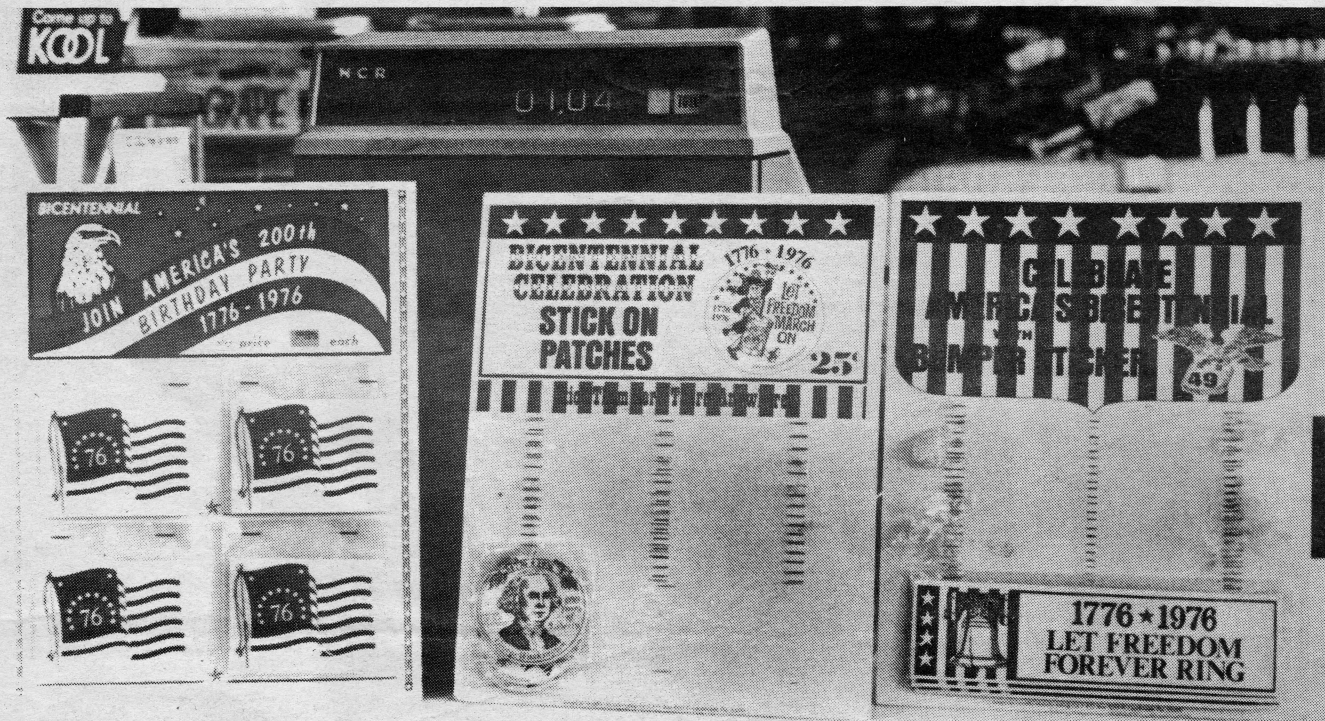
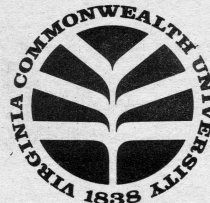


the commonwealth times

Member/Virginia Intercollegiate Mass Communications Association

Friday, January 16, 1976

Volume 7/Number 13



THE BICENTENNIAL e pluribus capitalism and other ideas



CONGRESS.
Declaration of the thirteen united States

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, in such a case, dictates that violent changes should not be effected but by gradual and steady approaches. Experience also tells us, that even the best of Governments are here and there so vitiated, that a reformation in the most important and essential principles of their organization is necessary, in order to preserve them from ruin. In such cases, the people are sometimes obliged to resort to the sword, and to establish a new Government, in order to secure their rights and liberties. This is the case with the thirteen united States of America.

He has refused to assent to our Petitions, and to dissolve the British Acts of Parliament, by which the rights of the Colonies are violated. He has refused to assent to our Petitions, and to dissolve the British Acts of Parliament, by which the rights of the Colonies are violated.

IT

our
America
heritage

BICENTennial

money

Where have all the letters gone?

If you are wondering where the letters went, the truth of the matter is that we haven't received any. Letters are welcomed from all members of the university community and writers should feel free to comment on any issues that arise in Richmond, any stories published in this paper, or anything that bugs you.

Letters and comments from our readers are the only ways in

which we can truly give them the kind of publication they would like to see. Remember that even though the *Times* is delivered to you free of charge, you have already paid for it through your student activities fees. You have as much right to speak your mind as we have.

The MY TURN column, which flourished for the first several weeks of the Fall Semester is a column that is available for any student, professor or

administrator who wishes to speak his mind on an issue facing the general community or university. Just give us an idea what you will be writing about, and give us about a week's advance notice, respect the deadline we give you, and we will guarantee publication.

Letters may be edited for the space considerations and grammatical errors, although no letters edited for space will be edited without the author's

knowledge and consent. Editing will not interfere with the meaning of the letter.

Letters should be typed, double spaced and signed by the author. Letters should also contain the major and telephone number for purposes of verification only. Letters will be returned if accompanied by a

return envelope.

Letters should be mailed to the *Commonwealth Times* c/o The Editor, 301 N. Shafer St. (zip 23284) or delivered in person to the Executive Editor only.

Our deadline is every Monday prior to publication. Please respect our deadlines.

Accolades

The editor would like to let everyone know who the participants to this effort were.

We took on some new blood over the holidays, and Alan Farber, the new advertising manager, is one of those who helped make this issue a reality. He's looking for assistants, so anyone who's interested in the art of advertising should contact him for a job.

Linda Asher, without who's copy editing we probably couldn't bear to read our newspaper for fear of great frustration, is one of those people you tend to take for granted until she's gone. Linda

hasn't let us down yet, and we don't expect her to.

Jim Jennings and his news staff, whose assistance is always more than adequate for the job, and Gail Tanner, our production manager, whose talents far exceed those of most of us, all put in a good week's work on this issue.

Our other new crew member, Harvie Abbot, Folio Editor, was approved by the Media Board last December to replace Nancy Lincoln who went off to the real world to seek gainful employment. We think he'll be doing a fine job with that section. He's also looking for

writers who might know something about the arts and entertainment.

And finally, to Kay Gray, Ray Saunders and Joe Graves, without whose valuable help this edition of the paper would not have rolled off the presses until next week, we say thanks.

Next week, the *Times* will once again be dealing with the issues and news and entertainment and sports (which reminds me that I forgot about the valuable service Mike Harris and Bill Smith lent to this effort) which make this business such a challenging chore.

JAY ALDONS

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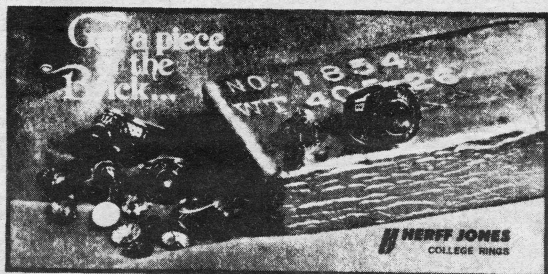
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BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE

**20 KEGS
25¢ A DRAFT**

music by
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JAN. 21

8:30 - 1 A.M.
at the old gym

ADMISSION \$1.25

a concert committee function

New student parking lot acquired



A new parking lot for commuter students has recently opened on Grace Street.

The former St. Luke's Hospital parking lot in the 1000 block of Grace Street was acquired by the university and its 180 parking spaces are open at a charge of 50 cents (from 8 a.m. until noon, no charge after noon) with a possibility

of a monthly rental charge.

The new lot is an addition to the 65 regular parking spaces at the corners of Main and Pine Streets, and Cary and Pine Streets.

For additional information, contact the Parking Office at 920 W. Franklin St. or call 770-5728.

CUSA to begin monthly meetings

The Council on University Student Affairs, in its shortest and most productive meeting of the school year, Wednesday unanimously passed three resolutions.

At its half-hour meeting the Council approved a Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house; changed its meetings from a weekly to a monthly basis; and gave the responsibility for data collection back to the boards.

Alfred Matthews, dean of student life, recommended that the Council approve the fraternity house at 121 N. Lombardy St. because of the "high quality" of planning that has gone into it.

A fraternity alumni corporation owns the house and rents it to current members. There will eventually be room for 10 to 12 residents; the six members living there now pay \$80 rent.

Dr. Richard Wilson, chairman of CUSA, said the university incurs no obligation by approving the house.

Dr. Bernard Scotch moved that the Council meetings be held monthly because weekly two-hour meetings can become "quite a burden."

Jay Alexander said that since CUSA's weekly meeting were based on regular

meetings with the boards, they should be abandoned since the boards had often not appeared. The nine members present then passed the measure.

Responsibility for data collection (compiling indicators of student opinion) was returned to the boards, also because of their apparent lack of interest.

A Jan. 12 deadline had been set for the submission of questions from the boards; CUSA would have coordinated student opinions on the questions. Only the Recreational Activities Board submitted questions.

Anita McFalls suggested that on the school calendar two study days be set aside at the end of classes and the beginning of exams. This, she said, would save students from taking an exam in a course the day after the last class.

Dr. Albert Lyles said that the calendar for 1977-78 had just been adopted and so any change in this direction would probably not take effect until 1978-79. He added that any days set aside between classes and exams would have to be made up sometime during the semester.

Wilson called the complexities involved in a change "unbelievable," and said that maybe a motion could be made at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held Wed., Jan. 21 at 3:30 in 910 W. Franklin St. Elections on the west campus and the Appropriations Board guidelines will be discussed.

The following meeting will be held Feb. 4, and all following meetings will be held the first Wednesday of the month. If the month's business is not completed at those meetings, Wilson said, another will be called.



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illustration by S. Struble

New York's New Year's blues

by Koz-Mik Funkke
Times Travel Editor

I decided sometime before Thanksgiving that I really wanted to usher in the New Year in a somewhat chaotic style. In the Bicentennial Year, that urge was given further meaning and impetus to the point where I realized that the only logical place for me to have been on New Year's Eve 1975-76 would be in New York's Times Square.

My brother and I boarded one of those fine Piedmont Fanjets in the city of Big Lick (aka Roanoke) and headed for the Newark International Airport. We originally thought we were going to be landing in Laguardia. Lucky for us that we got the earlier flight to Newark because we were to have arrived in Laguardia sometime just prior to the now infamous bombing that killed 11 people. That would have been a very fitting beginning to a holiday in New York City.

At any rate, on New Year's Eve the four of us — a sister, a brother, a friend and myself — sat around the apartment playing blackjack. The only way to win in blackjack is if you happen to be the dealer. I was the dealer and I was winning big. I think. We were also getting hopelessly drunk on whiskey sours and rum and cokes; needless to say, we wanted to be "ready" for that first glimpse of the dropping ball.

New York City is generally one of those cities I can only half stand, and even then only from a comfortable distance. My initial apprehensions about going to NYC for New Year's were dashed when Our Friend Uncle Jerry decided to go ahead and violate his conservative leanings and give — I mean lend — the city some bucks to keep it out of trouble for another year. All that really did was to postpone the inevitable.

The typical New Year's Eve celebration at Times Square is rowdy, drunken, crowded and full of anticipation of the time when joints can be lit up, champagne bottles can be uncorked and people generally can have a hell of a time after that magic hour of midnight. This expectation of a masterfully done mass public party in the middle of the city was further enhanced by the obvious fact that this was going to be the place to be on the Bicentennial New Year's. And right in the middle of the crowd, towards the front, was where we ended up.

In order to survive the inevitable pushing, shoving and milling around in Times Square on New Year's it is absolutely essential for a group of people to stick together at all costs and act like you belong there. Actually it doesn't take too long to figure out the essentials of survival in Times Square. It is doubtful that anyone who falls to the ground on that night will leave the area unscathed, let alone alive.

The four of us decided to lock our arms and form a small circle so as not to get separated from each other. This is really quite a clever tactic because the circular wedge — similar to but not really related to the old flying wedge of football — can move, batter, push, pull, tug and any other physical activities that may be required for survival. When the crowd begins to get restless — as inevitably it will — and starts ebbing and flowing like great tides of humanity — as inevitably it will — the circular wedge becomes a great defensive device. And we used it to its full advantage trying to seek out the place in the crowd best suitable for watching the festivities take place.

There being so many thousands of bodies in the chaos the police generally stay discreetly out of the way and in the shadows, so of course, on New Year's Eve, Times Square becomes the best place of any in New York to buy, sell or partake of any vice that may be available. Another aspect of the New York scene which was destined greatly to assist in the festivities was a law that would take effect at midnight, apparently legalizing public drunkenness. Perhaps it was this law that everyone was celebrating that night.

The rain was pouring down of course, but that did nothing to dampen anyone's spirits. Mr. Pooky, a huge snowman-balloon was sharing the master of ceremonies honors with Dick Clark of American Bandstand fame. Mr. Clark was apparently did not have the constitution to brave the elements and be there in person, but Mr. Pooky more than made up for his absence — Mr. Pooky didn't talk. Mr. Clark was kind enough to supply a couple of weary sounding bands for the drenched crowd, but we never got close enough to catch their act or their names. But few people really cared about that because we were all in the same place at one time and we were all having very much of a joyful, blissful time of it.

The unmistakable fragrance of reefer began quickly to drift across the crowd and although there was not any general smoking in the crowd, there was enough floating

around for everyone who wished to partake to do so. Except for one poor soul who apparently had had the misfortune to come to the Square without any means to get off and he was going through the crowd asking people: "Got any pot?" No answer. "Got any hash?" No answer. "Got any acid?" No answer. "Got any booze?" No answer. And so on through probably the entire crowd until someone either bounced him or gave him what he was asking for.

Thousands of people with thousands of bottles totaling upwards of a million proof all together were milling around in tense anticipation of midnight when the corks would fly off and the bubbles and alcohol would flow down thousands of throats.

Shortly the time became 11:59 and counting. The crowd roared and roared in hopes that such verbal persuasion would make that last minute of 1975 tick off more quickly than all the rest had, and when the clock hit the bewitching hour and the ball began to drop, there was a most incredible sensation that we were right in the middle of some tremendous human loudspeaker. The crowd exploded with its approval of the first minute of the Bicentennial Year. There seemed to be a great anticipation that this year perhaps more than any other would be the best year of our lives.

New Year's Eve in Times Square must be experienced to be totally believed. If you've never been there before, go next year. If you think crowded conditions are prevalent here, try New York sometime. The most emotional feeling of excitement are to be received when you experience the New York New Year's. Besides, there's usually no cover charge at any of the New York bars after the Times Square celebration. The experience of New York's New Year's is something that everyone should experience at least once in his life, and the bars, which I still haven't sampled to my satisfaction should probably be experienced as many times as one can stand to drink their expensive booze.

So that was a rather vague, quick showing of what a New York New Year's really is. Now, in this Bicentennial Year, I'll have to sample the Bicentennial Fourth of July in Washington D.C., for that will surely be the place to be on that date. My editor disagrees with me on that point — he says Philly. But I'll be in D.C. watching the wheels of government grind to a halt for a quick observance of the 200th birthday of the United States. See you there.

Student government, rights-- Is there anybody out there?

by Jim Baynton
Times Executive Editor

COMMENTARY

In the Bicentennial Year nothing would seem more appropriate a topic to talk about than government. And in this newspaper no other governance system than ours would be a more appropriate subject for us to analyze and comment on.

A brief history is first in order: In 1972 what used to be known as the West Campus Student Government Association (SGA) dissolved itself under criticism that it was an exclusive club and did not represent very well the needs of the whole student body. Critics accused it of being "elitist."

The Media Board had been formed in 1970 to supervise and act as publisher over the various media at this university, which at that time included this newspaper, WJRB, the Spectrum magazine, the Cobblestone yearbook of this campus and the X-Ray yearbook from MThe Media Board was then and remains now the only board in the governance system that supervises programs on both campuses.

Following the dissolution of the SGA in the spring the Council of University Student Affairs (CUSA) directed that an Appropriations Board and a Program Board be organized to direct and maintain the programs on this campus and provide for the funding of those programs. These boards were originally intended to have been "temporary" in nature, according to Richard Wilson, vice-president of student affairs and chairman of CUSA. CUSA also directed that a study commission be formed to look into the possibilities of forming another student government association and even to look into questions of whether such a beast was needed. This commission became known as the Roberts Commission, in honor of its student chairman, Rick Roberts.

Roberts' toils, which lasted well over a full year, came to naught when CUSA directed that the constitution be voted upon in the Fall of 1973. Dr. Wilson pointed out that "at least ten percent of the student body must vote for the referendum" to give even the slightest chance of survival for the organization. As it turned out, less than nine percent of the student body of this campus voted in one way or another on the proposed constitution. Thomas D.

Romeo, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy, and then chairman of the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, commented that it was probably better that the ten percent figure was not reached, he said, because it would have been an "uphill battle" and an "inactive government" with such small support.

Romeo was quoted in the November 8, 1973 issue of the *Commonwealth Times* as saying "That constitution is a dead issue" while the student government remains in the hands of the administration and an appointive system is retained. And those simple facts are the crux of the issue.

When the issue of the constitution died two years ago, the administration seemed to have seen that as a go ahead to legitimize and make permanent the system under which student governance had been operating. The administrative convenience of the boards cannot be denied except for the fact that it becomes extremely difficult to administer anything with a committee. The problem is that students delegated much of their authority to faculty and administrators when they gave two votes to faculty and one to the administration on each of the boards. Although three votes would probably never be able to decide favorably any issue, the mere fact that three votes were denied to students is extremely significant.

Questions raised

The Program Board last year was the first of the boards to raise real questions concerning themake-up of their own board. The committee chairmen, of which there were seven, proposed that each of them be given voting rights on the Program Board, that three more students be appointed at large and have full voting privileges. However, while the student input on the board was enhanced, and the power of the committee chairmen had grown immeasurably, faculty and administrators were still allowed to remain in voting positions on the board. Despite CUSA's objections of the plan, it was eventually approved and has been operating in this fashion for the past year.

Dr. Wilson's original catchphrase for board concept." This means that directly involved in any of the committees— are asked to be ment that we should allow even further under the guise of greater student not familiar with the problems and committees are thus recruited to increases the red tape. If we are convenience, we should recognize utilization of space, time, personnel a minimum of red tape and a maximum

Interwoven with the concept of problem of appointments. When constitution was laid to rest two y became its unwitting bed fellow. An administrative member of the Appoi in a recent CUSA meeting that th system was that it involved fewer Lenton felt that part of the presen "We have a taste, that is very unfamil thought "there's still nothing to go justify those remarks remains open to

One wonders, for example, how students than are presently involved grand total of four of the members were either faculty members Communications Department and th the board, one must wonder as to t the system. When, out of a West Can 13,000, the total student represent system (including CUSA, and the U 43, one must seriously consider the strength of the voice of students on t

Unfamiliar sys

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Community gov

This becomes especially apparent administrators are now beginning to governance" method. This means th have as much right to be involved in do students. Yet there remains the virtually relegated to playing their role the lower board system rather than g faculty and administrators in the Uni are 30 faculty and administrative m members, three of whom come from t that in any community where t government," there would also exist members from the majority segm inevitable question is which grou constitutes the largest component.

The second issue of great importan faculty and administrators where the them. We mean this: There are tw administrator on the Appropriations E



Meetings such as this between the Program Board (on the right) and the Appropriations Board (left) failed to do more than create additional problems

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VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY/
Friday, January 16, 1976

Dr. Wilson's original catchphrase for the board system was the "lay board concept." This means that outsiders—persons who are not directly involved in any of the programs or members of the committees—are asked to be members of the boards. This tells us that we should allow even further decentralization in authority under the guise of greater student representation. Persons who are not familiar with the problems and decision making processes of the committees are thus recruited to the board which concurrently increases the red tape. If we are speaking here about administrative convenience, we should recognize that the best programs, the best utilization of space, time, personnel and money comes when there is a minimum of red tape and a maximum of action.

Interwoven with the concept of the "lay board concept" is the problem of appointments. When the Roberts Commission's constitution was laid to rest two years ago, the elections process became its unwitting bed fellow. According to Stephen Lenton, the administrative member of the Appointments Board who commented in a recent CUSA meeting that the disadvantage of the election system was that it involved fewer students than the boards do. Lenton felt that part of the present governance problem was that "We have a taste, that is very unfamiliar to us," but he added that he thought "there's still nothing to govern." Whether or how he can justify those remarks remains open to question.

One wonders, for example, how elections can involve fewer students than are presently involved in the board system. When a grand total of four of the members of the media board last semester were either faculty members of students in the Mass Communications Department and there are only nine members of the board, one must wonder as to the awesome representativeness of the system. When, out of a West Campus enrollment figure of nearly 13,000, the total student representation of the entire governance system (including CUSA, and the University Assembly), totals only 43, one must seriously consider the ramifications of the power and strength of the voice of students on this campus.

Unfamiliar system?

We must also consider the question of whether or not the system is "unfamiliar to us." The lay board concept would recognize, of necessity and by definition, the diverse interests and abilities of all its members and thus its defined unfamiliarity with the system. The lay board system seems only to perpetuate this lack of familiarity. If the boards were to be truly administrative, they would not be lay boards, but rather boards whose members would be related to a particular interest or field — examples would include the recruitment of accounting and business majors to staff the Appropriations Board, Mass Communications students to staff the media board, and Physical Education majors to staff the Recreational Activities Board. As if that weren't almost the case already.

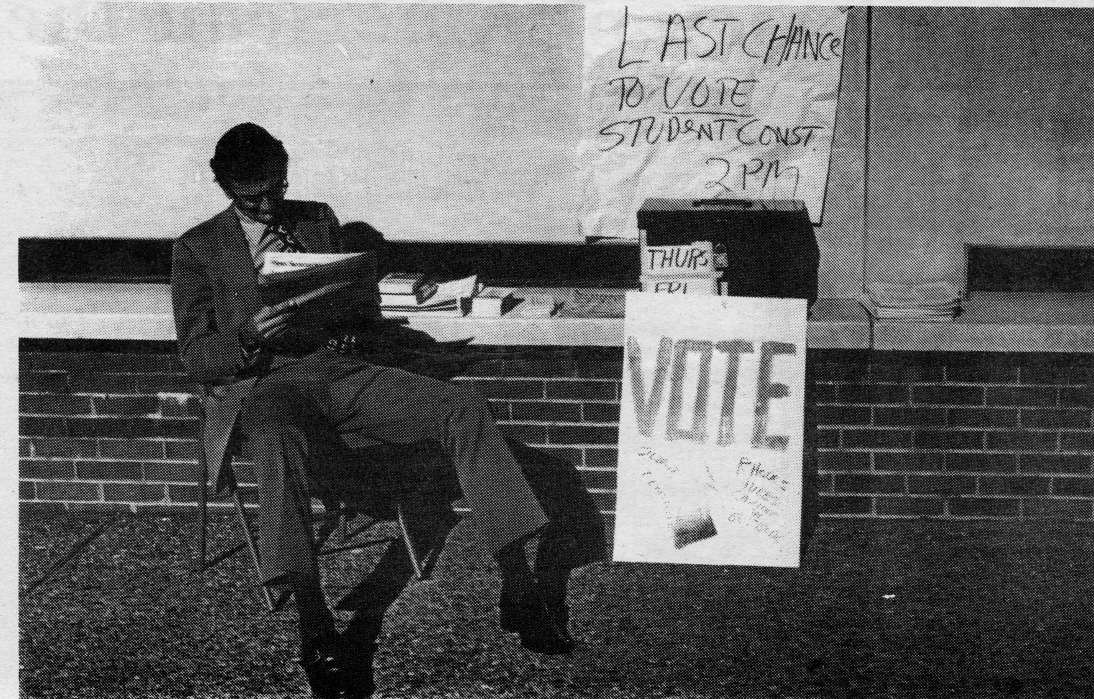
So the administration must ponder two questions and their related offshoots. First, do we want to have a lay board system or a more interest-oriented board system? A second, how do students benefit from either method? We say that the administration must ponder these points because it was they who originated, instituted and gave legitimacy to this system. Students, as well, should ponder these questions and arrive at their own decisions as their own interests and their conception of what constitutes getting their money's worth.

Finally, Lenton said "there's still nothing to govern." That could be said almost to epitomize the spirit and thoughts of the administrators who are involved with the system. From their point of view, there would be nothing more to govern than the allocation and use of student activities monies (but of course, they must have their hands in that process). Well, students more aware and concerned that their counterparts in the administration see that there is indeed a good deal more to it than that. There are the issues of no student input into where the athletic fees, mandatory for all students, are spent and how, of no students input into the formulation of academic policies and priorities, or no student input into the formulation of academic policies and priorities, of no student input into the lack of parking facilities or housing facilities or health services. Many students who are familiar with the governance system here realize that the administration has been consistently refusing to the students the right to have a voice in their own affairs.

Community government

This becomes especially apparent in two issues: Fires, many administrators are now beginning to think of the "community governance" method. This means the administrators and faculty have as much right to be involved in the total governance system as do students. Yet there remains the fact that students are almost virtually relegated to playing their roles of relative unimportance in the lower board system rather than giving students full equity with faculty and administrators in the University Assembly, where there are 30 faculty and administrative members and only six student members, three of whom come from this campus. One would think that in any community where there exists a "community government," there would also exist within that government more members from the majority segment than from any other. The inevitable question is which group within this community constitutes the largest component.

The second issue of great importance is the question of having faculty and administrators where there is no tangible input from them. We mean this: There are two faculty members and one administrator on the Appropriations Board. This board allocates the



Not even 10 percent of the student body, as suggested by Vice President for Student Affairs Richard I. Wilson, voted the referendum

keith fred

student activities fee monies. No faculty or administrative members of this university pay a student activities fee, so why has their representation on that particular board been allowed to continue?

These are some of the pressing issues which this "university community" must come quickly to deal with. The Council of University Student Affairs (CUSA) is planning to hold a public hearing next Wednesday, Jan. 21, to discuss the questions of West Campus elections procedures. These proposals, as far as we know, exist only in the minds of some students, but one group of governance system members is planning to have a proposal for filling board positions through the electoral process. If any other students have questions or proposals of their own, they should attend the CUSA meeting next Wednesday.

Assembly opens doors to outsiders for first time

The University Assembly, the highest university governing board, last Thursday unanimously approved the Mass Communications Department's proposed master of science degree program, a new foreign language-English-art history program, and the new university calendar for next academic year.

In an unprecedented action, five students, including members of the university press corps, gained access to the Assembly meeting, all of which previously had been closed to the press and the public.

The five students were uninvited and had not informed university President T. Edward Temple, chairman of the Assembly, of their intentions to attend the meeting. They did, however, inform the Assembly that according to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, at least in their minds, forbade the closed meetings of the Assembly.

The students, Walter Gilliam, chairman of the Lecture Committee of the Program Board, Tom Hatch and Hunter Hughes, newsmen from WJRB, and the editor and chief photographer of this publication, were asked to leave the meeting room while the Assembly deliberated on the issue.

According to a source on the Assembly, Temple had expressed his wish not to deal with questions concerning student government for "at least a year" when he accepted his presidency and consequential chairmanship of the Assembly. However, it was learned that Stephanie Newberry and Rob Callahan, West Campus student members of the Assembly, had made a motion that student representation on the Assembly be brought up to equal status with the faculty and administration. Students from both campuses comprise only six of the 36 members of the Assembly.

According to the two students, the motion had been seconded and after a short debate, the motion was tabled. The motion, said Ms. Newberry, was to have been discussed at the January 8 meeting. This

Budget hearings for all organization receiving student activities fees monies will be beginning in early February. If students have an interest in knowing where their money is being spent, they should attend the Appropriations Board meetings regularly. These meetings, too, are open to the public. And if students seek information on how to participate in the programs or media of this campus, they should attend the meetings of the appropriate board. These meetings are open to the public and are announced in this newspaper weekly.

The new year brings with it many questions that must be answered and many new problems that we must face. Let us hope that the interests and awareness of students can be raised to the point where something constructive and beneficial to student rights takes place.



President T. Edward Temple and West Campus Provost Francis Brooke at the Assembly meeting.

saunders

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However, in an interview with Dr. Temple on January 9, he mentioned that that particular motion had been "killed."

According to the Freedom of Information Act only the university's Board of Visitors may legally conduct business in closed session. Any other public meeting must meet certain conditions before it can legally close a meeting or go into executive session. None of these conditions were met at the January 8 meeting.

Temple said that he would take the matter up with the state Attorney General, Andrew P. Miller, for a decision.

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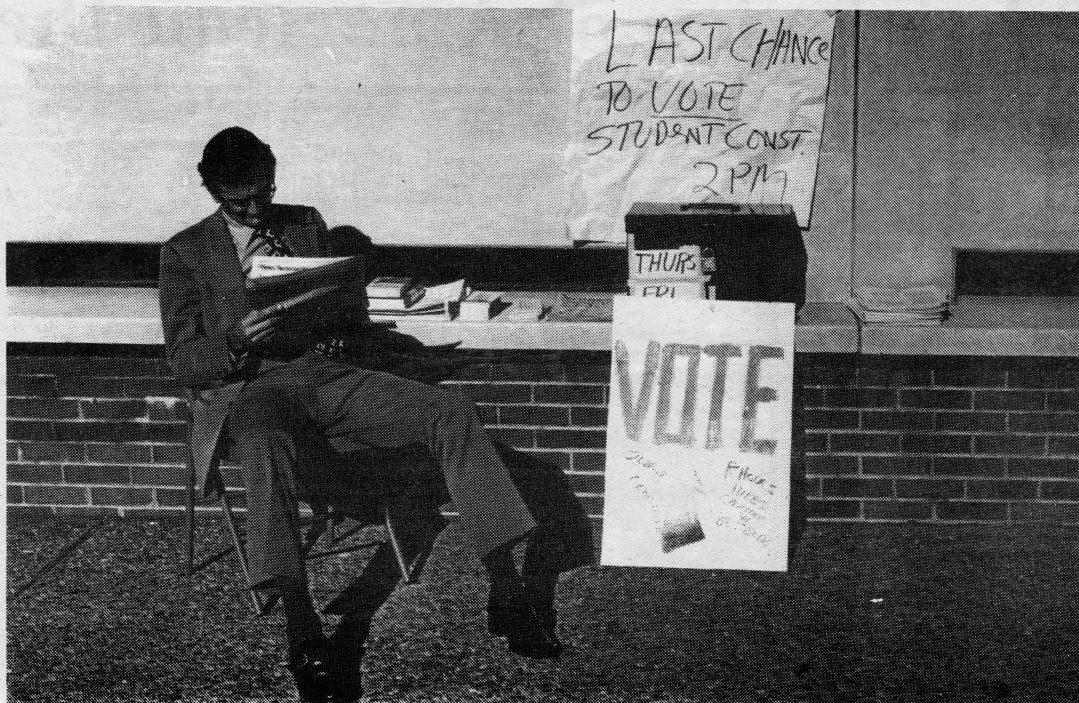
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A brief view of American theatre

Harvey Abbott
Times Folio Editor

For this particular edition of the *Commonwealth Times* I find myself charged with the duty of penning an article related in some way to the American Bicentennial, the celebration of which falls in this year of our Lord 1976. My personal opinions on the current celebration aside, I find myself in an especially curious position due to my Loyalist sympathies. (I have been known to hide in closets singing "Rule Britannia," while drinking toasts to "that most civilised of nations." Well - I am after all an Englishman and a Virginian, the very epitome of snobbery.) Therefore, rather than writing a dubious article about the questionable achievements of a dangerous group of fanatics, I will instead endeavour to give an overview of a specific American art form; exploring its contributions to the world. In this particular case I will cover America's growth and accomplishments within the theatrical arts.

The first question one encounters in any examination of theater in America is an easy one to ask, a difficult one to answer: Is there a truly homogeneous American theatre? The answer to this question is a complex one, since in some respects American theatre is homogeneous, while in others it is a series of differing concepts based on regionalism and ethnic awareness. However, the answer to the above question requires a long and difficult exploration, so, rather than attempt a long answer I will instead allow the succeeding paragraphs to answer it, as they fit together the cultural jigsaw puzzle that is American theatre.

In order to better understand modern currents in the theater it is perhaps best to begin with a brief look at that theatre's past. To begin at the beginning, it is recorded that the first serious play to be performed in America was the work of an English touring company. The Hallam Company, for such was the touring group's title, played in several cities of Colonial America during the eighteenth century. My listing of the Hallam Company as the first theatrical company if import, does, however, exclude a small native company at Williamsburg formed in 1716, and another in Philadelphia led by Walter Murray and Thomas Kean. From the advent of theater's beginning until the arrival of O'Neal, American theatrical literature produced nothing of import or excitement.

The lack of literary achievements was somewhat offset, however, by the tradition of great acting begun by families like the Booths. It was the professionalism of the actors and the steadily appreciating skill of their directors that set the stage for theatre's blossoming during the reigns of O'Neill and Williams. Still, even with the works of these two playwrights America has yet to achieve an American theatrical form. Each of these two giants of the theater was tied to a region. New England was the nation of O'Neil, while the South was the homeland of Williams. Their works are distinctly heterogeneous, and, therefore not "American" theatre.

Probably the only truly national reflective type of theater is the musical comedy. Indeed, with the exception of motion pictures it is essentially the only original American theatrical art form. We created it by ourselves and nurtured it



Guys and Dolls, a recent production at the Virginia Museum Theater.

into the nauseous monstrosity that it is. Although the musical is essentially an American art form, it is easy to see its relationship to and decent from, the earlier operas and Viennese operettas. An incredibly awful work, *The Black Crook*, holds the notoriety of being the very first musical produced in America, this play began the play format that has become the dominant force in American commercial theatre.

Over the years since the production of the *Black Crook*, the musical has developed from a plotless hodgepodge of songs and burlesque routines, into sophisticated gems like *A Little Night Music*. After the *Black Crook* there were no advances of specific interest in the musical art form until the first decades of the twentieth century. The Ziegfeld Follies, which were not true musicals per se, used pretty girls, songs, and spectacular scenery and costumes to achieve an enormous monetary success. At the same time as the Follies were taking place, and preceding them somewhat, Sigmund Romberg was writing his famous operettas, the best known of which are probably *The Desert Song* and *The Student Prince*. Although his works had more of a plot to accompany his superb music the musical form begun by *The Black Crook* had still not become a serious area of theatre work.

In 1927, *Showboat*, a musical scored by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein was offered for public consumption. Unlike its predecessors in the musical genre, this musical had a coherent story, recognizable characters and well-integrated musical numbers. Most importantly the music was second in importance to the story. In other words the music became a tool to advance the plot, a spectacular advance in the musical comedy art form. This musical play set the stage for a whole new era in American, and, to a lesser extent, world theatre. In the years since *Showboat*, the stories of musicals have become more sophisticated than the earlier sappy, sentimental comedy situations found in early musicals. Music was used for satire and even serious dramatic plays. The so called "biggies" of musical theatre since the

Showboat era include such well known artists as Lerner and Loewe, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein, Frank Loesser and more recently, Stephen Sondheim. In fact, it is in recent years that some of the most interesting innovations have taken place. A discussion of these advances will be included at another point in this article.

Today, if you take a look at the New York Times or Variety, you will find that the shows on Broadway sporting the largest ads and the biggest grosses are almost always musicals. The public loves them, so the critics be damned. Amen.

In some ways it is hard to decide exactly what theatre. Isn't a fight between two men on the street a form of theatre? Indeed, it is theatre in its most realistic manifestation. This is the thought that is providing much of the impetus for the current abstract experiments in the theatre. The idea that anything one man uses to communicate a thought or mood to another is a form of theatre.

During the past 15-20 years the growth of avant-garde theatre has been dramatic. It has begun innovations that were then adapted into commercial theatre. Most notable among these are such new-old ideas as theatre in the round and the use of masks. In fact, many of the creations of avant-garde as experimental theatre are no more than a synthesizing of primitive drama techniques. Without a doubt the most important development to come out of environmental theatre is this return of the audience as participator and the actor relying solely on his own creativity with a minimum of props and scenic background can be likened to the rites of primitive tribes, rites still practiced in such places as New Guinea. Whether consciously or unconsciously, it is my opinion that current experimental theatre is nothing more than a search for the gut feeling of the past, a search for the physical at the expense of the intellectual.

Perhaps the greatest of the experimental playwrights was Bertolt Brecht. Although he was a German playwright, Brecht lived in America until hunted down by Senator Joseph McCarthy and his lynch mob. I feel that

this gives me a good excuse to include one of Germany's outstanding dramatists.

Brecht created a type of drama which he termed epic theatre. In his plays time does not necessarily progress logically covering the amount of time spent on stage. Instead, individuals can skip months or years. This was especially true in *Mother Courage* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. His scripts seem more like motion pictures than plays for the stage. (For those who wish to see an excellent example of an experimental work, I will take this opportunity to announce that the Experiential Theatre on N. Robinson St. is currently showing an experimental production of *Alice in Wonderland*.)

Still another recent development in American theatre is the movement of serious theatre from New York theater's to regional theaters. The Virginia Museum theatre in Richmond is an excellent example of a regional theaters. The big New York theaters book shows by men are taking risks with their money and expect to make a profit, they have no interest in meaningful works that appeal to an educated community that is at best moderately small. The regional theaters however, being supported by private and public foundations, are not under pressure to produce profits, and, therefore present shows that they feel will raise the consciousness of the theatre going public. In coming years there will almost assuredly be an explosive growth and escalating growth in the regional theaters.

I shall now attempt to draw together all of the information provided in the preceding literary ramblings and try to illuminate my reasons for bothering to write a brief survey of American theatre. The major point that I think should be emphasized is the lack of an homogenous American theatre. American theatre like America itself is a melting pot of different peoples, even the sheer size of the nation works against it. It reflects however a dedication to diversity and a wide acceptance of many different native and foreign theatre forms, that are in keeping with its so-called great traditions.



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No. 6	Roast Beef	1.40	2.75
No. 7	Turkey	1.35	2.65
No. 8	Club - Ham - Turkey - Cheese	1.35	2.65
No. 9	Stuffy's Famous - Ham-Cappacola - Salami-Cheese	1.35	2.65
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Holiday Action

Swim team ready
for 1976

Swimming teams from Virginia Commonwealth University are ready to continue their winning ways during 1976 and, at the same time, tell the story of VCU's total athletic program throughout the state.

"We had a most successful 1975 season," said Coach Ron Tsuchiya. "Our steady improvement means we are ready to bring new honors to VCU."

Individual performances during the first women's swimming meet, at the University of Virginia, strengthened the belief that the team was at least equal to that of last year. Loss of Camile Wright by transfer and others by graduation was offset by superior performances from returnees and newcomers.

Captains Patty Dillon and Julie Mejeur led the way with National qualifying times in the 100 fly, 1:00.0, 50 fly, .27.5, and freestyle relay split .54. Mejeur surprised in the backstroke with times of 30.1 in the 50, and 1:05.6 in the 100 yard events.

Additional strong performances came from freshman Sharon Powell, 50 and 100 breaststroke, 33.4 and 1:11.1, Debbie Sunkel, 200 and 500 free, 1:58.9 and 5:13.4; Suzanne Garcia, IM, 2:14.6, and 50 free, 25.6, qualifying times for the women's national meet.

The men's team, although starting a little slower, progressed rapidly according to Tsuchiya. Highlights of their '75 work follow.

Bob Johnson, Junior, 1650 free, 16:46.8, 200 free, 1:42.6, 100 free, 47.5, and 500 free relay, split 46.0. The 100 and 200 free were state records.

Matt Glasgow, sophomore, did the 1650 in 17:17.9, the 400 IM in 4:28.2 and the 200 fly in 2:02.8 in one meet. "These are the toughest events in swimming," said Tsuchiya, "and he really deserves the iron man award."

Luke Glasgow, Matt's brother and a freshman, has been timed in 2:04.1 in the 200 fly.

Mark Kutz, sophomore, recorded 1:49.2 in the 200 free, and 5:01.9, in the 500 free, as he proved to be a consistent performer.

Jerry Will, sophomore, has developed rapidly in the sprint department and recorded times

of 22.9 and 51.0 in the 50 and 100 free.

Tony Barney, sophomore, state champion in the 50 and 100 free, has posted times of 22.6 and 50.1.

"I have been elated by these performances as well as by those of other members of the squad. We are ready to go places," added Tsuchiya.

Basketball team
goes 1-3CENTENARY 94
RAMS 69RAMS 102
NORTHEASTERN 81

Centenary whipped VCU 94-69 on December 16. Tom Motley led the Rams to their loss with 16 points and 8 rebounds. Ed Tatum had five personal fouls called on him the five minutes he played in the game. VCU will have a chance to even up the score on March 1 when they play Centenary at the Richmond Coliseum.

GEORGIA STATE 57
RAMS 56

VCU lost to Georgia State 57-56 in an away game on December 18. Tom Motley managed to score 8 points before fouling out after playing 30 minutes. Jeryl Henderson and Tick Price lead the Rams with 12 and 16 points respectively.

Jeryl Henderson led the Rams to a victory against Northeastern December 20. Henderson hit 13 of his 15 shots to contribute to the 102-81 win. Norman Barnes retrieved eight rebounds, followed by Tick Price with four.

MEMPHIS STATE 92
RAMS 72

In spite of an excellent game by Norman Barnes, the Rams lost 72-92 to Memphis State in an away game January 3. "Good News" Barnes led the Rams with 16 points and 16 rebounds. Tony Holloway and Jeryl Henderson followed with 14 points each. As of this game, the Rams record is 6-4.

New ticket
policy

The athletic department has announced a change in policy for distribution of date tickets for all remaining games at the Richmond Coliseum. From now on, date tickets must be picked up in the Athletic Department offices by 4:30 p.m. the day of the game. No more tickets will be available at the Coliseum gate.

Wrestlers
needed

Ram wrestling coach Tom Legge has issued a call for all persons who are interested in wrestling to start attending practices. Sessions are held daily in room 309 of the new gym at 4 p.m.

THE COMMONWEALTH CALENDAR

FRIDAY

JANUARY 16

Dance at the VCU Old Gym from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music by "Passage." Admission \$1.50 includes all the beer you can drink. Sponsored by the RHA.

Record Jam at the Rathskeller at 8 p.m. Admission 25 cents. Sponsored by the Rathskeller Committee of the Program Board.

SATURDAY
JANUARY 17

Dance at the Old Gym featuring "Maximum" and "Standing Room Only" at 9 p.m. Admission \$2.00. Sponsored by the Program Board and Kappa Alpha Psi.

Film - "The Sting" will be shown in the Business Building Auditorium at 2 p.m., 9 p.m. and midnight. Admission \$1.00. Sponsored by the Film Committee of the Program Board.

SUNDAY
JANUARY 18

Meeting - VCU for ERA will hold its initial meeting at 7 p.m. in Rhoads Hall, 710 W. Franklin St. (room to be announced). VCU for ERA is a new student organization dedicated to educating the campus community about the Equal Rights Amendment, and working for its ratification.

MONDAY

JANUARY 19

Free films including "The Kid" (Chaplin), 30 mins., b/w, and "Picasso", 43 mins., color. 303 Hibbs, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Performance featuring the Richmond Symphony at the Mosque at 8:30 p.m. The Symphony will perform from the selected works of Beethoven, Strauss and others. Call 788-1212 for ticket information.

TUESDAY

JANUARY 20

Free films including "Sit Down, Shut Up or Get Out" (58 mins., color), "Leo Beurman" (13 mins., color) and "Corrida Interdite" (10 mins., color). 303 Hibbs, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 21

Free films including "Future Shock" (42 mins., color) and "The Red Balloon" (34 mins., color), 115 Science and 816 Park Ave., 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
JANUARY 22

Free films including "The Rink" (Chaplin, 22 mins., b/w), "The Tramp" (Chaplin, 28 mins., b/w) and "La Jete" (29 mins., b/w). 403 Hibbs, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Apartment Available: Free room and board in exchange for light housekeeping and evening babysitting for 9-year old son of student dad. 20 minutes from campus in Ashland. For further information call Lenny at 798-6430.

For Sale: Set of stereo headphones - fair condition - \$5. Thick illustrated Beethoven volume, price negotiable. Call 358-5746, ask for Aaron.

Insomniacs - males only - needed to participate in sleep research geared toward the treatment of insomnia. Call John Schwartz, Psychology Dept., VCU, 770-7001.

For Sale: Custom Wood Designs. Loft beds \$55. Well-made but inexpensive stereo cabinets, bookshelves or whatever wood items you need for a dorm room or apartment. Contact Cecily, ext. 1604 or 355-9063.

The Ghent Press, journal of news and arts published in Norfolk, needs bright, creative representative in Richmond area. Part-time position; ideal for someone trying to start career in journalism or advertising. Write Box 1144, Norfolk, Va. 23501. Or call 1-623-6145.

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NOTICES IN THE COMMONWEALTH CALENDAR ARE FREE FOR ALL GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS

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Slaiman on the "work ethic"

According to Donald Slaiman, deputy director of the AFL-CIO's department of organization and field services, 1976 is not "particularly the best year for a bicentennial." Slaiman was the first speaker in a series of discussions being held for the remainder of the year to celebrate the nation's bicentennial.

The American Issues Forum, sponsored jointly by the Richmond Independence Bicentennial Commission, the Richmond Public Library and VCU, is designed to examine the community and the issues affecting its citizens. Speakers from the community will be scheduled to talk on the various topics and to lead in the discussions. The Forums are a part of a national program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration to encourage discussion about our nation - its past, present and future.

Slaiman's topic for discussion was "The Work Ethic", and is part of the January topic of "Working in America." On January 22, Raymond Cooper, chief of the bureau of social services in the city's Department of Public Welfare, will discuss the present welfare programs and their effects on the community.

Slaiman's estimation of the American work ethic generally was not favorable. There is a certain "lack of confidence" and "hesitancy," and lack of confidence, Slaiman said, comes from the philosophy of the American work ethic.

During the past decade, according to Slaiman, most people have become "a little cynical" about their potential for "upward mobility." He added that because of unemployment, the nation currently is operating at something "less than 70 percent capacity."

Slaiman commented that the present economic situation began in 1970 and "if we have five more years of this, it will mean a whole decade where a majority of people saw their incomes go down."

Slaiman added that "We are facing a situation where if we add domestic turmoil to international problems, there may be the day when we look at the bicentennial as accomplishments of the past, rather than a look at the future."

Slaiman plugged the labor movement as being "proud of its accomplishments" and "of forcing management to become efficient." He said, "You take every major social advance in this country. In nine cases out of 10, if not 10 out of 10, the proposal originated in the American trade labor movement."

On January 22, Raymond Cooper, chief of social services for the Richmond Department of Public Welfare, will be the Forum speaker and his topic will be "The Welfare State: Providing a Livelihood." The Forums are planned for the first and third Thursdays of each month through September. All Forums will be held in the Richmond Public Library Auditorium, 101 E. Franklin Street, at 7 p.m. The community is invited to attend free of charge.

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times SPORTS

Rams win holiday tournament

Santa came late to Richmond, but when he came, he left a surprise much bigger than what was expected.

It stands about four feet tall, is made of gold, and will look very nice in the Franklin St. Gym

trophy case. It says, "Virginia Commonwealth University Invitational Tournament, First Place."

And it belongs to the Rams.

The tournament opened on December 29 before 3,762 fans

in the Richmond Coliseum. In the first game, Michigan State downed Southern Mississippi 89-77, to move into the finals.

The Rams took the court later in the evening, and made their way into the finals with a 115-70

trouncing of City College of New York, (N.Y.)

Playing only 19 minutes, Tim Binns led the Ram attack with 22 points (8-8 from the foul line.) Binns was backed up by Tic Price with 18 points and Tony Holloway with 13. Lorenza Watson led the Rams in rebounds with 9.

The next night, the night of the finals, brought a crowd of 3,085 to the Coliseum. In the consolation game, Southern Mississippi took third place by thumping CCNY 98-65.

In the final the Rams found themselves with a hot hand, and used a 58.5% average from the floor to carry them to an 80-75 victory, and the tournament championship.

The Rams had a six-point lead at halftime, and held on to capture the tournament for the first time in its two year history (Texas A&M defeated the Rams in last year's final).

Jeryl Henderson had the hottest hand for the Rams, hitting 9 of 13 field goals, and one free throw for 19 points. Co-captain Tom Motley was right behind Henderson with 18,

with Tic Price and Keith Highsmith hitting for 15 points.

The Spartans were plagued by fouls for much of the game, and ended up with four players being disqualified.

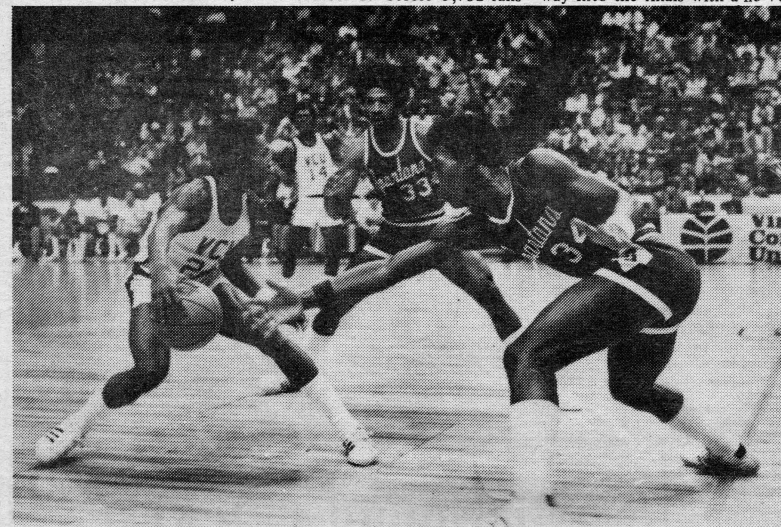
The All-Tournament team was made up of three Rams and two Spartans. The Rams were Tom Motley, Keith Highsmith, and Jeryl Henderson, who were joined by Spartans Greg Keiser and Terry Furlow.

Furlow was named Most Valuable, partly because of his 30 point performance in the final.

Every record for a single game was broken in the 1975 tournament, five by the Rams. They hold the records for the most points (115 against CCNY), most field goals made (47, vs. CCNY), most field goals attempted (92 vs. CCNY), best field goal percentage (58.5% against Michigan St.), and most fouls (37 vs. CCNY).

The Rams also hold five records for both games combined (most points, most field goals made, best field goal percentage, most free throws made, and most fouls.) The foul record was set in 1974.

Harris



Pittman

Ram guard Jeryl Henderson finds himself cornered by two Michigan State Spartans in the finals of the Ram Holiday Christmas Tournament. Fellow guard Keith Highsmith (14) waves to show Henderson that he is open. Both Henderson and Highsmith went on to make the All-Tournament team.

THE WAY I SEE IT

BY MIKE HARRIS
Times Sports Editor

Virginia Commonwealth Who?

There was a lot of personal debate this week over whether or not a story on the Christmas tournament was necessary. After all, it was played almost three weeks ago, and surely everyone should know that we won.

Well, I found out how wrong I was about an hour after I got back on campus.

"That's something about the tournament, isn't it," I said to a friend.

"What about it?" was the reply.

"We won," I answered.

"Oh yeah?" he said. "I didn't know that."

He wasn't alone. Only a handful of others knew of our victory.

Where were these people?, I thought.

Then I remembered. Someone who lives outside of Richmond would have little way of finding out something like that, because very few papers make reporting our scores a habit.

The idea disturbed me. I decided to try and find out why.

I placed a call to the sports department of the Washington Star-News.

"I need some information," I said. "What can you tell me about Virginia Commonwealth's basketball team?"

"Not a whole lot," said the chap who answered the phone. "We don't keep records on the, because they're not a local school."

"Oh," I said. "Do you have records on UVa.?"

"We sure do," said the man, who was starting to get a bit ticked.

"How about Virginia Tech?" I asked.

"Them too," my mad reporter replied.

That left me a little bit on the puzzled side. For those of you who aren't familiar with the Northern Virginia area, VCU is closer than either of the other two schools. Still, they're considered local, and we are not. I asked why this was.

"Well," said the fellow, "it really has nothing to do with locality (that makes a lot of sense). We do it by the interests of our readers. More are interested in reading about Tech and UVa., than care about VCU. We never get calls about them"

"Gee, thanks," I said, and hung up.

When will all this garbage end?



Pittman

Freshman Tony Holloway lays in two points in the final game of the Christmas tournament against the Michigan State Spartans. The Rams won the game, and the tournament 80-75, partly because of the excellent play of young Holloway.