

COMMONWEALTH TIMES

Volume 20, No. 3

September 9-15, 1987



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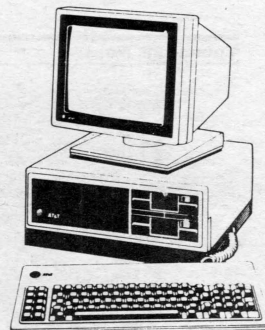
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Overthrowing Pythagoras

A struggling linguist finds bad karma in the world of mathematics.

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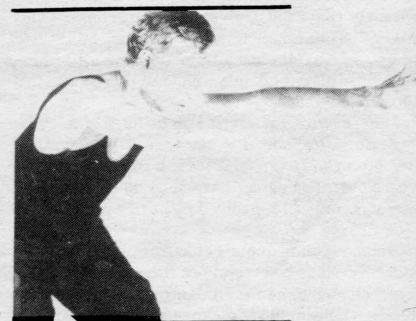


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Editorial

Communication gap

Notes on two assaults

By Jeff Smith
Columnist

In the Letters section this week, a former R.A. complains that she could not get students interested in the safety programs offered by the university. The problem is you can tell somebody that one out of eight college women get raped, and it will have little meaning for her. Unless something happens close to home, it just doesn't register beyond an abstract statistic.

Rape is striking closer to home than many of you think. But the people responsible for telling you this are letting you down.

On June 1, with the rapist still at large, the PAC administrators responded to the assault by issuing a memorandum to faculty and staff, a copy of which is printed below. . . . The memo is indistinguishable from other general reminders of "let's be careful out there."

In the case of the student raped in the Performing Arts Center May 29, communication was at first by the book. The student called the VCU police, who immediately contacted University Counseling. While the MCV staff did their tests and the police did their interview, the student had a trained counselor to lean on. Everyone played his role well, and then it was the art department's turn.

On June 1, with the rapist still at large, the PAC administrators responded to the assault by issuing a memorandum to faculty and staff, a copy of which is shown below. (The names have been deleted because too many others were involved to justify singling out individuals.)

The memo is indistinguishable from other general reminders of "let's be careful out there." Despite the "official" change of hours, students and faculty were, by necessity, continuing to use the facilities for evening rehearsals and other work — blissfully ignorant of the recent attack and therefore taking no extra precautions. Finally, a teacher overheard a pertinent bit of conversation and asked some questions. When she learned of the assault, she passed the news to her students along with an overdue warning not to travel to and from the building alone in the evening.

The *Times* picked up the story, and the resulting article drew praise from a number of readers. But for some, the word of the day was "unfortunate." As in, "It's unfortunate that you ran that article during orientation. What bad timing." One person made that remark to a *Times* staff member who happened to be a survivor of rape. She kept her cool and replied only, "No, the rape was ill-timed."

On August 16 an attempted rape in Johnson Hall was foiled and a suspect arrested. While the reporter was assembling the story, I contacted a friend on the R.A. staff as an extra hedge against possible errors. I'd hardly broached the subject before my friend interrupted and said there wasn't going to be a story because the whole thing was being kept quiet. The R.A.s had been instructed to answer questions from dorm residents by saying only that "something happened." A response that is surely more ominous sounding than the truth.

This was not simply a case of protecting the victim's privacy by deleting a few particulars. Rather, R.A.s—who work to establish a relationship of trust with their charges — were being instructed by dorm administrators to violate that trust.

Ironically, it was Rape Awareness Week.

The story went to press but, meanwhile, communication was still breaking down. The R.A. who had been attacked was not informed by her superiors of the story's impending publication. Though it was a small

part of a larger article, and though it contained nothing that could identify her, the shock of seeing the incident published without warning was still strong. After all, she'd been led to believe some kind of vacuum surrounded the assault. Hurt and confused, she contacted the *Times* and directed her pain and anger at an editor who answered the phone. She had no way of knowing that the person who took the call is, herself, a survivor of rape.

With few exceptions, notably the VCU police and Counseling Services, administrators under the president think rape awareness is good only as a slogan. It is not mere finger-pointing to recognize that the responsibility for changing this attitude rests solely with President Ackell. He sets the tone for those under him, and if he declares awareness to be essential, department heads will have to respond.

Of course, Dr. Ackell will have to put up with the occasional half-baked 60-second smear on safety at VCU, such as the one Channel 8 "news" perpetrated last week. But human nature leans more often toward foolhardiness than panic; so at most, awareness might bring about caution, but not fear of the campus.

One does not have to wait for the administration, however, to bring about some change. I asked my R.A. friend whether or not the story on the attack in Johnson had upset any of its residents. She said she didn't know whether it had generated any reaction from students on other floors, but it did generate discussion on hers. She made sure of that by clipping the last two rape articles from the *Times* and tacking them on the bulletin board.

People care when they know the danger is close to home.

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Theatre and Music Faculty/Staff

DATE: June 1, 1987

RE: Security

As of June 1, 1987 the Performing Arts Center will be secured between the hours of 4:30 pm and 7:30 am daily. If for any reason, you need to enter the building during that time, use your key, but make sure that the door is locked behind you.

Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.

Math 001

VCU's own special hell

By Gail O'Hara
Folio Editor

If there's one thing that could keep me from graduating (and gallivanting around Ireland) this spring, it's math.

I paid my sentence; I spent eight weeks in an isolated cubicle trying to teach myself math at my own pace. Well let me tell you something:

A. I'm a lousy teacher; I'm too laid-back to exert pressure on anyone as cool as myself.

B. I'm an even worse student, especially

when it comes to subjects I despise. The only reason I made it to class every week was because my cubicle was located in a highly air-conditioned area and the Commons was closed.

C. My "pace" is slower than a dead person's pulse.

D. How can I possibly teach myself math when I've never been taught math?

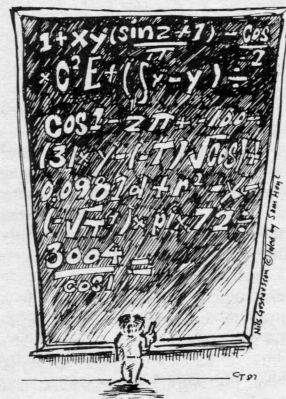
E. The fact that we get no credit for Math 001 is dumb. If we don't get any credit for it, why must we pay for it? It's a scam. It's a vicious cycle, the way some of us never get through 001 and yet we keep

paying for it, both financially and emotionally.

F. The mere fact that we have no other option but to take math is enough to make anyone transfer the heck out of here, pronto! (Math is so full of bad karma it makes the left side of my brain hurt.)

I failed Math 001 over the summer — yes, I failed math for "morons, boneheads and idiots." Go ahead and laugh. I have no problem with 400-level literature classes but I can't get through math Zero-Zero-One. This doesn't bother me; I know people who are brilliant mathematicians who could not string a sentence together if their existence depended on it. Frankly, I'd prefer to be able to speak English clearly than to be able to do obscure quadratic equations.

See Math page 5





LETTERS

VCU police overworked, underpaid and unheeded

To the Editor,

I was extremely upset to read the criticisms of the VCU Police Department in the letters section of your September 1 issue. Complaints that campus police officers spend too much time checking doors and parking lots are as ridiculous as they are contradictory. Ensuring that

students and employees lock doors behind themselves is one of the simplest and most effective forms of crime prevention. It protects people working inside and protects expensive property in unoccupied buildings. Campus police officers are no longer responsible for ticketing parking violators except upon complaint. Ticketing is a function of the VCU Parking

Office. However, parking lots are favored hang-outs for drunks and a vast number of crimes are committed by persons under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.

All police officers, and especially campus police officers, are grossly underpaid. The VCU police must operate within a meager budget provided by the state. No amount of money can compensate an officer for working rotating shifts that gradually erode his health and leave him fatigued; for being spit upon or scratched by drunks and mental patients; for rarely being able to spend a holiday with his family. The salary of the campus police officer doesn't even come close.

If police work is a thankless job, the work of crime prevention officers is 10 times less appreciated. There is no way to measure and exhibit the prevention of crime, since factors as seemingly insignificant as the weather can affect the occurrence of crime.

I was amazed the letter bemoaned the lack of crime prevention at VCU. All VCU employees are required upon being hired to attend a safety and crime prevention seminar conducted by the Department of Public Safety and the VCU Police. Extensive crime prevention information is provided by this program. I know because I have attended the seminar three times as a result of changing jobs within the university. I'm certain that employees at VCU receive more crime prevention information than workers for most local businesses. My previous employers provided none. So imagine the disappointment felt by the dedicated individuals who provide this information at VCU when purses, wallets, computers, typewriters, and other expensive personal and state property continue to be stolen because employees fail to secure their belongings and leave doors unlocked or propped open, inviting danger to themselves and their co-workers.

I sat at a table with a VCU crime prevention officer last summer at student orientation. We had boxes of brochures with crime prevention tips, rape whistles, and information about bike locks. With the exception of "How much will it cost to register my bike?" we were almost completely ignored.

My freshman year in the dorms, my R.A. put up a poster for residents to vote on choices of activities we would like to see on the floor. One of the choices was a crime prevention seminar to be conducted by the VCU Police. I was the only one to vote for it so the R.A. scrapped the idea. Two years later, as an R.A., I put up a similar poster and crime prevention got no votes.

The simple truth is that no one is interested in crime prevention until after they are victimized.

Law enforcement agencies are, by their very nature and design, reactive rather than proactive. Police do what they can to prevent crime but the greatest opportunity for prevention lies within the potential victim. Employees and students of VCU should take responsibility for protecting themselves and their property. The police are available and eager to teach you what you can do to make a difference.

Regardless of any amount of crime prevention efforts, crime will continue to occur. Rape is one of the most terrifying crimes that will never be eradicated. For too long society blamed the victims of rape for being "loose" and "asking for it." It is no more constructive to blame the police. As much as we would like them to be our private armies, they can't always be where we want them to be or do what we want them to do. Students and employees complain that they have to wait 15 minutes for an officer to unlock a door to an office or building when they carelessly lock themselves out. But they expect officers to provide this service and still be able to track down rapists and thieves. They don't want officers to waste time rattling doors but they want an officer immediately when their belongings are stolen from an unsecured building. We need to accept that the true blame for crime lies only with the criminal. The best protection can only be achieved by cooperating with the police and expending the effort to protect ourselves by being responsible.

If crime prevention is as important to the *Commonwealth Times* and its readers as your recent issue indicates, it is puzzling that the "Crime Shorts" segments were unaccountably dropped from the paper last year. These segments not only provided a synopsis of criminal activity on both campuses but also provided crime prevention information by noting these occurrences, which were potentially preventable. I hope to see "Crime Shorts" return to the newspaper this year.

Susan Kelley

Note: Last week's letter included a call for the VCU administration to review police priorities, and suggested better uses of manpower. The intention was not to chastise the officers themselves, who do not choose their beats or their enforcement priorities. Several readers let us know that this was not stated clearly.

We hope to resume "Crime Shorts" within the next few weeks.

—Ed.

Math

(from page 4)

Math for word-people like myself is slow and painful torture. We ask ourselves the age-old questions: "Why the hell must I endure this meaningless algebraic dukie?" "Will I ever apply this to real life?" "I already know how to balance my checkbook and figure out my tip at the 3rd Street Diner, why do I need algebra?"

The answer, from those mathematically inclined know-it-alls always seems to be this: "To achieve a well-rounded liberal arts education, one must learn to think logically. Math is necessary in order to think logically."

Yeah right. If that's so, then why do we need to take logic or critical thinking?

Math is not necessary for survival in this life. O.K., so we may not apply Chinese philosophy to every day life either, but if we take such a class it's usually because it interests us, not because

it is being shoved down our gagging throats.

I could complain endlessly about the fact that VCU liberal arts students must suffer through entirely too many general requirements. Some of them are tolerable. But while there may be choices within one's major, the guidelines are way too stiff. We need an option. Just one. An alternative to math. Even schools such as Syracuse offer at least one alternative to math; they can take either math or a foreign language. Why do we need both?

A friend of mine attends Smith College, where there are NO REQUIREMENTS; students design their own degrees. So why didn't I go to a place like Smith where I could have been free from mathematical responsibilities and in charge of my own fate? Frankly, my high school career was an incredibly bad joke. But people do change.

Some things never change, though, and one of those things is the simple fact that I (and several honors students I know) just don't possess a math-oriented brain. So why doesn't someone re-think the system here at VCU, so I can go to Ireland next summer?



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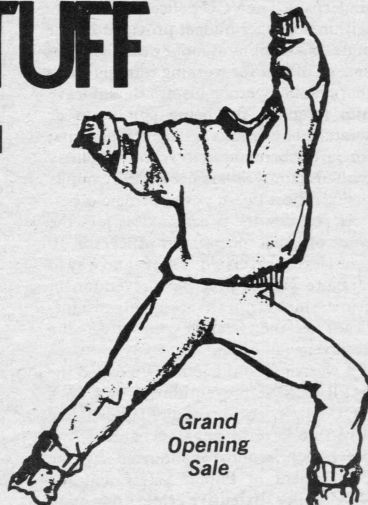
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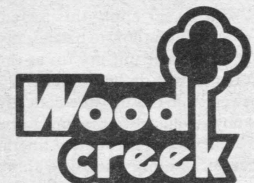
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GSC The Apartment People



Editor cites record number of homeless, lack of public action

By James Rucker
Staff Writer

"Look at it this way," said Peter Marin, an author and contributing editor to *Harper's Magazine*. "Homeless people and people on welfare aren't the only ones looking for a handout. Do you think that you've paid for all of your college education on your own? No. You go to a state supported college and probably receive federal aid also. It's welfare as surely as aid to the homeless. See the point?"

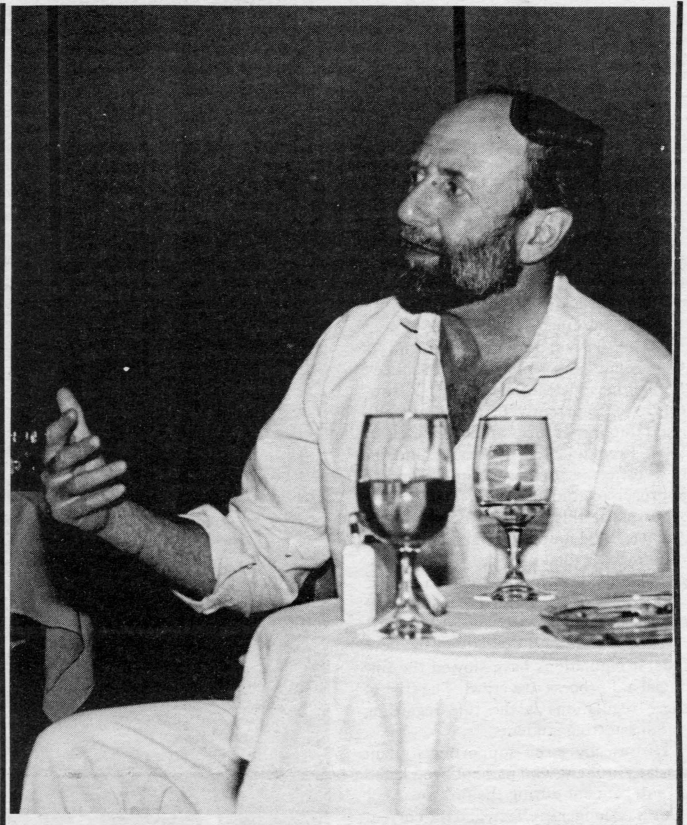
Marin, who was in town this week to speak at the VCU School of Social Work's conference on the homeless, had a lot to say about homelessness in America. Up to three million people in this country are without permanent shelter, he said, and very little is being done about it.

State or locally sponsored shelters are few and far between and most private relief groups—such as the Salvation Army—only have facilities to provide each homeless person with three nights of shelter per month. Homeless people would

almost be better off if their poverty was a crime. According to Marin, "While a homeless mother with two kids may qualify for about \$200 a month in welfare relief, up to \$25,000 is spent per year to incarcerate the average ax-murderer. Something is wrong with that."

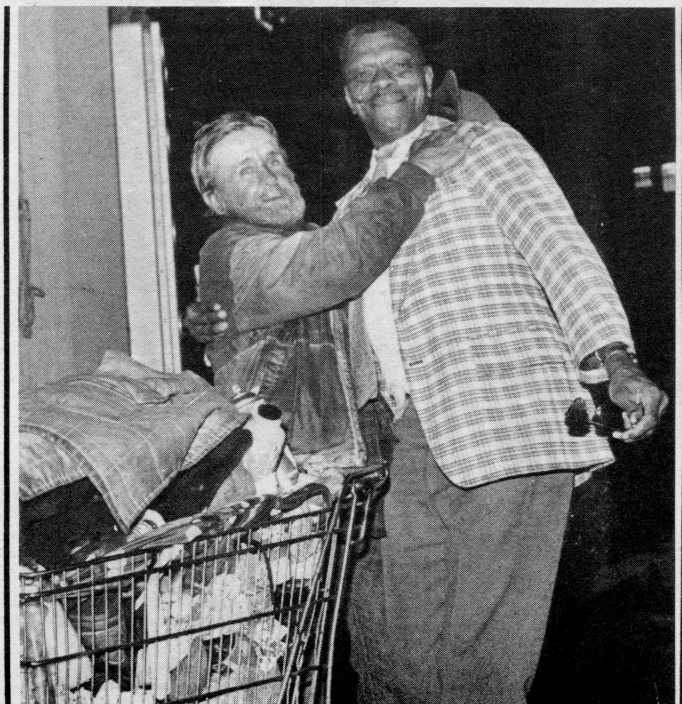
Marin said misconceptions about the homeless abound. Not all of them are unemployed, alcoholic or former mental patients. Many of those who are employed work only at minimum wage and many are employed in large labor pools or by temporary work. Employment is not always steady and after-tax income is usually about \$20 per day, not enough for food, clothing and shelter.

Marin gave one example of labor-pool work in Louisiana. The worker is paid by check about \$20 per day. The only place open to cash his check at 5 p.m. is the local bar which will only do so if a drink is ordered. The worker ends up spending all of his money in the bar drinking, sleeps wherever he can outdoors and starts the vicious cycle over again at 6 a.m. when he reports back to work.



Bob Helber Commonwealth Times

Peter Marin at the reception for the conference on the homeless



Bob Helber Commonwealth Times

Marin said a disturbing trend in the problem is the homeless family. A family—mother, father and children—travel by car to a large city looking for work. They arrive, and within a week or two their money is gone, work is not found, and they have no place to live. They may sleep

Up to three million people in this country are without permanent shelter, and very little is being done about it.

—Peter Marin

in their car, parks, churches, shelters or whatever. They usually steer clear of the over-crowded, unsanitary and dangerous public shelters, if any are even provided. And what happens to these families? According to Marin, no one really knows.

More people than ever before are homeless. In part this is due to the boom in urban renewal Marin said. Hotels that at one time charged only \$5 a night for a room have been closed, torn down and replaced with new and expensive hotels. "Every city from Phoenix to Atlanta wants to be a convention center," said Marin.

Gentrification of neighborhoods can make housing unaffordable to low-income residents. In Richmond's own Church Hill district, houses are being renovated and rents are doubling and tripling, driving former residents out.

Marin cited other causes of homelessness in America as unemployment, underemployment and chemical-abuse problems. He said another problem is a lack of family support. Many homeless people have relatives, either parents, children or other immediate family members, but hesitate to ask for help.

"People tend to blame themselves, not society, for their problems," said Marin. "They don't see society as part of the problem." He feels that society is partly to blame and that our governmental institutions are not taking their fair share of responsibility in helping to solve the problem.

Marin said that low-cost housing and/or subsidized housing, a higher minimum wage, help to those who are chemically dependent or mentally ill, and a greater understanding may be solutions to the problem. He said that homeless people cannot generate a lot of sympathy for their plight the way that other interest groups, like farmers, can. It is an uphill struggle, but it is one in which Marin believes. He hopes that others will also.

New rules make it hard to get

By **Todd L'Herrou**
Staff Writer

This semester shows a lot of changes in financial aid at VCU. Some of those changes are related to new federal regulations regarding financial aid. Other changes are right here on campus.

VCU is making an effort to ease the stress of the financial aid process, says Michael Barree, Associate Director of Counseling and Information Services. Part of this redefinition is physical. New offices are currently being developed, and temporary offices are in place at 901 West Franklin St. The idea behind the new offices is a more people-oriented approach to student interactions.

To assist this effort, UES/Financial Aid has hired four additional counselors, bringing the total to nine. With offices on campus, and new software to make data processing faster, the whole procedure should be much smoother, right? Wrong. Barree says that two of the new federal regulations have slowed the financial aid process to a crawl. The first of these regulations is the rule regarding self-supporting students.

Historically, a self-supporting student was any student who had not been listed as a dependent during the previous year. This is no longer in effect, and the current rule is a good deal more complex. In its most stripped-down form, it states that any undergraduate student under the age of 24 is presumed to be receiving parental support. There are, of course, exceptions: married students; graduate students; students who are single parents; and, students who can demonstrate absence of parental support for the previous two years, and can document a visible means of support for that period.

The other federal rule affecting financial aid at VCU concerns Guaranteed Student Loans. Once upon a time almost anyone could get a GSL. No more. Now every student applying for a GSL must be prepared to document financial need. And need, of course, is based on parental support as well as other factors.

Barree says this ruling has been a major concern during registration this year because so many students rely on pending GSLs for a portion of their tuition. With the change in procedure, it now can take up to twelve weeks before the application can even be processed. This means that any student hoping to register must have sent the application long before the fall semester to have any hope of using a GSL as part of their payment.

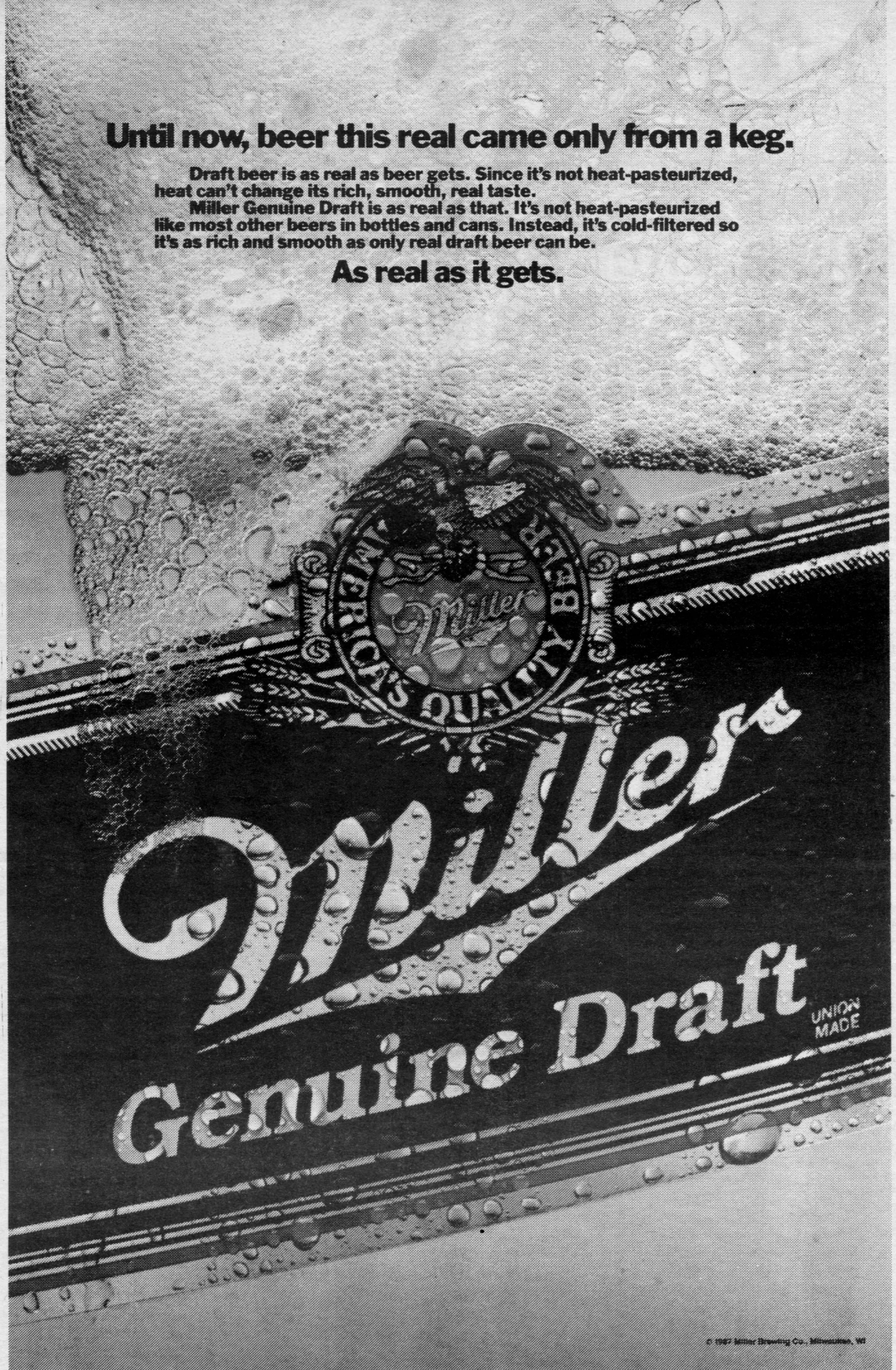
Another area of concern has been watching the federal verification process. Nationally only 30 percent of all applications should be held for verification, a process of actually checking the tax returns and other documents used to

Until now, beer this real came only from a keg.

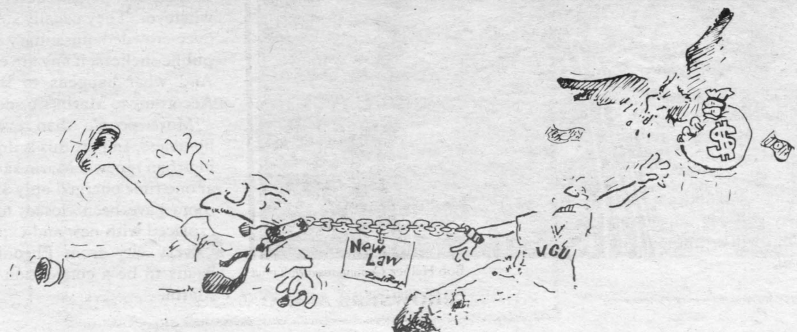
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As real as it gets.



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See **Financial** page 9

Ask-It booth reopens

By Amanda King
Staff Writer

Ask-It is a group of dedicated students who volunteer their time providing information on concerts, special activities, class schedules—anything that concerns the VCU community.

Nancy Daugherty, a sophomore majoring in theatre, is the coordinator. She says her main goal is to get the booth going. "I want to make it as popular and as important as it was two years ago when it was operating."

In addition to the information service that the Ask-It booth will provide, Daugherty plans for the booth to be a part of PRIDE (Poverty Relief is Developing Everyone) in Richmond. This is a project to clean up the VCU community and Richmond. In April, Daugherty hopes to have a fund-raiser and celebration of the cleanup with the Poor Starving Artists Festival.

"We really need volunteers," added Daugherty. "The booth is great for anyone who volunteers because they learn a lot about school, meet lots of people, and they are the first to know about events happening around campus."

The Ask-It booth is located in Shafer Court right across from the VCU Bookstore and its hours of operation are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Ask-It booth opens on Shafer Court

Bob Helber/Commonwealth Times

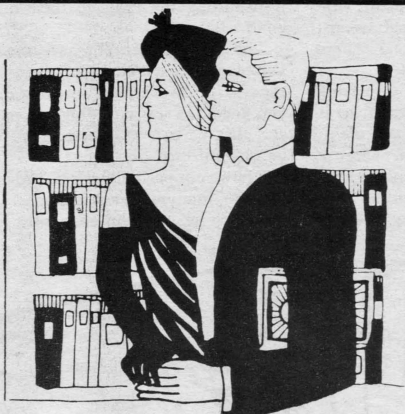
Financial

(from page 8)

demonstrate financial need. At VCU, however, much more than the maximum of 30 percent are subject to verification.

The verification process and these two federal rules mean a decrease in those eligible for loans as well. The Virginia Department of Education's Office of Financial and Administrative Services coordinate GSLs from all state institutions. They say that applications for the GSL program are down by almost 30 percent.

Barree says that it is too early to assess the effect of this on the student body here at VCU. However, because the profile of students here is so varied, chances are good that some will be affected. One of his concerns is finding avenues within the university's financial resources to aid those students hindered by these rulings. Where that money will come from, and how those programs will be implemented remains to be seen.



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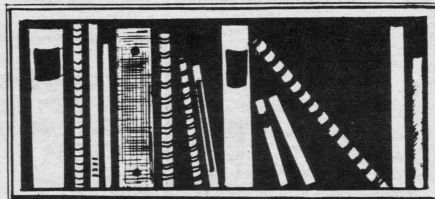
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VCU health director offers the facts on AIDS and "safer sex"

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has been a subject that has caused many people to be confused and afraid. The Times hopes that this presentation will help dispel the many myths that surround this issue and educate the often sexually active college community. Betty Reppert is the director of health promotion at University Health Services.

By Betty Reppert
For the Times

I have had many opportunities to talk with students about AIDS. It has become increasingly evident that we need to dispel some of the common myths that exist and state some facts.

I hope you will gain sufficient information to separate myth from fact and make informed personal decisions. AIDS is of special concern to sexually active students and students who use intravenous drugs. To address these specific concerns, some of the language in the article is explicit. While this may be uncomfortable for some, it is essential that those who are planning to be sexually active understand clearly what behaviors are "high risk" and what is meant by "safer sex." This is not the time for delicacy but for clear terminology.

Because new facts are being discovered about AIDS constantly, these facts are presented not as the last word, but as the latest. I hope to keep the VCU community as up-to-date on the issue as possible.

What we know.

Investigators have discovered the virus that causes AIDS. It has been most recently called Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). This virus works by attacking and killing the body's T-cells. The body's defenses against infections and certain tumors are greatly impaired.

How AIDS is transmitted.

The AIDS virus is carried in the body

fluids, blood and semen. The exchange of these fluids through sexual activity, needle sharing in IV drug use, or less commonly, through blood or blood product transfusion can result in spread of the virus. The virus has also been isolated in saliva, tears and sweat. But as yet, there is no evidence that AIDS can be contracted through these fluids.

IV drug users can transmit the virus by means of sharing needles or syringes. Small amounts of infected blood may be present in the needle or syringe which can then be injected into the next user's bloodstream.

A much smaller percentage of AIDS cases have been transmitted through transfusions of infected blood products. People most at risk of acquiring the virus through this means are those who require repeated transfusions, such as hemophiliacs. Now that all donated blood is screened for the antibody to the AIDS virus, the potential spread of AIDS through blood transfusions has decreased significantly.

Most children who have been diagnosed with AIDS were exposed by their infected mothers before birth through blood exchange in the placenta.

AIDS has not been known to be spread by normal day-to-day contact with infected individuals. AIDS is not spread by bathtubs, showers, toilet seats, hot tubs or swimming pools; handshakes, hugs or other nonsexual physical contact; dishes, utensils or food; doorknobs, linens or clothing; sneezing, coughing or spitting. *Symptoms of infection.*

Once a person is infected with the AIDS virus, he or she may fall into one of four different stages.

- **Class I** — Several weeks after infection, symptoms of an "acute viral illness" such as fever, sore throat, sweats, muscle aches or diarrhea appear. These resolve within several weeks.

- **Class II** — A "carrier state" displaying no symptoms. The current estimate is that up to two million Americans are in this stage. This is a scary number because these people can infect others without ever knowing they carry the virus.

- **Class III** — At this stage there is

persistent generalized lymph node swelling with no explanation except that the person tests HIV antibody positive.

- **Class IV** — This is the disease AIDS. These people may have different symptoms including weight loss, diarrhea and sweats; neurological symptoms such as altered mental status and depression; secondary infectious diseases such as pneumonia; and secondary cancers such as Kaposi's sarcoma (presented as purplish skin spots). After confirmed diagnosis of Class IV AIDS, life expectancy is 12 to 18 months.

So far there are no certain ways to predict progression from HIV-positive asymptomatic carrier state to full-blown AIDS. A recent study based on seven years of epidemiological evidence indicates that 30 percent of carriers will progress to AIDS.

Risks for heterosexuals.

Given the current level of knowledge about AIDS, what are the risks to the heterosexual population at VCU?

Currently, 3.8 percent of AIDS cases are heterosexual. This has jumped from one percent several years ago.

If you have not been sexually active and have not used IV drugs within the last 10 years, you do not seem to be at any risk.

If you have been in a mutually monogamous sexual relationship for over 10 years, you do not seem to be at any risk.

AIDS can be transmitted through heterosexual intercourse, vaginal or anal. In Africa there are as many infected women as men. Many authorities believe that as in most sexually transmitted diseases, transmission occurs more easily from men to women than from women to men.

Sexually active heterosexual women are more likely to be infected than sexually active heterosexual men, since a woman can be infected by a bisexual man. In heterosexual men, most cases have been traced back to contact with those prostitutes who are frequent IV drug abusers, or who have had contact with bisexual men. In the future, heterosexual men may be more at risk as the asymptomatic carrier rate in women increases.

Women who have a positive antibody test for the virus are being advised not to have children due to the very high risk of transmitting the virus to their unborn child.

The more partners you have, the more you place yourself at risk for exposure to the virus. However, be aware that even if you have had sex with only one partner and that partner is infected, you may become infected.

Know your partners' sexual and health history. Anonymous sex is out.

Otherwise, condoms are a must for all

sexually active persons. Spermicides containing nonoxynol 9 kill the AIDS virus. The combination of these two is protection, although not 100 percent.

Anal intercourse is the highest risk practice because of tissue injury which allows semen to enter tears in the rectal mucosa. Oral-genital sex carries risk as well, since transmission of body fluids occurs.

Risks for homosexuals.

Although the issue of AIDS concerns all of us, there is no doubt that this disease has had a profound impact on the homosexual community. This epidemic has affected homosexual men in far greater numbers than any other single group in society. (Currently in the U.S., 65 percent of AIDS cases are homosexual/bisexual men.) The reasons for this are related to the particular biology of the HIV virus, the unique epidemiology of the disease and sociological/behavioral factors directly related to homosexual sexuality.

The following facts provide an ideal triad for transmission:

- The HIV virus exists in semen in the highest concentration of all body fluids;
- Direct contact with blood is by far the most effective mode of transmission;
- Tiny capillary injuries occur in the rectal mucosa during anal intercourse.

For sexually active homosexual men to effectively reduce their risk of infection it is recommended that they limit the number of sexual partners; know their partner's health and sexual history; always use a condom regardless of the sexual act being performed.

Spermicides containing nonoxynol-9 are known to kill the HIV virus. It makes sense to use them for lubrication purposes. *Risky business.*

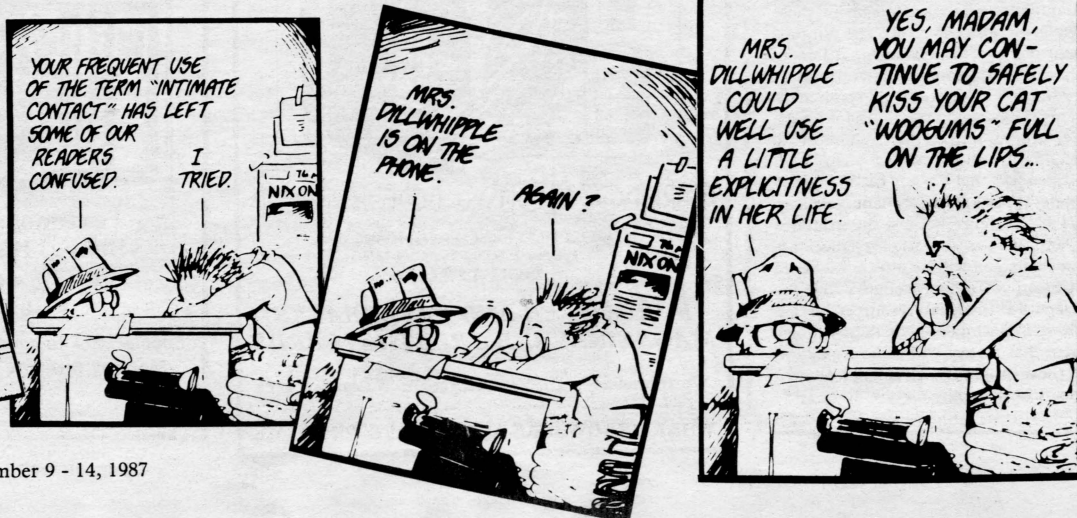
Do not assume that just because you are not homosexual and have never used IV drugs that you cannot get AIDS. High risk behaviors that have been associated with the spread of the AIDS virus are sharing needles or syringes during IV drug use; unprotected anal intercourse; unprotected vaginal intercourse; oral sex; bearing children while HIV positive.

The Centers for Disease Control's current recommendations for reducing risk of exposure are as follows:

- Do not have sexual contact with persons known or suspected of having AIDS.
- Do not have unprotected sex with multiple partners, or with persons who have had multiple partners.

- Avoid the exchange of body fluids during sex. Proper use of condoms reduces the chance of exchange of body fluids, though it has not been proven that

See AIDS page 11



AIDS

(from page 10)

condoms completely eliminate the risk of AIDS.

- Avoid any injury to body tissues during sex.
- Persons who are at increased risk of having AIDS should not donate blood.
- Do not abuse IV drugs. If you use IV drugs, then do not share needles or syringes (boiling does not guarantee sterility).
- Do not have sex with people who abuse IV drugs.
- Do not use inhalant nitrates (poppers). Their role as a cofactor is being investigated.

For many students, implementing the above recommendations may not be a simple matter, but it is crucial. It may entail changing formed habits and this is always difficult. The level of trust, knowledge and communication with a prospective sexual partner has to be much greater than ever before. For many this represents a loss of the spontaneity, impulsivity and mystery that made casual sex so compelling.

This health conscious attitude means taking the risk of talking about sex before both partners have expressed mutual desire. The risks involve the possibility of premature rejection or of being perceived as presumptuous. But, is it really such a big risk? The advantage is the acquisition of respect given the values of conscientiousness, responsibility, maturity and assertiveness that such an attitude conveys.

Condom Sense

- Use the latex type since skins (condoms made of animal membranes) are not as efficient in holding the virus.
- Store in a cool dry place.
- To increase protection from the AIDS virus, use a spermicide product with nonoxymol-9 with the condom.

The AIDS antibody test: should I or shouldn't I.

Currently we can test for the presence of antibodies to the AIDS virus—not the actual virus itself. The presence of the antibodies *only* suggests that the person has been exposed to the virus—not that the person is currently carrying HIV or will later develop AIDS.

Anyone considering being tested for HIV antibodies should first consult a health care practitioner. This is not a decision to make lightly as there are many things to take into consideration. Since a positive test may lead to discrimination, it is important that testing be done in a strictly confidential manner and that test results are anonymous. (This is *not* the case with all Richmond area test sites.) A Student Health Service health practitioner can give you the latest information concerning this important choice. By no means should you use blood, organs, or semen donation as a screening technique if you feel you are at any risk for AIDS.

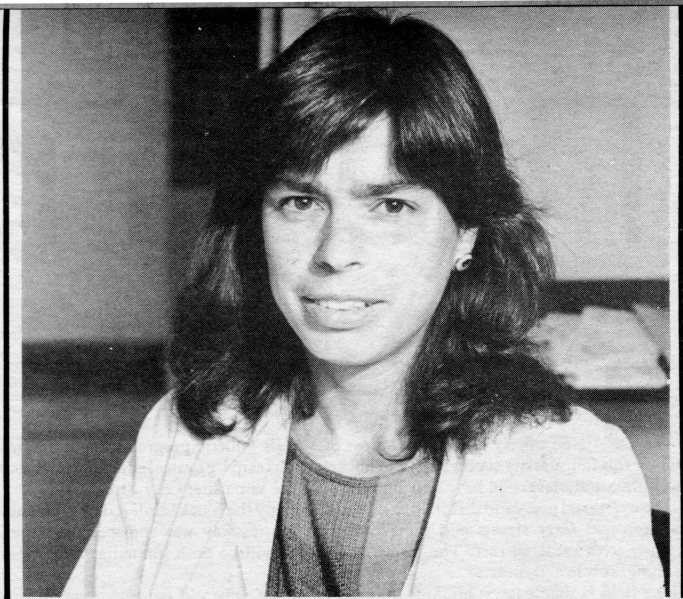
If you feel you are at risk for AIDS but choose not to be tested, it is most wise to behave as though your test were positive to avoid the possible transmission of the AIDS virus to others. If you are a woman with possible risk of infection, consult a health care practitioner about HIV-antibody testing before becoming pregnant.

AIDS information sources at VCU.

The health professionals at USHS provide further information on AIDS.

Antibody testing for the HIV-antibody is available free for those belonging to the service. We can also address more specific AIDS issues (i.e. women and AIDS, health care workers and AIDS, safer sex practices) on an individual or group basis. A video cassette on AIDS is available for group viewing. It is our hope that through dissemination of accurate information concerning AIDS we can avoid unnecessary panic and focus on the real issues of concern for college students. Please contact the Office of Health Promotion at 257-1212 for further information.

Other Richmond area agencies with AIDS information include: Alternate Test Site, MCV Nelson Clinic 786-9711, anonymous testing for HIV antibody with pre- and post-test counseling by appointment; Tenth Street Medical Clinic, Richmond Health Department, 780-4311, includes anonymous testing for HIV-antibody with pre- and post-test counseling by appointment; Richmond AIDS Information Network (RAIN), 358-6343, educational programming and literature are available; Virginia Department of Health AIDS Hotline, 800-533-4148, (Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)



Betty Reppert, director of Health Promotions

Bob Helber Commonwealth Times

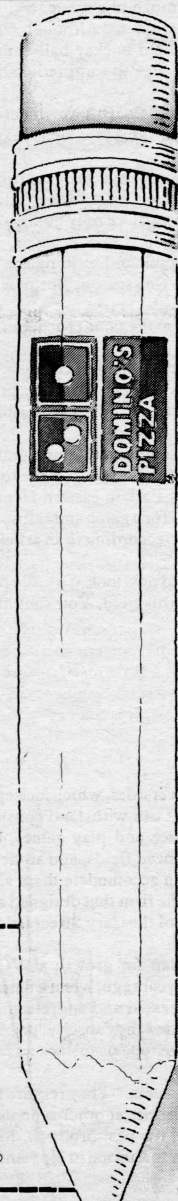
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The Truth About

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By Jim Ellis
Managing Editor

tated purely and simply, most of VCU's athletic programs begin a new chapter this fall. Varsity soccer and field hockey, club teams, physical education classes and intramural players all have new homes, all at the same site: Cary Street field.

The overtaxed grass and dirt field that used to occupy the block bordered by Linden, Harrison and Cary streets and the Downtown Expressway was replaced over the summer with artificial turf. The resulting changes will be both immediate and far-reaching, subtle and clear.

The field is man's latest attempt to improve nature. The old field had two major drawbacks—it was rough, which caused bad bounces for soccer and field hockey balls, and too much use would have turned it into a dust bowl.

Pat Stauffer, head coach of VCU's field hockey team, feels particularly affected by the new turf. "That's why I stayed here," she said. "We kept hearing about it and hearing about it and hearing about it. Last year was pretty much of a waste, trying to maintain a natural grass field with everybody and his brother on it." Although not all natural turf gives bad bounces, the old field did, and the field hockey ball is much smaller and lighter than a soccer ball. "That natural turf was too unpredictable," Stauffer said. "The ball would be bouncing everywhere."

"Last year we pretty much played ugly hockey. We beat people with tough defense and fitness. We had a lot of 1-0 games, and that was no accident. This year what I expect is a more sophisticated, efficient attack."

"It's not that our kids don't have the skills, or that I didn't have the expertise to develop an attack. You can't even talk about tactics before you have the technique. That's where we were always lacking—and I knew why. Now, we're only going to get better. The kids can trust the surface."

On the flip side, Stauffer said, she now has to teach stopping and tackling the ball differently. Some veteran players had to relearn these skills this season. But now the team can play "pretty hockey."

"It's like putting in a whole new offense," Stauffer said. "I'm the same coach, but our point of reference is totally different."

Head soccer coach Rosie Lundy also has seen the new surface help his team. "The field is gorgeous," he said during a break in practice. "It's wide. The surface is good. The surface plays well even in the rain. It plays like grass. Our kids up at Mason (a natural grass field) felt like they were at home."

It was only four years ago that Lundy had to search Richmond and the surrounding counties for a place to play "home" games. "The administration left it up to me to get the fields," Lundy recalled with wonder. He secured Dorey Park in eastern Henrico County for a one-time \$50 deposit. William and Mary came in for a game and refused to play on the field, citing potholes and non-regulation goalposts, according to an article in that week's *Commonwealth Times*.

"The field was playable," Lundy said. "That was bitter. And now look at us. We have one of the best fields in the state. I tell our kids: You have this field. You should be proud," he enthused.



Grass mat (dark strip, foreground) was packed with sand brought on site. Contractor had no s





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Cary Street Athletic Field

Balsam America sign heralded the transformation at Cary Street.

Photos by Ma

A facilities crunch is characteristic of urban universities, which lack open space, as the label implies. Fake grass is a bonanza because it can withstand constant daily use. Not only do varsity teams need a place to practice and play games, but physical education classes need to be held, intramural teams need fields, and students seeking informal recreation need space, too. Artificial turf can accommodate them all.

Ron Wilson, a partner in Wilson-Moreth-Connock, Ltd., the firm that designed and handled the project, was eager to point out the unique aspects of the Cary Street field in an interview at his N. Jefferson Street offices.

The project was conceived as part of the 1975 master plan for growth at VCU, prepared by his company, he said. Phase I began about seven years ago, when a natural turf field was established and drainage requirements were assessed and addressed.

"As it was proven that the demand for the facility far exceeded the capacity, priority for funding increased," Wilson said. "We set out to see that the type of surface was the best available for all the users."

The most important users were the field hockey and soccer teams. "They require the most precise playing surfaces," Wilson said. So he toured facilities at other schools in Virginia, but there was not a wide enough range. "We found the best products don't have a track record in the United States," he said. Wilson flew to Europe in November of 1986, "to research standards over there."

The Truth About BaspoGrass

By Jim Ellis
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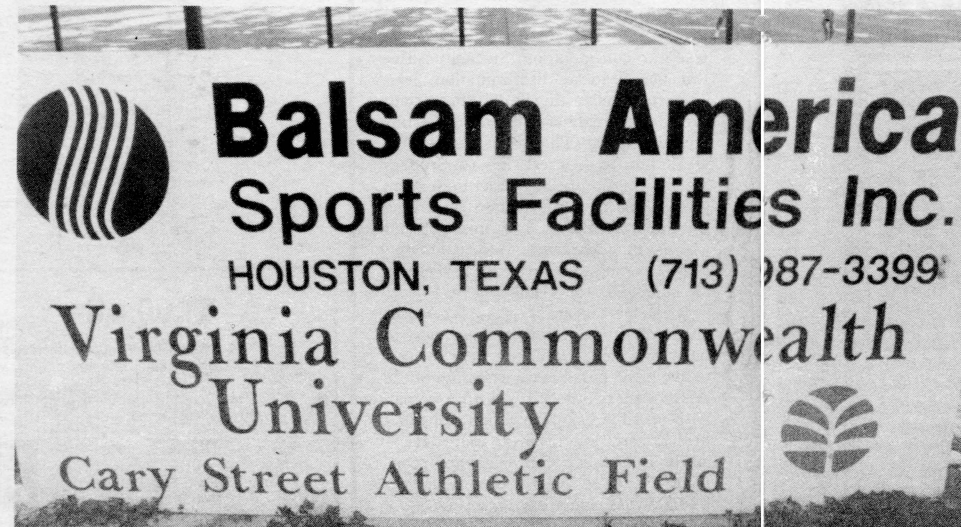
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Balsam America sign heralded the transformation at Cary Street.

Photos by Mady Lee — Commonwealth Times

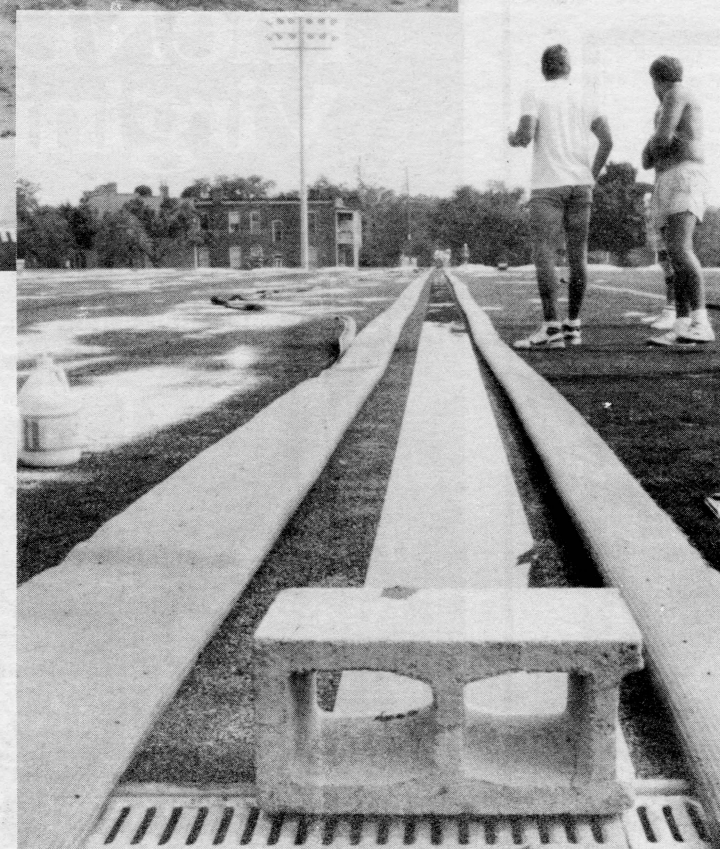
In the U.S., most artificial surfaces are designed for football. In Europe, soccer is the premier game. There are international standards for ball bounce—the distance a soccer ball bounces up from the ground should be 32 to 34 percent of the height from which it was dropped—and artificial turf designed for American football makes soccer balls bounce much too high, Wilson said.

The needs at VCU were much more in line with European needs than with those at most American facilities. Armed with information about these sand-based European products, Wilson returned home, and ideas were solicited for construction of a field meeting ball bounce and durability requirements, while being built over one summer.

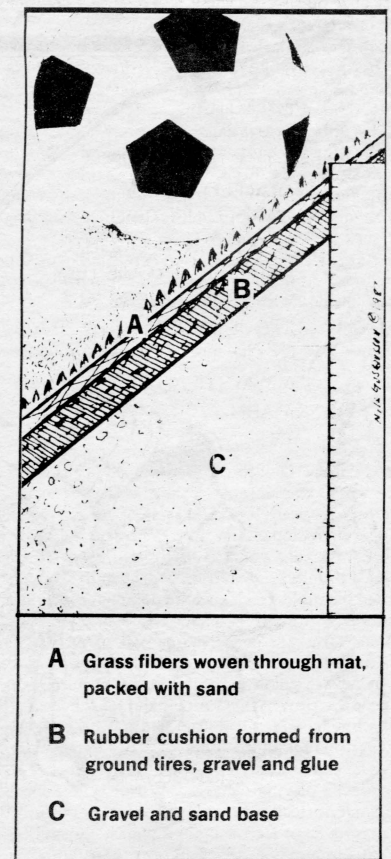
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The BaspoGrass surface comprises rows of polypropylene fibers packed with sand to within one-half to three quarter inches of their tops. Under the grass there is a rubber pad about four inches thick. The pad is made of one-eighth inch chunks of old tires and some gravel mixed with a polyurethane glue so that it forms a unit but has holes through which rainwater can percolate. Under the pad is a foundation of gravel and sand 18 to 36 inches thick.

See Field page 21



Workmen used special paper (shiny strip) to seal seams in the grass mat.



out BaspoGrass



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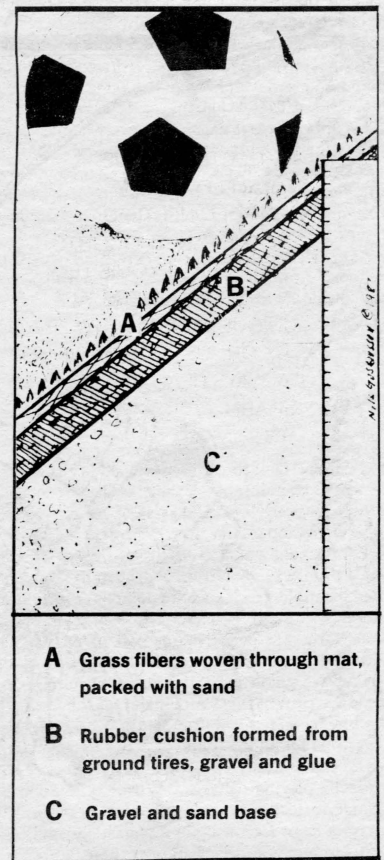
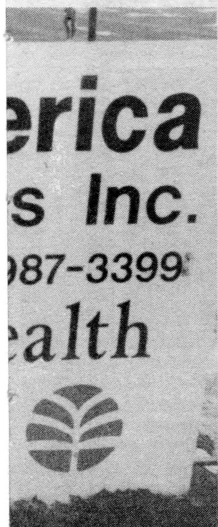
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See **Field** page 21

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dy Lee — Commonwealth Times

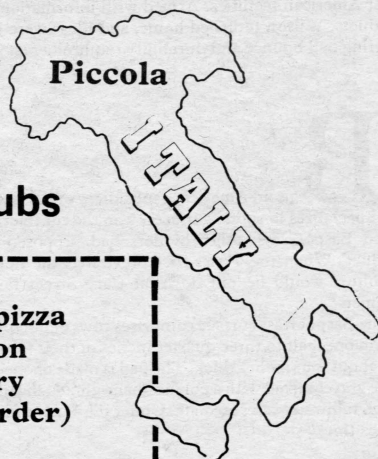
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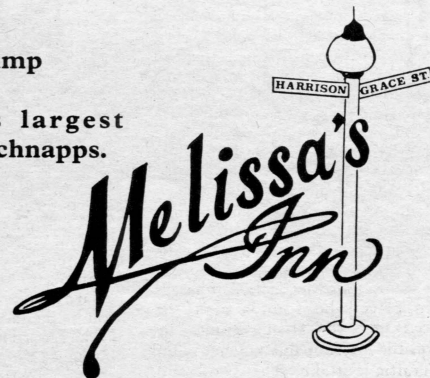
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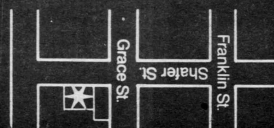
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DOCUMENT:

A Forgery

By Nicole Arthur
Staff Writer

I guess it had to happen sometime. R.E.M. has finally made an album that I just don't like. The band's latest release, *Document*, is the first to find itself in this depressing category.

Document continues to explore the harder-edged rock sound which surfaced on last year's *Life's Rich Pageant*. The good news is that the instrumentation on this album is noticeably more polished and sophisticated than it has been in the past. It deftly lays to waste a recent claim by the smug and cretinous Tom Petty that R.E.M. "can't even play their instruments." Peter Buck's playing on the eerie "King of Birds," for instance, is his most impressive to date. Saxophonist Steve Berlin of Los Lobos lends a hand on two of the album's tracks. His contribution fits in well on the bouncy, upbeat "Exhuming McCarthy," whereas on "Fireplace" he sounds as if he wandered into the wrong studio by mistake--the interminable fadeout could be a Traffic outtake. The band and producer Scott Litt (maybe we can pin the blame on him) even let a synthesizer rear its ugly head on several songs. Listen, if you dare, to the inexcusable "Lightnin' Hopkins."

One of *Document*'s most striking characteristics is the extent to which the songs recall earlier R.E.M. For example, the record kicks off with "Finest

Worksong," a lackluster rewrite of "Begin the Begin," and closes with "Oddfellows 151," a menacing version of "Old Man Kensey." The album's first single, "The One I Love," is a dead ringer for "Driver 8." I suppose we should be thankful that, if recycle they must, R.E.M. has such a great variety of material from which to draw, unlike, say, Boston, who have forged a lucrative career and three albums from one awful song.

There are quite a few odd moments on *Document*. "It's the End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)" besides having the best song title ever, includes a

stream of consciousness recital discreetly borrowed from Bob Dylan's "Subterranean Homesick Blues." Peter Buck confessed in *Rolling Stone* that he couldn't decide if this song was his favorite or least favorite on the album -- I know what he means. Is the exuberant chorus sufficient reward for enduring the annoying verses? You be the judge.

The record includes a cover of Wire's "Strange" which does neither band much credit. This is, you guessed it, strange, coming from R.E.M., a band who can cover both "Toys In The Attic" and "Moon River" with ease. Nonetheless, Michael does not have the voice to get through a rock'n'roll screamer like this one, and because the band tries to imitate the original rather than reinterpret it in their own style, the result sounds forced.

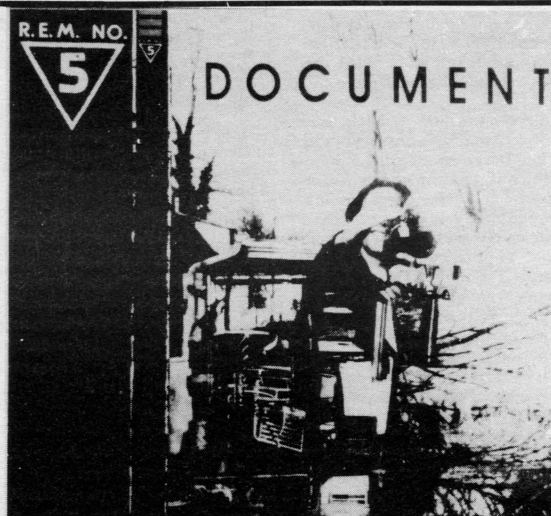
"Exhuming McCarthy" is the album's

catchiest song. It captures the innocent frivolity of '60s pop in the goofy spirit of "Can't Get There from Here." The interplay between the funky bass line, the early Stonesesque and Mike Mills' harmonies is arguably the record's high point. Inserting a segment from the McCarthy hearings mid-song, however, strikes me as overkill; after all, the song is called "Exhuming McCarthy," we get the idea.

And about the lyrics... maybe it's the effect of a summer spent listening to the Replacements, but Michael Stipe's imagistic tidbits are beginning to leave me feeling shortchanged. There is a point at which the band's distant lyrical stance ceases to be an exercise in hip minimalism and becomes instead a refusal to take

chances or reveal genuine emotion. For this reason, the hokey "The One I Love" is, in a sense, the most powerful song on the album -- it's such a relief amidst the obscurity which surrounds it.

I am not among those who would like every R.E.M. release to be *Murmur*, Part XXIV. I realize that amateurism can't last forever and that, too often, ingeniousness grows up and becomes pretension. Perhaps the strain of being what Sue Cummings calls "the Beatles of college radio" is beginning to take its toll. Something about the overall feel of *Document* brings to mind arenas, commercial radio, and campuses thronged with R.E.M. t-shirts. I'll take kudzu, thanks.



PORTRAIT:

Faces of the 80's

By Frances B. Tartan
Staff Writer

We have all not only kept photos of those we know and love, but also looked at someone else's photos of people we don't even know. Even though these faces may be unfamiliar, we are still able to bring our own experiences to the portrait and form some sort of relation. The "PORTRAIT: Faces of the '80s" exhibit, now at the Virginia Museum until September 13, gives us the same opportunity as we are invited to spy on the normal, the famous and the bizarre and to attach our own memories to the captured face of another.

Predictably there are photos by advertising and *Vanity Fair* photographer Bruce Weber, as well as Annie Leibovitz, who is a celeb in her own right for the portraits of the rich and glamorous. And as you'd predict, their photos are slick and sterile. Leibovitz at least shows some humor in her portrait of David Byrne as she does a take off of the fashion show from Byrne's film *True Stories*. She also poses the king of posers Malcolm McLaren on the beach with a surf punk painted bright blue. As McLaren hunches on the ground covering his ears, the audience senses his regret for his responsibility in creating all the chaos ten years ago.

Photographers Gay Block, Thomas Daniel, Nancy Lensen-Tomasson and Neil Slavin all have photos that show the influence of the late Diane Arbus. They each have the ability to make the normal seem absurd or choose the bizarre as their subject. Block's portraits are of Miami Beach resident retirees in all their poly-

ester and velour glory. The stand-out is a huge, face-only close-up of an elderly woman with a cigarette in one hand and smoke billowing through her nostrils forming a mustache and beard of grey haze. Daniel's subjects are society's exceptions. "Midge the Monster Handler, Va. State Fair" is reminiscent of Arbus's portraits of tattooed men in a sideshow. Lensen-Tomasson picks her subjects from the South, specifically Richmond. The common image is the magnolia they each hold. Slavin prefers group portraits. Anyone reading *Style Weekly* is already familiar with the photo "Channel Swimming Association" (bulging people in bathing suits), which ran on a summer cover. In addition, there are also "Bickley School of Dancing" (oh those gowns!) and "Marina Women's Bowling Club."

My three favorite photographers of the "Faces of the '80s" were Sally Mann, Jamie Lyle Gordon and Michael Spano. Spano's photos are not just portraits of the present, but they also echo the past, as his use of light and shadow shows the influence of Man Ray. Gordon also reaches into the past as she superimposes one image over the other to mix it with the present. Finally, Mann's photos were the most disturbing/fascinating of the exhibit. Each is a photo of her children, but certainly not in the usual style of "aren't my children precious?" Instead, there is "Jessie Bites," a portrait of her daughter and the teeth marks she's left on someone's arm. Another is of Mann's baby shrouded in a sheet, an eerie image of imminent death rather than new life.



Jessie Bites, by Sally Mann, 1985

Panic On The Streets of London

By Gail O'Hara
Folio Editor

Nick Kent, semi-famous music connoisseur and journalist for the New Musical Express in London, called the Smiths "the only significant band of the '80s."

That's slightly pushing it, Nick, but perhaps I'll agree that they are one of the ten most significant bands of this here decade. Which is why the apparent fact that the Smiths have disbanded is nothing less than a grandiose tragedy.

Right. Right. The Smiths have reached that level of popularity where it's no longer cool to like them. It was cool in '84 when they were young and new and obscure. Now, they're too well known to be hip.

The herd is still fairly clueless about the Smiths, simply because they are an intelligent band whose lyrics actually mean something, something too political for them to ever be played on mainstream radio.

Similarly, Elvis Costello and 10,000 Maniacs are primo examples of musicians that fall into the same stockpile; their music reeks of social and political messages that Mr. Average just doesn't give a damn about. Their music is basically overqualified for banal top 40 radio anyway.

The Smiths possess the same bitter, vicious feelings concerning radio that Elvis Costello once expressed in his tune "Radio, Radio" or "Radio Soul," in which he explains that radio "tries to anesthetize the way that you feel."

Almost ten years later, the Smiths did a tune called "Panic," in which Morrissey yodels "Hang the DJ, hang the DJ, hang the DJ." This was their own special way of lashing out at some bonehead DJ who apparently did a dreadful job of reporting the incident at Chernobyl.

•The Smiths have always despised video as much as radio; they just don't believe in making them (videos). But their audacious domestic record label, Sire, made its own videos for the Smiths. (The nerve).

For anyone who may be unfamiliar with this Mancunian quartet, they consisted of a wailing vocalist named Morrissey (call him Stephen Patrick) and he shant want your company for tea, acclaimed guitarist/harmonicist/mandolinist Johnny Marr, bassist Andy Rourke & drummer Mike Joyce.

Their music was brilliantly constructed by Marr and set to equally charming lyrics written by Morrissey. Their subject matter of song ranged from militant (& hypocritical) vegetarianism to severe depression to sexual abstinence to literary plagiarism to the ever-popular vicious attacks on Maggie Thatcher and the Queen Mother. Some of Morrissey's wittier lyrics have been titled "Vicar in a Tutu," "The Writers of the World Unite," and a new single, which is called "Girlfriend in a Coma." Many of their tunes are laced with homosexual connotations, while Morrissey prefers to plead celibacy (as if it's anyone else's business).

Some folks hated the Smiths for their depressing songs such as "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now," "Still Ill" and "What Difference Does It Make?" But



certain humans (myself included) tend to be almost chronically depressed and therefore find the music of the Smiths to be quite compatible with their own lives. Excuse us for asking a bit more from a

lyric than the superficiality of "I Wanna Dance With Somebody Who Loves Me," or something to that effect.

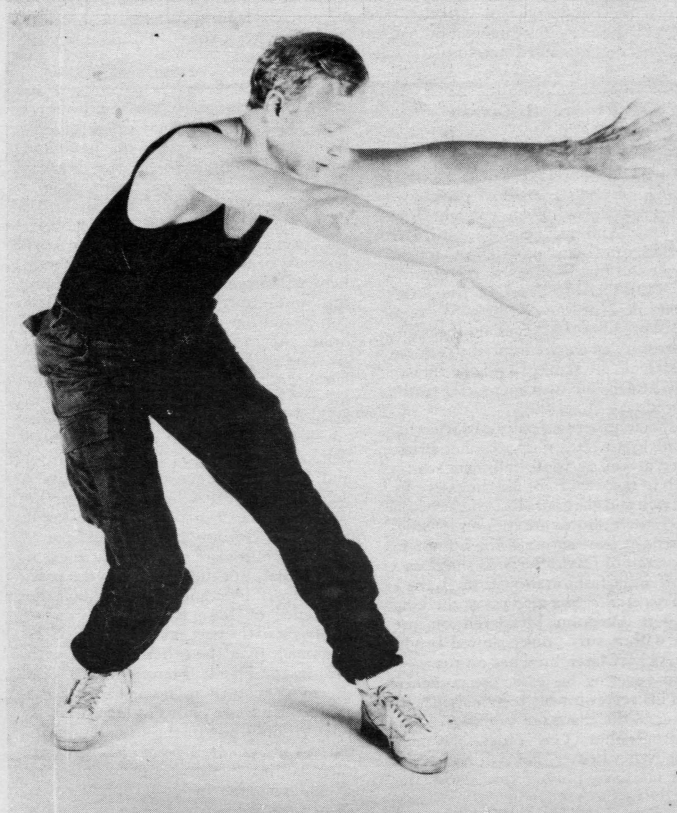
To me, the songwriting team of Morrissey and Marr ranks right up there with Robert Plant and Jimmy Page, Elton John and Bernie Taupin, Ray Manzarek and James Morrison, Elvis Costello and his alter ego and Paul Westerberg and his evil twin.

The Smiths released *The Smiths* LP in '84 (the purple one with a guy's chest on it), followed by *Hatful of Hollow*, which included some new material and some remixes. In '85 they released *Meat Is Murder*, a powerful LP in the context of all other music, but weak in the context of their own. In the fall of '86 they blew us away again with *The Queen Is Dead*, for the music's sake just go and buy the CD. And if all this ain't enough already, they recently put out a very large dual LP called *Louder Than Bombs* or *The World Won't Listen*, depending on whether you buy import or domestic. The album is an absolute EPIC (it features British writer Shelagh Delaney as the cover star) and you can obtain the CD for just \$2 more than the vinyl disc. So do it. Get it.

The break-up is a tragedy. There are rumours of Marr leaving the band because of hassles with Rough Trade UK, and he's apparently going to be working on upcoming albums by the Talking Heads, Keith Richards (!) and Bryan Ferry. But his place is with the Smiths, so they can write more songs like "London," or "I Know It's Over," or "This Charming Man," we need songs like this to get through this randid time.

The last album by the Smiths will be called *Strange Ways Here We Come* and is scheduled for release on September 22. Buy it and weep.

Chris Burnside In Review



Chris Burnside performed at the Virginia Museum Theatre last Tuesday.

Chris Burnside and Dancers performed at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Theatre on September 1, to a completely full house. People were standing in the aisles to observe the program, which is included in the Virginia Museum's Fast Forward Series.

The program was a series of four dance pieces, all choreographed by Burnside. The first was "Under Standing," which told a story of the relationship of an eccentric elderly woman (Opal Kelly) and a young man on the verge of discovering his sensuality. The character portrayed by Kelly provides advice and gains enthusiasm for the man (played by Burnside) who confronts the counter-culture aspects of homosexuality. The young man is invited to a "drag party;" his insecurities and nervousness are calmed by Kelly. Kelly also provides the young man with insight into his life through her own decaying life.

Through Burnside and the male dancers who join him, the audience discovers the young man's developing relationships. These were presented by a series of sensual, repetitive and cyclical movements. Although the piece encompassed awkward social issues, Burnside's sense of humor and conveyance of bare emotions allowed the audience to understand and accept the circumstances and growth of the young man. The dancers accompanying Burnside in "Under Standing" were Jeffrey Aviles, Hunter Mills and Alan Sener.

The second piece, "Maintenant ou Jamais," performed by Burnside and Jennifer Salk, had a much lighter context. "Maintenant ou Jamais" was performed to "The Tales of Hoffman," the opera by

Jacques Offenbach. The piece was a combination of Carol Burnett type humor in movement and a satire of ballet. The melodramatic expressions and action were hysterical and the piece was perfectly placed in the program to counterbalance the complexity of "Under Standing." The costumes by Eleanor Ruffy accented the movement of Jennifer Salk particularly well.

"The Jump," which followed "Maintenant ou Jamais," was a monologue performed by Burnside with minimal movement accompaniment. Burnside explained the fears of skydiving and how it inversely relates to real life. "The Jump" had the feel of stand-up comedy; Burnside's timing and sarcasm enlightened the crowd about determining "who the real chickenshits are."

The fourth part of the program, "Fallout," was performed to music by Frank Chickens. "Fallout" was a piece in which the gods of nuclear warfare descend upon the different social groups of Japan. The choreography was active and incorporated several levels of the stage. "Fallout" was an exciting piece that maintained the constant attention of the audience. The costumes by Elizabeth Weiss Hopper were outrageous and enhanced the dancers. The dancers illuminated the stage with their energy.

The lighting designer for Chris Burnside's program in the Fast Forward Series was Carol McDowell, and although the lighting was simple, the effects created in the pieces were effective, particularly in "Under Standing."

Chris Burnside and his show received a well-deserved standing ovation.

-Eva Warner

Skippy's Evil Twin Jif

By Laura Marzec & Gail O'Hara
Staff Writers

Flintstone vitamin addict and Barbizon College (where they train you to look like a model) student Marc Price appeared at the Richmond Comedy Club last week. We know him better as Skippy Handelmann, the nerdy neighbor on NBC's sitcom "Family Ties," but Price is "a lot cooler in real life."

Price just finished filming *The Rescue*, a soon-to-be released cinematic tour-de-force about a slew of Navy brats in South Korea who rescue their dads. He is currently on tour playing mostly colleges; he prefers college crowds because they're generally closer to his age (19). He definitely plays to a younger crowd, and is a member of numerous fraternities and like many students, he never goes to class.

The show was a relief, because an hours worth of Skippy can't be stomachached

For those born in the mid-to-late sixties, his material brought back a bunch of memories—bean bag chairs and 8 track cassettes of KC & the Sunshine

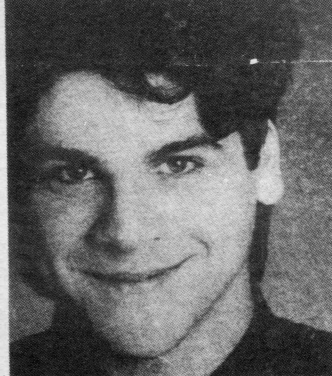
Band. He questioned what significant stories our (Pepsi) generation could tell its grandchildren, as if the Chrysler comeback and the breakup of WHAM! were as earth-shattering as racial riots and student demonstrations during the summer of love.

Price related to us who live on the East Coast just how far the whole health craze thing has gone out in California. One health food hamburger joint advertises that "our cows die of natural causes," he said as he visualized heifers happily walking into the meat grinder. He couldn't understand the Tofutti thing either, since it's nothing more than BEAN ICE CREAM. Great. So now we can all eat Tofutti and get gas.

Although Skippy "is only one of many in his closet of characters," Price did rely on him and his show for a portion of his performance. He said next season his evil twin brother Jif would come and take control, changing the name of the show to "Manson Family Ties," where in one

episode the Keaton family travels to Peru, only to discover that Jif is a Peruvian fertility god who forces Mallory to be his sex toy for three straight days.

Overall, the show was novel. Price said one critic has referred to him as "fresh," after which he immediately started singing his "Jap Rap," as the current slang use of fresh would imply. Physically, he resembled a rollercoaster—when his energy was up he would really get into the material, but in a blink he'd be seated, as if to gather himself (the whole point being, that the audience did not need that down time). The crowd was young, but not quite as young as he probably would have liked; it may have hindered him. The material was good, and well-executed, especially transitions. He didn't have to rely on jokes cluttered with obscenities, as if the mere mention of the word "shit" was enough to have people bustin' a gut. For such a young and inexperienced stand-up comedian, Price went way beyond expectations.



After the show, he was available for comment on the fact the Nick character got his own show. Price said, "NBC wanted to do a 'Skippy spin-off,' but Skippy is not a character designed to carry his own show," and though he likes television and loves "Family Ties," he'd rather not be Skippy for the rest of his life.

Price is bound to be highly visible in the next couple of years, a comic able to laugh at, as well as with himself. Price did his Robin Leech imitation for us: "I'm so terribly obnoxious I even annoy myself!" Don't worry, it doesn't look like he'll be lapsing into that syndrome.

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 **HEWLETT PACKARD**

FILM: Old Books & Old Friends

By Paul Bloch
Assoc. Folio Editor



For those of us who've been wondering a bit of late just why one bothers going to the movies these days, the Biograph has yet again brought relief from the "Confederate Capital Cultural Wasteland Blues." "84 Charing Cross Rd." is a film where nobody gets shot (or even chased), nobody falls in love, and in a nutshell not a whole lot happens . . . still, you're apt to find yourself smiling and laughing a whole lot and not regretting the evening one bit. It's a story about real people and it all really happened and might not fall too far from your life as well. It's a film for English majors and cat lovers and antiquarians and probably a film for you.

For starters, we've got a cast here to make you prick up your ears: Anne Bancroft stars opposite Anthony Hopkins. Bancroft plays Helene Hanff, a lonely New York Jewess whose brownstone existence is given some measure of passion and meaning through her correspondence with a used-book shop in London and the leather-bound classics and first editions sent to her from across the Atlantic over the course of about thirty years. A bed-sitting Anglophile and fervent book-lover, Hanff enters into some genuinely touching and yet realistic relationships with the staff of the shop in the ration days of World War II

and carries these to new heights and depths through passing decades that shake the world but leave the characters substantially unchanged.

The focus of her relationship with the shop is the manager, Frank Doel, played by Hopkins. Doel is the epitome of the very British cast of characters in London, just as Hanff is a perfect New Yorker while evading the usual stereotypes. With delicious British subtlety and understatement Hopkins and Bancroft show us the evolution of a very warm and tender relationship between two people who have no more in common than a love of old books. This joyful and tearful involvement does so much with so little and escapes the usual and expected so gracefully that it provides the backbone for one of the most unconventionally entertaining films since "Harold and Maude."

Like that cult classic, this film offers a magic of the moment that leaves concern for plot and action behind while wrapping the audience in a trance that shames any level of audience involvement dreamed of by, say, Eddie Murphy or Sly Stallone. By focusing on the small joys of life—good books, a letter in the mail, old friends—the film consists of 90% correspondence, a feat that hasn't been as well executed since "The Color Purple." (And I mean the book, not the

film.) It represents a view of the world many of us forget from time to time, filled with people you may meet casually one day and still be with 10 years later, and quality things that somehow take on lives and personalities quite their own. It's a movie you could take out to lunch.

If you've ever missed an "important" appointment because you were browsing in a bookstore, or had a friend by mail you've never met but would drop everything for, or felt your life take on new meaning through the acquisition of a classic album, book, print or t-shirt you've been after for years, you will find kindred spirits in this movie. If it makes any difference, the events and characters portrayed in this film actually did occur and live, although the bookshop in the film is said to be modelled after a similar London institution known as Foyle's. Either way, you'll probably agree that it could all happen to you. Or not happen to you, as the case may be . . . the action peak of this film is a root canal scene. Peter Frampton does the makeup. The Folio section of this paper is offering a limited scholarship program for the best explanation of why you can't scrape together enough money to see this movie and why you want to. For details inquire at Times offices or leave a message for the Associate Folio Editor. So what are you waiting for?

The Commonwealth Times *Invites the Student Body to an Open House*



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Sports

Rams tie Top 20 GMU on road, 1-1

By Jim Ellis
Managing Editor

"We should have kicked their butts," head coach Rosie Lundy said about VCU's season-opening 1-1 tie with George Mason University. Although Lundy was happy to do well on the road against the nationally-ranked Patriots, he was disappointed that VCU came within four minutes of a 1-0 win, only to give up a goal.

"The eighty-six-oh-five mark is when they scored!" Lundy exclaimed (3:55 left to go in the game). Two tired overtimes later, the score was unchanged.

John Dugan, a redshirt freshman forward, had given the Rams the lead late in the first half. Dugan took a pass from John Weise, off a long throw-in from freshman defender Eric Dade, and boomed a shot past the goalkeeper. "He played awesome," said Lundy of Dugan. But Lundy also said he was worried the team could become a one-man offense.

Both goalkeepers had great games, according to Lundy, but VCU slowed down late in the match. "We were tired," Lundy said. "The three-a-days and the two-a-days really got us. In the second overtime, we were really worried. So we need to taper off. I take the blame for that."

"We're the kind of team, if it's clicking, it's going to be hard to beat. We're dangerous—at times—on offense. That's where we have to work. Our defense played great."

The Rams traveled to Wilmington, N.C., on Saturday, September 5, and lost 3-0. No further details were available at presstime. VCU has the week off before playing at Radford on Saturday, September 12. They currently stand 0-1-1. The Rams are then scheduled to host Old Dominion University in their first game of the season, Tuesday, September 15, at 7 p.m.



John Dugan (right) celebrates his goal late in the first half.

Dave Wainwright — Commonwealth Times

Hockey team has new goals

By Jennifer L. Williams
Sports Editor

Pat Stauffer almost doesn't recognize her field hockey team anymore. Change has become standard this season as alterations bring a new look to the VCU women's squad. "Everything's new. We have a new field, new faces, new opponents, and new talent," said an exuberant Stauffer.

This is true as the hockey team prepares to begin their first season of play on the new BaspoGrass turf field at Cary Street. The field has opened up many possibilities both in terms of scheduling and actual on-field play. With the addition of the turf, speed has become the point of concentration in daily work-outs. Stauffer has made adjustments in her coaching tactics to allow for better play on the new surface. She said, "We are now able to do things offensively that limitations put on us by the [grass] field made impossible last year."

With a 1986 mark of 11-9-3, Stauffer is aiming for a winning percentage well above .500 in 1987. Stauffer returns 14 players from her 1986 squad, nine of

whom were starters last season. Co-captains Celly Chamberlain and Karole Arbia will provide leadership as young players gain experience. Seniors Mary Bertalasio and Cyndi Hart are also expected to be constants as a solid foundation has already been laid for a strong team.

New faces include freshman Susan Johnson from Princess Anne, Md., and sophomore Michelle Hershey. Phyllis Braxton, a rookie from Stafford, Va., brings extra speed to the front line and adds depth. Goalkeeper Lisa Burner has put in two solid seasons in the cage and is expected to play well.

Scheduling has also undergone some alterations as VCU will be playing several teams for the first time ever. Stauffer hopes that the new playing surface will encourage more teams to travel to Cary Street to play. "We're playing a lot of teams that we've never played before, like St. Joseph's out of Maryland, Eastern Kentucky, and Louisville. I felt that we needed new faces on our schedule," Stauffer adds. In addition to new teams VCU will face familiar rivals Georgetown, Richmond, Radford, and William and Mary.

"We are very pleased that we have our first three games at home, though we are facing an unfamiliar opponent [Drexel] in our opener," Stauffer said. VCU's first conference match will be against nationally-ranked James Madison University.

Another asset to the Ram attack this year will be new assistant coach Scott Brunet. Brunet, former assistant coach for VCU softball, was selected by Stauffer to aid in the strengthening and conditioning of the Lady Rams. Brunet, originally from Fon du Lac, Wis., attended Eau Claire University before coming to VCU. His past experience includes playing ice hockey and coaching football and baseball. Brunet married before he transferred to VCU, where he is now a senior.

A more visible addition has also been made. Kilts will replace shorts as part of the uniform worn by VCU's field hockey players this season. Shorts have been worn since 1983.

The Rams open their season on Wednesday, September 9 at 3 p.m. against Drexel at Cary Street Field. On Sunday, September 13, they will host Davis and Elkins at 1 p.m.

Cross Country Results Campbell Invitational (Sep. 5)

Men's Team Results

1. Campbell 60
2. VCU 61
3. Methodist 86
4. St. Augustine 111
5. Pembroke 133
6. Francis Marion 142
7. ECU 183
8. Winthrop 185
9. Shaw 330

Women's Team Results

1. VCU 15
2. Winthrop 75
3. Methodist 82
4. ECU 98
5. St. Augustine 110
6. Campbell 138
7. Pembroke 221

See story, page 21.

'Skins may confound fans

By Bill Hawkes
Staff Writer

Forget baseball, boxing, golf, and tennis. Forget strikes, injuries, legal battles, and free agency. Forget arena football. It's time for the real thing—NFL football is back. It's time to preview the 1987 NFL year, with an in-depth look at the Washington Redskins and picks for the playoffs.

Last year the Redskins were described by many as the second best team in the NFL, but their road to the Super Bowl was blocked by the New York Giants, one of the best teams in recent years. This year that roadblock will remain, but the rest of the NFC should be much improved and the battle for the conference championship will be fierce.

Let's start our look at the Redskins draft. On draft day the Redskins took several picks they felt were potential contributors. Wally Kleine, an enormous defensive lineman, was projected as an offensive tackle. Unfortunately, his progress has been slow and he is now on injured reserve. In true Redskins fashion, the team has been pleasantly surprised instead by the play of tackle Ed Simmons, an unknown player who is likely to make the team.

Another draft pick was Brian Davis, projected as a defensive back. Despite showing poorly in rookie camp, he appears to have the size and speed to help the Redskins in the secondary, a spot where they clearly need to improve.

Also drafted was running back Tim Smith, a small but explosive runner. Despite Smith's college injury trouble, the Redskins were willing to take a chance on him and it may pay off. Smith is the type of quick, exciting running back the Skins haven't had in recent years, and his biggest problem may be finding playing time in a one-back offense.

As for the veterans, the offense looks very much like last year's. Quarterback Jay Schroeder still has many critics to convince, and the strength of his arm cannot always overcome his lack of experience. His superb receiving corps, including Art Monk, Gary Clark, Clint Didier, Ricky Sanders, and Kelvin Bryant, will catch the ball when it comes their way. This is an exciting, deep, and talented blend of young and veteran players, but Didier is hurt and last year the importance of the tight ends in the Washington attack became obvious. On balance, it seems the team will again have a potent pass attack.

The running game is more of a problem, however. George Rogers is coming off a year in which he led the league in touchdowns, but never provided break-away runs. His injured toe has kept him out of the lineup throughout most of preseason, and changes on the offensive line (moving Russ Grimm to center in place of Jeff Bostic) must work well for the Redskins to successfully use the ball control running game of previous years. If they cannot control the line of scrimmage, Schroeder will again be forced to carry the offense with his passing.

The defense is a study in contrasts.

Assuming that Pro-Bowl defensive end Dexter Manley returns to form, the defensive line should be deep and strong. Though nearing retirement, defensive tackle Dave Butz is still capable of stopping the inside running game, and continued strong play by Darryl Grant will help in the middle. Unheralded defensive end Charles Mann plays the run better than Manley, and may find himself in the opposing team's backfield

mandatory if the Skins are to be able to beat passing teams this year.

The rest of the NFL is not standing still, and several teams should be much improved. In the NFC East, the Giants will dominate people with their defense, the Eagles could be improved by year's end, but the Cowboys seem besieged with injury problems.

In the NFC Central, the Vikings will be tough this year. They were a strong

Bill's Best Bets Division Winners

AFC		NFC
Patriots	East	Giants
Browns	Central	Bears
Seahawks	West	Rams
Contenders		
Raiders		Redskins
Broncos		Vikings
Bengals		Saints
Dolphins		49ers
		Cowboys

even more often this year. Depth is provided by Steve Hamilton, Dean Hamel, and Marcus Koch.

The defensive line can often camouflage weaknesses elsewhere, but the Redskins lack of depth at linebacker and inconsistent secondary play will hurt them. Veteran middle linebacker Neal Olkewitz is injured, but Rich Milot seems comfortable at that spot, and Monte Coleman and Mel Kaufman can anchor the outside spots. However, behind these players there is a genuine lack of experienced backups, so injuries here could compromise the pass defense.

The secondary is a problem, despite Pro-Bowl cornerback Darryl Green. Free safety Curtis Jordan handles the run well, but the strong safety position is weak and cornerback Vernon Dean was beaten early and often last year in deep pass situations. This is an area where improvement is

offensive team last year, and the addition of running back D.J. Dozier will give them yet another weapon. Watch out for this team if their defense can hold up. Of course, the Chicago Bears defense is impeccable, and should be overwhelming enough to propel them to another NFC Central division title. The question is at quarterback, where oft-injured Jim McMahon may never return to top form after having his shoulder reinjured last year by Green Bay's Charles Martin. A healthy McMahon or improved Mike Tomczak could lead them to the championship.

Over in the NFC West, the 49ers have all the pieces to return to the Super Bowl if they can keep healthy, but injuries in the last two seasons have scuttled their playoff appearances and this year may be another frustrating one for their fans. L.A. has running back Eric Dickerson

and a maturing Jim Everett at quarterback. If they get good quarterbacking from Everett, this year or next could see the Rams arrive as a dominant NFC force.

Here are my picks for the NFC: Giants, Bears, and Rams to win their divisions; Redskins, 49ers, and Vikings to battle for the two wildcard spots. Other teams to watch: Dallas (if healthy); and New Orleans (if they get a passing game to go with running back Reuben Mayes).

The AFC will be an entertaining conference this year. In the East, the Jets and Patriots seem to be headed in the wrong direction, and Miami could again challenge for a playoff spot. The Jets enter the year with too many lingering injury questions to repeat their early year performance from last season, and the Patriot's response to their abysmal running game last year was to trade Pro-Bowl tackle Brian Holloway. The Dolphins need productive years from their young defensive team badly. Regardless, Dan Marino could lead them to the playoffs with another record-setting performance.

It may be impossible to predict what will happen in the AFC Central this year. Many have suggested that the Cleveland Browns are going to the Super Bowl, and they have the defense to get there. Offense is more of a question mark; they need a strong running game and another steady year from Bernie Kosar, whose chief asset may be that he doesn't throw interceptions. The Bengals will be an explosive offensive club this year, but they lack the defense to win it all. Houston and Pittsburgh will be improved, but still unlikely to challenge for the division title.

The AFC West will be exciting. Last year's conference champion Denver Broncos may not even be the second best team in this division, as their lack of a running game and off-season retirements leave them vulnerable to a letdown. Seattle was the only team to beat both Super Bowl participants last year, and needs primarily a consistent year from QB Dave Krieg to emerge as a top team this year. The Raiders haven't solved their quarterback problem yet, but the collection of talent at running back, tight end, wide receiver, and defense, could give them a chance to win big with only an average quarterback.

Here're my predictions, then, for the AFC: Patriots, Browns, and Seahawks to win the divisions; Raiders, Broncos, Bengals, Dolphins to challenge for the two wildcard berths. Teams to watch: the Bengals, whose offense could lead them anywhere this year; and Seattle, who may be the best team in the conference this year.

The final question: will the Giants repeat as Super Bowl champions? It seems unlikely that any team will repeat these days, and the Giants have certain things going against them. The rest of the league has had a full year to look at films of what they do; if the pass rush can be slowed down, that secondary may prove vulnerable. On offense, Phil Simms is clearly the catalyst in a fine unit, but if he is injured the offense will struggle. Nevertheless, the Giants are strong enough, solid enough, and experienced enough that I am going to pick them to repeat as champions and beat the Seattle Seahawks 34-10 in the Super Bowl.

Forget bowling. Forget miniature golf, ice skating, and gymnastics. The NFL is back, and will be great again this year. Unless we have a strike, that is.

Field

(from page 13)

Unlike AstroTurf and other older artificial turfs, BaspoGrass is "non-directional," meaning the fibers have no grain. Special shoes are required on AstroTurf to attain traction; any rubber-soled, non-cleated athletic shoe is suitable for BaspoGrass.

At first, as spectators, coaches and athletes have all seen at Cary Street, the sand is loose between the grass fibers. But, Wilson said, as sunlight and pounding feet cause the exposed tips of the fibers to gradually degrade (essentially to disintegrate), the tops will bend, mesh with each other (due to their non-directional character), and lock the sand beneath a polypropylene carpet. This conditioning period takes about six months. "Next season will be the first prime season," Wilson said. "The looseness is only temporary."

The grass fibers should last eight years before needing replacement, which should cost approximately \$400,000. The construction just completed cost \$1 million. The rubber pad beneath the grass should last 16 years, said Wilson.

The field should be able to drain nine inches of rain per hour, which makes it an attractive site for tournaments or sports camps, because bad weather will not result in a sea of mud or the destruction of a tightly-scheduled series of events.

Contrary to the *Times'* spring story, there will be no storage shed built, at least not right now. "That's the sore spot," said Sue Ivie, who is in her fourth year as Director of Recreational Sports at VCU. The Recreational Sports department will share the costs and responsibilities of managing the facility with the Athletic department. "That's where we didn't have enough money. We do need to come to some resolution and find some other source of funding for it."

Ivie said she would like to see restrooms and concession facilities included in such a building. Restrooms for spectators and players are currently available in the Cary Street Gym, across Linden Street from the field (non-student spectators need to show their ticket stub to gain access to the gym).

"Having this field come on line is a real positive asset. We haven't been able to accommodate the needs of any group in the past," Ivie said. "This shows a real commitment to all those programs."

Ivie characterized herself as a champion of informal student recreation. She emphasized that there will be times set aside for non-structured, open recreation on the field. Open play is scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights from 7 to 10 p.m., once the lights are operational and they have been aimed to illuminate the field properly.

Most of the policies regarding equipment, operating times, and proper behavior are posted at the field's entrance. Some of the most important ones are:

- No metal cleats are allowed on the field. Shoes with plastic dimples are OK, and any rubber-soled shoes are also acceptable.
- No metal spikes on the running track.
- No sharp objects are to be brought into the area, as they could pierce the grass mat. This would include javelins, utility knives, portable chairs or tables, etc.

- No dogs are permitted at any time.
- No alcohol is permitted at any time. Some individuals may have gotten away with bringing alcohol in previously, but this regulation will now be carefully enforced.
- No chewing tobacco or gum permitted.
- No golfing is allowed ("Would you believe we've already found a golf ball?" Ivie asked in amazement).

Anyone using the field, especially in these first six months or so, should seriously consider wearing knee and elbow pads. The exposed sand and plastic fibers have already created an impressive collection of large abrasions on numerous knees. Players in last week's alumni soccer game seemed to make slide tackles and survive unscathed, but some innocent-looking falls resulted in large patches of bloody skin.

"It's unrelenting," Stauffer said of the surface. "I've seen a lot of bad abrasions and bloody knees. . . we have to do something to protect the kids."

"Last year, we invested heavily in mouthpieces [because of balls bouncing up off the rough turf]," said Stauffer. "This year it's kneepads."

"I'm real anxious to see the Rec Sports programs. I think there are going to be problems," she said. Recreational Sports personnel have said they will have first-aid available during recreational hours, but knee pads and a little care should go a long way towards preventing strawberries.

The short-term effects of the new surface are mixed, and fairly obvious. The long-term effects are less obvious, overwhelmingly favorable, and very far-reaching.

Both Stauffer and Lundy anticipate recruiting higher quality players, and holding special tournaments at VCU. Both said the field had already given VCU a better reputation in field hockey

and soccer circles.

Stauffer worked at the National Olympic festival field hockey games in Chapel Hill, N.C., where she "rubbed elbows" with other coaches from around the region and the country. "They've already inquired about using our site for a development camp," Stauffer said.

Meanwhile, Lundy said a nationally-known recruiting prospect drove down from Syracuse, N.Y., just to take a look at VCU and its new field. The long-range effect should be better recruiting, more visibility for VCU players, and more fun for fans and intramural participants.

"The field is great. We think that it offers a great opportunity for our teams to play in a first-class facility," said Dr. Richard Sander, Director of Athletics at VCU. "It's better than others that are more or less carpet."

Sander cited the efforts of VCU president Dr. Edmund Ackell, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Dr. Richard Wilson, and Senior Vice President for Administration Donald Bruegman, in bringing the field to completion.

Sander also indicated that a natatorium will eventually be built on the MCV campus, with aquatic rehabilitation facilities included in the package. And six tennis courts and two basketball courts are to be built within the year in the area around the new Academic Building and adjacent to the Cary Street Gym. All of this construction, when finally done, will allow VCU's teams to play on campus (or close to it—with the baseball team at the Diamond), at long last.

For right now, though, the new field's effect is best summed up by Stauffer. "We have something nice and beautiful. I have a new job. A new career. It's a renaissance, if you will."

"The kids aren't late to practice. I have new life."

Spikers are back

By Chris Simpleman
Staff Writer

Last night the VCU womens' volleyball team, hoping to improve their 1986 record of 18-22, began its season against Northern Virginia rival George Mason University. "Last season we won 11 of our last 14 games," said Coach Wendy Wadsworth. "The team has experienced big changes this year." By practicing three hours a day, the Lady Rams prepare for the tough season that lies ahead.

Duke University, Eastern Kentucky, Memphis State, and Michigan appear to offer the team the toughest competition. "We are unfamiliar with these teams because we haven't played them in two years," said Wadsworth. Closer to home the Lady Rams face challenges from George Mason, James Madison, the University of Virginia, and William and Mary. "Before classes started we had eight-hour day practices," said Wadsworth.

The team consists of Kim Magman, Jonnie Stone, Rosetta Brickhouse, Margaret Coughlin, Angela Hall, Heidi Kantz, Donna Milano, Lisa Szczerba, Heidi Watz, Shelley Seitz and Sarah Lewis. "We have more unity than many other sports," said the coach. "Every move on the court affects the team."

The team also spends five hours a week working on the mental aspects of the

game. "We give feedback to each other while building up the team's confidence," said Wadsworth. This gained trust helps the team work together during matches. "A volleyball court consists of a 30 by 31 [foot] space and every sigh and sound among the team can be heard during play," said Wadsworth.

The Lady Rams have the assistance of Linda Elliot, who is new to the staff. "This season we will all work as one unit, it is a team concept," said Wadsworth.

X-Country starts well

By Sean Connolly
Staff Writer

Aided by the one-two punch, the mens' and womens' cross country teams started their season on a high note.

The womens' team was sparked by Linda Trew's first place finish. She covered the three miles in 17:34 and now holds the new course record. Junior runner Paula Barr cruised to a second place finish with a clocking of 17:56. Freshman Judy Ford, junior Donna Connor and sophomore Lea Hehn rounded out the top five for the young Rams team.

"The women won it going away again," said head cross country coach Jim Morgan. "What I like best was the performance of the top five women. They all had excellent times and were really running against the clock since there was no competition." The women placed first out of seven teams which brings their record to a perfect 6-0.

The mens' team finished one point behind first place Campbell University. Campbell was aided by former Monican standout and LSU cross country runner Jeff Slater who won the five-mile race in 27:04.

The Rams were led by Larry Cluff, a 22-year-old from Fort Bragg. Cluff ran a 27:45 on the soggy course and finished seventh overall. Junior Bill Fiske crossed the line in 27:52 which earned him a ninth place finish. Third for the Rams and twelfth overall was Mike Rinko, a transfer student from Utica College of Syracuse University. Junior Sean Connolly and sophomore John Moses rounded out the top five.

The tough Rams turned in a second place finish despite the fact that last year's number one runner, Trampas Riggs, suffered a sprained ankle halfway through the course. Coach Morgan said, "We knew we were going to have a very strong mens' team and they proved it today when one of our top runners went down and did not finish. They were still able to take second place, only missing first place by one point." An explosive 7-1 start marks the best beginning ever for the VCU men's cross country team.

Next week both cross country teams travel to Essex, Md., for the Essex Invitational.

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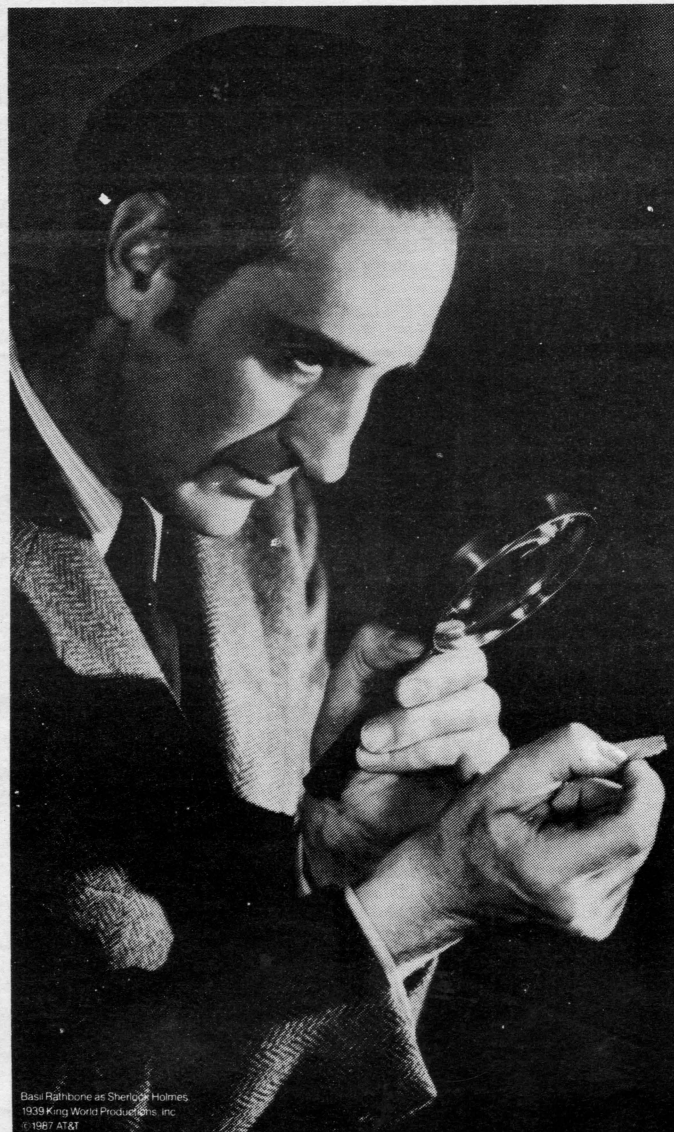
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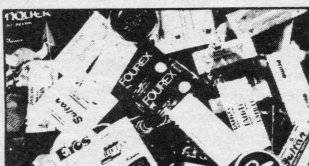


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Basu Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes
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Eight Days A Week

Compiled by Gail O'Hara & Tasha Miller



Love Tractor will be appearing at Rockitz on Saturday.

Wednesday the 9th

Bus Stop Dance to that groovy beat! It's not "British New Wave" night anymore! Our favorite flashing discotheque has initiated "New Music" night, and finally come to terms with this decade. Burn, baby, burn, disco inferno. **Commons Plaza** Organizational Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., now's the time to join the organization you've been meaning to join, don't miss it! Be there! **Rockitz ApoCowLypso** with Future Neighbors

Intramural Flag Football last day to submit entries to Cary Street Recreation Complex. Activity begins Sept. 14.

Panhellenic Rush begins. Continues through Sept. 13.

Aerobics Classes free at Cary Street Gym. 12-1 p.m., 4-5 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Virginia Museum The following exhibits: "Haunting" Ceremonial art from New Guinea, will be shown at the Museum through October 4; "13 Prints by One/ Off," exhibit will run through October 18; And "PORTRAIT: Faces of the '80s", an exhibition of American portrait photography since 1980, will be on display until September 13.

Thursday the 10th

Max's Corner Cafe Ladies night **Rockitz** From Athens, GA: Three bands that make R.E.M. wish they were dead, Flat Duo Jets, Bar-B-Q Killers and Killkenny Kats. These are the bands to watch.

Anderson Gallery School of the Arts Faculty Show preview for faculty, students, university administrators and the public, from 7-9 p.m. Works on display through Oct. 25, 907 1/2 W. Franklin St. **Marsh Gallery (UR)** "Janet Fish, Paintings and Drawings since 1975," exhibit begins, with a reception at 8:30 p.m. Runs through October 3.

Millhiser House The Commonwealth Times staff invites every student on campus to come to an open house at 6:30 p.m. The offices are located on the 2nd floor of 916 W. Franklin St.

University Convocation Performing Arts Center, 3:30 p.m.

Outdoor Adventure Program "Adventure Film Day." Common Ground, 12 noon and 6 p.m.

Sign-up Deadline for Outdoor Adventure Program's Beginner Rock Climbing Trip (Sept. 12), and OAP Canoeing Trip on the James (Sept. 12).

Aerobics Classes free at Cary Street Gym. Classes run 12-1 p.m., 4-5 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Friday the 11th

Rockitz Love Tractor with Flat Stanley **Max's Corner Cafe** Not Shakespeare and the Eccentrics

The Pyramid Dance night 1708 E. MAIN In Gallery One, SCULPTURE SHOW, featuring Patrick Dougherty, Ted Hirsch, Virginia Van Horn, Michael Warrick. In Gallery Two, DAVI DET HOMPSON. Exhibits run through September 26.

Shafer Court features the Cashmere Jungle Lords, 5-7:30 p.m.

Weekend Retreat The School of Social Work BSW and MSW Associations are sponsoring a weekend retreat Sept. 11-13 at Camp Holiday Trails. The cost for students is \$10 and includes food and lodging. The trip is open to all students.

Theatre VCU opens its season with "Aunt Dan and Lemon." Raymond Hodges Theatre, 8 p.m. General Admission \$4, senior citizens and students \$3, free to VCU students with valid ID.

Aerobics Classes free at Cary Street Gym, 12-1 p.m., 4-5 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Biograph Theatre Famous local band ApoCowLypso opens up for the midnight movie, which is "Blood Feast."

Saturday the 12th

Kings Dominion is still open!

The Pyramid Dance night

Mosque An evening with Mike Warnke, former Satanist high priest, now America's #1 Christian comedian, at 7:30 p.m.

Richmond Marriott A Luncheon-Fashion show, the theme is "An Affair to Remember," there will be two shows, one at 10:30 a.m. and the other at 2 p.m. The event will be sponsored by the American Business Women's Association. For info call 266-6752.

Hodges Theatre "Aunt Dan and

Lemon," 8 p.m.

Outdoor Adventure Program Beginner Rock Climbing and Canoeing on the James trips.

Sunday the 13th

New Horizon Cafe Reggae night **Commons Theater** VCU Alternative Films Committee presents the classic '30s gangster flick, "The Public Enemy," starring Jimmy Cagney. The film will be shown at 5 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., and it's FREE with a valid VCU ID, \$2 for the rest of the world.

Hodges Theatre "Aunt Dan and Lemon," 2:30 p.m.

Week of the Nurse program begins at MCV.

Monday the 14th

New Horizons Dead night **Common Ground** Finally, an ALTERNATIVE! Yes, it's WVCW Alternative Video night! Sick and tired of all that bad metal on MTV? Fed up with Video-Hideous-1? Now you can relax in the campus nightclub, even you youngsters, hang out and check out some progressive videos. It's the place to be and it's free with a valid VCU ID, from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Rockitz SST recordin' artists SONIC YOUTH are finally-playin' here in Riche Monde! (Just don't go until after WVCW night!)

SGA Meeting Commons, 4 p.m.

Tuesday the 15th

Rockitz FISHBONE!

Max's Corner Cafe 3 bands, 3 bucks **Tobacco Company Club** College night from 8 p.m.-1 a.m., featuring 25 cent drink specials.

Carpenter Center The Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats and Magicians at 8 p.m.

Food For Thought Luncheon & Lecture Series, the theme is "Issues Around the Constitution," featuring Dr. Charles Ruch, Provost and Academic V.P., VCU, from noon to 1 p.m. Pace Memorial United Methodist Church.

Coffee House Entertainment in the Common Ground. Featuring local talent, 7-9 p.m.

OAP Sailingboard Trip Sign-up deadline. (Trip Sept. 18-20.)



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