

YCU Today



September 15, 1976



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VCU Today

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Virginia Commonwealth University

September 15, 1976

Fighting Cancer For the Sake of the Children

A national study of the third most prevalent form of childhood cancer, Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), has identified treatment techniques which have nearly doubled the survival rate for the disease. Ninety per cent of children whose illness is detected early enough will live beyond two years. For children who previously died with advanced cases of the cancer within 30 months, therapies have been found which produce remission and extend life in 80 per cent of them.

A report on the study which began in November, 1972 was delivered in Toronto at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology by Dr. Harold M. Maurer, professor of pediatrics and chairman of the project. The ongoing study involves 50 medical centers throughout the nation whose work is coordinated from the MCV Cancer Center by Maurer.

Rhabdomyosarcoma strikes most often between the ages 2 to 15, but children up to 21 years of age are in the study, which includes 423 patients. RMS accounts for 5 to 8 per cent of all childhood malignant diseases. RMS begins as a tumor which will appear in any of the body's muscle tissues.

After leukemia and brain tumors, RMS ranks with two other childhood cancers, Wilm's tumor (a kidney tumor) and neuroblastoma (a nervous system tumor), in its frequency of occurrence. But the study is finding a greater instance of the disease than previously recognized, according to Maurer.

The new treatments found to be most effective against the disease involve combinations of surgery, combination chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. Four stages of the disease have been identified in the study and the most effective proportions of available techniques matched to each stage. The overall two-year survival rate has jumped from 47 per cent in 1966 to 80 per cent in 1976.

For the first stage, which represents the earliest disease, surgery to remove the tumor and the application of two drugs in combination (vincristine and dactinomycin) produced survival of two years in 90 per cent of the patients. No radiation therapy is required in the first stage of disease, the researchers found.

In disease caught at the second stage, where there has been some spread of the tumor, surgery to remove most of the tumor and radiation to the tumor site, followed by the two-drug therapy for a short period produces a two-year survival in better than 80 per cent of cases. The group also found that the two drug combination therapy over a short period was as good as a three drug therapy (which included cyclophosphamide) over a longer period.

In the third and fourth stages of the disease there is considerable tumor left following surgery or the disease has spread to distant points within the body. A combination of three or four drugs (the fourth drug is adriamycin) and eventual radiation therapy produced remissions of disease in 80 per cent of the advanced cases. In the third group 75 per cent of the children are still living and in the fourth group fifty per cent of children with widespread disease are



still alive. Previously, all children with extensive disease died within 30 months.

"It is," Maurer emphasizes, "a remarkably effective combination of drugs that can produce a remission in even those patients who have advanced disease."

During the study the researchers have found other facts which will bear on the diagnosis and treatment of RMS. Previously there were four recognized microscopic cellular forms of the disease. The researchers found two more.

An earlier belief that RMS did not spread to the lymphatic system has been found to be false. Lymphatic involvement has been found especially likely when the original tumor appears in the genitourinary tract or in the arms and legs. This finding is important in the surgical treatment of RMS, according to Maurer.

Support for the research has come from the National Institutes of Health. At MCV, \$75,000 was allocated by NCI in 1972 for three years of research. The group has applied to continue the study, and Maurer has asked NCI for \$100,000 to be used over the next three years.

The project has been sponsored by three national cancer research groups: Acute Leukemia Group B, Children's Cancer Study Group, and Southwest Oncology Group. Those organizations selected Maurer and the Cancer Center to coordinate the RMS study.

Certified Certificate Policy

In order to insure a degree of uniformity among certificates awarded by the university and to exercise some control over the use of certificates awarded in the name of the university, the following procedures reflect several years of study by the university's Certificate Committee. All certificates bearing the name of the university will follow these guidelines.

Basically, two sizes of certificates are available in the standard format—the 5x7 size for short-term activities, and the 8x10 size for longer, more significant programs. Any exception to the standard format

will be considered on an individual basis. Similarly, special certificates reflecting names of other agencies or use of other seals and/or logos will also be considered on an individual basis.

The Office of University Publications, located at 828 West Franklin Street, has been assigned the responsibility for control of design and for printing all university certificates. Anyone needing assistance with certificates should contact Warren Mitchell, extension 4011, publications editor. This office has the responsibility for making available (at nominal cost) and distributing standard certificates to the deans of schools and the executive director of hospitals. Likewise, exceptions should be routed through the deans and the executive director of hospitals who will, in turn, contact this office.

The publications office has available the IBM Orator type elements which will be used for lettering the name, dates, and titles on the standard 5x7 certificates. Handlettering will be available for these smaller certificates.

The larger 8x10 certificates will be printed with various titles, etc., after orders are placed by the various schools and departments. Individuals' names will be handlettered. All requests for handlettering will be made through the Office of University Publications. All fees accrued in the preparation and production of certificates will be charged back to the requesting department or school.

Issues and Answers: Lectures for the Public

Several lectures for public consumption are scheduled to take place on campus in the next two weeks.

On September 20 at 8 p.m. in room 115 of the life sciences building, George Kent, a faculty member at the University of Chicago, will discuss the Harlem Renaissance in short fiction. He is author of *Black Awareness and the Adventure of Western Culture* and is currently completing a book on poetess Gwendolyn Brooks. The black writer's visit is sponsored by the student lecture committee and the Afro-American studies program.

Friday, September 24 could be called John Marshall day. On the former chief justice's 221st birthday, VCU is making a permanent bicentennial contribution in the form of an information plaque at Marshall's grave site in Shockoe Cemetery. Dr. Charles Cullen of the College of William and Mary and editor of *The Papers of John Marshall*, will speak at 11 o'clock that morning on "John Marshall Off the Bench—Richmond's Leading Citizen 1783-1801." His presentation will be held in the School of Business Auditorium. The plaque dedication takes place at 3:30 that afternoon and will feature editor, author, and historian Virginius Dabney as well as state and local officials.

The evening of September 27 will find United States Senator Birch Bayh (D-Indiana) addressing interested persons on the 1976 elections. Bayh, a presidential candidate in the early primaries, is chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments. His discourse begins at 8 p.m. in the Mosque and is sponsored by the student lecture committee.

All of these programs are open to the public free of charge.

A Different Type of Work-Study Program

Not everyone at VCU has had the opportunity to attend college. Some have not even had the luxury of graduating from high school. But employees here without high school diplomas need not go through the rest of their lives like this, unless they really want to — not when there is an Adult Learning Center located on each campus.

These centers, under the Department of Secondary/Post Secondary Education are free (including books) not just to VCU employees, but to anyone in the community. University employees have an added incentive because they are allowed to take three hours off from work each week to attend school. Then they must attend class two hours on their own time.

Located in the Cathedral Center at the corner of Floyd and Morris Streets, the Academic Campus Center is coordinated by Charles Schmidt. The MCV Center is on the third floor of the Campus Room Building, under the direction of Becky Cobb. Both of the coordinators stress that the centers are goal oriented, not grade oriented. All instruction is self-paced and individualized and the students begin their course of study where they need to, not at some arbitrary point. Survival techniques, such as budgeting, home economics, and consumer education are worked into the curriculum, and preparation for the General Education Development examination is an important part of the center's duties. The GED is equivalent to a high school diploma.

In addition to Schmidt and Cobb, there are seven graduate students from the School of Educa-

tion serving as instructors. This is the first time the center has been completely under VCU control and not a part of the Richmond Public School System. This, Schmidt believes, will afford the organization more flexibility in their operation.

In terms of research, the center will be trying out some materials to see if they can be used at this level on a state wide basis. These include tape recordings, cassettes, and film strips.

The center hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Academic Campus Center is also open from 6:30 to 8:30 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. While instruction began last week at both locations, students can begin their course of study any time during the year. However, Schmidt encourages people to begin to sign on as early as possible.

The Academic Campus director also adds that they have never had a problem with an overflow of students. But he and Cobb agree that is one problem they would be all to happy to encounter. Registration takes place at either center according to the convenience of the employee.

The Breath of Life From the MCV Wives

Fully recognizing the importance of breathing, the MCV Faculty Wives Club recently donated \$350 to the MCV Hospitals for the purchase of a respirometer. This device is used after surgery to monitor the volume of air being breathed by the patient. They are essential in hospital use.

The club also contributed \$100 to the Virginia Treatment Center for Children, to be used for

buying large wooden toys. The VTCC is the children's psychiatric wing of the MCV Hospitals.

To raise this money, the faculty wives relied on donations and also sponsored a children's benefit movie.

Seven Warning Signals Via Your Telephone

Cancer, seemingly always too close for comfort, is now comfortably only a phone call away. Information concerning symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of this fiend is now available through a telephone service on the MCV Campus.

Dubbed the Health Line, this service is a joint effort of MCV and the Virginia division of the American Cancer Society. This library of tape recorded messages began operation on July 19 and has received more than 1,700 phone calls thus far. These recordings cover a variety of cancer topics, including early detection of cancer, self-examination for breast cancer, chemical causes of cancer, mammography, and living with cancer.

Throughout the state, local units of the American Cancer Society will have updated lists of available tapes. To use this service, which covers 50 topics, callers should pick a recording and dial (770 if off campus) 8181. An operator will answer and connect the caller with the specified tape. Once the call is completed, the phone will disconnect automatically.

The 8181 number is free to local callers and is in service 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and 6 to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday; 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday; and 2 to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

PRIME TIME

HOW TO BUY A GOOD WINE

by

Dr. Joseph V. Formica
Associate Professor

Department of Microbiology

The quality of a product is reflected by its price. You expect to pay a great deal for a Rolls Royce because it is a quality product. This applies to wine as well. A wine selling for \$50 to \$200 a bottle is almost guaranteed to be an exquisite gustatorial experience. Unfortunately, that price range is not realistic for the vast majority of consumers; so, let's retreat to the realistic world of Volkswagons and Chevrolets.

The quality of a natural product such as wine is the result of a combination of variables that arise during the growing, harvesting, and crushing of grapes, and the fermenting, aging, and storage of wine. If any step is compromised, the result will be reflected in the quality of the product. Bearing this in mind, let's see if we can buy wine in the \$2 to \$10 category.

The wine industry, both in Europe and the United States, responded to "truth in labeling" advocates before it was fashionable to do so. As a result, the label presented to the consumer may be truthful but may also be couched in cryptic terms. Unraveling what the words say and mean can lead to several good rules of thumb in guiding you toward the purchase of a good to excellent bottle of wine. So, as a first approximation to quality, let's examine the American wine label.

The American wine industry produces two categories of wine . . . generic and varietal. The generic wine is identifiable by the European geographical name that appears on the label, such as burgundy,

chablis, chianti, sauterne, and rhine. These wines do not resemble the wines of their European designation, but may have resulted from an earlier deception of blending various types of wines to achieve a product resembling their European counterpart. This does not make it a poor quality wine. Generic or jug wines, as they are often called, are great for everyday consumption, for picnics, or non-serious drinking. The major wineries produce a full array of these wines, each using specific blends. Since the prices are competitive, your taste buds will determine which one is right for you.

The other broad category of American wines are the varietal wines. These wines are named after the predominant grape variety used to make the wine, such as cabernet sauvignon, pinot chardonnay, pinot noir, and johannesburg reisling. These grapes are expensive to cultivate, but the wines they produce are distinct in flavor and aroma. In order to carry the varietal label, the law specifies that at least 51 percent of the contents must be made from the

winery did indeed harvest, crush, and ferment the grapes that went into making at least 75 percent of the wine in that bottle, again indicating pride of ownership. If the label simply says "made and bottled by . . ." then a minimum of 25 percent of the contents were produced by that winery. This does not make it automatically a poor quality product but the chances are that the "produced and bottled by" wine is of better quality.

Another important piece of information that appears on the label of a varietal wine is the vintage date. This date indicates the year in which the grapes were harvested, crushed, and transformed into wine. Since wine is a natural product, it takes time to achieve a level of maturity compatible with potability. Ethyl alcohol is formed in a matter of weeks, but the formation of flavor components requires time and occurs during storage in barrels and bottles. Along the same line, because wine is an organic product, it can decompose with time, imparting disagreeable flavors to the wine. Therefore, look for a vintage date. Without it you do not know if the wine is young, adolescent, or senile.

You should drink a red wine when it is between five and ten years old. In the price range we are considering, a younger wine may taste too "fresh" and an older wine may start tasting rotten. This rule of thumb does not apply to all red wines. Light bodied wines like rose or beajolais; can be enjoyed within three to five years from their vintage date. They usually do not appreciate in quality beyond that time.

White wines are in a similar category. They do not age well and should be consumed within three years. Again, there are exceptions. Wines made from the pinot chardonnay grape, age well and improve with aging but usually not beyond ten years.

Finally, look for wines produced in Napa, Sonoma, or Mendocino, California. The better wines are produced here. After you have established a level of competence, explore other California and East Coast wines.

In Vino Veritas

designated grape. The more respectable wineries exceed this requirement. You can illustrate this for yourself. The next time you are browsing in a wine shop examine the back label of a varietal wine produced by Beaulieu Vineyards; they state the percentage of varietal grape used. Compare its price with a similar varietal from Gallo. Next, taste both wines at one sitting. The results will astonish you. Since tasting is a very personal experience, you may actually prefer the 51-49 Gallo blend to the more respectable Beaulieu.

Another hint at quality is the designation "estate bottled." This implies that the wine generated at the designated winery was bottled on the premises. The vintner wants to take full credit for the quality of his product. Remember, this is a competitive business and wineries are looking for repeat sales.

In conjunction with the estate bottled designation, look for the phrase "produced and bottled by . . ." This designation indicates that the named

Today's People

Dr. Lynn D. Abbott, Jr., chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, for the last 13 years, has retired after 36 years with MCV. A portrait of Abbott, which was presented to him earlier in the year by his colleagues, now hangs in the Negus Lecture Room on the second floor of Sanger Hall.

Nancy G. Blount, formerly an instructor at the Adult Learning Center, has joined the admissions staff as a counselor.

Dr. Fred M. Browning, associate professor of physical education, appeared on Wilma Smith's Talk Show on channel 8 to discuss heart attacks and how physical education can be viewed as preventative or rehabilitative medicine.

Dr. John A. Cardea, who has served as acting chairman of the orthopedic surgery division since July of 1975, has been appointed chairman of the division.

Dr. Marijean H. Eichel, assistant professor of geography and history, in conjunction with Dr. Joan M. Todd of San Jose State University, published "A Note on Polybius' Voyage to Africa in 146 B.C." in Classical Philology.

Earl A. McIntyre, a staff member in the Office of University Relations, recently attended the annual meeting of the Florida Magazine Association. While there, he presented the Earl A. McIntyre award. McIntyre is founder and an honorary lifetime member of the organization.

Rollie Oatley has been appointed to the position of director of Placement Services. He formerly served as manager of professional employment for Glidden-Durkee, a division of Smith-Corona, and as director of placement at Bowling Green State University.

Dr. Howard Ozman, professor of secondary education, was the keynote speaker at a curriculum workshop sponsored by the Consultive Resource Center of the University of Virginia; he spoke on "Education--Past, Present, and Future." In addition, Ozman has been notified that he will be listed in the forthcoming 39th edition of Who's Who in America.

Walter Ramey, assistant professor of secondary/post secondary education, presented a paper entitled "Overview and Evaluation of the Impact that Research has had at the Secondary Level in Vocational Education" at the first annual Research Conference in Vocational and Technical Education held at VPI&SU. In addition, Ramey was a panel member on a discussion of "A Critique of Research in Vocational and Technical Education at the Secondary and Post Secondary Levels."

Dr. William Regelson, professor and chairman of the medical oncology department, has received a grant for the study of supportive drugs and cancer patients from the NCI. In conjunction with Dr. Richard Carchman, assistant professor in pharmacology, and Dr. Alan M. Kaplan, associate professor of surgery oncology, Regelson has received a grant from the American Cancer Society to study Cyclic-Nucleotide Relationships to Macrophage Activation and Tumor Cell Kill.

Dr. Simon Rothberg, professor of dermatology and biochemistry, presented two papers on the subject of chemical communications among cell layers of the skin at the Second International Sym-

posium on Psoriasis held at Stanford University: "Cell-cell Communications in Epidermal Tissue" and "Aginase Activity and Cellular Events Associated with Epidermal Hyperplasia."

Dr. Robert J. Schoonover, assistant professor of education, appeared on Wilma Smith's Talk Show on Channel 8 to discuss his book, Handbook for Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities. Schoonover also led a workshop on "The Learning Disabled Child: Uniqueness of His Learning Process and Problems that Interfere with It" at a special bicentennial conference of the Virginia Association for Children with Learning Disabilities.

Joyce Scott, instructor in English, has received a fellowship from the State Council of Higher Education to pursue doctoral study at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Ronald Sherron and Dr. Barry Lumsden, associate professors of adult education, served as co-directors for the first national Congress on Educational Gerontology held in Virginia Beach.

Dr. Donald D. Shillady, associate professor of chemistry, and Dr. Ersin I. Yurtsever published "A Slater-Transform-Preuss (STP) Wavefunction for the Ground State of Be" in Chemical Physics Letters.

The Virginia Reed Trio, composed of Cheryl Priebe, John Colbert, and Jonathan Friedman, part-time instructors in the School of Music, performed in WRFK's 27th Community Concert held in Schauffer Hall on the campus of Union Theological Seminary.

Dr. William B. Weglicki, chairman of the biophysics department, spoke to Farmville area physicians on the diagnosis and treatment of high fat and cholesterol levels in the blood at Southside Community Hospital in Farmville.

Dr. Rizpah Welch, chairman of special education, and Thomas L. Lolley, assistant professor of special education, recently attended a HEW sponsored, three-day evaluation training workshop held in Silver Springs, Maryland.

Dr. Keith Whaley, assistant professor of medicine, met with Suffolk area physicians at Louise Obici Memorial Hospital to conduct a scientific program on the human complement system, a group of 11 proteins found in blood which may be triggered by the body's immunity system to cause a variety of inflammatory effects. Whaley also spoke on "Beta 1H - A New Regulatory Protein of the Complement System: Chemical and Biologic Function" at a meeting of Program Area II, Tumor Immunology.

Dr. David Manning White, professor of mass communications, is the originator and author of "Perusing the Periodicals," a series of magazine reviews currently being aired on WRFK and National Public Radio.

Dr. Sherwood Williams, assistant professor of sociology, presented "A Variable Standard of Attitude Measurement" and "Proximity and Reflexive Role-Taking" at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association.

Dinah Wolfe, eligibility and information officer of the Evening College and Summer Session, received a commendation for her poem in the traditional form category of the VCU Writers' Forum 1976 Contests.

Dr. Doris B. Yingling, dean of the School of Nursing, has been appointed by the executive committee of the Southern Regional Education Board as the chairman of the membership committee for a two-year period.

What's Up?

John Marshall Day

Dr. Charles Cullen, Editor, <i>The Papers of John Marshall</i>	"Marshall Off the Bench-Richmond's Leading Citizen 1783-1801."	School of Business Auditorium, September 24, 11 a.m.
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The John Marshall Plaque Dedication	Shockoe Cemetery	September 24, 3:30 p.m.
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Lectures

George E. Kent	"Harlem Renaissance in Short Fiction"	Science Building 816 Park, 8 p.m., admission free
Senator Birch Bayh	The 1976 Elections	Mosque, September 27, 8 p.m., admission free

Movies

Admission free; all shown in Hibbs 303 from 5:30 p.m.-6:50 p.m.

In Search of Ancient Astronauts	September 15
Humansitic Revolution	September 16
Sit Down, Shut Up, or Get Out	September 20
The Mood of Zen	September 20
The Kid	September 20
Why Man Creates	September 21
Tool Box Ballet	September 21
Two Men in a Wardrobe	September 21
The Energy Crisis: The Nuclear Alternative	September 21
The Million Years of Man	September 22
Future Shock	September 22
Holography	September 22
Whose Garden Was This	September 23
The City: Who Needs It?	September 23
Ancient Egyptian	September 23
Ancient Greece	September 23
The Question	September 23

Golf

Old Dominion University, William and Mary	Norfolk	September 16, 1 p.m.
Madison College	Ground Hog Mountain Resort	September 22-26

Women's Field Hockey

Westhampton	Richmond	September 24, 3:30 p.m.
William and Mary	Williamsburg	September 28, 4 p.m.

The Writer's Forum

1976 Poetry Contest Winners reading their poems	Business Building, Room 2120	September 27, 3-5 p.m.
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VCU Today

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Paul Woody, Editor

Announcements, suggestions, letters, compliments, and criticisms (if you must) should be sent to:

VCU Today
Office of University Publications
828 West Franklin Street
Richmond, Virginia 23284
770-4011

Taking You to Our Leaders

Every state supported college and university in Virginia has a governing body known as the Board of Visitors. The members of these boards are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms and may serve two such terms. The appointments are made on a staggered basis so there will never be a complete change in the membership of the group.

The duties of the BOV include consideration of practically every decision made concerning the school. They must give approval to the appointment of the president and faculty, ratify salary decisions, and generally direct the affairs and business of the institution.

VCU's Board of Visitors is composed of 15 people, 12 men and three women. Beginning this week and continuing throughout the year, individual members of the board will be introduced on the pages of *VCU Today*.



Dr. Wyndham B. Blanton, Jr., was appointed to the Board of Visitors in 1969 and has served as rector since 1972. Born and raised in Richmond, he graduated from St. Christopher's School, the University of Richmond (B.A. in economics, 1943), and the Medical College of Virginia (M.D., 1950, and M.S. in pulmonary physiology, 1959). Blanton is vice-president-medical affairs of Charter Medical Corporation in Richmond and clinical professor of medicine at MCV.

The rector is a member of the clinical faculty and the Quality Review Board of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, Chicago, Illinois; president of the Virginia Society of Internal Medicine; and on the National Professional Standards Review Council of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

As owner and operator of Cumva Farms, Farmville, Blanton specializes in breeding purebred Holsteins. He is past president of the Virginia Holstein Association and received the VPI Dairy Club Award for the greatest contribution to the Virginia Dairy Industry in 1969. Blanton has also been vice-president of the Atlantic Rural Exposition and Virginia State Fair since 1970.

The rector was recently appointed to his second four-year term, which expires July 1, 1980.

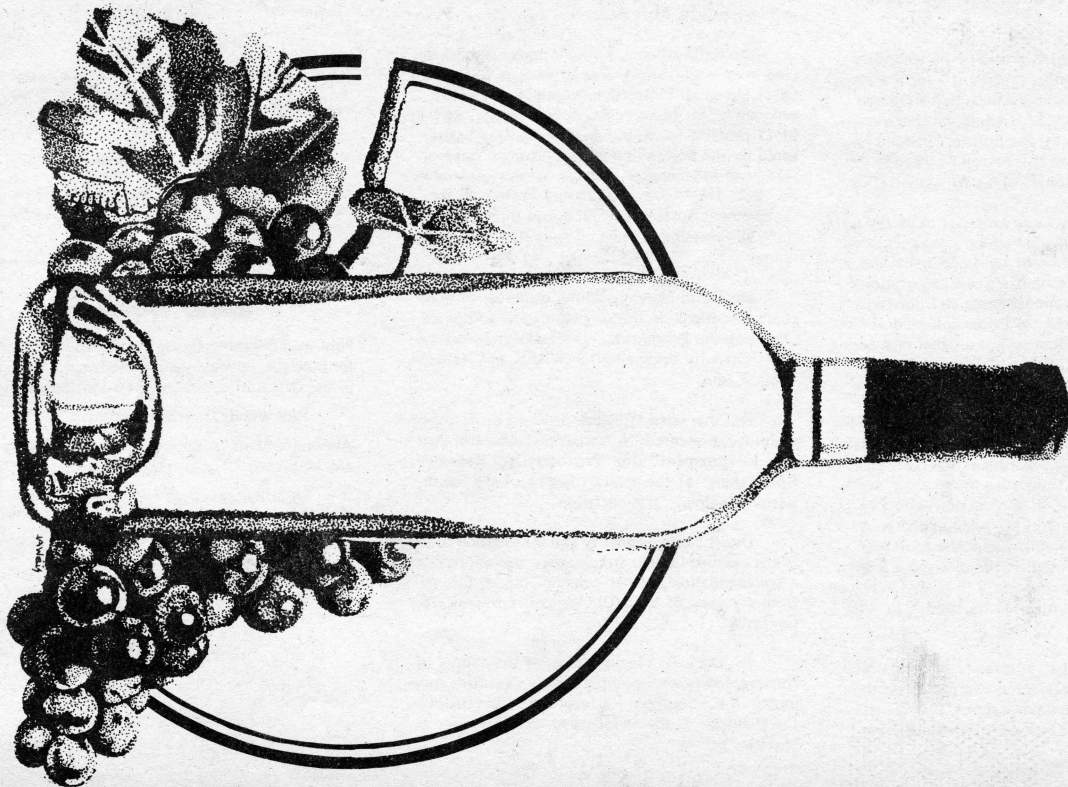


Virginius Dabney was appointed to the Board of Visitors in 1968 and served as the first rector. Editor of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* from 1936-1969, Dabney won the Pulitzer Prize for editorials in 1948. He is the author of *Virginia: The New Dominion*; *Richmond: The Story of a City*; *Liberalism in the South*; *Below the Potomac*; and *Dry Messiah*. Dabney attended the University of Virginia and received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1920 and the Master of Arts degree in 1921. He was one of two individuals to receive the first honorary degrees awarded by VCU, and has received other honorary degrees from the University of Richmond, Lynchburg College, and the College of William and Mary.

In recognition of his many contributions to civic and academic affairs, Dabney received the Raven Award for Service to the University of Virginia, the Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Service, the Jackson Davis medal for service to higher education, and the Brotherhood Award, Richmond Chapter, National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Dabney's current appointment expires July 1, 1979.

If you consider yourself a foxy person, you might think wine is nothing more than sour grapes. But if you're in search of a good bottle of wine, some information worthy of toasting is on page 2.



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