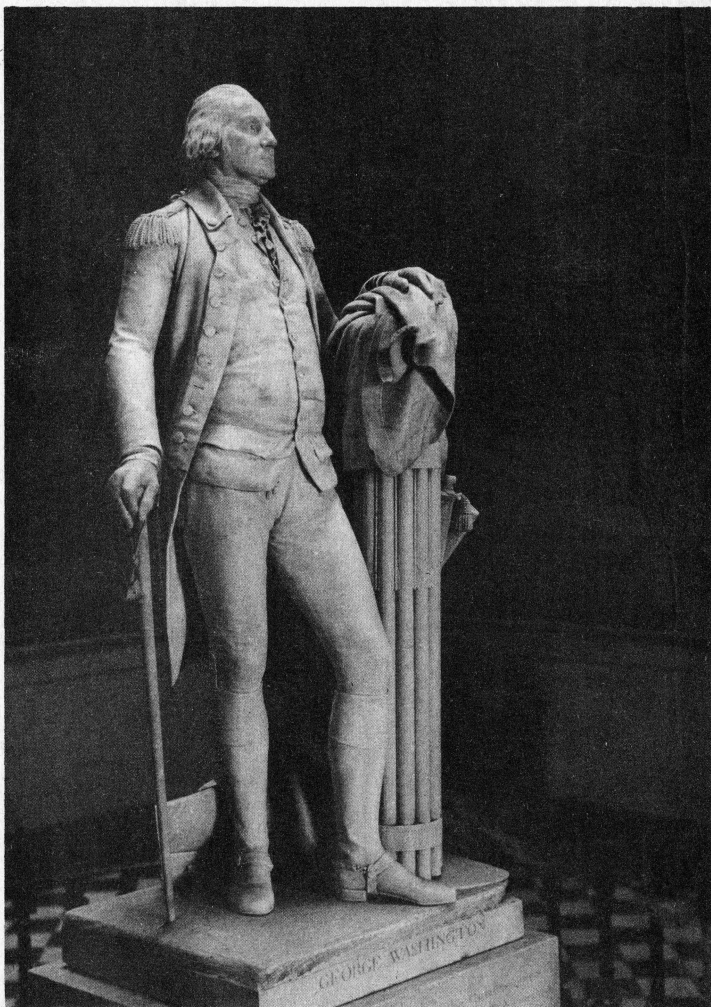


YCU Today



February 7, 1978



Houdon's Washington oversees the oldest representative assembly in the New World, Virginia's General Assembly, recently convened to debate some things new, some things old, and a few concerning VCU. See page 1.

VCU Today

Vol. 7, No. 8

Virginia Commonwealth University

February 7, 1978

Commons architect named

VVK&R, an Alexandria based architectural partnership, has been named as the architect for VCU's new Student Commons building.

According to Louis Saksen, manager of university planning and construction, VVK&R was the university's top choice among seven firms interviewed. Saksen said VVK&R was selected on the basis of its designs at other colleges and universities, which have buildings similar to the one to be built here.

The Alexandria firm has designed buildings for George Mason University, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George Community College, and George Washington University. VCU officials visited all of these structures before making the final decision. VVK&R has also designed numerous office buildings across the state.

The new Student Commons will cost \$4 million, \$2.8 million of which is construction costs. It is being financed through revenue bonds, the money for which is coming from student fees.

The building will run north-south along Cherry Street, behind offices at 901, 903, and 905 Floyd Avenue. It will consist of three stories and occupy 70,000 square feet of floor space.

Spring 1979 is the estimated date for beginning construction. If construction begins on time, Saksen believes the new Student Commons will be completed by Spring 1981.

Although VCU officials have not formally met with VVK&R, Saksen said the new commons will consist of several multipurpose rooms, which can be used for small and large gatherings. Since the building will not be as large as student centers at other universities with enrollments comparable to VCU's, rooms designed for multiple uses are needed.

Other features planned for the building are food services, lounges, and one large gathering area for students separate from the multipurpose rooms. Plans also call for the building to employ a solar energy system.

In designing the new Student Commons Building, VVK&R will work in conjunction with a construction committee composed of university administrators and representatives from the Office of Student Life.

Ed Kanis

Some Capitol Ideas

Beginning in this issue, Today's legislative correspondent, Ralph M. Ware, Jr., director of development, provides the first in a series of 1978 legislative updates.

University administrative personnel are in the process of examining the budget bill (HB 30), and as an outgrowth of this examination, numerous conferences have been held with members of the legislature, principally the House Appropriations Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Edward E. Willey. The senator arranged a conference with the Secretary of Finance, members of the Governor's staff, and the House Appropriations Committee staff. In an appearance before the House Appropriations Committee January 30, Governor Dalton recommended that \$2.5 million be restored to VCU's budget request. This represents a correction of utilities cost requirement estimates on the MCV Campus. The university administration is in the process of preparing other amendments to be offered to the budget bill. These amendments will be reported in a later issue. VCU is scheduled to appear before the Appropriations Committee on February 7 at 2 p.m.

Following are several bills of interest:

HB 158

If approved, this measure would amend the current provision in law relating to regional consortiums for continuing education. Present law requires that the chairman of the consortium shall come from a senior institution. The amendment, if enacted, would provide that the chairman of the consortium would be selected by the president of a member institution or his designee. The chairman would be selected by the board of directors of the consortium, and the board of directors would determine the qualifications and the length of the chairman's term. This bill has passed the House of Delegates and has been communicated to the Senate. It was introduced by Delegate Mary Marshall of Arlington.

HB 52 and SB 174

These bills refer to the Senior Citizens Higher Education Act which provides, among other things, that persons 62 years of age and older may take courses for part-time or full-time credit or non credit without paying a fee. Up until now such students were not counted in computing full-time equivalency for funding. If either one of these bills pass the Assembly, such students will be counted as full-time equivalent students.

HB 165

Relates to fire protection in state structures and provides that any institution of the Commonwealth engaging in the construction or renovation of a structure at a cost which exceeds \$25,000, shall submit preliminary working plans to the governing

body of the political subdivision in which the structure shall be located. This bill is being considered by the House Committee on General Laws.

HJR 47

This measure, introduced by Delegate Richard Bagley and 88 co-patrons, relates to the establishment of a regional veterinary school in Virginia. This resolution, if enacted, would support the establishment of a regional veterinary school under the terms and conditions agreed to by the State Council of Higher Education and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The resolution notes that the State Council has authorized VPI&SU to prepare detailed plans for a college of veterinary medicine to meet certain conditions designed to guarantee regional operation. A bill on the same subject (HB 297) has been introduced by Delegate Don Dunford and 71 co-patrons which authorizes the establishment of a school of veterinary medicine at VPI&SU. The Assembly recommended in 1977 that \$2.5 million be appropriated in 1978-80 for the school.

HB 249

If enacted, this bill would provide for an extensive revision of the code related to emergency medical services such as rescue squads and other organizations.

HB 242

This bill would provide that unlicensed interns and residents may be employed in legally established and licensed hospitals provided that their practice is confined to patients in that hospital.

HB 396

This bill, if enacted, would require the State Council of Higher Education to review every four years, and thereafter not less often than every 10 years, every graduate and graduate professional program offered by a public institution of higher education and require the discontinuance of any such program if warranted (cost, lack of employment opportunities, etc.).

HB 205

Would amend the code pertaining to the practice of optometry and authorize optometrists to use "diagnostic pharmaceutical agents."

As the session moves along, I will comment on other bills as they are introduced and presented to committee. Any one who desires specific information on a bill, please contact the development office at extension 6304. Any citizen can obtain a copy of a bill from the Bill Room located in the basement of the General Assembly Building (former Life Insurance Company of Virginia) 910 Capitol Street. Please obtain bills from the Bill Room. We keep a complete reference file on all bills, but are unable to provide additional copies from our office.

Some healthy benefits

One benefit we may all take for granted, sick leave, can now be translated into dollars when you leave university employment.

A new state policy, which went into effect in November, says that after five years of service, a full-time classified state employee who leaves state employment may be paid for 25 percent of accumulated sick leave, but this must not exceed \$2,500.

Sick leave accumulates at the rate of 10 hours per month for 12-month faculty and classified employees. Ten-month faculty receive six days per semester, which is credited to them at the beginning of each semester.

Another benefit, which is relatively new, is health insurance. The state now pays \$24.30 per month for employees. Employees paid the total cost prior to July 1, 1972. If you were to apply to **Blue Cross/Blue Shield** on your own, the best individual rate would be \$38.51 per month, which includes a \$65 allowance for a semi-private room, while university coverage provides the full cost. A semi-private room at MCV Hospitals costs \$114 per day.

As a state employee, you can opt for one of two types of coverage—the State Plan or the Optional State Plan. Both plans include **Blue Cross/Blue Shield** and major medical benefits. The only difference between the plans is **Blue Shield** services. Under the State Plan, a **Blue Shield** schedule of allowance provides fixed dollar amounts for physician services, approximately 50 to 70 percent of the doctor's charge, depending on the procedure.

Under the Optional State Plan, which employees must supplement by paying an additional \$5.74 per month, **Blue Shield** coverage provides 100 percent of the usual, customary, and reasonable fees. Participating physicians will accept the **Blue Shield** fee as payment in full under the Optional State Plan.

Coverage is available only to full-time salaried employees. Changes in the type of coverage can only be made during the annual enrollment period, the month of May, with coverage to be effective on July 1. Changes in eligibility require action on the part of the employee. If you change eligibility through marriage, an application must be completed for employee-dependent coverage within 31 days with coverage to begin on the first day of the month following the month your application is accepted. In event of divorce, notify the Personnel Office. Coverage for an employee's spouse will end on the last day of the month in which the divorce was granted. If you do not make arrangements to enroll yourself and your dependents when first eligible, you may do so only during the special enrollment period held in May each year. The cost of the Optional State Plan is paid through payroll deduction.

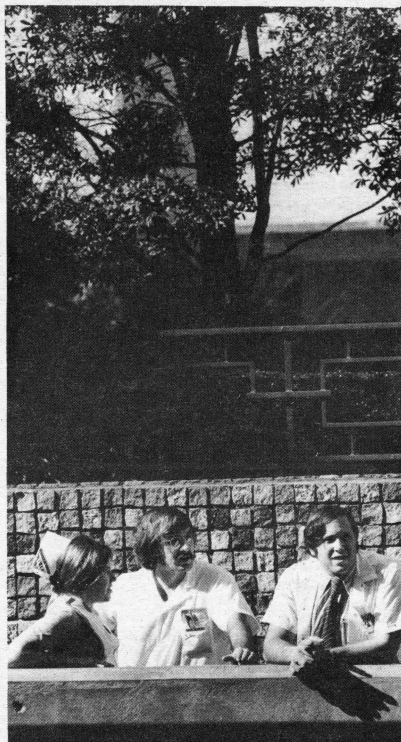
Just like any type of insurance, health insurance is never appreciated until it's needed. But to make sure you and your family's needs are covered, there are several things to consider.

When both you and your spouse have health insurance at your respective jobs, examine the costs to you of each plan. Most health policies won't pay duplicating benefits; you won't collect twice for the same things. Nor will you collect more than your actual expenses. If you are paying for identical coverage at each job or it costs less at one job, drop the superfluous plan. Remember though—in most cases one health insurance plan picks up where the other leaves off; don't drop extra coverage when you might need it. Also, you should consider the benefits of each plan since some are better than others.

Dependents are another thing to consider. Employees must pay to cover dependents and/or spouses. The costs for employee-dependent coverage under the State Plan is \$41.04 per month and \$55.90 under the Optional State Plan. This dependent coverage must be paid by the employee.

Dependents are not covered past the age of 19 unless notification is made to **Blue Cross/Blue Shield** in writing that the child is a full-time college student. Contact the Personnel Office for specific details. Continual coverage is available for children who are incapable of self-support because of mental retardation.

FRINGE BENEFITS



Employees injured on the job should report to the MCVH Emergency Room or to Employee Health in the Larrick Center, 641 North Eighth Street.

tion, illness, or physical incapacity, provided the condition began before the dependent's nineteenth birthday.

To be eligible for **maternity benefits**, employee-dependent coverage must be subscribed and have been in effect for nine months prior to the birth of the baby. **Blue Cross** provides for seven days of maternity care. When the delivery is covered under the employee-dependent benefit coverage, the new born infant has membership privileges from the moment of birth.

In the case of severe illness, **Major Medical** payments help avoid real financial disaster. Both state plans have a \$100 deductible, a maximum \$300 deductible for employee-dependent coverage and employees are covered up to \$250,000. The benefit period follows the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. After the deductible is satisfied, **Major Medical** will pay 80 percent of the cost of medical expenses with the employee paying 20 percent. When covered medical expenses reach \$5,000, **Major Medical** pays 100 percent of the cost. All claims must be submitted within 12 months following the end of the year in which the service was rendered. **Major Medical** forms must be submitted by the employee, with bills verifying the type and cost of service rendered. Contact the Personnel Office for a **Major Medical** form.

Besides health insurance, the university provides protection for all employees injured on the job. An employee injured in an accident or contracting a disease attributable to employment is entitled to benefits defined by the **Workmen's Compensation Act**, as long as the claim is filed within the prescribed time. On-the-job illness and/or injury should be reported immediately to your supervisor and the Personnel Office. In an emergency, employees should be taken to the MCV emergency room. If the injury requires a doctor's attention, but is not an emergency, all employees should report to the Employee Health Office, open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on the MCV Campus with a copy of the accident injury report. All employees must fill out an accident injury report, signed by a witness, if any, and the department head, to have various medical bills paid. Forms are available in the Personnel Offices and in Employee Health.

Susan Grayson

This is the third article in a four-part series on university fringe benefits.

What's Up?

Events

Symposium: The eighth annual Alpha Kappa Delta Sociological Research Symposium, sponsored by the VCU chapter of the national college sociology honor society, on new findings and research in sociology. Keynote speaker is Jessie Bernard, nationally recognized for her contributions as a sociologist, Feb. 16-18 at the Jefferson Hotel. For information, contact the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, ext. 6826.

Nursing Education Workshop: Sponsored by MCV Hospitals for final year students of professional nursing, Saturday, Feb. 18, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Telephone or mail pre-registration is required by Feb. 10. Applications can be mailed to Staff Development, Box 7 MCV, Richmond 23298, or by telephone, ext. 7361.

Media Events

Channel 23: "Your Health," 8 p.m., Feb. 8. Drs. Harris and Shield discuss response to stress; "P.S. 23," 7:30 a.m., Feb. 11. A community talk show with artist Ruth Abrams displaying in the Anderson Gallery and Dr. George Bright, associate professor of pediatrics and director of adolescent medicine. "The Paradox of the Big," 7:30 p.m., Feb. 12. A half-hour film on the work of Ruth Abrams followed by an interview with the artist. "Your Health," 8 p.m., Feb. 15. Drs. Mitchell, McGuire, and Zfass discuss heartburn and hiatal hernia.

Channel 8: "FYI," 10 a.m., Feb. 8, Dr. Stanley Baker discusses how to develop reading habits in low income families.

Channel 6: "Richmond Today," 12 noon, Feb. 14, Dr. Steven M. Crafton discusses the upcoming VCU Economics Conference.

WRFK: "Open House," 10 a.m., Feb. 21, Dr. Jack M. Jarrett discusses opera and the upcoming performance by the VCU Symphony Orchestra.

The Arts

Theatre: *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligren*, directed by Ellen Lewis, Feb. 16-18, 22-25, Mar. 14, 7:30 p.m., in Shafer Street Playhouse. For more information contact ext. 6778.

Recitals: VCU Symphonic Band, Feb. 8, 8:30 p.m.; Beverly Erickson, soprano, Feb. 10, 8:30 p.m.; VCU String Quartet, Feb. 12, 3 p.m.; Paul J. Dorsam, trumpet, Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m.; Matthew Spady, bass, Feb. 13, 8:30 p.m.; Tim Carney, composition, Feb. 15, 8:30 p.m.; William Hayes, percussion, Steve Spivey, percussion, Feb. 16, 8:30 p.m.; Rebecca E. Plummer, piano, Feb. 17, 8:30 p.m.; Matthew Switzer, cello, Feb. 18, 8:30 p.m.; Yvonne Beatty, piano, Feb. 19, 3 p.m.; Neel Anne Keith, flute, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m. All recitals will be held at the Music Center Auditorium. For more information contact the Music Department ext. 5195.

Exhibits

Anderson Gallery: Feb. 14-Mar. 17, Ruth Abrams displays her "Microcosms," featuring 68 of her tiny paintings; Sam Gilliam displays *Extensions Part I*; and Charles Schmidt exhibits *The Mechanical Landscape*. Both the Abrams and Gilliam exhibits are made possible in part by a grant provided by the Virginia Commission of the Arts and Humanities from funds appropriated by the General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

F&M Plaza: An exhibition of original jewelry by C. James Meyer, assistant professor of crafts, is being displayed through Feb. 28 at William Carreras Diamonds Ltd. in the downtown F&M Plaza.

Seminars

Awareness Series: On Being a Woman Workshop I, Exploring Psychic Awareness Workshop, Things You Might Not Know About Sex Workshop Feb. 10-11; Introduction To Meditation Workshop Couples Workshop, Feb. 17-18. For more information call the Office of Student Life, ext. 7111.

Continuing Education

The Management Center: Training Skills Workshop, Feb. 14; 16 Annual U.S. Tax Clinic, Feb. 15. Call ext. 7211 for more information.

Public Contact: A workshop in developing telephone courtesy, visitor reception, self-awareness, image building, and problem-solving techniques sponsored by the University Personnel Training Section. Open to all employees of the university interested in developing their personal contact skills, Feb. 8, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. All interested employees should call Ann Lee on ext. 3541.

Student Life

Leadership and Service Awards: The honors and awards committee is accepting applications from students for leadership and service awards. Applications are available in the Office of Student Life, 901 West Franklin Street, Room 221. The deadline for application is February 17.

Sports

Wrestling: Quadrangular Meet—VCU, Feb. 11, noon, at Richmond; Triangular Meet—VCU, Feb. 18, noon, at Richmond.

Women's Basketball: American University, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., at Franklin Street Gym; University of Virginia, Feb. 14, 7 p.m., at University of Richmond; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m., at Franklin Street Gym; Longwood College, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., at Franklin Street Gym.

Men's Basketball: Richmond Times-Dispatch Invitational Basketball Tournament, Feb. 10-11, 8 p.m., at Richmond Coliseum; University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., at Richmond Coliseum. For more information or tickets contact the ticket office, 770-2720.

East Meets West

The Board of Visitors has appointed three faculty members to major posts in the School of Medicine. Named assistant dean for curriculum is Dr. Albert J. Wasserman, professor and chairman of clinical pharmacology. Dr. Frederick J. Spencer, professor and chairman of preventive medicine, becomes assistant dean for student activities, and Dr. George P. Vennart was named chairman of the pathology department after serving as acting chairman since 1976.

The Department of Patient Counseling is beginning to produce video tape worship services for playback over the MCV Hospitals closed-circuit television system for patients. If any employees and staff would be interested in helping to provide special music for these services, call ext. 5043.

Letters of intent for five university programs will be submitted to the State Council of Higher Education by university administrators. They include: Bachelor of Science in radiologic technology; Master of Science in anesthesiology; Master of Education in reading; Master of Education in early childhood education; and a Master of Science in recreation. Program proposals will also be made for a Bachelor of Science program in medical records administration (combined with a letter of intent), a Bachelor of Science program in health education, and a Bachelor of Arts in religious studies.

Standards for minimum postcard and envelope size will be implemented approximately November 30, 1978. Postcards and envelopes must be at least 5 inches long, 3½ inches tall, and .007 inches thick for machine processing. Postal customers should use all smaller cards and envelopes prior to this date.

Construction of a two-level bridge between the new supply and distribution building and the first and second floors of the North Hospital has begun. This will be the initial link in the route for distribution of supplies to new and existing hospital buildings.

The MCV Buildings and Grounds Department is now preparing to occupy the Virginia Mechanics Institute building at 10th and Marshall Streets. Work is necessary to bring heating, plumbing, and electrical services to acceptable levels, but some staff will move into the building the week of February 13, and others will follow later in the month.

VCU Today

Published biweekly during the academic year except for holidays, by Virginia Commonwealth University, in the Office of University Publications.

Susan Grayson, editor

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

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Dining in Historic Richmond

Dining in Historic Richmond, one of the newest books available in the area, is more than a run-of-the-mill cookbook.

The brainchild of Nancy Lee Leidy, a medical technologist in clinical pathology, and Julia Clarke O'Neal, a lab technician in the OB/GYN department, *Dining in Historic Richmond* takes a look at area restaurants, private clubs, and dinner theatres from a historical perspective. Its authors, neither of whom have backgrounds in professional writing, emphasize that their primary purpose is history, and that the book's numerous recipes are merely "a bonus."

The co-authors said they had no specific reasons for writing *Dining in Historic Richmond*, other than "wanting to do something different." Fine restaurants, however, have always interested the two women. Even as a youth O'Neal made a practice of asking for recipes and menus from restaurants where she dined.

Leidy and O'Neal spent "many long hours" interviewing restaurant managers, owners, and chefs to compile historical facts and recipes for the book. The authors were fortunate in that they experienced "no real problems" in doing their research. "We told the managers and chefs what we were doing and asked them to freely contribute," said O'Neal, "and they were very receptive to us."

Dining in Historic Richmond first appeared in area bookstores August 1, 1977. It took 18 months for Leidy and O'Neal to complete the 160-page book, including press time.

The book includes sections on Shockoe Slip,

the West End, South of the James, and International Cuisine. Of special interest to the authors is a "Memories" section devoted to restaurants no longer in operation. *Dining in Historic Richmond* is attractively designed, thanks to the combined efforts of its authors, Sam West, a local photographer, and Thomas Hale, the book's publisher. Hale also published the popular *Fan* book.

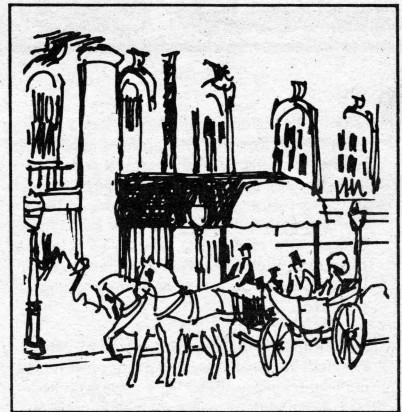
Although the book is geared primarily to Richmond area readers, it is also available in Williamsburg and Suffolk. As for sales, Leidy feels "they have been better than expected" and is hoping they will continue.

Leidy said writing *Dining in Historic Richmond* was "one of the most enjoyable and interesting things I've ever done." The book, according to Leidy, "gives people a chance to stay in their homes and read about Richmond." She thinks the book has appeal for both men and women and hopes it will serve as a souvenir of the city.

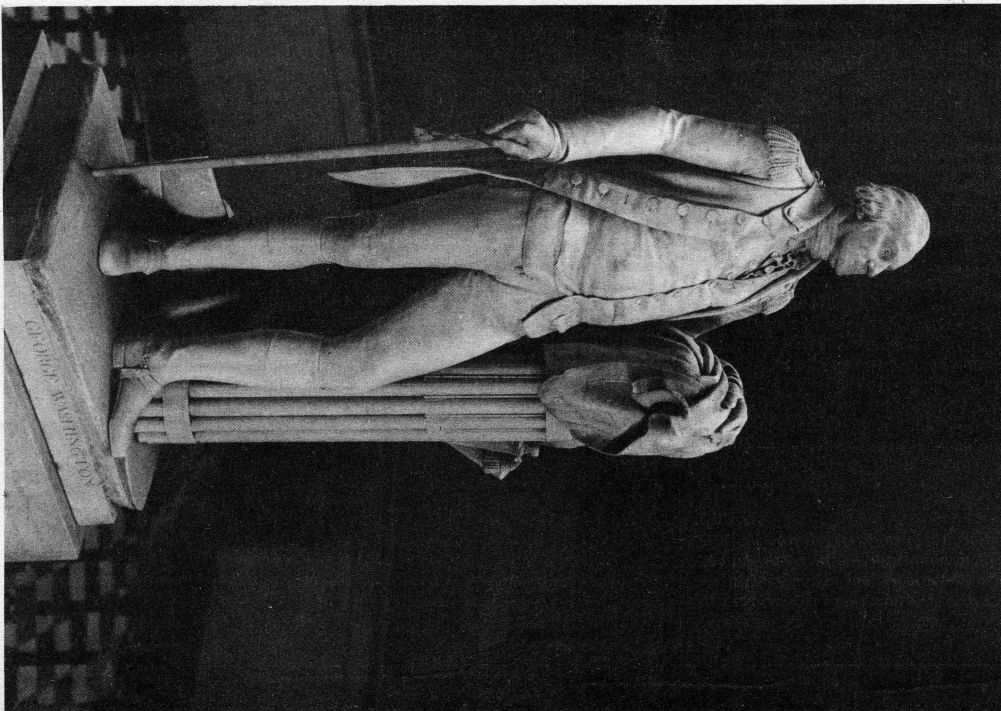
O'Neal mirrored Leidy's feelings, but added that completing the book gave her a "great sense of accomplishment."

Dining in Historic Richmond offers something for everyone. The initial journalistic venture of these two science-oriented women provides a wealth of historical insights along with a variety of creative recipes for its readers.

Ed Kanis



The Jefferson, one of only two hotels registered as national landmarks in the United States, is one of the favorite dining spots featured in O'Neal's and Leidy's book.



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