avenue at the Boulevard.  
**October 18:** Ovations, 8 pm, VCU Performing Arts Center.  
**October 19:** Ovations, 7 pm, VCU Performing Arts Center.

For tickets and more information, contact the Department of Music, 922 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-6046.

## NONCREDIT COURSES

**Downtown Presents VCU Lunch Hour Classes**  
All classes meet noon-12:50 pm at downtown Richmond locations, to be announced. The dates listed are start dates, with each class meeting once a week for six weeks. Course fees are \$45 per class, except where otherwise noted.  
**September 15:** Drawing for Beginners and Intermediates, Robert Hawkes.  
**September 16:** Central America: What's Happening? What's next?, Harold Greer.  
**September 16** (section 1) or **September 18** (section 2): Introduction to Creative Writing, Opal Moore and Sally Doud.  
**September 16:** Improving Personal Relationships through Self-Understanding, Nancy Millner. Course fee \$38.  
**September 17:** Understanding American Politics in the 1980s and Beyond, Herbert Hirsch.  
**September 17:** Fantasy and Science Fiction, James R. Kinzey.  
**September 17:** How to Succeed in Business Writing (Without Really Trying), Nick Sharp.  
**September 18:** Hollywood Fiction, Richard Fine.  
**September 18:** Fun Piano for the Failed Student, Lavada Parks.  
**September 18:** The Judeo-Christian Tradition, Jack Spiro.

For more information about these and other noncredit courses, contact the Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service, 901 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-6032.

## THEATRE

**October 1-4 and 7-11:** *Butley* by Simon Grey, 8 pm, Shafer Street Playhouse.  
**October 5:** *Butley*, 2:30 pm, Shafer Street Playhouse.

For tickets and more information, contact the box office at the Department of Theatre, 922 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-6026.

## ETCETERA

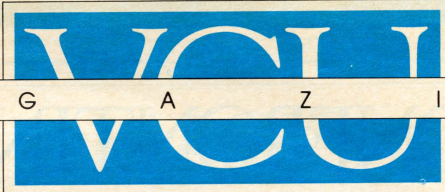
**Cooperative Graduate Engineering Program**  
**August 21 and September 2:** Open House and Advance Registration, 3:30-8 pm, James Branch Cabell Library, room 041 (lower level). The program is a cooperative offering of graduate engineering education with the University of Virginia, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and VCU, using audio-teleconferencing. Faculty will be present from all three universities to discuss the program, admission requirements, and courses offered. For more information, call (804) 257-0266.

**Hospitality House**  
**November 1:** The MCV Hospitals Hospitality House Dinner-Auction, Richmond Marriott Hotel. Funds from the auction will benefit the Hospitality House, a home away from home for out-of-town families of MCVH patients. Items to be auctioned include jewelry and china from the estate of Alice Roosevelt Longworth; an original wood carving from alumnus, Dr. Joseph Tregaskes; a trip to the Rockresorts in the Caribbean; trips to Greenbrier and Homestead; a gourmet dinner on a railroad car; a personal golf tournament at Brandermill Country Club; an evening of entertainment in your home by Steve Bassett; and other items, trips, and special parties. For more information and an invitation, call Dolly Hintz at (804) 740-9260 or Judy Allen at (804) 786-8606, or write to the Hospitality House, Box 256, Richmond, VA 23298-0001.

**Physics Symposium**  
**October 28-November 1:** International Symposium on the Physics and Chemistry of Small Clusters; registration deadline, September 15. For more information, contact Dr. P. Jena, Department of Physics, Box 2000, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-1313.

**Social Work Licensing Institute**  
**October 12-16:** The School of Social Work hosts its annual Licensing Institute in San Antonio, Texas. For more information, contact the School of Social Work, Box 2027, Richmond, VA 23284-0001; (804) 257-1030.

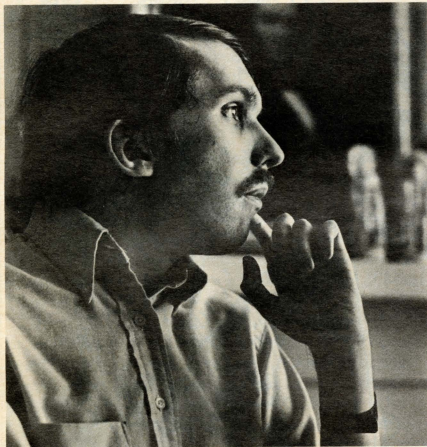




A publication for alumni and friends of Virginia Commonwealth University

Limited Edition Discourse 2

Program Chronicle 3



Dear Bill 4

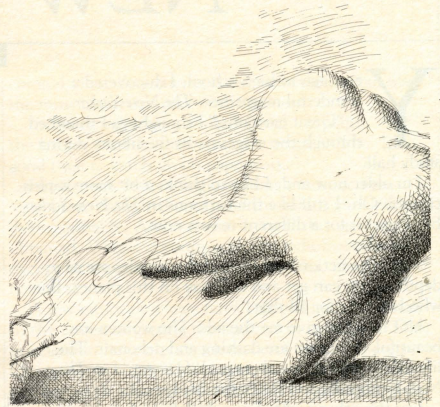
Rarely do we have the chance to ask a terminally ill patient about his or her mortality. Last spring, students enrolled in VCU's religious studies course, "Death, Myth, and Reality," had just that opportunity. They wrote letters to Bill Gaines, who is terminally ill with cancer, asking him what it is like to face death.

Dentistry in the Eighties 8

We started taking better care of our teeth over the last few decades, thanks in large measure to a glut of dentists, culminating in the 1970s, who showed us the way toward better dental hygiene through preventive measures and research. Have dentists improved dental health care out of the market? VCU's School of Dentistry grapples with the issue of educating future dentists in the age of fewer cavities.

The Black Middletown Journal 10

In 1980 and 1981, a sociology faculty member immersed himself in the field in the anthropological style of Margaret Meade. His goal was to examine black middle America, and his field was Muncie, Indiana, which earned renown as Middletown following the early twentieth-century studies of Robert and Helen Lynd. Here—excerpts from his personal journal on the experience of living in Black Middletown.



University in the News 15

Research Exchange 16

Newsmakers 17

Alumni Update 17

Elaine Jones, editor  
Anne Castimore, designer  
David Mathis, director of VCU Publications

Located in Virginia's capital city, Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University traces its founding date to 1838. Today, VCU is an urban, public university enrolling nearly 20,000 students on the Academic and Medical College of Virginia Campuses.

VCU Magazine is produced quarterly by VCU Publications. The opinions expressed in VCU Magazine are those of the author and not necessarily those of VCU.

Readers are encouraged to send their comments to the editor, VCU Magazine, VCU Publications, Box 2036, Richmond, VA 23284-0001.

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The VCU Magazine is wearing a new outfit. It's the tabloid you see before you. It's bigger, less expensive, and more flexible than the old magazine format. You'll find the same interesting articles and visuals, news and notes, and events as you're used to seeing in the old magazine, only more often. Now, with the tabloid, you'll receive the VCU Magazine on a quarterly basis, instead of the previous three issues per year, starting with this issue. The next issue will arrive at the end of October.

Let us know what you think of it. And, enjoy! —E. J.



# CONFRONTING NEW YORKER COUTH

By Paul Woody

Years ago in high school, I discovered a wonderful magazine—*The New Yorker*. “Great cartoons,” I thought as I thumbed through the magazine in the library during study hall.

I’m older now and, I like to think, a bit more sophisticated. Oh, I still like the cartoons in *The New Yorker*, but I read it for a different reason now.

The ads.

Sure, the fiction’s nice. And the articles are as in-depth as you can get and still stay on this planet. But who has time for all that?

Not me. Just give me the ads. The women are beautiful. The men are dashing and debonair. The lifestyle is well above average. Life is grand in *The New Yorker* ads, and that’s the life for me.

Just the other night, I was thumbing through an issue.

“Look at this,” I said to my wife, Marian the Librarian. “I sure could use one of those raincoats.”

Marian took the magazine from me, looked at the ad, handed the magazine back, and never said a word. Then, she started to laugh.

I ignored her, and she went back to her *Books in Print*. But a moment later, she burst out laughing.

“What’s so funny?” I demanded.

“Oh, oh, I’m sorry,” she said, holding her side and gasping for breath. “It’s just the thought of you in one of those all-weather coats. It’s so bizarre; it just kills me.”

If it doesn’t, I might, I thought.

“Just what is so amusing about me in one of those raincoats?” I asked. “I have a right to stay dry. No one said I have to wear yellow vinyl raincoats for the rest of my life. I’m not a patrol boy anymore.”

Marian nodded and attempted to get a solemn look on her face.

“Right. Absolutely right, dear,” she said. “Forget I mentioned it.”

But a moment later, she started laughing uncontrollably again.

“What is it now?” I asked.

“Nothing,” she said, choking back a laugh.

But I had had enough. I was determined to discuss this matter as a reasonable calm, rational adult—or dump my cola on her if she refused.

“Just what is so funny about me in that raincoat?”

“Well, if you insist,” she said, wiping a tear of laughter from the corner of her eye. “First of all, it’s not a raincoat. It’s an all-weather coat. I’m sure salespeople of that coat are advised that if anyone comes in wanting to buy a ‘raincoat,’ they should tell that individual to go to the nearest K-Mart and browse in the sporting goods section.”

True, I had bought a raincoat or two in my time from K-Mart. But we all “grow,” know what I mean?

“Second,” she said, “look at the guy in that ad. Check his hair. It’s combed in one direction. Even after you comb yours in the morning—and there’s some debate as to whether you do—your hair is going in four different directions. You have the only aerobic hair in captivity. Your hair, what’s left of it, runs in more directions than the Amazon. People with hair like yours aren’t even allowed to try on one of those coats. He’s also not wearing a mesh baseball cap with some ridiculous slogan printed on the front of it. Have you ever left the house without such a hat?”

I glanced at the hat rack with its 15 different mesh baseball caps and decided that discretion was the better part of valor.

“Third,” she said, and she seemed to be enjoying herself, “look at the total package. That guy’s wearing a suit under that coat and his shoes have leather soles. You think the manufacturer of that all-weather coat wants a guy who thinks of clean corduroy pants as formal wear parading around in one of those expensive coats?”



Enough was enough, I decided.

“All right, maybe that coat’s not for me. It probably doesn’t shed water as well as my orange poncho, which also happens to turn into a one-man tent, by the way. But you talk as if I wouldn’t be allowed to buy anything in this magazine,” I said.

“That’s right,” she said smugly. “Pick out one thing you think a store would sell you. Show me one thing you think you could order out of that magazine and the company would actually send it to you.”

I passed on the ad for the Oriental rugs. They wanted \$5 just for the catalog. You can get a halfway decent throw rug for that kind of money. The Belgian shoes looked nice, too, but seemed a bit pricey at \$175 a pair.

“There,” I yelled triumphantly. “That shirt. I would look great in that shirt. Every bit as good as the guy there with the eye patch.”

Marian the Librarian snickered.

“You’re a rumppler,” she said. “Even after I iron a shirt for you, it starts to rumpple the second you put it on. By the time you walk out the door, your shirt looks as if you’ve slept in it—for several weeks.”

Unable to counter the awful truth, I yelled the first thing that came to my mind: “I iron shirts, too, you know.”

She nodded. “I know,” she said. “I hope the entire world knows. I hope no one thinks I’m responsible for the crease in the back of each of the shirts you iron. That’s your trademark. You never have figured out how

to get shirts flat on the ironing board before you go over them.

“Don’t you realize that men’s clothing stores have a list of the Ten Most Wanted Rumpplers? You’re on it. They’d never let you buy one of those shirts.

“If you wore that shirt in public, people would say, ‘He’s wearing one of those expensive shirts. Look how rumpled it gets. I wouldn’t pay that much money for a shirt that’s going to look like that.’ You’re a menace to profits.”

She had me. I am a rumppler. My hair, what’s left of it, seems to be in constant motion. But I had to make at least one point.

“You talk as if I shouldn’t even be getting this magazine,” I said. “You sound as if *The New Yorker* knew I was a subscriber, they’d be afraid to have the mail carrier be seen delivering it to this house. Obviously, that’s not the case. *The New Yorker* trusts me.”

“Read the label,” was all she said.

I looked and saw her name.

“Seen the latest copy of *Readers’ Digest* around here anywhere?” I asked meekly. Marian the Librarian just smiled. ☺

Paul Woody (B.A. English, 1975; M.A. 1982) is a sports writer for the Richmond News Leader.

Illustration by Scott Wright.



# MAGIC IMAGING

By Elaine Jones

A five-pound chain, one-fourth inch in diameter, will stretch unaided to a position parallel to the floor. Car keys held in the hand will take on a life of their own; earrings, tie tacks, and metal hair clips will start to quiver. Analog watches will cease functioning, and information stored on magnetic strips on credit cards will be wiped out.

These phenomena occur in the presence of a six-ton machine with a magnetic field 10,000 times that of the earth's. It is the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner, one of the most sophisticated methods available to detect the secrets of the anatomy without invading the body or using radiation, and it is proving to be a radiologist's dream-come-true. Last summer, MCV Hospitals' Department of Radiology had an MRI scanner crane-lifted through a hole in the side of Main Hospital.

The temporary concrete wall that was removed to move the MRI in has been installed permanently, and since March, the scanner has been doing a brisk business of seven to eight patients a day in its new home on the third floor of Main. The 334 MRI patients so far have had a variety of neurologic, urologic, and orthopedic problems, though neurosurgeons and neurologists have used MRI the most.

"That will continue to be the case," says Dr. William Brewer, vice-chairman of the Department of Radiology. "MRI is predominantly a neurological tool at this point, but other applications will be more common in the future."

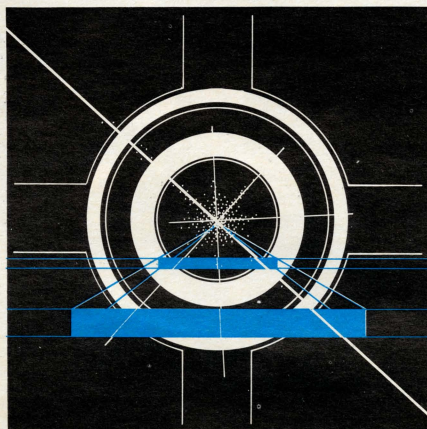
One of the scanner's first success stories involved the case of a 14-year-old boy suffering from leg numbness. His physician thought he might have a syrinx, a long tubular hole in the spinal cord filled with fluid instead of nerve tissue. A congenital defect, tumor, or trauma all may cause the condition.

The patient faced going through conventional radiologic tests, including a myelogram and a CT scan involving a spinal tap, X-rays, and X-ray dye. But with MRI, none of these proved necessary. "MRI picked up the problem right away and without the myelogram," Brewer says. "It also showed no tumor or signs of trauma but evidence he had a congenital abnormality."

The MRI area is comprised of three rooms. The first is the patient's waiting room equipped with lock boxes in which those credit cards, watches, and other such perishables may be kept. One door from the waiting room stays locked, opened only with a key or from the other side by a nurse or technologist. A warning sign decorates the door: no credit cards, no metal objects, no one with a heart pacemaker or other metal implant. This is the patient's entrance to the MRI chamber.

The chamber measures 20 feet by 36 feet with a 22-foot ceiling, its walls draped with copper mesh. To the right is a large picture window, also draped with mesh, through which staff and physicians from the other side may watch a patient in the scanner. Directly ahead is the \$1.4 million scanner, a cylindrical machine about seven feet high and seven feet wide with a portal in the center large enough to accommodate an average-sized adult comfortably. Except for intermittent clanging sounds, the scanner operates noiselessly.

In sharp contrast to the quiet, lowly-lit MRI chamber is the control room on the other side of the window. Here, nurses and technologists confer over a long table set with charts; two computer screens (one holding data, the other the image); a keyboard; a television screen to monitor the patient inside; and a portable, two-way intercom system to stay in communication with the patient. Radiologists stay in the background, letting the nurses and technologists do their job, while



keeping an eye on the television monitor, the computer screens, and the window. The whole process, from settling the patient comfortably in the scanner to transferring the images to plates for the permanent record, takes about an hour.

Notes Brewer, "one of the reasons for having the MRI scanner in the hospital is because of the availability of support personnel and the facilities already here. It is an advantage to patients at MCV Hospitals. Other hospitals have to have separate facilities to house the machine, which duplicates staff and involves the problem of transferring patients."

Imaging, itself, occurs in two phases. Inside the scanner, the powerful magnetic field aligns the nuclei of hydrogen atoms, the most abundant atoms in the body. The first phase, called excitement, occurs after high-frequency radio waves are beamed through the body, causing the aligned hydrogen nuclei to flip 90 or 180 degrees. The second phase, called relaxation, occurs when the radio waves are stopped, causing the nuclei to flip back into alignment with the scanner's magnetic field. During relaxation, nuclei emit signals, and it is these signals the computer reads to produce an image.

Different relaxation times of different tissues emit different signals. For example, the relaxation time of the brain is different from that of a brain tumor. A crucial component of this new technology is the computer capacity: with its ability to read these signals, the images that result approach the clarity and quality of medical textbook illustrations.

"We can see differences between normal and abnormal tissues in a much better way than before," Brewer explains. "MRI clarifies the anatomy in the same way the contrast control on your television set makes the picture stand out much more clearly."

Patients do not feel a thing while their hydrogen nuclei are being excited and relaxed. "I've been a guinea pig several times," says radiologic technologist Mike Wright. "It's pretty peaceful in there, a little like sensory deprivation. You don't really feel anything, and usually I've gone to sleep. Many patients do."

Before this miracle of technology and medicine can take place, the computer must be readied for the task through a process called sequencing.

"MRI has the largest computer backup in the department," Wright says. Basically, Wright instructs the computer to "scout" for the proper angle of the body to be studied by first producing a cross-section of the area. In the case of an 11-year-old boy with a tumor on his spine, Wright obtains a cross-section of that particular area, from which the computer begins to fix the necessary angles or "slices." Any angle may be obtained through MRI, whether a cross-section, a frontal, or a

coronal view. Sequencing is the most tedious but also the most important part of the process.

"Sequencing takes a while," Wright explains, "but the longer it takes, the better the image will be. It's a good time to catch up on paperwork."

Finally, the desired angle appears on the screen. Vertebrae, the spinal cord, and the tumor are clearly distinguishable. After several slices of this view are obtained, Wright consults with the radiologist, and, except for transferring the images to film, imaging is complete.

A few minor problems have cropped up for the staff in the course of getting the scanner in operation. They managed to have a coatrack made of wood and copper for visitors in the MRI chamber, but so far they have not been able to find chairs made of copper or entirely of wood. Patients' families, especially parents of young children, may stay in the MRI chamber, but currently they have no where to sit.

"Anything metal in chairs, such as nails or screws, might interfere with imaging," Wright says.

The staff expected but have not yet encountered problems with patients who suffer from claustrophobia, though the scanner is open on either end with plenty of space above the patient. Anyone, however, who is nervous about the procedure is offered a sedative, especially if anxiety might cause him or her to move while inside.

"The only stipulation for patients is that they have to lie absolutely still," Wright explains. "We don't usually have this problem, except sometimes with very young children who are fidgety to begin with."

While in the scanner, the patient can communicate with the staff via the intercom and also hold onto a rubber bulb attached to a hose. If he or she begins to feel panicky or experiences physical pain or discomfort, a squeeze of the bulb will sound an alarm in the control room. "We'll be in there in a second," Wright says, though, fortunately, the staff have not had any medical emergencies while patients have been in the scanner.

"There has been a lot of excitement about MRI," Brewer says, "and about the types of cases being done. There is a great interest in further applications because it is a new challenge." In addition to showing the depth and size of tumors and determining neurologic abnormalities, MRI can help in the detection of such diseases as multiple sclerosis, usually very difficult to diagnose, and infections and diseases of the heart, blood vessels, and bone, because of its ability to see deep within the body. It is expected MRI also will be very useful for transplant patients to determine at a much earlier stage whether organ rejection will occur. Many of these applications are tests CT scanning and conventional X-ray cannot provide.

Finally, there has been a merging of medical and basic sciences to make applications come together. "We get a lot of help from the physicists, for example, because MRI is very technologically based," Brewer says. "Physicians require the help of someone well-versed in the physics of this technology."

Ultimately, patients stand to gain the most from the department's exploration of the possibilities MRI has to offer—and all without so much as a scratch or exposure to radiation. ☺

*Some of the material for this article came from articles written by Ann Davenport for MCV Hospitals' periodical, Hospitals in Action, with the permission of Susan Grayson, editor.*

*Logo design by Ben Cornatzer.*



# DEAR BILL

Last spring, 84 students wrote letters to Bill Gaines. Many of the students asked him in their letters, "Do you fear death?"

The students were enrolled in the undergraduate religious studies course, "Death, Myth, and Reality," taught by Dr. Walter Griggs, chairman of VCU's Department of Business Administration and Management. Griggs volunteers as a counselor in the hospice program at Retreat Hospital in Richmond. Through his volunteer work, he got to know Bill Gaines, and by last spring, he had been working with Bill for nearly a year. He began to see that Bill had a lot to say about coping with his death and a lot to offer people on living and dying. Griggs also knew, from the students in this particular class and his own experience teaching the course, that they had a lot of questions.

"Originally," said Griggs, "I suggested that the students write down their questions, which I would take to Bill. But the students wouldn't have that. Writing letters to him was their idea." Bill happily agreed to answer their letters, which he did by speaking into a tape recorder.

What resulted, when Griggs played the tape for the class, was something he described as "the most emotional experience I've had in a classroom in 20 years of teaching, maybe one of the most emotional experiences of my life."

Bill, 33 years old and confined to a wheelchair, suffers from neurofibromatosis, a genetic disorder of the nervous system. According to the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation, Inc., one baby in every 3,000 will inherit the disease. About half of those with NF have inherited it from a parent; the other half are affected by a spontaneous mutation and have no known affected parent. NF appears all over the world with no particular gender, racial, or ethnic distribution. It also is an extremely variable disorder, the severity of which can range from mild to serious. Some 60 percent of those with NF, according to the foundation, have mild forms of the disorder and lead healthy and productive lives. Bill's father has a mild case of NF.

Many people know the disease by the book, play, and movie about the Elephant Man, in which the life and severe deformities of Joseph Merrick, a nineteenth-century Englishman, are depicted. The NF foundation, however, stresses that such deformities are extremely rare. Neurofibromas are growths that may occur on or just underneath the surface of the skin, or in deeper areas of the body, as in Bill's case.

Bill earlier described the progression of his disease to Griggs. "It was in 1970," Bill said, "and I had just graduated from high school. I went for a checkup and the doctor asked, 'When did you notice the lump on your neck?' And I said, 'What lump?'"

At the time, Bill did not realize the condition was serious and that he would die from it. The doctor simply removed the lump and determined it was not cancerous; that seemed to be the end of the matter. About eight years later, however, Bill had further problems. By then, he had graduated with a bachelor's degree from The College of William and Mary and was taking night courses in computer programming at VCU and working in a political campaign.

"I was pretty much going full throttle every day," Bill said. "I have always thought the stress I was under may have contributed to this."

"It took them a long time to figure out what was wrong, but finally they determined it was NF."

Bill's neurofibromas were beginning to depress his spinal column. In fall 1979, he and his family decided to go to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where studies were just getting under way on NF patients and their families.

"We were the first family to go through the studies," Bill said. "In addition to my father, my brother has a mild form of it. We think my grandfather may also have had it."

"They finally said I had to have an operation, or else end up a quadriplegic within six months. Even though in removing tumors the surgeons had to damage some nerves, which affected the use of my right hand, after the operation I felt better physically than I had felt before I began getting sick." The doctors, however,



thought that the neurofibromas would continue to grow and cause further trouble.

In summer 1984, Bill had another relapse, and he was beginning to experience difficulty getting around. A cane worked for a while, but he had to go to a wheelchair. Finally, he had to quit his job: "It was getting to be so much effort that I was falling asleep in my wheelchair at my desk." Bill had a second operation in October 1984, and the surgeons again, in removing more tumors, damaged nerves, this time rendering his left arm useless. In August 1985, Bill entered Retreat Hospital's hospice program.

Said Griggs, "Hospice programs are for people who are terminally ill. They are intended to help people live as comfortably as possible in the time they have left."

"Volunteering in a hospice program," he continued, "is a little like courtship. You have to get to know the person over time, until the two of you are comfortable enough with each other to begin opening up. Meeting a patient for the first time, in fact, is a little like going on a blind date. Sometimes it works out, sometimes it doesn't."

With Bill, it began to work out over a period of time until, as Griggs said, "I established a relationship with Bill," and the two of them could begin talking about Bill's death.

In the meantime, Bill has had time to arrange his affairs and to execute a Living Will, which stipulates that, as he puts it, "I don't end up a vegetable on life support systems in a nursing home indefinitely. That has resolved some matters I had been depressed about. I talked about it a lot with my parents, and they will

stick by me in this regard." He also intends to leave his body to NIH for any scientific benefit it may provide researchers in their studies.

On the issue of death, Bill is quite pragmatic. Many students asked him if he thought it was all very unfair, to which he said, "I know that for whatever reason in life, the good guy doesn't always win." Much of his pragmatism arises from a deep spiritual faith, a belief that, while Bill may not always understand the mysterious ways of God, "I accept that this is what God wants me to be doing right now."

"It was easy to come to terms with death because I've never really believed death was something one could actually avoid. I am not so arrogant that I've never questioned my beliefs, but I've never had a crisis of confidence. I'm pretty confident about the next life."

It is this confidence that struck the students when they listened to Bill's answers to their letters. "Before this project," Griggs said, "Bill believed he would only be able to leave behind his body to science. Now, he has left something more—himself, his thoughts, his beliefs, and comfort about death. It's a very precious thing."

The following is a selection of the students' letters, followed by a portion of Griggs' interview with Bill at the time of the correspondence. Several of Bill's responses represent a collection of answers he offered to many letters dealing with the same subject.

—E.J.





**Lisa:** I would like to know how you found the strength to go on after you were diagnosed. What I mean by that is that I feel as though my motivation for going to college and doing things like that would be drained if I were to find out I was terminally ill. I know I wouldn't feel right giving up, but I feel as though there would be no point in going on. Thank you very much for sharing your experiences with us.

**Bill:** Well, in a sense I think just the opposite. If I have but a little time left, I would like to accomplish as much as I could in that time.

Sometimes, it is frustrating in that I am dying young and I wasn't able to use my education and abilities in day-to-day life. But I hope this project might be more important than that. I am trying to find comfort in the thought that this is more important than any job I could have held for 50 years.

**Sandra:** I understand you graduated from William and Mary. Are you proud of all that you have done in the life you have lived? Can you give us some instances when you were not proud? How could you have changed?

**Bill:** No, there are obviously some things I should not have done. I recall I got into trouble over some juvenile petty vandalism involving some neighbors' garden hoses. I think everyone has something they wish they could take back. Only Jesus was perfect; all the rest of us have made mistakes. Anybody who said he never made a mistake is either lying or crazy.

**Jonathan:** If you don't mind sharing information, would you please explain your very first reaction when your illness was diagnosed as terminal? If you are physically capable, are there events you are attending and things you are doing to help fulfill your expectations? Thank you for this unique opportunity.

**Bill:** Unfortunately, I am not physically capable of getting out of the house. One of the most frustrating things about this is that nobody wants to come and see me. I am physically capable of reading, and there are several activities in the house that keep my mind active.

I didn't know exactly that I was dying. I think, however, in a slowly developing illness like this, I began to sense, probably more subconsciously than anything else, that I was, especially when it first started to go into its declining phase. I guess at one point I hit a denial stage; I tried to deny it to myself and pushed very hard to keep functioning for as long as possible. Of course, I had to quit work, though that wasn't because it was terminal but because the situation had gotten worse.

I have always lived by my mind. This condition affects coordination and timing and that kind of thing. I was never much good at sports, even though I love to watch and enjoyed playing sports. Though my body was all out of shape with the way it was supposed to work, I was blessed with a good mind. I am not sure it was as crushing for me as it might have been for someone who was a great athlete.

**Karen:** Today, March 20, is my brother's birthday. He was killed in a motorcycle accident on July 28, 1985. He was 23 when it happened.

I am a 21-year-old black female from Roanoke, Virginia. I'm a junior, majoring in fashion merchandising. When I'm at home, I live with my parents and my 15-year-old brother. I want to become a successful fashion buyer for a large department store, and I want to have a huge wedding and hopefully two kids. There are so many things I want to do, but I definitely fear death, especially because of my brother's sudden death. I'm afraid that my dreams will never come true.

As you can see, I really didn't have any specific question for you, but I did want to write something to you. One question I have is how long it took you to accept the fact that you were dying and there was nothing you could do. What were your feelings when you first heard the news, and with whom were you most angry? Thanks, Bill, and just try to keep the faith and trust in God, and try to remember that all things happen for a reason.

**Bill:** My awareness was gradual because the illness is gradual. Everyone, including the psychiatrist at the rehabilitation center to whom I was referred, thinks I am supposed to be angry with somebody about this. I didn't even bring up my religious beliefs with the psychiatrist. I figured she thought I was nuts enough staying with my parents, whom I'm supposed to be angry with, and if I had started talking about believing in God, it could have been a one-way ticket to the mental hospital.

Of course, I am sorry about this. I would have liked to have had a long healthy life like most people do. Sometimes I worry that I am not going to be able to get through with all the things I want to do and am doing, and all the books I want to read. I have done things I enjoyed. I can't say I am totally satisfied, but I have had a lot of interesting experiences and met people I enjoyed meeting, and overall, I can't say I am dissatisfied.

I remember someone asked me if I ever married, which I didn't. Despite numerous efforts, I never was able to really get a big romantic relationship started. The way things worked out, that may have been for the best. I am not leaving somebody behind who is young and has her whole life without me. My parents will be around for a little while longer, but it is not like leaving behind somebody my age. Since the condition is

*Personally, I don't mind talking about this—all the details you would want to go into. . . . But, I also like to put aside my condition and just have a conversation about whatever common interests we have.*

hereditary, I am glad that I didn't have the problem of children who might have gotten this.

**Otis:** I would like to know if you feel cheated out of your chance to live a full, normal life. I would like to die instantly. How does it feel to know that you will be dying for a long time? And how have your friends and relatives coped with it?

**Bill:** I wouldn't say really cheated. Death has to occur to everybody, whether they are good or bad. Why does it occur to good people, or younger people? Why do all the nasty people live to a ripe old age? I don't know. I take comfort in the belief that whatever happens to you in this world, you will get your reward or what you deserve in the next.

Before this happened, I wanted to die instantly, too. I think that most people do. This reminds me of a story: Three old men were sitting around a retirement home deciding how they wanted to die. The first one, who was 70 years old, said he wanted to die in a speeding car going over a cliff. The second one was 80 years old and said he wanted to die in a plane crash. The third was 90 years old and said, "I have an even better idea. I want to be shot by a jealous husband."

As for my family, they've accepted it. I try to make my parents feel at ease about this by trying to keep my mind active and live a normal life, joke about the situation when it comes up. I think my accepting it helps them accept it. Obviously, their accepting it and not getting overly emotional about it in turn helps me accept it.

**Bob:** Your feelings on death will be appreciated deeply. I personally feel that life after death exists. How else can we explain this endless universe that we are surrounded by? Someone had to be responsible; there is just no way it was just an accident. I ask you, do you feel life here on earth is just a transition or a stage to prepare you for your next journey, and how do you feel knowing life will continue here on earth after you have left?

Have a good journey, and ask God to look out for me, too.

**Bill:** I don't want life in this world to end just because I leave it. I do think that this is a transition stage. It was this letter that made me think that if we go somewhere after we die, then it is logical that we have been somewhere before we were born. It reminds me of a quote that goes something like, "The end of all our journeys will be to return to the place we started from, and know the place for the first time."



*I don't want life in this world to end just because I leave it. I do think that this is a transition stage. It was this letter that made me think that if we go somewhere after we die, then it is logical that we have been somewhere before we were born.*

**Derek:** Hi, Bill, how are you? My name is Derek, and to be honest with you, I don't know what to say because there are so many questions I could ask you. But I have narrowed it down to one or two. Here goes.

Knowing that your condition is terminal, do you have any anger about the situation? How do you look at death? Some people (like me) look at death as a beautiful transition or growth in life, while others look at it as a definite end. What are your views? Bill, what are your views on reincarnation?

I want you to know that I appreciate your giving us this opportunity to ask questions.

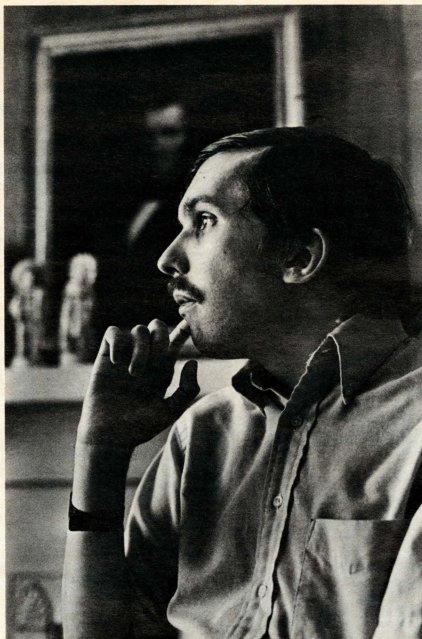
P.S. You might need a translator to understand my writing. Also, please overlook misspelled words . . . I am an art major.

**Bill:** This project is important. Let me turn to an example I can set for others. I mentioned that I did a lot of work on political campaigns. I think not working for pay, but for the satisfaction of helping the cause you believe in, is important, and I hope I will be remembered for that.

Death is an end to this existence but also a transition to the next existence. It is something that is going to be a lot more beautiful than this life. But, I can't square reincarnation with my belief that your soul goes onto another plane after this, assuming reincarnation is coming back as another person or another form of life in this world. Some people say, don't step on a bug; it could be your great grandmother or something. I have a lot of trouble with that.

**Maria:** I am originally from Afghanistan, and my family and I came over to the United States when I was three years old. In 1980 my grandfather died of old age; yet I couldn't and probably still haven't been able to face up to his death. I couldn't cry at the memorial service. I knew my grandfather well. We used to visit him in Afghanistan every two years, and he visited the U.S. once. I was wondering if, when you die and someone close to you couldn't show grief like everyone else, would you be upset or hurt by it in any way?

**Bill:** I want everyone to react to my death in the way they feel most comfortable. I wouldn't want anyone to feel constrained in their actions in any way, but I don't want to be mourned and felt sorry for when I die. It seems to me that all the mourning and weeping at funerals is more the survivors feeling sorry for themselves that they have been deprived of the company of the departed. If you have any belief in an afterlife, and if you believe that this was a good person—which you obviously do, if you are mourning him—then you must believe the person is happy and in a better place.



Whatever suffering he was going through in this world is over, so there is no reason to mourn or feel sorry for him. I think mourning is more feeling sorry for yourself than for the person who is gone.

I don't want any big crying or emotional display. I want joy at my going to a better place. One form of mourning and expressing feelings I personally detest is those mushy poems you find on the obituary page. On the anniversary of the departed, you see some really bad poetry.

**Shirley:** I would like to know how you like people to behave when they are in your company, especially when they know about your situation. In other words, what kinds of things do people say or actions they display that make you uncomfortable, that you wish they wouldn't say these things or act this way? Thank you very much for your willingness to do this.

**Bill:** Personally, I don't mind talking about this—all the details you would want to go into. I don't mind jokes about my condition. I mentioned that I have the same condition the Elephant Man had. You can tell me all the grotesque Elephant Man jokes you know, and I won't be offended by it.

But, I also like to put aside my condition and just have a conversation about whatever common interests we have. What I absolutely don't want is people coming over here and gushing all over me and feeling sorry for me, saying, "Oh, you poor, brave thing, etc. etc." The last thing I want is pity and people feeling sorry for me.

I cannot help noticing that very few people, including a lot of people I thought were my friends, want to come over now that they know my condition. Apparently, it makes a lot of people very uncomfortable to be in the presence of someone they know is dying, which bothers me very much. But, I would rather they not come at all than come because they feel under some obligation to see me. I want to be treated just as you treat any other person you have met and talked to. Originally, I felt very bitter about people not wanting to come and see me, but that has changed. Now, I feel sorry for them.

**Ginny:** Thank you for making yourself available to our class. I consider your sharing a gift and appreciate it.

I am interested in knowing what kind of spiritual changes you've experienced since you've known you were dying? What was your perception of God or the divine before you knew you were dying, and how has that changed over the years? I am particularly interested in your views in this area because I'm undergoing some spiritual changes myself, trying to make sense and give meaning to my life, to gain some peace with adverse events and circumstances that have occurred. For some time, I've felt adrift, with no strong convictions or beliefs to hold on to, with no overall framework or explanation of life in general—no answers to

all those "Why's?" we ask ourselves. Have you experienced this feeling of being adrift?

Thanks for being a part of this.

**Bill:** I suppose I have had a pretty conventional religious view, and that hasn't changed so much as it has intensified. As Samuel Johnson said, there is nothing that concentrates the mind like knowing you are about to be hanged. And knowing that death is imminent has intensified and reinforced the religious beliefs I already have.

You say you have no strong convictions, and I don't really know what to say to somebody like you. I know it makes a lot of people uncomfortable to come on really aggressively with an evangelistic message. But I know it often doesn't do much good to make a lot of vague statements about how you should just believe in God. So, all I can say is that what many people might find a very bad or trying situation I have found to be something very stable to latch onto. It just works for me.

**Wilson:** It is so great that you are excited about answering our questions. I do not think I would have the willingness to put up with many assorted questions about my demise. We have read in our text about seminars with the terminally ill, but I, for one, never thought I would have the opportunity to correspond with someone dying. Thanks so much for your willingness.

I am a very materialistic person and would like to know if, looking back, you feel college education was worth all the trouble. I have been offered many good-paying jobs, but I have refused to work full-time because of school. I should tell you that school is not exciting to me personally; I feel I can learn on my own. Also, getting a degree is not exciting either, since hearing the stories of the ceremony: "All those receiving a B.S. in business, please rise." Should I take on full-time work and start enjoying myself, because I am wasting time, because life is short, or do I have all the time in the world and should finish my education?

**Bill:** This is interesting because it is about college education. We have talked about getting job promotions and using opportunities. Well, I have often wondered if a college education is worth it. I enjoyed college, but college didn't help in the real world. You say you are very materialistic and interested in accepting job offers. My problem actually comes from the other direction: I am not that materialistic. I am much more interested in an opportunity to do something worthwhile than in how much money I am getting paid for it.

**Griggs:** There are studies that suggest that people who are materialistic have much more difficulty dealing with illness and adversity than those who are not into material things. Perhaps your philosophy is, in part, not needing a lot of material things.

**Bill:** But I can tell you that a college degree from a good school with good grades is no guarantee that you are going to get a good-paying job when you get out. I also agree about his assessment of the graduation ceremony. I did not go to my graduation ceremony because it was exactly as he describes it: "All those receiving a B.S. in business, please rise." I didn't think it was worth the trouble and expense of staying on campus an extra week or two, and my parents having to come down and stay in a motel, and so forth. So, I just skipped the thing, and they mailed me my diploma.

My diploma is very interesting. It's in Latin. They provide a translation with all kinds of stuff about how you are upright and well-born, someone who has unselfishly dedicated himself to the pursuit of learning.

**Amy:** I've experienced death many times through family members. Each individual died for different reasons, and each was very different in character. I've learned to no longer look for reasons but only to accept the deaths. Is there a reason for death? Does one's death have a specific purpose, or many purposes, and if so, how do we know what it is?

Thank you for your desire to relate your feelings to others and the opportunity for confused students to ask questions.

**Bill:** If there wasn't death, the population problem would be a lot worse than it is.



Sometimes, I ask myself, "Why me?" But it would be useless to waste time brooding about it and feeling sorry for myself. I guess that many deaths, if not all, have multiple purposes, instead of just a specific one. But that is something in this world we can't know.

**Aaron:** I believe your courage is of the utmost, but do you believe death can be beat by anyone?

**Bill:** That question can be interpreted in several ways. In a religious sense, Christianity teaches us that faith defeats death. In that sense I believe we overcome death of the body through the immortality of the soul. As far as beating physical death, there are people who have been diagnosed as terminal and recovered. There are people who have been pronounced dead and recovered. I believe these things have happened, but sooner or later, death is part of life. And sooner or later, we have all got to leave this world.

I think it would be boring and frustrating to live forever in this world. There's a chapter in *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift, in which Gulliver discovers a land where the people have discovered the secret of immortality. Gulliver thinks he's better off than the inhabitants, all old geezers, hundreds of years old, who can barely function, but they are still alive and they know that they are going to be in this state forever, and they hate it. They wish they could go ahead and die.

**Kimberly:** I would like to know where you think you will go after you die? Are you scared? Do you feel dying is an ending or a beginning? Do you have hope that you will recover from your illness? Are you taking medication for your illness, or do you want to die naturally? I feel if I had a terminal illness and it was necessary to have medication, which would alter me physically, making me unable to enjoy my last days, I would not take the medication but die naturally. I would want everyone to remember me as being happy and healthy.

**Bill:** I believe I will go to heaven, but I am not sure exactly what that is. I don't think it's a lot of golden clouds and harps and angels singing, though.

I don't think it is likely that the scientists will learn anything significant about my condition in the time I have left. That is probably years away at best.

All I take now is medication in very mild doses to control headache pain and muscle spasms of the leg. I don't really have to take anything radical, and I'm trying to take as little as possible, because I don't want to get in an over-medicated state where I am not fully aware of what is going on and not able to use my mind. I honestly don't want to be in pain, but I don't want to be overly drugged up either. There is no medication that controls the condition itself. This is just for some of the side effects.

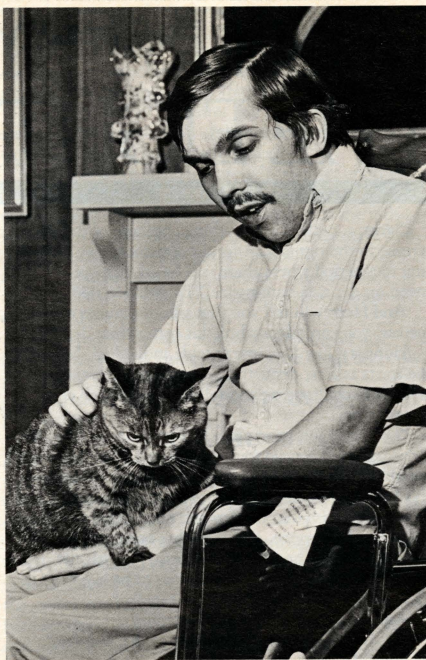
**Nancy:** Do you feel life has been unfair to you or that you have been cheated in any way?

**Bill:** Yes, I do think it is unfair, but as President Kennedy said to someone who thought one of his policies was unfair, "Life is unfair." A lot of people have had a lot more unfair things happen to them than have happened to me. A lot of people live their entire lives in an incredible, hopeless state of poverty, scrounging in the streets for some scrap to survive. That's unfair. People grow up with parents who beat them up or molest them. That's unfair. People live in countries where they don't have freedom of expression and freedom of religion. All those things are much more unfair than what has happened to me. The state I am in is bad, but on the whole, life has been very good to me, and I don't feel cheated.

I don't think death is the ultimate evil to be avoided at all costs. There are some states of life (as without freedom of the mind and of religion) that I consider worse than death.

**Griggs:** You and the students have discussed the Living Will, and we have gone over in class the evolution of the Living Will concept, starting with the family doctor pointing out that there is nothing more he or she can do. You once made a point I have never heard made before about people who are on respirators or life support systems—maybe their souls have already left their bodies.

**Bill:** Well, I was very interested in the Karen Quinlan case. Of course, very interestingly, she continued to



live for many years after they disconnected her life support systems. Nobody believed that would happen. I think what happened to her is that she received much publicity, and that made people really start to think about this. I think that, in her tragedy, she performed a great service. I would like to have the option of not being forced to linger on indefinitely in a vegetative state.

**Griggs:** At a luncheon yesterday, I got to talking with someone about the British Exit Society and the American Hemlock Society, which has actually put out a book on how to kill yourself.

**Bill:** That goes farther than I believe. I don't believe in suicide. The laws against suicide, however, are ironic. If you succeed in the act, which the law prohibits, you are beyond punishment. But suicide is not an option I could take.

**Griggs:** In class we talked about visiting people in hospitals, and we have talked about the fact that nurses will respond more quickly to a patient they think will get well as opposed to one they think is dying.

**Bill:** I want to talk about nurses, too. I have some very strong opinions about nurses.

**Griggs:** I want you to talk about your opinions.

**Bill:** The best nursing care I got was at NIH. They were very up front. If you asked them a question, they told you. They didn't seem afraid of the truth. At NIH, I was treated with dignity and respect. But, in my other experience with nurses, it has not been that great. They are very unfeeling.

**Griggs:** Yes, sometimes when you ask, "How am I doing today?", the nurse says, "You have some very pretty flowers in here."

**Bill:** I have sometimes seen objects treated better than some of the treatment I received.

**Griggs:** Okay, so we are batting about 700?

**Bill:** 667.

**Griggs:** You got it!

**Bill:** I am death on baseball and statistics. That is one of my hobbies. I have several books on newfangled ways of computing baseball statistics. As I've told you before, I'm probably the only person in the history of VCU who would rather take statistics for fun.

**Griggs:** Still true.

Bill, one of the questions we have dealt with philosophically in class is whether the students would be willing to pay \$10 to know exactly when they would die. In other words, let's say you can pay \$10 and get a computer printout about what will happen to you and the fact that you will die on December 31, 1999. Would you want it?

**Bill:** I wouldn't want it if you paid me \$10 to take it.

**Griggs:** A lot of students feel you were brave because you willingly took the time to answer their letters.

There were a lot of comments in class and after class about your bravery, about how difficult it was for you to talk about.

*A lot of people live their lives in an incredible, hopeless state of poverty. That's unfair. People grow up with parents who beat them up or molest them. That's unfair. People live in countries where they don't have freedom of expression and freedom of religion. All those things are much more unfair than what has happened to me. The state I am in is bad, but on the whole, life has been very good to me, and I don't feel cheated.*

**Bill:** I've got nothing but time. It is not difficult for me to talk about.

I really have no choice but to accept it. If I got mad about it, it wouldn't change the fact that it is going to happen. Some of the letters also refer to my bravery, but it seems to me that bravery involves making choices. When you have no choice, which is pretty much my situation, there is no bravery involved.

**Griggs:** It would be foolish for me to say that I could put myself in your position. At the same time, knowing you for as long as I have, you seem to have found a way to cope and find happiness and enjoyment.

**Bill:** I think most people would agree. I wouldn't have believed earlier that I could have coped with this for as long as I have. I had read about people who were terminally ill, and I didn't see how they could accept it so well. But, when a situation arises and you basically have no choice, then it becomes very easy to do what the only option is.

**Griggs:** You have become very close to Ella, your cat. She is very important to you, very much a part of the whole thing. I have finally met a cat for the first time that I can get along with. I am watching Ella investigate the cord . . .

**Bill:** Ella is very fond of chewing on cords. Just don't call her "fat." She'll take offense.

I just wanted to say a few things in closing, not any thoughts about death. I want to thank everyone for the kind concern you have showed in your letters by reaching out to me. This whole project has come to mean a great deal to me. I hope in some way I have been able to help you understand whatever you wanted to understand. Let me say thank you for caring and asking me to be a part of this. ☺

Readers are invited to send letters to the editor regarding Bill's story. Readers may also write to Bill Gaines, c/o Dr. Walter Griggs, Department of Business Administration and Management, School of Business, Box 4000, Richmond, VA 23284-0001.

Photography by Doug Buerlein.



# DENTISTRY IN THE EIGHTIES

By Paul Woody

Some consider it to be an endless, glamorous, thankless job. It's dentistry.

Actually, it's not that bad. But the perception of dentistry during the past decade has taken a beating. Dental schools, in particular, have been lacking in one vital commodity: students.

In the mid-1970s, dentistry was enjoying a Golden Age. Applications to dental schools far outstripped spaces available, and federal dollars for programs and research were plentiful. Lately, however, dentistry seems to have entered the Dark Ages, at least as far as applicants to dental school are concerned. Schools now have 1.3 applicants for every opening; class sizes have shrunk; and soon, two dental schools, one at Emory University and the other at Oral Roberts University, will cease to exist. In fact, lately some dentists have begun advising inquiring students to consider another career.

"I can understand that," said Dr. Lindsay Hunt, dean of VCU's School of Dentistry. "A person graduates from dental school—in debt. Then he or she assumes more debt to open a practice. In light of that debt, some graduates have a hard time paying the bills. I can understand that type of frustration."

In the mid-seventies, dental schools, dental school graduates, and practicing dentists began to realize something: there appeared to be more dentists available than the dental market demanded.

"In the seventies, in view of a perceived shortage of dentists, the federal government gave capitation money to existing dental schools, with certain stipulations, in addition to supplying funds for the construction of new schools. One stipulation was that class sizes be increased," said Dr. Marshall Brownstein, assistant dean of admissions and student affairs in the School of Dentistry. "At VCU, each class had 80 students. So, we increased our class size to 110.

"This happened all over the country. We produced more dentists. And more people were applying to dental school. In 1975, at the height of all this, there were perhaps 15,000 people who applied for about 5,000 dental school slots. That produced a glut. Fewer people started applying to dental schools. Then, the federal government withdrew capitation money."

And dental school enrollments began to decrease nationwide. That, coupled with the overall decrease in undergraduate school enrollments, gradually eroded the pool of students from which dental schools could choose.

But, things have a way of evening out over time.

"Now, a cycle is approaching. Because of the decrease in the number of dentists produced, we're coming to a period where there will be an increase in the need for dentists nationwide," Brownstein said.

And Hunt will tell you that when it comes to a career, you can't do a whole lot better than dentistry.

Hunt is a low-key, unexcitable individual, but when he starts talking dentistry, he lays out a career that sounds as challenging and fulfilling as any job could possibly be.

"Dentistry is a good place to be right now," he said. "I've got two teenage sons, and people often ask me if I would advise them to go to dental school. Absolutely. It's hard, hard work, but dentistry is intellectually and creatively satisfying, it offers the satisfaction of providing a needed service, and there has been an explosion of research that has changed dentistry drastically in the last 15 years. This is a fine time to be involved in dentistry because it is moving so rapidly."

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"I was just amazed when I got more than 250 positive responses. That shows there are a lot of dentists out there who are doing well, who are satisfied with their careers, and more importantly, who want the quality of future dentists to be good."

The dentists who have volunteered—from Virginia Beach to Bristol and from McLean to Danville—will

be provided with a slide and tape program that they can present when they go to high school career day sessions.

It's important to identify these future dentists early. Nationally, according to the American Association of Dental Schools, more dentists are going to be needed by 1990. "Students entering school now are going to come out of school with a very marketable commodity," Brownstein said.

Brownstein is very interested in increasing the numbers of students in VCU's dental program in three specific areas: state residents, minorities, and women.

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Virginia residents pay a lower tuition rate than out-of-state students. Sixty-one percent of next year's incoming class of dental students will be Virginia residents.

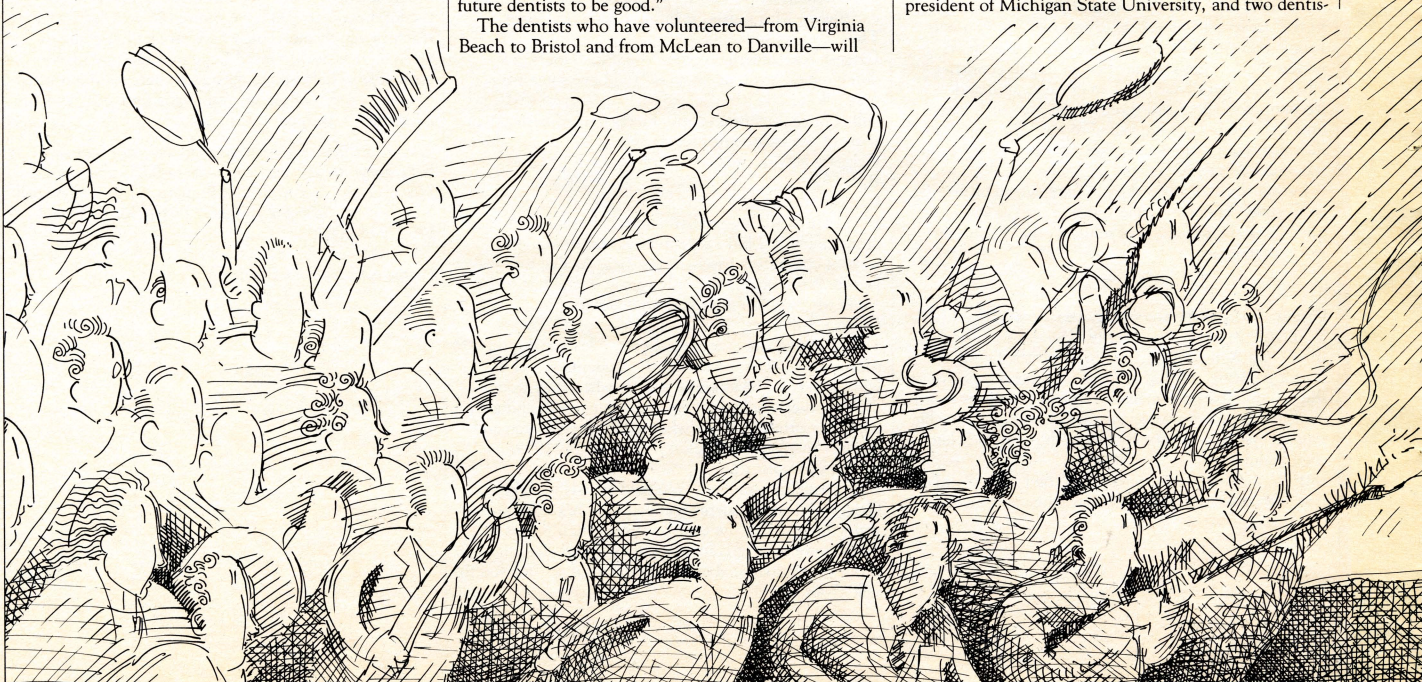
The number of women in dentistry has increased significantly over the past ten years, though, as Brownstein pointed out, only 3 percent of the dentists nationally are women. Now, however, 25 to 30 percent of dental students nationwide are women; next fall, 23 percent of the first-year dental class at VCU will be women.

Brownstein also is working closely with VCU's Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) to increase the number of minority students attending dental school. Tommy Tucker, director of HCOP, has initiated programs for promoting dentistry, bringing information to potential students and to pre-health advisors and counselors at minority colleges and universities.

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# DENTISTRY IN THE EIGHTIES

By Paul Woody

Some consider it to be an endless, glamorous, thankless job. It's dentistry. Actually, it's not that bad. But the perception of dentistry during the past decade has taken a beating. Dental schools, in particular, have been lacking in one vital commodity: students.

In the mid-1970s, dentistry was enjoying a Golden Age. Applications to dental schools far outnumbered spaces available, and federal dollars for programs and research were plentiful. Lately, however, dentistry seems to have entered the Dark Ages, at least as far as applicants to dental school are concerned. Schools now have 1.3 applicants for every opening; class sizes have shrunk; and soon, two dental schools, one at Emory University and the other at Oral Roberts University, will cease to exist. In fact, lately some dentists have begun advising inquiring students to consider another career.

"I can understand that," said Dr. Lindsay Hunt, dean of VCU's School of Dentistry. "A person graduates from dental school—in debt. Then he or she assumes more debt to open a practice. In light of that debt, some graduates have a hard time paying the bills. I can understand that type of frustration."

In the mid-seventies, dental schools, dental school graduates, and practicing dentists began to realize something: there appeared to be more dentists available than the dental market demanded.

"In the seventies, in view of a perceived shortage of dentists, the federal government gave capitation money to existing dental schools, with certain stipulations, in addition to supplying funds for the construction of new schools. One stipulation was that class sizes be increased," said Dr. Marshall Brownstein, assistant dean of admissions and student affairs in the School of Dentistry. "At VCU, each class had 80 students. So, we increased our class size to 110."

"This happened all over the country. We produced more dentists. And more people were applying to dental school. In 1975, at the height of all this, there were perhaps 15,000 people who applied for about 5,000 dental school slots. That produced a glut. Fewer people started applying to dental schools. Then, the federal government withdrew capitation money."

And dental school enrollments began to decrease nationwide. That, coupled with the overall decrease in undergraduate school enrollments, gradually eroded the pool of students from which dental schools could choose.

But, things have a way of evening out over time.

"Now, a cycle is approaching. Because of the decrease in the number of dentists produced, we're coming to a period where there will be an increase in the need for dentists nationwide," Brownstein said.

And Hunt will tell you that when it comes to a career, you can't do a whole lot better than dentistry.

Hunt is a low-key, unexciting individual, but when he starts talking dentistry, he lays out a career that sounds as challenging and fulfilling as any job could possibly be.

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And there's financial support.

The Pew Memorial Trust last year announced a five-year, \$8.7 million grant program. Fifty-one schools applied for \$100,000 Phase I grants, which are to be used to upgrade planning and management procedures, and 21 were approved. VCU was one of those 21 and remains in the running for one of seven or eight \$1 million grants that will be awarded in Phase II.

The Virginia Dental Association, when things looked bleakest for the field of dentistry, began a \$2 million endowment campaign, all of which goes to VCU's School of Dentistry. Now the fund contains \$1.93 million.

"The tremendous support this school receives from the VDA is, in my belief, unprecedented in the United States," Hunt said. "It was started by people at the school and the VDA when people had a bad perception of dentistry." That type of effort is particularly impressive to Hunt, who came to VCU from Emory University where he was associate dean for academic affairs.

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A popular way to go now is into a general practice residency. This is a one- to two-year hospital residency, where the student receives advanced training with a hospital accent. There also is a relatively new program called advanced general dentistry. This is similar to a general practice residency, except it is conducted primarily within dental schools rather than hospitals.

Another option is to specialize, which requires a two- to four-year residency depending on the area of

specialization, of which there are nine: oral surgery, pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, periodontics (gum disease), endodontics (root canals), oral pathology, anesthesia, prosthodontics (fixed and removable), and maxillofacial prosthodontics (facial reconstruction).

Or, dental school graduates can enter public health service careers, which pay well and don't require the expense of setting up a private practice.

More and more graduates are selecting yet another option: military service. The appeal to serve one's country is so strong for many graduates that the military option is becoming an extremely competitive one.

In Virginia, the VDA has worked with VCU in setting up an associateship program. This enables a dental graduate to enter the private practice of an established dentist in Virginia.

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Is that an indication that the associate's program isn't working?

"No," Hunt said. "It's an indication that there are still a lot of opportunities in the dental field. If you want to go to West End Richmond and start a practice, you're going to have trouble. But there are still a lot of areas around that need dentists."

The idea most people have of dentists is the man or woman you visited twice a year, who cleaned your teeth or offered you a shot of novacaine before filling the cavity you had developed from too many of those between-meal snacks. That dentist still exists and is still needed. But with fluoridation of public water systems, better dental hygiene, and dental education, people really do have fewer cavities. And they're keeping their teeth longer.

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All of this means that as dentistry changes, so must the dental school. For example, next year dental students will be required to attend summer school for the first time to broaden their dental experiences.

All this change requires planning, which is what the VCU School of Dentistry is involved in doing now.

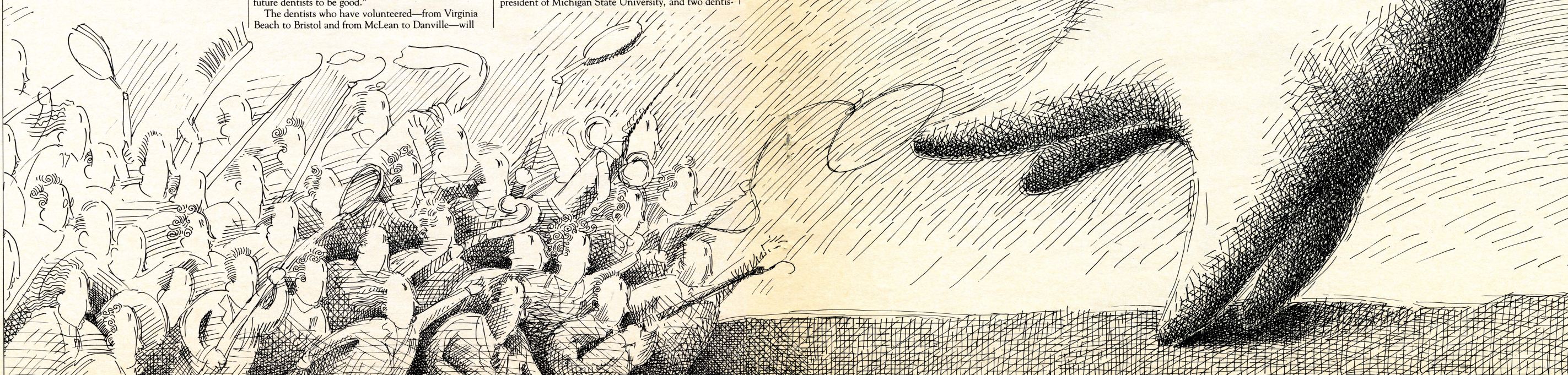
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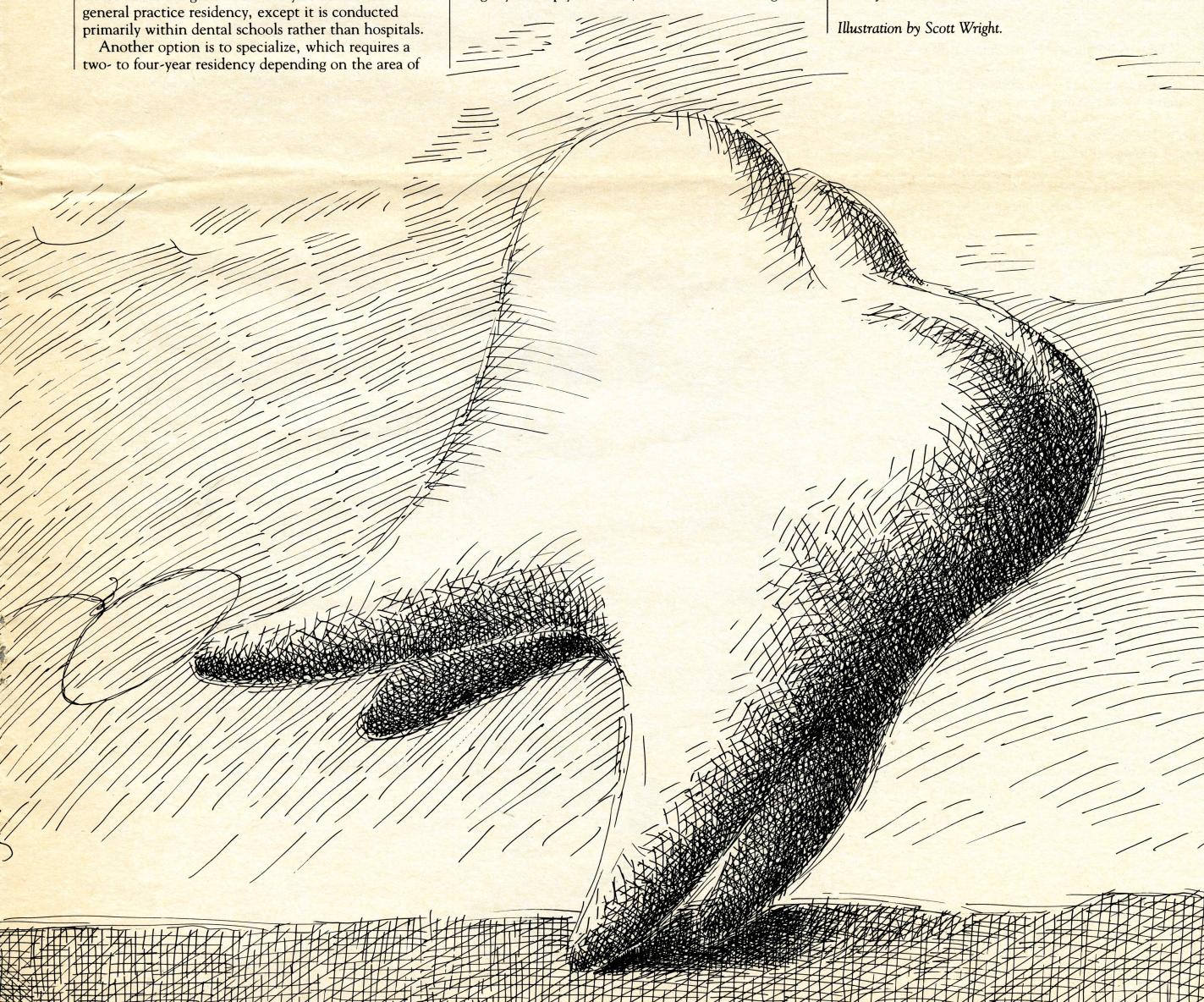
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# THE BLACK MIDDLETOWN JOURNAL

By Rutledge Dennis

From July 4, 1980 to June 18, 1981, I lived in Muncie, Indiana, a medium-sized Midwestern city that earned a reputation as a typical American city as a result of the Middletown studies by Robert and Helen Lynd in the 1920s and 1930s. Though there were several secondary goals of our project, the chief goal was to collect detailed information on various facets of black community life: the family, religion, work, leisure, racial issues, and matters pertaining to self and group concepts. This paper is part of a larger study, "Black Middletown: A Community Study of Social Process," supported by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Specifically we wanted to investigate the processes by which institutions in a small (10,000 out of a total of 80,000) Midwestern black community were established and sustained. The growth and development of community institutions and organizations is important sociologically as well as politically, historically, and economically: while there is much data on black community development in the North and South, we know virtually nothing of this growth process in medium-sized Midwestern cities.

On entering the field (the community), I was to supervise the administration of a large community-wide survey as well as engage in the process of participant-observation, traditionally an anthropological technique involving total immersion into the community. This total immersion allows the participant-observer to play many roles and, thus, develop a network of contacts for forming a more comprehensive view of the community. Perhaps one of the most important decisions I made was to keep a journal. My reading of the field notes of anthropologists Bronislaw Malinowski and Margaret Mead convinced me of the value of the journal.

What follows are excerpts from my journal over the period July to December, 1980, relating the daily experiences I had while I lived in Black Middletown.

**July 4.** I arrived in Muncie. I drove to the Jackson Street office-residence where the student researchers and assistants lived. The house was much smaller than I had envisioned, and the students seemed to be living on top of one another. The refrigerator was too small; food was packed in it like sardines. Groceries were stacked on the tables and in all the kitchen cupboards. Worst of all, the first floor toilet was out of order, and the nine students had to use the small toilet on the second floor.

The students, however, appeared to be taking things in stride, lounging, reading, and engaging in quiet and loud conversations. After talking briefly with a few students on the progress of their interviews with the senior citizens, Will, James, and Fred went with me to my office-residence on 8th Street to assist me in unloading my locker and books.

**July 5.** I spent Saturday morning walking around the central city. I was struck by the plainness of the people; I was also struck by what I viewed as the obesity of the population and their general appearance. I wondered if this was really "middle" America, but I could not forget that this region was experiencing a steep depression. The neighborhood around 8th Street seemed lower-middle to middle class.

**July 6.** Sue, Mary, Tony, and I went to Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest black church in Muncie. Most of the members were women in their 60s, 70s, and 80s. When we were seated, the minister, Reverend Knox, approached and introduced himself. He said he was very happy to have us visit his church,

noting he had already met a few of the student assistants. After the announcements were made, Reverend Knox asked each of the visitors to stand and give a brief life history. He then wished us a happy and successful visit to Muncie. He also said he hoped we would rectify the neglect shown toward some of Muncie's citizens in recent and past studies of the community. He had a great presence and spoke with dignity and distinction. He certainly seemed headed for bishopdom.

While we were driving back to the office, I kept thinking about the after-service crowd outside the church. There had been much handshaking but very little cheek-kissing. This was quite different from the after-church gathering with which I was familiar. Could it be that the "Hoosier" spirit is less warm than the "Southern?" Or is it merely more formal? Regardless, this issue could be at the heart of how blacks may indeed adopt the regional values and spirit of the dominant groups in their immediate environment. This bears watching.

**July 9.** Gary Wood of Eastern College came by at 2 pm, accompanied by Phil Oliver, a fellow black faculty member. They wanted to ask about hooking into the Black Middletown project and of the possibility of our creating a Midwestern Black Studies Center, which would coordinate research in the history of blacks in the Midwest. I told them that the idea of a center was sound but that getting into the Black Middletown project was very remote since we were just trying to get off the ground. We had to sharpen our own focus and could not risk getting side-tracked with a larger regional study. They both seemed disappointed when I hinted that, at that point, there would be no research role for anyone other than the designated research team. They then spoke of the subtle racism at Eastern College, and Phil recounted some instances of the racism he had experienced and of the loneliness of being the only black faculty member at the college.



**July 12.** Four student assistants and I went to see the March for Christ sponsored by the local United Methodist Church. The march was advertised as one for racial unity, against discrimination, against unemployment, and against all forms of racism. It wended through two black communities—Industry and Whitely. One of the student assistants voiced concern about participating in the march because he was a Moslem. I tried to allay his concerns by emphasizing our role as participant-observers and how important it was to immerse ourselves in some of the activities of the community. We did agree, however, not to carry placards or posters. We didn't want too much immersion too soon.

After the march, I had a chance to speak to one of the ministers. He cited his opposition to previous Middletown studies due to their omission of blacks. I assured him the present team was here to correct that. He promised us his assistance in the successful completion of the project. While impressive and apparently quite popular, he was given to long monologues and speeches when responding to brief questions. I decided this was an affliction of ministers; it was probably in their blood.

When the speeches began at Heekin Park, there were about 50 adults and about 25 to 30 youngsters present. The speeches of several of the older ministers were insightful and very organized, while the younger leaders rambled for too long. I left at 4 pm to get something to eat. When I returned at 5:45 pm, the crowd had shrunk to about 20, most of whom were teenage boys playing basketball.

**July 14.** In the evening the students discussed their observations about their assignments and their perceptions of the study at this point. Some of them thought they should have been told more about the proposal and the broader boundaries of the study. They spoke of some of the problems they've had but also of the joys of the new experience that the project had allowed them. After the discussions, I went back to 8th Street where I went over some bills and other issues involving the project.

The administrative aspects of the project weigh heavily on my shoulders, for I must keep the financial files straight and correct while I work on the methods of successfully completing the research itself.

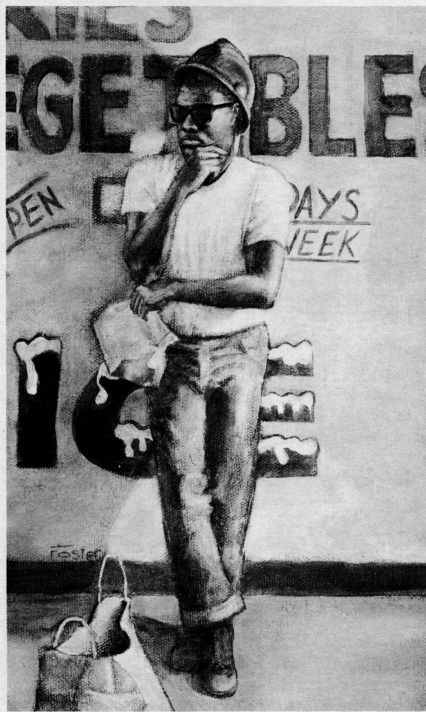
**July 15.** Woke early and had a light breakfast, then walked to the Multi-Purpose Center, about seven blocks from the office. There, the younger guys were playing pingpong while the older guys were on the basketball court receiving instructions from a tall, greying gentleman on the sideline. After he told them to take a break, he walked over to me and introduced himself. Apparently he had had a national basketball career but was cut from the team(s) for some reason. He had returned to Muncie and has been working with young people. We talked briefly about Muncie and the need to assist youth in moving ahead.

I went to the room where youngsters were playing pingpong. There was a loud commotion behind me, and I turned around to see a fellow stepping between two girls who were about to fight.

**July 16.** Spent the morning reading some of the Middletown III reports and drafting possible questions for the Black Middletown questionnaire. About noon, I saw my neighbor cutting his grass, so I went out to introduce myself. He did not have much to say beyond "Glad to meet you." I asked him about trash pickup and where I could find someone to cut the grass.

There is a great mix of houses in Industry. Some are middle class in appearance, while others are like the





worst slums I've seen in several major cities. There are few whites on East 8th Street, many more on West 8th Street. Madison Street appears to be a dividing line between whites and blacks. Middletown is as segregated as any Southern town or city, and in many ways it reminds me of the South. It seems to me a trick of fate: black folks leave the South only to end up in another South.

**July 17.** Cyrus, the photographer, came by the office at 7:45 am to take me to see Mrs. Williams, one of Muncie's oldest citizens. She took us to some old buildings where blacks lived and worshipped during the early 1900s. She was a walking encyclopedia—connecting names and places, at 84 her mind very fertile and alert. She took us to the house where she first lived when she came to Muncie in 1904. We also went to four other of the oldest houses in Black Middletown and visited one of the oldest black churches in Muncie; unfortunately, the old cornerstone was behind a brick wall.

**July 18.** Mr. and Mrs. Smith, two of my neighbors, came by. Mrs. Smith is very talkative. She says she is a plain country girl and loves it and does not like the city. She considers Muncie to be a big city.

The discussion got around to racial problems, and I showed them the Muncie newspaper with the headline of a cross burning on the lawn of a black couple's home. They were both angered by the event, but she said she didn't understand why the black couple would want to move into a neighborhood of poor whites. She then related the terrible time she had had on her job when Southern whites had gone to the manager to complain that they would not work with her because she was "colored." The manager had told them they would have to work with her or work elsewhere. While she spoke about her life in the country, my thoughts went back to something one of the historians at Ball State had said to me, to the effect that Hoosier Consciousness may be more prevalent in this region than Black Consciousness.

**August 7.** The landlord called to say that he had not received the rent for the month. I told him the checks might be a couple of days late each month due to

processes they must go through before being sent to him. He said that universities should be more organized and get their acts together. He said he had had some experiences with universities before: "They will tell you that your check is in the mail while you starve." We both laughed.

Later that evening, while returning to my office-residence, I took a short cut through the public housing units on Madison Street. Groups of blacks and whites were scattered about the units, but there did not appear to be any comingling between them. As I walked through or around the groups, an individual or two would flash a smile or nod, and I would reciprocate.

**August 8.** More people are now aware of my presence in the community and the importance of the project. I've placed a lounge chair on the front porch where I relax and do nothing or do my casual reading. I exchange greetings with people as they pass. Occasionally several residents walk to the porch and we talk briefly about them, the city, their place of birth, and other incidentals. The youngsters are generally friendly and often wave to me as they ride by on their bikes or walk by in groups of four, five, or six—sometimes larger.

One youngster with whom I had played pingpong at the center walked by with his father. They stopped and chatted briefly. His father said it had been difficult for blacks to get the center because Muncie whites had opposed it, especially since it would be on one of the main streets of the city. Blacks finally got it, he said, because the black community rose up to protest against the white opposition. The son said that whites stayed to themselves and blacks stayed to themselves: "They don't bother us, and we don't bother them." I suspected, however, that pockets of interracial contact existed throughout the city. I hoped our survey on race relations would unearth this information.

**August 9.** The more I think about it, the more inclined I am to see Black Middletown taking very different directions from Middletown III. I am beginning to like the anthropological style, a mood dissimilar from the sociological mood. The former requires writing on a more intimate level, which I find more difficult than simply filling in blanks with statistics. I know this idea is probably heretical to many sociologists; still I am moving in this direction.

**August 10.** Attended services at Zion Baptist Church. There were about 85 worshippers in the church, most of whom were women. They were well-dressed.

It was a rather hot day; ushers were running up and down the aisles passing out fans, hymnals, and Bibles. The minister sat on the pulpit in an almost Buddha-like manner. When he rose to preach the sermon, I noticed a bend, a hunch often seen in the elderly. As he warmed up to his sermon, however, his back straightened, his voice got louder, and he asked the congregation over and over: "Are you with me now?" "Are you following me?" As the tempo of his sermon increased, one woman began to shout and then fainted. The ushers grabbed her and began to fan her.

At 3:30 pm I went to the Buley Center, the other center for blacks located in Whitley, to attend a NAACP meeting. A woman in her late 70s introduced herself as Mrs. Wills and said she had already heard of me and wished me success in the completion of the project. She lamented the fact that so many people chose not to join the NAACP at a time when the organization needed new members and when black people still needed a group to help fight discrimination.

Mrs. Hunt from Tennessee joined us, and she, too, had heard of the Black Middletown research team. I asked her how long she had lived in Muncie. She replied it had been 25 years and then added that she was disturbed by the degree of racial hatred on both sides. She said it was possible to live together in harmony if people were willing to give it a try. Mrs. Wills pondered Mrs. Hunt's statements, then responded that whereas hotheads certainly existed on both sides, we shouldn't forget that the bulk of the racial conflict stemmed from whites.

**August 11.** I ran into Mrs. Anders, a faculty wife whom I had met previously in the sociology department, though her husband is not a member of the department. She said that she had been in Muncie for

more than 20 years but still could not view the city as home. She recalled the bad times at the university when the first black faculty member had come there to teach in 1961. Local citizens reacted so negatively to him that he could not get a bank loan to purchase a home. A group of white Ball State faculty had to organize themselves to help him get a loan. She said things were a little better now, but some of the old hatred was still around and wouldn't change. She added that she felt sorry for the black students who had to live and study in such a hostile environment.

**August 13.** Met with a reporter from a local newspaper. He wanted me to participate in a series he was writing about blacks in Muncie. I told him that I was too new to the city to have very much to say.

I don't want to do anything to jeopardize the success of the project. Right now, I want to look and listen and meet as many people as possible.

In the evening I heard a local broadcast interview with Abdul, a local Moslem leader. He was a forceful speaker. I understood why he was said to be very popular with the youth.

**August 14.** Spent the day scanning newspaper files from 1923 to 1926 to help establish the baseline years for the study.

**August 17.** Attended one of the smaller Baptist churches. Unlike the larger Baptist churches in Muncie, this one had no hymnals or Bibles in the pews. It reminded me of some of the storefront churches I had visited in Harlem and in Charleston. Most of the men and women in the congregation appeared to be in their 50s and 60s. About six or seven were in their 70s and 80s. They were collecting the Benevolent Offering when I entered. They then sang a fellowship hymn and shook hands. Immediately afterward, there was a call to go to the altar to pray. The visiting minister, Reverend Robinson, was not a very inspiring speaker.

The songs were sung in an old-fashioned manner—without piano or organ (there was none visible), slowly as in a dirge. I found interesting that, unlike other churches, there was no recognition of visitors. The members were friendly but more inward-looking than those in the other churches I had visited.

Returned to the office. Abdul came by and told me he had just seen some of his Moslem brothers. They told him someone had burned the front door of their Moslem Center, and a wax figure was left on the burned door. The figure appeared to be that of a black person.

**August 18.** Continued looking at microfilms of the *Muncie Evening Press*. Saw Peter Moss in the library, and he asked about the progress of the research. I mentioned that I had been visiting churches. He had published a brief study of the history of blacks in Muncie, so I asked whether there was a sizable black Episcopalian population in Muncie. He said there were no black Episcopalians in town.

I wondered how he could be sure. After all, there were about 10,000 blacks in the city. He said blacks visit the local white Episcopal church. When they do come, they are treated in a friendly manner, but he said that the Episcopalians are the most prominent members of the community and are addicted to a certain lifestyle, and they have a very closed society. They tend to like things as they are. They like the church the way it is.

**August 19.** Spent the day scanning newspaper files for the years 1923-24. This is tedious and laborious. I am, however, beginning to find useful information. At night, my only relief to help clear my mind is listening to New York and Chicago news stations and, later, the Larry King Show when the static isn't too severe. I think about getting a television set but am afraid I would waste valuable time watching worthless shows out of loneliness or the need to escape.

I want to immerse myself into the community as much as possible and, in the process, remain free of



nonessentials, but on reflection I am not so sure that ideal is totally realistic. There must be a difference between having a few comforts in the field in remote areas, such as Asia, Africa, or Latin America, and having ordinary comforts in a contemporary urban society. Margaret Mead admonished field workers not to "drown" in the culture they were studying, though she sanctioned immersion. I must remember that. Being in the field can be a very lonely experience, even though I've met many people I admire and have much work yet to do. I feel right now an urgent need to place some distance between myself and some of the people I've met. I know now that I don't want people dropping by unexpectedly. After interviewing and speaking to people all day, I need some space in the evenings. I need the evenings to read, reflect, and complete my journal notes.

**August 20.** Went to see Carl Painter, one of the few black faculty members at Ball State. An easy-going, rather informal person, he said he liked working at Ball State and got along well with his white colleagues. He noted, however, that the experience of many blacks who had come to Ball had not been that good. He cautioned that we must always be careful in deciding whether a case involves personality differences between a black faculty member and the chair or other faculty of a department, or whether it involves race.

I asked about race relations between black Ball State faculty and the black community. He said many black faculty have divorced themselves from the community and do much to keep the division in tact.

**August 24.** Attended the local United Methodist Church. The minister was black, the congregation racially mixed—my first encounter with this combination in Muncie. When I entered the church, the youth choir was singing. There were just as many whites as blacks in the choir, and much to my surprise a white male was singing the solo part. What a different church. To the right of the lectern was a carving of an African head. Above the door to the minister's office was a portrait of a black Christ. There were more children and young people in the congregation than in any of the other churches I had visited so far. It struck me as ironic that the most integrated of the churches had a black Christ and an African sculptured head on the lectern.

The young assistant minister delivered a high-powered, fire-and-brimstone sermon. After the sermon, the youth choir sang "I Must Tell Jesus." The choir director, a heavy-set woman in her mid- to late-40s, left the podium, threw her hands in the air, and proceeded to walk down the aisle, emitting a loud yell. Tears were rolling down her cheeks. She came to the rear of the church, took a seat almost directly behind me and continued weeping. Ushers came to her assistance and sought to quiet her.

At the end of the service, members were invited to come to the front. I noticed that a few were speaking in tongues and shaking. Others were testifying and making "confessionals." I found this rather strange for a Methodist church, but the churches are in the midst of great change.

After church, I returned to the office, changed clothes, and walked two blocks to Heekin Park. Some young boys were playing basketball, others baseball. A couple of youth came by in a car, parked near the basketball court, and asked some of the nonplayers if they wanted some wine, to which they said no. The guys got back in the car and drove away.

**August 25.** Walter Cone came by to cut the grass. He said he was in a hurry because he was leaving soon for college. He did do a rush job, but it still looked better half done than not done at all. Before he cut the grass, the lawn looked like a wheat field.

**September 3.** Quiet day. Went to the library, then walked to the barbershop on Highland Avenue. En-

joyed the quiet, casual atmosphere and the banter of the guys. Maybe I should study this barbershop. I should keep the idea as a possibility.

**September 15.** Worked on the questionnaires for the community survey. Read Warren's *Studying Your Community*.

I find myself having a range of reactions to the community, from feeling too much the insider to feeling too much the outsider. I attempt to attend all the functions that are publicized, but I need to be careful not to assume I must always be where the action is. It seems almost a conflict between "action" and "thought." I don't always have to be on the go; I need to spend a little more time *thinking through* the theoretical issues involved in the study. As I write this, I understand that this study is basically exploratory in nature.

**September 18.** Met with Tim Holly of the local newspaper. He just completed his series on blacks in Muncie. He asked me about certain blacks, but I remained noncommittal. I decided the last thing I needed was to express my view on anyone to anyone at this time, especially to a reporter. Tim informed me that many of his interviewees had insisted that Mr. X or Mr. Y were Toms. He said it seemed very difficult for blacks to acquire success and later, under certain conditions, enjoy that success. Many saw the success as verification that they had sold out in order to obtain the success. Tim pressed me for my assessment of certain black leaders, but I refused. I expressed concern that he would use the term "Black Middletown" as a headline for his series. It could confuse residents, negative fallouts of which could affect our research team when we started our community survey.

**September 19.** Was invited to and attended a Sigma Xi meeting about 20 miles from Muncie. Had a chance to meet some Ball State biology and physics faculty. I was the only sociologist present. It was possible that I might be able to present some data from the Middletown study at one of the Sigma Xi meetings. Robert Pinger, prexy, lamented the fact that there were no "social science types" in Sigma Xi. One of the sociologists at Ball had told me that he used to attend Sigma Xi meetings, but there were too many lectures on nerve cells and tissues, so he stopped attending.

**September 20.** Went to the Washington Street Festival, an activity attempting to increase interest in the downtown area. The streets were closed; there were about 20 or 25 booths. There was only one black in a booth; few blacks engaged in the festival activities. The festival seemed an act that could increase the gentrification of this section of downtown.

**October 9.** Stayed in the office and read community studies articles. In the early afternoon, I sat on the front porch. I then saw Mrs. Campbell, my neighbor across the street. I walked over to tell her that I saw police cars in front of her family's appliance store. She said that someone had tried to enter the building. She shook her head and remarked that there used to be a time when blacks would not rip off each other but would go across town to get the property of whites, the ones with the money. Now, she continued, there is no sense in blacks helping other blacks to survive. She raised a question: "How are blacks going to survive in business if other blacks destroy them and take away what little they have?" She then seemed to want to get away from the topic and asked about the project and the degree of cooperation the local community was giving.

**October 12.** Walked to the Working Man's Grocery Store for my weekly grocery supplies.

I only see my next-door neighbors on Sundays. My informants tell me that the couple is on the quiet side, staying much to themselves. They are cautiously friendly, and though I have spoken to Bill about the research, he has not expressed any interest in knowing more about we're doing.

**October 14.** Visited the Black Cultural Center at Ball State. It was well-kept with a library, eating quarters, study rooms, and more. It was designed to be a home-away-from-home for black students who were entering "foreign" territory at Ball State. I recognized a few of the students and stopped by to ask about their studies and life at Ball and in Muncie.

**October 16.** Met with Tim Long, a Ball State faculty member. He asked whether I had seen some of the key black leaders in the city. I replied that either I had or would soon. I had already scheduled some interviews

and hoped to see about 25 to 30 of the local leaders in various fields. As was the case whenever I spoke with Ball State faculty, we soon began discussing the relationship between black faculty and the Muncie black community. Long said that there was a problem, but he didn't think the faculty blacks were always to blame. The community people, he believed, had unrealistic expectations of Ball State blacks. "As soon as you become a Ball State faculty," he said, "people assume that you've changed, and they begin to treat you differently."

He said he was particularly interested in the Black Middletown study because he wanted to know just what information from our findings could be useful to the local black community. Long admitted that he knew very little about the happenings in the black community at this time. He had lost touch because the community had grown so much and become so diversified. There used to be a time, he said, when you could find out what was happening in Black Muncie. Not anymore.

**October 18.** It was Saturday, so I decided to go to the barbershop in Whitely. I took the bus, since the car wouldn't work. Stayed at the barbershop for two and a half hours, then began to walk home. The white bus driver who had taken me downtown saw me, hailed me down, and gave me a free lift back to the house. He was born in the Smokey Mountain region of Tennessee. He said he liked it better in Muncie than in Tennessee.

**October 19.** Spent the day catching up on my mail and cleaning the office. I have got to work on my filing system, or else things will begin to inundate me. Students and community people are beginning to drop by during the day. I want the office to look efficient.

**October 20.** I've started to think through some ideas that might result in a barbershop study. It would not be like William Foote Whyte's restaurant study, which analyzes social interactions in restaurants; it would be more an analysis of what men talk about in barber shops. I only hope that my presence does not inhibit free-flowing discussion among the men. So far, I have not noticed any unwillingness on the part of the patrons to delve into any issue due to my presence. I have already begun to take notes after leaving the barbershop. Conversations seem to move into distinct areas. I am very excited about this possibility.

Returned to the office. Roger called from the Ball State sociology department. He asked me to make a presentation about the Middletown study to a sociology faculty-student symposium.

**October 21.** I returned to the barbershop and stayed for three and a half hours, then came back to the office.

**October 23.** Had lunch with Dave Wilson, a graduate student who assists in Ball State's Upward Bound Program. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Ball State and is currently completing his dissertation. He offered these insights: "The black community is very suspicious of outsiders until they get to know you, and that may take awhile. Blacks here are relatively quiet and noncommunicative, but that's the Hoosier style, and maybe blacks have adopted this style from whites.

"There is a leadership problem. Whites in power don't want to do too much for blacks, and they don't want blacks in power to do too much for blacks either. Given that, if blacks in power begin to do too much for blacks, they are going to antagonize the white power structure. For this reason, there are very few blacks in any position of authority to chart new directions for the black community. Blacks with any degree of power have been trained for this power by whites, and they are not going to stray very far from their training.

"The community just doesn't appear to be going anywhere."

He offered insight into what many view as a split in the black student population: "The black students are





split between those who are from the big cities, like Gary, Chicago, and Indianapolis, and those who grew up in the small towns of Indiana where they have not been around many blacks. The latter have not acquired what those from the big cities call "being black." The big-city students view those from small towns as square, unhip, and very white because they can't talk "black talk" or dance the black dances.

"In due time, they'll reach some type of accommodation. But right now, there is a great deal of tension."

**October 25.** This morning my battered car acted up and refused to start. By this time I did not trust the car and took it to Abdul's friend, Jerry, to be checked. Jerry was home. It was clear he was agitated about something. As he began to look under the hood, he started talking:

"My old lady is giving me so much hell, man. I've been unemployed, and I know it's been hard on her, but hell, I don't like it either. I'm doing the best I can to keep food on the table, but she's always riding me—'Why don't you do this?' 'Why don't you do that?'—and all that junk. I tell her I'm the man of the house, and I'll take care of my responsibilities if she'll take care of her job as a wife and get off my back. Like I've been laid off from my job for a year. The family gets food stamps. I don't like it worth a damn, but what can I do about it?"

"She wants me to work miracles. I went out and did a job on a car yesterday, and the guy only had ten bucks. When I came home, she started yelling at me: 'You've been gone three hours and only brought back ten bucks. I know you made more than that. If that's all you got, you could have stayed home.' Hell, I don't need that. Women just make you so mad. Always trying to boss you, always trying to rule you.

"I'm getting out of this town. It's no good. Not only can I not find a job, but black people don't care about each other. Here I am, a poor man trying to make it. I worked hard, saved some money, and opened a restaurant last year. Man, those young thugs ran me out of business. They broke into my place three times and stole all my equipment and all the food I had in the restaurant."

His eyes began to fill with tears.

"The police don't care. And whitey don't care if we kill each other, but let one of us be near a white place that is robbed and we're stopped and questioned. I'll never forget how my people done me. I'll never forget it. I'm taking my family out of here. I'll never set foot here again."

He tinkered with the car again. He noticed that a part was missing and got in his car to get the part from a friend's house not far away. While he was gone, his wife came outside and began speaking to me about their problems:

"My husband has not worked in over a year, and I really can't take it anymore. I know he says he's trying hard, but I just don't think he's trying hard enough. I mean, I try to understand, but I've got to think about my children. They need things for school, I need to drive my car to shop for food, but we don't have money for gas. I don't like to live this way. I try to keep the house looking good. I clean and try to have the kids looking decent, but I can't do it all if I don't have any money. I mean I try, I really try, but he won't try too much."

"I just don't think he loves me anymore, and I don't love him anymore. I'm thinking of leaving him, but I don't want to take the kids because he'll miss them so much, and I don't want to leave the kids. But if I leave him, I'll have to leave the state because he says he'll kill me if I leave him. I don't know what to do."

"I don't like living in this dump of a house. I wish he would leave. At least then I could get some help for the children and myself. He's just not doing anything to help us, so maybe I'm better off without him. He never used to act like he's acting now. Just acting crazy and mean all the time. This morning he told me to leave."

She began to cry.

"Then he said he didn't mean it, but he meant it. I know he meant it."

Jerry returned shortly and put the parts together. I felt a great deal of pain and sorrow for both husband and wife. I gave him \$10 and drove back to the office.

**October 26.** Went to Bethel Temple Church. The church was observing its 50th anniversary and was packed. The visiting minister spoke on "What God Hath Wrought." He kept repeating that all we needed was Jesus: "You don't need to go swimming, to go to the movies, to look at TV, or to go dancing." There was much singing and clapping and testifying. People stood and stated how and why they were saved. I saw a few young women who were heavily made-up, wearing tight dresses. But most of the young women were without make-up and wore plain dresses. There was much "speaking in tongues," but not much shouting.

**October 27.** J. C., one of my Ball State student informants, called. It seemed he had been trying to get in with one of the local coeds and struck out. He lamented his plight, saying that most of the coeds at Ball don't "have their act together," and that the students at Ball were a "million light years" behind the times. He then said some black coeds had expressed a preference for light-complected black men. I expressed some dismay on hearing this. He went onto say that he, too, had color hangups—that he preferred light-complected women. He said he knew it didn't make any sense for blacks to get hangups on skin color, but that's the way he was. I then told him that he needed to really deal with this issue. While he was speaking, my mind went back to the 1960s when we were all trying to move ourselves away from many of these ideas that were detrimental to our collective welfare.

After the discussion of color, J. C. went back to his original concern: how he could snare the young lady who had captured his heart.

**October 28.** Spent a few hours at the Buley Community Center. One of the young men who worked with the youth programs expressed disappointment because nothing was being done for the youth. He believed the churches had not played a great role in helping youth

discover who they are and how they could learn to be participants in the community. He denounced the local NAACP and its leadership as do-nothings who have placed a yolk around the necks of the black community. For about a half hour, he continued to assault local black leaders, then he went into the gym to join the other young men who were playing basketball. I returned to the office.

**October 29.** Met Gena, a student at Ball State, who had a low opinion of the leadership here. She viewed churches as backward and too fundamentalist. The key theme in the churches, she said, appeared to be "infallibility" on the part of the ministers who are afraid of any new ideas coming out of the community that are not under their control. She added that people here have problems, but ministers couldn't help them because they are too shallow and believe that all problems can be healed by a strong belief in the Bible or their idea of God. She said they believed that if the problem didn't go away, either you hadn't prayed hard enough or that God was waiting to deal with the problem in His own time. She thought that what Muncie needed most was a spiritual awakening.

She had returned to the university after a hiatus of more than ten years and said that she needed to focus on getting her own life together so that she could lend a hand to others.

**October 30.** We need to get the questionnaire draft for the community survey under wraps. We are already behind schedule, and we must accelerate our progress in certain areas. I am very frustrated at times because I have carved out a couple of sub-studies from the larger study—the barbershop study and the black leadership study—but at the same time, I do not want to fall behind on the major community survey.

**October 31.** Tonight is Halloween. The kids have been knocking on the door every ten minutes. That has kept up for about an hour. I ran out of candy and placed a note on the door expressing regrets. Abdul called later and wanted to go halves with me on a pizza. We went to the pizza parlor, then went to a poolhall in Whitley. I won a game and he won a game. I was surprised by my win because I hadn't played pool in almost 20 years.

From the poolhall we went to one of the local bars. Abdul said he was "dipping me into the culture of the masses." He jokingly said that I had had enough of polite Muncie life, and now it was time I saw how the other side of the black community lived. In the bar there was much banter between the men: "Hey, I haven't seen you since you got married. Wife must be putting some heavy stuff on you, cause you don't leave the house anymore." As in the barbershop, there was much time spent catching up on the news—Where is so-and-so? When were you last in Chicago or Detroit? All of them referred to Muncie as "Dodge City."

**November 1.** Went by the barbershop. Heard one of the most interesting conversations yet since I had been dropping in. There was much reminiscing among the older men. They talked a lot about their early experiences in the South. There seemed to be a strong social network among these men. This barbershop served a vital need for them to get together once or twice a week to relive some aspects of their past. Much of their discussion centered on a comparison of the youth of today with their own youth in the South:

*Speaker One:* I'm concerned with what I see here in Muncie. I'm from Memphis, Tennessee, and where I lived, even though we were poor, we still wanted something. We aspired. The young people here don't seem to have high goals for themselves. Everything for them is just the here and now. They don't want to delay their pleasure in order to plan for the future. There is no striving for excellence, no pride in doing anything. I'm proud of being from the South. At least there, blacks still dream and hope. Youth here



lack vision, but when you speak to their parents, you see why the children are the way they are. The parents can't stay still—just running, trying to get all they can while they can. They don't have time to think, they're so busy ripping and running. They want all these material things now, and they don't want to wait. The children are just like their parents—no vision, no planning, no thinking. In the South, we had a vision. *Speaker Two:* I don't agree with that. These kids are much smarter than we were at their age. They know more. Times are just different. All the kids are lost, white kids as well as black kids. These kids are no different from us when we were kids.

*Speaker Three:* I don't know. I'm not that old, but my father used to tell us that you should try to do whatever you do well. He had only a third grade education, but he taught all of us to take pride in whatever we did. One of his big words was "excellence." The older I grow, the more I see how right he was. Our young people don't get that word excellence very often because so few people hold up the example of excellence for them.

*Speaker One:* Now I know all you guys in here were born in the South. We weren't saints when we were growing up, but . . .

*Speaker Two:* Now wait a minute. I was!

*Speaker One:* Seriously though, we were taught to lead worthwhile, wholesome lives. Kids today are not taught the basics at home. No respect for others, no respect for a disciplined life. How can these youth provide leadership for our people if they're into all types of drugs, and into doing everything you can think of? I think parents have lost control.

*Speaker Four:* You're not making any sense. Now my wife and I have tried to give our kids a good upbringing. We're proud of our children, but they haven't done all the things that we taught them at home. You guys know what it was like when we were growing up. I know you guys were sneaking around smoking and taking a sip whenever you could. But we didn't become monsters. All we can do is give our kids good advice. You can never force them to do what they don't want to do. They have minds of their own. You can't blame all parents for their children's mistakes. We can't control or watch our kids 24 hours a day. We try to point them in a good direction and pray like hell and cross our fingers that they don't stray too far from our teachings.

*Speaker One:* Some parents do try hard, but I tell you now, I've worked with organizations that are trying to resolve some problems of our youth. I go to their homes and speak to some of their parents. Believe me, some parents are more lost than their children.

**November 3:** I began to think a little about the process of conversions today. We have a small Moslem population here, but we also have people who were once mainstream Christians who chose to move into the more fundamentalist faiths. I wonder what happens in most cases that begins the conversion process.

Stopped at the Buley Center, then went to the barbershop where there was a lively discussion. It was particularly interesting because two or three students from Ball State were waiting to get haircuts.

**November 5.** Spent an animated hour at the barber-shop. My barber-shop notes are beginning to increase. I am beginning to see the form and shape such a study could take. I worry most about what everyone who engages in participation-observation worries about: accuracy in note-taking and the ability to have sharp and accurate recall.

**November 6.** Chris Thomas, one of the men from the barbershop, invited me to prayer services at St.

James Church and then to his house to meet his wife and children. His was a very nice home, well-furnished and tastefully done. In giving me a tour of his house, he showed me his Prayer Room. The room was devoid of all furniture except an altar with a cross. He suggested that we pray. I replied that I really didn't want to pray. He immediately knelt and prayed while I stood. Later he apologized for doing that. I told him I wasn't angry and jokingly called him an "aggressive proselytizer."

**November 10.** Spent the morning running errands. Went to Ball State's financial aid office to apply for another work studies typist. Stopped by the archives to check on some data. I went out to try and start the car, but she was as dead as a dodo. So I decided to spend some more time in the library and not worry about the car. When I returned to the car an hour later, it worked. I don't know how or why.

Returned home. Later J.C. called regarding his lost love. He wanted me to call her and say a few words to her on his behalf. I told him he was smart and wise enough to win her back by himself.

**November 12.** Presented a history of the project and the grant to the sociology symposium. I made the mistake of repeating what one of my friends had said when he heard I was going to Muncie: "Jesus, why are you going to that God-forsaken place?" Not everyone was amused. I later regretted the incident.

A lively question-and-answer period followed the presentation. Three black graduate students were present with about eight to ten white graduate students. One of the black students had engaged the white hostess in a discussion on race. The hostess must have muttered something she regarded as controversial, because she hastened to add she was not a racist—her daughter had a black boyfriend. I heard the student ask, "Would you mind if your daughter married the young man?" She responded, "I would mind. I'm being honest with you."

**November 14.** Abdul and his friend Zia invited me out for dinner. Though Zia is a Moslem, Abdul used profanity whenever he spoke.

Many Muncie blacks view Zia as a leader of the anti-establishment faction within the black community. He is young and has a degree of charisma: he knows how to speak the language of the youth. He speaks often of his disdain for the current crop of what he calls "old and worn" black leaders. He has had an interesting history and is a hard worker, if he is to be believed. But he knows too much and always has the inside scoop on everything; pretty soon, one begins to wonder whether he is really telling the truth. He definitely has a vast reservoir of ideas. According to the youth with whom I've spoken, he is one of the persons they admire most.

**November 19.** I walked ten blocks with my battery to Planks Auto Parts. The walk was refreshing. But I was a little tired after arriving at the store, so I asked the owner if one of his workers would be driving toward Madison Street. He volunteered to take me home. He said he was a Jew born in Russia and had arrived in Muncie more than 50 years ago. He said he had many black customers and got along well with blacks. While he drove me home, he spoke about Russia and the Russian Revolution and how proud he was to be in America.

**December 7.** Attended St. James. A lively day. It was, as the members would say, a "spiritual day." There was much shouting, and the time devoted to testimonies was quite long. I collected quite an extensive array of testimonies and confessions from members of St. James. I don't know what I will do with these testimonies, but as I write new entries and re-read old ones, I become intrigued with the possibilities.

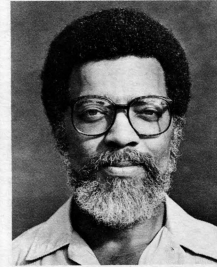
In the evening Chris and another member of the church dropped by. Though I was not interviewing them, they seemed to want to talk about some of the issues and problems in the church, such as conflict with older members and with the minister and efforts to keep sliding members in the fold, issues that up-and-coming leaders of the church must think about. They left after about an hour. My mind was distracted during their visit because tomorrow I will depart for Virginia where I will rejoin my family for the Christmas holiday.

On the one hand, I think I have made some progress with respect to the research. But on the other I often

feel overwhelmed with the many things that must be done—paperwork, supplies, making the rounds to remain in contact with key individuals, making sure the old car works now and then. There is definitely more to field work than just getting there and participating and observing. There is much to the "administration" of research.

**December 9.** Judge Parker, a neighbor and member of St. James, took me to the train station. He brought along his two children who amused us by reciting nursery rhymes.

I will miss Black Muncie, but I am also very eager to get away. Perhaps being away will enable me to rethink some issues and point me in directions I cannot at this moment see or understand. As I sit in the train I watch Muncie fade into the distance, I feel a certain pressure falling away. I like the feeling. ☸



Rutledge Dennis is associate professor of sociology and anthropology.

Photography by Doug Buerlein.



**Erratum**

In the last issue of the *VCU Magazine*, the news item "Teen suicide" incorrectly stated that suicide is the leading cause of death among teenagers and attributed that statement to Dr. Richard Brookman, director of adolescent health services on the MCV Campus. While Brookman would agree that suicide is one of the leading causes of death among people age 15 to 24, he never said it was the leading cause of death, as was reported in the item. The *VCU Magazine* regrets the error.

**VCU's new rector and new provost**

In its May meeting, the VCU Board of Visitors announced the election of James B. Farinholt, Jr. as rector of the board and the approval of Dr. Charles P. Ruch as provost and vice-president for academic affairs. Farinholt, president, chief executive officer, and director of Galleher and Company, Inc., will serve a one-year term as rector. In addition to serving on the board of directors of numerous companies, Farinholt is a trustee of Mary Baldwin College, Maymont Foundation, Richmond Eye and Ear Hospital, and St. Christopher's School. A 1957 graduate of Hampden-Sydney College, he succeeds W. Roy Smith as rector.

Formerly dean of VCU's School of Education from 1977 to 1985, Ruch has been serving as interim provost and vice-president for academic affairs since Dr. Wayne C. Hall's retirement last July. Ruch earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster in Ohio and master's and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University in Illinois. He joined the VCU faculty in 1974 as associate dean for the School of Education and, in 1976, was named acting dean.

Ruch has been active as a program and staff development consultant for local and state agencies and is a member of several advisory committees involved in teacher education. Ruch also has directed eight multi-year staff and organizational development programs in universities and public schools. His research interests focus on organizational transition and development.

**Great recognitions**

The Office of University Relations garnered top awards in the 1986 Recognition Program sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The *VCU Magazine* and *Research in Action*, the university's research periodical, each won silver medals in the category, Illustration in Print.

In the Community Relations category, VCU's Richmond Revitalization Program also captured a silver medal. Established in 1980 and directed by Dr. Morton Gulak, associate professor of urban studies and planning, the program focuses on the redevelopment of abandoned and underused sections of inner Richmond by combining resources within government, academia, and the private sector.

Finally, the public service announcement for WinterFest/Homecoming 1986 won a gold medal in the category, Radio Programming for a 60-Second PSA.

**MCV Foundation awards**

The Medical College of Virginia Foundation has awarded grants and allocations for 1986-87 totalling more than \$800,000 to schools on the MCV Campus for professorships, research, and scholarships.

The School of Medicine's Division of Immunology and Connective Tissue Disease, Department of Surgery, Department of Pediatrics, and Department of Internal Medicine will use funds for teaching positions. The Department of Orthodontics in the School of Dentistry and the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology in the School of Basic Health Sciences will also support teaching positions.

Research grants will be used to purchase new laboratory equipment for the Massey Cancer Center's tumor-immunology program and to aid in the study of cardiovascular disease, pediatrics, alcohol abuse, and aging.

Funds allocated to the School of Allied Health Professions will be used to renovate the historic Sheltering Arms Hospital building, which will house the Department of Health Administration. The School of Pharmacy will support development of off-campus credit courses.

The MCV Foundation, organized in 1949 to support health-related research, teaching, and medical care, also recently received a bequest of \$291,775 from the estate of the

late Hazel L. Coffindaffer, which has been earmarked for medical student loans. Coffindaffer was the widow of Dr. C. Clyde Coffindaffer, a 1917 alumnus of the Medical College of Virginia.

**Good grades for business**

This spring, VCU's School of Business received high marks from a task force of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), which otherwise criticized several Virginia business schools.

The 14-member task force, headed by Dr. Edward C. Atwood, Jr., dean of the School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics at Washington and Lee University, found that the practice of using a portion of state funds and tuition from large business school enrollments to help run less popular departments, while not illegal, is shortchanging some business school students in too-busy computer laboratories, libraries without enough books, and overcrowded classrooms.

VCU's School of Business, however, receives money in about the same proportion as the percentage of business credit hours they produce, according to the task force's report. Noting that the school enrolls about one-fourth of VCU's students, many of them part-time students, the task force reported that "class sizes are not too large and advising loads appear evenly distributed... the curriculum is well-balanced between business and liberal arts courses." The task force also called the school's facilities "excellent," took note of the high percentage of business faculty with doctoral degrees and good records of research and publication, and indicated the "students feel that faculty members are devoted and excellent instructors." Finally, the task force favored the School of Business's plan to limit enrollment in upper-division courses to students showing high promise.

**Honoring leaders**

Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, has established a chapter at VCU. The society, founded at Washington and Lee University in 1914, was the first of its kind to recognize meritorious leadership and service in extracurricular activities and encourage development of campus leadership. Thirty-five members of VCU's Laurels Honor Society were initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa last March. In addition, ten charter faculty and staff members from both campuses, 19 charter student members, and six charter alumni members were inducted into the society.

Membership is based on superior scholarship, responsible leadership, and service in campus life; genuine fellowship; exemplary character; and devotion to democratic principles. By bringing student leaders, alumni, and faculty together, the society serves as a forum for activities, discussions, and projects on campus, community, and national issues.

**Phenomenal phonathon**

Last April, VCU's 20-night Annual Giving Phonathon raised \$71,315 in pledges as a result of the efforts of nearly 400 student, alumni, and faculty-staff volunteers. The 1986 pledge amount represents a 70 percent increase over last year's pledges, which totalled \$42,500. The first phonathon in 1984 raised \$10,000.

The volunteers attempted to reach 16,000 of VCU's nearly 57,000 alumni across the country. Robert J. Fagg, Jr., director of the annual giving program, attributes this year's success to the overall decentralization of the annual giving program; increasing the number of volunteers; and personalizing annual giving chairmen's and dean's letters to alumni. These factors, combined, according to Fagg, resulted in broadening the alumni and friends donor base and, therefore, increasing gifts to VCU.

**A boost for radiotherapy**

The Medical College of Virginia Hospitals' Department of Radiation Therapy has received \$109,000 from the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs toward the purchase of a linear accelerator for patients undergoing radiation therapy.

The 369 clubs throughout Virginia plan to continue raising money over the next two years for the machine, which costs approximately \$1.4 million. The linear accelerator is expected to be in operation within 18 months and will be housed in the Massey Cancer Center.

The equipment will provide X-ray and electron energies for cancer treatment and also will benefit MCVH's new bone marrow transplant program and research on radiotherapy. Approximately 35 cancer patients a day are treated through the Department of Radiation Therapy.

**Tuition and fees increases**

The Board of Visitors has approved tuition increases for the 1986-87 academic year.

Total charges (tuition, fees, housing, and board) for full-time undergraduate Virginia residents will be \$5,040 in 1986-87, up 7.8 percent from 1985-86. Out-of-state undergraduates will pay \$7,660, an increase of 10 percent from 1985-86. Full-time tuition and fees, excluding housing and board, will go up 17.4 percent for in-state undergraduates, 13.2 percent for in-state graduate students, 7.4 percent for in-state medical students, and 6.2 percent for in-state dental students.

Housing and board charges will increase by approximately 6 percent in 1986-87.

Part-time in-state students will also experience tuition and fees increases in the upcoming academic year. Day and evening part-time undergraduate students will pay 16.7 percent more per credit hour than last year; part-time graduate students will pay 11.7 percent more per credit hour.

**Hall of Fame**

Author Tom Wolfe, NBC-TV News anchor Roger Mudd, former *Richmond Times-Dispatch* editor Virgilinus Dabney, and VCU Professor Emeritus Edmund C. Arnold were among 11 inaugural award recipients last April to the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established by VCU's School of Mass Communications to honor Virginians for major contributions to journalism and other fields in mass communications.

Three other recipients were Donald J. Gonzales, retired senior vice-president of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Harry M. Jacobs, Jr., vice-chairman of the Martin Agency; and John Tansley, former general manager of radio station WRVA in Richmond. Four Hall of Fame inductees were honored posthumously: James N. Cargill, Richmond's first Advertising Man of the Year; Pulitzer Prize winner Lenoir Chambers; Pulitzer Prize winning historian Douglas Southall Freeman; and John P. Mitchell, who served as editor of the *Richmond Planet* for nearly half a century.

"Over the years, the Hall of Fame will provide public recognition of many positive achievements by Virginians in the communications field. It will reflect strong traditions and high standards of excellence," said Alf Goodykoontz, chairman of the School of Mass Communications Advisory Board and vice-president of Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

**New athletic director**

Dr. Richard Sander, former assistant athletic director at Memphis State University, has been named VCU's new athletic director, following the resignation of Lewis B. Mills this past June.

"When we began our search for a new athletic director," said President Edmund F. Ackell, "we went looking for someone with management ability, a proven fund raising record, and a sincere interest in the future of our student-athletes. Dick embodies these qualities perfectly. We are most happy to have someone with his credentials join our athletic staff."

The 40-year-old athletic administrator spent four-and-a-half years at Memphis State, in charge of athletic fund raising. Sander earned his bachelor's degree in 1968 from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in business administration. In 1974, he received his master's degree in physical education from Xavier University in Ohio and, in 1980, his doctorate in education from the University of Cincinnati.

Since 1970, Sander has been involved in coaching high school athletes, teaching math and business administration, and coaching college athletes, capped off by his successful stint at Memphis State where, charged with increasing donations, he raised the average \$60,000 athletic giving level to nearly \$1 million over a period of five years.

# Will POWER

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*Most adults who fail to make a will are simply putting it off.*

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**David E. Bagby, Jr.**  
**MCV Foundation**  
**Box 234**  
**Richmond, Virginia 23298-0001**  
**(804) 786-9734**



**Bridging the generation gap**

Adolescence does not necessarily have to be a stormy period, according to Dr. Mark J. Singer, assistant professor of social work at VCU. Family communication is Singer's specialty; he teaches it in the classroom and counsels in private practice.

In 1985 Singer co-authored *Real Men Enjoy Their Kids: How to Spend Quality Time with the Children in Your Life* with Dr. Stephen Schechtman, now a child and family psychologist in private practice in the Philadelphia area, and Wanda Goodheart Singer, preschool director for a Richmond United Methodist Church. Now, he and Schechtman have put out a new book, *The Missing Link: Building Quality Time with Your Teens*.

Singer says the basic premise of their latest book is that being a teenager is part of normal development but that outside influences, especially advances in technology in today's society, intrude on the family's efforts to communicate. Singer explains that because of society's mobility and complexity, teenagers and parents may move apart more readily: "They lose sight of each other's world more easily."

Says Singer, "What we advocate at first is that both the parent and teen begin to tune into each other, to become sensitive and aware of each other's world." Parents need to understand how academic life, peer pressure, and the drug culture affect their teenagers, while teenagers need to learn to be more tolerant of their parents' social circles and the stresses caused by making ends meet. Singer says it also is essential that families develop mutual respect, regard, and caring for others, and learn to appreciate others' limitations.

**Solving respiratory distress**

Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is a condition that often complicates the treatment of patients who have overwhelming systemic infections. At present, respirators can be used to help sustain patients until their bodies recover from infection, but the problem itself is not solved.

According to Dr. Harvey J. Sugarman, professor of surgery at VCU, recent studies indicate that a combination of drugs may be effective in treating ARDS, when the lungs fail to provide enough oxygen to the bloodstream. The drug combination appears to attack some of the underlying processes that cause the lungs to fail to provide oxygen.

The five drugs Sugarman and his colleagues have been researching include ibuprofen, which blocks prostaglandin release; two types of antihistamines that block H<sub>1</sub> and H<sub>2</sub> receptors; a steroid, methylprednisolone; and a drug that blocks serotonin. Later studies have shown that ibuprofen and the antihistamines are the most effective.

Ibuprofen is now widely used to treat arthritis but is only available in oral form. Until the Food and Drug Administration approves ibuprofen for intravenous use, studies with patients suffering from ARDS cannot be conducted. That approval may come in the next year or two.

**Holographic art**

It's called "Pi," and it's 144 square feet. Its components consist of nine panels, each measuring 4 feet by 4 feet. With the use of mirrors, it reflects an infinite array of brilliant and sparkling colors. And, to Chuck Henry, VCU professor of sculpture, it's art.

On view at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts this past spring, the artwork actually is a mosaic which he calls holographic art. It combines high technology with ancient mysticism, multiplied with mirrors. Henry explains it is another way to deal with colors on surfaces and in space—"like a paper prism."

The high-tech aspect is in the use of holograms, which are three-dimensional images recorded on photographic plates with lasers rather than more conventional forms of light. A complex process splits the lasers into two beams, one of which is refracted from an object while the other is exposed directly onto the emulsion of light-sensitive film. The piece takes its name from the mathematical term that designates the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter.

Its mystic elements are derived from ancient religious beliefs, specifically the ancient Hebrew religious doctrine of Qabbala, a mystic sect that flourished in the Middle Ages. Qabbalists believed that the cosmos was divided into ten spheres, each with subdivisions extending into infinity. Astrology, alchemy, palmistry, and black

and white magic were associated with the Qabbala tradition.

Before pursuing art, Henry studied atomic physics at the University of Pennsylvania. But, as Henry explains, science was not precisely his medium. Now, however, he has managed to combine art and science in his holographic art. With his holograms, Henry also has broken new ground. While the technology has been around for 40 years, he is the only artist he knows of who has developed the technique for holographic mosaics.

Henry has taken his art a step further. He uses a printing technique that can mass produce the mosaics cheaply, "about 25 cents a piece," he says.

**Caribbean voices**

Researchers interested in the politics, sociology, economics, history, art, or folklore of the Caribbean will find a new source of information in a recently published collection of essays on Caribbean writers.

The book, *Fifty Caribbean Writers: A Biographical-Critical Sourcebook*, is edited by Dr. Daryl C. Dance, professor of English at VCU. Several figures at the forefront of today's Caribbean literature receive their first extended treatment in the book; each essay, written by a leading scholar or writer in this field, combines extensive biographical, bibliographical, and critical analysis of its particular subject. Many new talents also are profiled.

Several of the contributors to the book have been personally acquainted with their subjects and thus draw from interviews, correspondence, and long associations in their essays. Greenwood Press, publisher of the book, calls it "invaluable to scholars wishing to trace the emergence and development of a new regional voice in the international literary arena."

Dance's earlier works include *Shuckin' and Jivin': Folklore from Contemporary Black Americans* and *Folklore from Contemporary Jamaicans*.

**Restarting the nervous system**

Once central nervous system nerves are damaged, they do not repair themselves. Or do they?

The medical dogma of irreparable nerve damage is supported by millions of examples such as victims of spinal cord injuries who spend their lives bound to wheelchairs. But some early research described at a recent neuroscience symposium at VCU indicates that some damaged nerves may regenerate themselves.

Dr. Garth M. Bray of McGill University in Montreal spoke at the symposium of pioneer studies conducted by a colleague, Dr. Albert Aguayo, in central nervous system nerve regeneration. The neuroscience symposium was sponsored by VCU and the Central Virginia Chapter of the Society of Neurosciences.

Research by several groups of scientists in the United States and Canada has shown some regeneration in rats, although it has not yet been demonstrated whether these regenerated nerves can successfully serve their original functions. For that to happen, said Bray, the central nerves would not only have to regrow but also have to make appropriate connections in the appropriate areas. Both Bray and Dr. Richard P. Bunge of Washington University's medical school in St. Louis, Missouri, concurred that there may be something about the environment provided by Schwann cells, located around the axons of peripheral nerves, that may allow regrowth.

**Minority attrition**

The dynamics of attrition and retention of minority students at VCU are the major objective of studies being conducted in VCU's Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) by Dr. Daniel Johnson, professor, and Dr. Neil W. Henry, associate professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Given the changing demographic structure of society, particularly in the reduction of the number of 18-year-olds, educational institutions that rely on enrollments for their funding are experiencing growing concern about future enrollment. One way to partially compensate for declining enrollment is to reduce attrition.

A pilot project, based on the 1978 cohort, showed that the effect of race depended on gender in regard to graduation rates: white women and black men were more likely to graduate in four years, while white men and black women were more likely to take longer to graduate. In terms of permanent withdrawal, black students were more likely to return for a second or third year than whites,

although white students achieved a higher graduation rate. When black students did withdraw without a degree, they were more likely to be in academic difficulty than white students who left the university before graduation.

In addition to facts about the decisions and experiences of minorities at VCU and their financial and work situations, the survey revealed that the most important reason given for leaving VCU was lack of money. Other important reasons included students' dissatisfaction with their academic performance and uncertainty about their academic goals.

The second phase of the research, currently under way, will document similarities and differences between later freshman cohorts and the class of 1978. Another survey of the 1979-81 freshman cohorts—including a random sample of white students—will enable SRL researchers to find out whether the reasons cited for leaving VCU differ by race and whether different patterns of post-VCU college attendance exist.

**A weight loss alternative**

Thousands of severely obese people may be helped by a new device, the Gastric Bubble, recently approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Developed by Delaware gastroenterologists Drs. Lloyd and Mary Garren, the Gastric Bubble is a plastic balloon that is nonsurgically placed in the patient's stomach and then inflated. It reduces appetite by making the patient feel full.

MCV Hospitals is the first medical center in Virginia to offer the new technique to patients, which, according to Dr. Donald Kirby, gastroenterologist and assistant professor of medicine at VCU, is performed on an outpatient basis and only takes about 15 minutes.

The procedure, however, is not for someone who would like to lose ten or 15 pounds. Kirby explained that the patient should be at least 100 pounds overweight. It also can be used for a person 50 pounds overweight who has medical complications, such as high blood pressure, arthritis, or back problems.

In addition to the Gastric Bubble, which is deflated and removed after four months, an important part of the total treatment involves a low-calorie diet in conjunction with behavior and dietary modifications. A team of specialists monitors the patient for several months following the procedure.

Kirby pointed out that the long-term effects of the Gastric Bubble are not known. For some of the estimated 43 million over-nourished Americans, however, the Gastric Bubble may prove to be a viable weight loss alternative.

At present only a few insurance companies are covering this new procedure; Kirby suggests that interested persons check with their insurers.

**Small town politics**

Getting a better grip on how democracy in the United States really works is one goal Dr. Nelson Wikstrom hopes to achieve in his year-long study of West Point, Virginia, a town of 2,700 people.

Wikstrom, associate professor of political science at VCU, became interested in his current research project while studying 15 small towns for the state's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. During that study, he says, he became fascinated by towns. He chose West Point for more intense study because he sees it as "a prosperous, economically viable town with professional people and a good school system," as well as "a nice place to live."

Wikstrom's study will include gathering background information, collecting employment data, and conducting field interviews. He has talked with some town officials but is also interested in hearing the opinions of residents who may not be active in politics. Through in-depth interviews with a variety of citizens, Wikstrom hopes to find out their concerns on issues such as water treatment, sewage disposal, and law enforcement. But he is also interested in issues such as religion and the role of women in the working world.

Wikstrom has been impressed by the number of volunteer groups in West Point that provide community services without depending on government aid. Paradoxically, he says, towns like West Point will suffer under federal budget cuts because they cannot finance major capital improvements.

"This study," says Wikstrom, "should give us some information about small towns, not only in Virginia but throughout America." Wikstrom is aware of only one other similar study of the small town in mass society, which was conducted in New York state in the 1950s.

**Environmental endowment**

A team of researchers at VCU has received a grant from the Virginia Environmental Endowment to study the treatment of lead poisoning in children. The team, led by project director Dr. Lorne Garrettson, associate professor of pediatrics and pharmacy and pharmacuetics, hopes to learn enough about the effects of drugs on lead removal from the body to become more aggressive in treating patients with high lead burdens.

The researchers will study the rate at which lead leaves the body during therapy and the rate at which it redistributes within the body following therapy. They also will study the effects of therapy on essential minerals in the body.

The Virginia Environmental Endowment is a nonprofit, independent corporation organized for the purpose of improving the quality of the environment in Virginia.

**Depression: nature and nurture**

Are anxiety and depression caused by genes or the environment? A team of researchers at VCU, led by Dr. Kenneth Kendler, associate professor of psychiatry, say both factors play an important role. The research is being funded by a four-year grant from the National Institutes of Health.

According to Kendler, there are many questions about the way the mental health field has tried to conceptualize the problems of anxiety and depression. "There are two divergent traditions," he explains, "and neither the interest nor the statistical methods were available to try and combine the two risk factors until now."

Subjects from the Virginia Twin Registry will be used in Kendler's research, which focuses on the symptoms of anxiety and depression in over 2,000 females who are twins. Kendler says that identical and fraternal twin sets provide a natural experiment for resolving genetic and environmental effects on individuals.

Traditional thought suggests that either environmental or genetic factors play major roles in psychological distress, but, says Kendler, little is known about how the two factors relate and interact. The twins study should make it possible to clarify a number of crucial but previously unaddressed questions in this area.

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**David A. Beck**, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, has been elected to membership in the American Academy of Crown and Bridge Prosthodontics.

**Mela R. Braymer**, assistant director of nontraditional studies, has published an essay on the plays of St. George Tucker, an eighteenth-century Virginia lawyer, judge, poet, and playwright. "An Introduction to the Plays of St. George Tucker" appears in *No Fairer Land: Studies in Southern Literature Before 1900*.

**William L. Banks, Jr.**, codirector of the Massey Cancer Center, has been named president-elect of the Virginia Academy of Science. His term will begin in May 1987.

**Thomas C. Barker**, dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, has been appointed to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council by Governor Gerald Baliles.

**Robert Bass**, professor of chemistry, has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**John A. Cardea**, chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, was honored at a reception by orthopedic residents and attending staff for his leadership and devotion to the residency program. Chairman of the department since 1976, Cardea has trained 38 residents who practice orthopedic surgery in 12 states.

**Judith B. Collins**, associate professor of nursing and director of the university's Health Policy Office, received the 1986 Miriam Monisaff Award for the advancement of the obstetric/gynecologic nursing practitioner role. Collins also was elected to a second term as national vice-president of NAACOG, the organization for obstetric, gynecologic, and neonatal nursing.

**Linda Costanzo**, associate professor of physiology and biophysics, has been ap-

pointed to a four-year term on the Physiology Test Committee of the National Board of Medical Examiners. The eight-member committee is responsible for preparing the physiology sections of Part I of the National Board Exam.

**Terry Delahunty**, associate director, University Student Commons, has been named to a two-year term on the Commission for Educational Programs and Services of the Association of College Unions International. The commission oversees the annual conference, seminars, and publications of the association.

**John A. Fanli**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been named to the National Board of Examiners' Part II Obstetrics-Gynecology Test Committee.

**Gerald L. Gandy**, associate professor, and **E. Davis Martin**, assistant dean, School of Community and Public Affairs, have published their article, "Undergraduate Rehabilitation Education: A Humanistic Approach," in *Rehabilitation Literature*. Gandy, with **R. E. Hardy**, professor in community and public affairs, also published "Criminal Behavior: Counteracting" in *The International Encyclopedia of Education*.

**William R. Garnett**, associate professor of pharmacy and pharmaceuticals, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties by the American Pharmaceutical Association Board of Trustees.

**Lazar J. Greenfield**, professor and chairman, Department of Surgery, recently delivered the General Robert E. Lee Memorial Lecture to the Society of Air Force Surgeons and the Wolfkoff Memorial Lecture at Case Western Reserve University. He also served as the first Annual Sigmund E. Eclstone Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago and Michael Reese Hospital.

**Louis S. Harris**, chairman of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, prepared and chaired a meeting of the Twenty-Third Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization in Geneva.

**David W. Hartman**, assistant dean, College of Humanities and Sciences, has been appointed to the Goochland County Planning Commission for a four-year term.

**Herbert Hirsch**, chairman of the Department of Political Science, has been named outstanding alumnus of the Department of Political Science of Villanova University.

**Robert L. Hughes**, associate professor of mass communications, has been named a scholar-in-residence in the School of Law, University of Virginia, for the 1986-87 academic year.

**Jan D. Ivey**, clinical nurse specialist in cardiology, Division of Nursing Services, has been named an Outstanding Young Woman in America. The program honors and encourages exceptional young women between the ages of 21 and 36 who have distinguished themselves in their homes, professions, and communities.

**David Latané**, assistant professor of English, published his essay review of *The Linguistic Moment from Wordsworth to Stevens* in the spring 1986 issue of *Critical Texts*.

**H. Stephen Moore, Jr.**, director of personnel administration, received the 1986 Distinguished Service Award of the Southern Region of the College and University Personnel Association.

**James T. Moore**, chairman of the Department of History and Geography, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the University Press of Virginia.

**Maryann H. Ogonowski**, instructor in the School of Nursing, has been appointed chairman of the American Nurses Association's Committee of Examiners for Nursing

Administration. Ogonowski will serve in this capacity through 1988. She also is a member of the ANA's Certification Board.

**Howard Ozmon**, professor, and **Sam Craver**, associate professor, School of Education, have completed a third edition of their text, *Philosophical Foundations of Education*, published by Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co.

**Thomas P. Reinders**, chairman of the Division of Clinical Pharmacy of the School of Pharmacy, has been named a fellow of the Academy of Pharmacy Practice. The award is given annually to a member who for a "minimum of 10 years has exhibited progressive and distinguished professional practice, outstanding achievement in serving the public health, and a commitment to advancing the profession of pharmacy."

**Eleanor C. Snellings**, associate professor of economics, published her article, "Real Principles in Economics for the Real World," in the *Atlantic Economic Journal*.

**Jack D. Spiro**, director of VCU's Judaic Studies Program, has been appointed chief editor of *Religious Education* by the Religious Education Association of the United States and Canada. The quarterly journal is published by the REA and the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education.

**Kenneth A. Stackhouse**, assistant professor of foreign languages, made a presentation at the sixth annual Spanish Golden Age Drama Symposium held at the University of Texas, El Paso.

**John Van de Walle**, associate professor of teacher education, has been named the 1986 William C. Lowry Outstanding Mathematics Teacher at the college level by the Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding work and accomplishments in mathematics education.

This year we are concentrating our efforts on updating our information base. With our new computer installed, we have waged a massive campaign to keep current with our 60,000 alumni.

Please take a moment to look over the list of "lost" alumni. These alumni represent a fraction of the nearly 3,000 we have been unable to locate. If you know any of these alumni, or if you know of anyone not currently receiving VCU mail, please complete the form provided and mail it to us. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Additionally, in the past issues of the *VCU Magazine*, we have been placing "Become an active alumnus" response forms, which some of you have completed and returned to us. To those of you who have, thank you. I would encourage all of you who have not done so, however, at least to allow us to update your records by filling out this form on page 18 and returning it to us as soon as possible. Without your current address, we won't be able to send you issues of the magazine or notices of seminars or invitations for alumni gatherings on the campuses or even in your area.

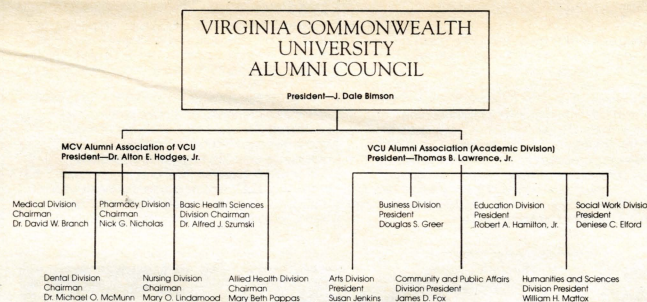
We're also interested in what you are doing, if you're married, if you have children, and what your hobbies are. So, please write to us about your activities and interests.

**Stephen C. Harvey**  
Director, VCU Alumni Activities

**D**o you have news about yourself for the *VCU Magazine*? Mail your updates to *VCU Magazine, Alumni Update, Box 2036, Richmond, VA 23284-0001*.

Sometimes we do not get your information in the issue you might expect, but we make every effort to print your updates as soon as possible. Be patient, and look for your update in the next issue.

Write to us.



## LOST ALUMNI

### 1960

Leonardo Lazarete Bascara, Resident—psychiatry  
D. Alene Blake, M.D.  
Reuben Fox Cannady, B.F.A.  
Janis Devore Cho, B.S. occupational therapy  
James Winston Challender, B.F.A. dramatic art

### 1961

Harold Berliner, Resident—medicine  
Esther E. S. Bernstein, B.S. occupational therapy  
Robert Bertram Boswell, B.S. journalism  
Robert L. Dawson, M.D.  
Sylvia K. Chapman, B.S. nursing

### 1962

Dana L. Brown, B.S. applied science  
Charlotte J. Curtis, Certificate—secretarial science  
Lewis J. Denis, B.S. elementary education  
Evelyn P. Farrier, B.S. nursing

### 1963

John Edward Bader, B.S. business  
Muriel Elizabeth Benedict, B.F.A. commercial art  
Vera B. Buxton, B.S. medical technology  
Billy W. Chamberlain, B.S. pharmacy  
George W. Clarkson, B.S. physical therapy

### 1964

Susie J. Blankenship, Certificate—dietetic internship  
George R. Bliley, Jr., B.S. biology  
Jean J. Bradley, Certificate—dietetic internship  
Edward Thomas Bradshaw, B.F.A. commercial art  
Marie Ashby Franklin, B.S. applied science

### 1965

Edith B. Black, M.S. social work  
Margaret Godfrey Barker, B.F.A. painting  
Carole Evans Batson, B.F.A. fashion design  
Diane Paulette Black, B.S. applied social science  
Frances Lee Royce Bostick, M.S.W.

### 1966

Arvid V. Badve, Resident—anesthesiologist  
Thomas Gilmer Boschen, A.S. drafting and design technology  
Jane Peck Boush, M.S. rehabilitative counseling  
Janita Christian Caldwell, B.S. physical therapy  
Alice G. Canaday, B.F.A. costume design

### 1967

Nancy B. Berger, B.S. nursing  
Daniel Oscar Boone, B.F.A. dramatic art  
Daniel Edward Cameron, B.S. business  
Arun R. Chitale, Resident—pathology  
Robert Joseph Christy, A.S. electrical—electronics

### 1968

Sujata A. Badve, Internship—medicine  
Jeannette Ford Boggs, B.S. psychology  
Dixie Lee Blair, M.S.W.  
Robert Vincent Barker, M.F.A.  
Thomas W. Bingham, Jr., B.S. hospital administration

### 1969

Marie Agnes Batteau, M.S.W.  
Robert Thoyer Beisgen, Jr., M.S. applied psychology  
Grace Granville Belsler, B.S. retailing  
Sylvia M. Bernloch, B.S. education  
Paige Brown Bishop, B.S. elementary education

### 1970

Edith MacCabe Baber, B.F.A. art education  
Claude Wayne Baker, B.S. physical education  
Jack M. Benfield, M.S. rehabilitative counseling  
James Roy Blanchard, Jr., B.S. history education  
Jane Wade Bowery, B.S. elementary education

**Yes, I know of an alumnus you have been unable to locate:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Year graduated \_\_\_\_\_  
Degree \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
Business address \_\_\_\_\_  
Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Return to  
**VCU Alumni Activities**  
**Box 2026**  
**Richmond, VA 23284-0001**



1947

**Marie Page Bryant** (B.S. public health nursing) has retired after 37 years as a staff nurse at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her special fields have been pediatrics, obstetrics, and nursing arts.

1952

**Dewey H. Bell** (D.D.S.), chairman of the Department of Removable Prosthodontics in VCU's School of Dentistry, recently was installed as vice-president of the American Prosthodontic Society.

**John Harlan** (B.S. health administration), assistant vice-president of allied health affairs at the University of Virginia, recently presented a chair in honor of his mother to UVA's School of Nursing.

1955

**Reginald R. Cooper** (M.D.), chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at the University of Iowa College of Medicine, has been made vice-president of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

1957

**W. E. Kiser, Jr.** (D.D.S.) has been elected president of the Southern Society of Orthodontists, which has more than 1,200 active members. Kiser is in private practice in Bluefield, West Virginia.

1960

**J. Robert Esleman** (D.D.S.), interim chairman of the Department of Restorative Dentistry in VCU's School of Dentistry, recently hosted two visiting scholars from the People's Republic of China under the auspices of the China Educational Exchange Program.

1961

**Dowell T. Wood** (B.S. applied science) has been promoted to facilities manager at The American Tobacco Company's Department of Research and Development in Richmond.

1964

**Alfred J. Szumski** (Ph.D.; M.S., 1956), associate professor of physiology and biophysics at VCU, recently visited Taiwan, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, and Jakarta on the invitation of the American Congress on Rehabilitation Medicine and the countries he visited. He evaluated rehabilitation facilities, exchanged information, and participated in seminars.

1968

**Kathleen L. Mays** (B.S. nursing) is in private practice in psychoanalysis in New York City. In 1975 she received her M.A. in psychiatric nursing from New York University and in 1985 earned her Ph.D. in psychology from Yeshiva University Einstein Medical Center in New York City.

1971

**Stephen Schiesinger** (M.D.) has been certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery. He is chief of plastic surgery at Maui Memorial Hospital in Hawaii.

1972

**Walter T. Judd** (M.S. basic sciences), major in the U.S. Air Force, is stationed with the Fifth Tactical Air Control Group in South Korea, where he serves as deputy director of plans.

1973

**John M. Bass** (D.D.S.) was installed as Worshipful Master of South Hill Masonic Lodge in South Hill, Virginia.

**G. William Thomas, Jr.** (B.A. history) has been appointed manager of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Richmond Field Office. Thomas is responsible for carrying out the full range of HUD housing and community development programs throughout Virginia.

1974

**Allan Katz** (D.D.S.) is dental director of ODA Primary Health Care Center in Brooklyn, New York, and attending staff dentist at Beth Israel Hospital in New York City.

1975

**Diana Deane Carr** (M.D.) of Bartow, Florida, has been inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

**V. Eileen Long** (B.S. psychology) has been accepted into law school at the T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond. She also was elected clerk of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International and as student advocate for the University of Richmond student body for 1986-87. Recently, she won first runner-up for the Best Brief Award in the Moot Court Competition. This summer, Long has been studying law at Emmanuel College of Cambridge University in Cambridge, England.

1976

**Joyce Wandel** (M.S. occupational therapy) is teaching full-time in the Chicago City-Wide College Occupational Therapy Assistant Program and part-time in an early intervention research program. She also is developing a pediatric private practice.

1978

**James D. Mounjoy** (B.S. chemistry) of Vienna, Virginia, has been elected a member of the Northern Board of Realtors Million Dollar Sales Club. **Anthony Segreti** (Ph.D. biostatistics) has been promoted to head, clinical statistics department, of Burroughs Wellcome Company in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

1979

**Ed Kanis** (B.S. mass communications) recently received an Award of Excellence from the New Jersey Hospital Marketing and Public Relations Association. He also received a Gold Award from the Delaware Valley Neographics Association. Both awards recognize accomplishments in health care communications and public relations. He is currently employed as corporate director of community relations with the West Jersey Health System.

**Steve C. Wheeler** (D.D.S.) has completed his residency and fellowship in endodontics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is in a group endodontic practice in Charlotte, North Carolina.

1980

**Alexandra Moorman** (B.S. pharmacy) is employed part-time by Memorial Hospital of Danville School of Nursing in Danville, Virginia. She is pursuing her master's degree in nursing education at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro.

**Susan I. Rothfus** (nurse practitioner program), captain in the U.S. Air Force, has been decorated with the Third Award of the Air Force Commendation Medal, awarded to individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement or meritorious service in the performance of their duties on behalf of the U.S. Air Force. She is an assistant charge nurse with the Wellford Hall Medical Center.

## Become an active alumnus

You may think you have to have a lot of time or money or live in the Richmond area to become an active alumnus—but you don't.

The VCU Alumni Activities Office is looking for alumni support through a host of

ongoing programs. If you would be interested in one or more of the following programs, please complete this form and return it to us. We will send you the information you request.

I want to be an active VCU alumnus! Please send me information about

- how I can become involved with the alumni board of directors of my college or school
- the VCU International Studies Program
- how I can help recruit students to VCU
- Please update my alumni record

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Return to  
**VCU Alumni Activities**  
**828 West Franklin Street**  
**Box 2026**  
**Richmond, VA 23284-0001**

1981

**William Joseph Cannon** (D.D.S.) is teaching part-time in the orthodontic department at the UCLA Dental School and is in private practice in orthodontics in Los Angeles.

**James M. Stewart** (B.S.) was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force on graduating from Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

1982

**George H. Cauble, Jr.** (M.P.A.) has been promoted to director of personnel for the County of Henrico. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the American Society of Personnel Administration, Richmond Chapter.

**Brian E. Gooch** (M.H.A.) of Washington, D.C. advanced to membership in the American College of Healthcare executives (formerly the American College of Hospital Administrators) after passing the oral and written examinations.

**Michael Layell** (B.A. history) has accepted a campus ministry internship at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

**Edward P. Snyder** (D.D.S.) is in his senior year of orthodontic training at the Eastman Clinic of the University of Rochester in New York State.

1983

**Joseph Brennan, Jr.** (M.D.) has completed his clinical work at Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti and Tanzania in East Africa. He will begin a chief residency in internal medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine.

**W. Scott Burnette** (M.H.A.) has been appointed senior vice-president, corporate planning, for Lynchburg General-Marshall Lodge Hospitals, Inc., and is responsible for all corporate planning activities in addition to general operations.

**Richard B. Franklin** (M.S. business marketing; B.S. marketing, 1982) was appointed to the position of marketing specialist with the County of Chesterfield's Department of Economic Development.

**Norma Hilliard** (B.F.A. communication arts and design) of Richmond, Virginia, was named Employee of the Month in April at Life of Virginia, Inc., where she works as a graphic designer.

**Donald M. Hodge** (B.S. psychology) was commissioned an Army second lieutenant on graduating from the Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia.

**Anthony D. Jones** (B.S. information systems) has been promoted to specialist III in the data processing department of State Farm Fire and Casualty Company's home office in Bloomington, Illinois.

**Cynthia P. Jorensen** (B.F.A. interior design) has been stationed with the 25th Combat Support Detachment in Fort Carson, Colorado.

1984

**Stephen S. Hadley** (M.A. museum studies) has been appointed as director of the Oysterponds Historical Society in Long Island, New York. The museum is a complex of five historic houses which interpret the town of Orient in the nineteenth century.

**Karen L. Katunich** (M.I.S.), captain in the U.S. Air Force, has completed military training for medical service officers at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

**James M. Meredith** (M.I.S.), captain in the U.S. Air Force, has completed military training for medical service officers at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

1985

**Eric L. Clark** (B.A. French) has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

**Cathy James** (M.S. nursing) has accepted the position of in vitro fertilization nurse coordinator in the MCV Campus program.

1986

**Tonya S. King** (B.S. marketing) has been accepted into the Commissary Intern Program at the U.S. Army Troop Support Agency in Fort Lee, Virginia.

## FAME BEHIND THE SOAPS SCENES

By Jerry Lewis

Glamour. Drama. Intrigue. Romance. These are the lifeblood of the daytime soaps. Although these elements have been borrowed heavily for the high-budget, night-time clones, they were being incorporated in the afternoon serials long before Krystle Carrington learned to type and J. R. Ewing learned to lie.

Over the past few years, a recent graduate of VCU has been influencing the character of the daytime soaps. Richard Hankins, a 1973 graduate of VCU's School of the Arts, has been art director for CBS's "Guiding Light" for the past three years. He holds the distinct honor of being the only art director ever to win two consecutive Emmy Awards for art direction of a daytime drama.

"When I came to New York," says Hankins, "I wanted to do one thing. I wanted to change the look of daytime television. I wanted to make it look more theatrical."

Hankins' training ground took place in the wings of almost every theatre in Richmond. While he was earning his B.F.A. in theatre scene design at VCU, he had ample opportunity to design sets for productions at the old Temple Building theatre and other small stages.

"The one thing I treasure most about attending VCU was the opportunity I had to learn and grow," says Hankins. "The emphasis was on doing and learning, not on success. VCU is definitely a good training ground."

During his final two years at VCU, Hankins worked for the Wolf Trap Company for the Performing Arts, which manages and books



acts for Wolf Trap Farm Park. In 1976, he began designing sets for various productions at Dogwood Dell and Swift Creek Mill Playhouse. He eventually landed the position of art director for the Virginia Museum Theater (now Theatre Virginia). It was there that he fine-tuned his talent and skills as a scenic designer working on major theatrical productions.

In 1979 he set his sights on New York City and the world of television. After moving to New York he immediately took the examination to join the United Scenic Artists Union, a prerequisite to working on any television show. He passed the exam in June and went to work in July, something virtually unheard of for an aspiring artist.

His first big break came when he was hired as assistant designer for Proctor and Gam-

ble's production in anticipation of spinning off the new NBC serial, "Texas."

Hankins soon became assistant designer for "Another World" and was instrumental in creating the mood and setting for the evolving "Texas." When "Texas" was launched and both soaps became hour-long shows, Hankins became assistant art director for the new soap. "Texas" soon hired the highly respected and accomplished producer and actress Gail Kobe as executive producer. One of her first moves was to promote Hankins to the position of art director.

As is often the case in the world of television, "Texas" was cancelled by NBC after a two-year run. The folks at yet another Proctor and Gamble soap, "Guiding Light," had been impressed by the flashy appearance of "Texas" and seized the opportunity to hire

away most of its artistic backbone, including Kobe, Hankins, and costume designer David Dangle. Together, they brought a new sparkle to "Guiding Light."

"The fiscal year for the show was almost over," says Hankins of his initiation to "Guiding Light," "and I had two weeks to design \$300,000 worth of new scenery!"

His first move was to come up with a new color scheme. The color swatches that were being used on the show had remained virtually unchanged since the mid-1950s. In fact, the art direction in general had not had a boost since then.

Hankins softened the look of the show considerably by moving away from "nondescript, dull" colors to more appealing pastels. He worked closely with the entire creative staff to be sure his designs were an accurate reflection of the show's characters. He considered every detail, right down to scratches on doors and smudges around light switches.

The new appearance of the show did not go unnoticed when Emmy season rolled around in 1984. Both Hankins and Dangle were nominated and won Emmys for their work on the show. Hankins was nominated and won again last year, so he now has two Emmys marking his artistic achievement. He also won top honors for art direction when CBS recently gave out its own in-house awards for excellence.

"It's fun to win awards," concludes Hankins, "but the real reward is to set something in motion, nurture it along the way, and watch it happen. That's the real excitement."

Jerry Lewis is a freelance writer in the Richmond area.

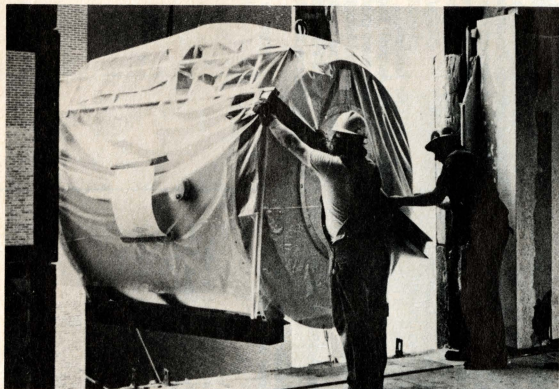
Photograph courtesy of Richard Hankins.



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*Last summer, MCV Hospitals' Department of Radiology installed a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner, one of the most sophisticated radiologic techniques available. See p. 3.*

