

COMMONWEALTH TIMES

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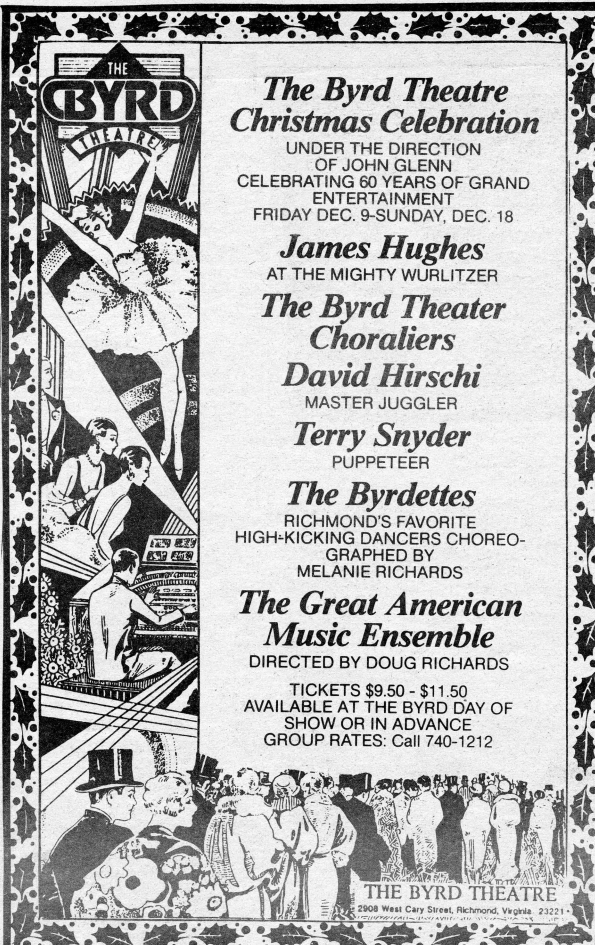
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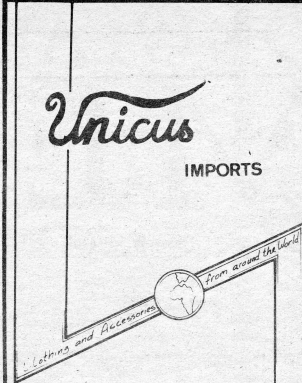
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News

Career

Fair good arena to begin looking at employment opportunities.

page 4

ROTC

Leadership skills promoted in VCU's ROTC program.

page 5

Sperm bank

Students earn money donating to Andrology Center.

page 5

Folio

Theatre VCU

Musical comedy *The Boy Friend* closes VCU's fall season.

page 11

"Women in Music"

Feminist lecturer speaks at the University of Richmond.

page 12

Lots of Ads

Take a break from all that darned copy in all the other sections!

page 13

Sports

Exhibitionists

The VCU basketball team defeats Marathon Oil in their last scrimmage competition.

page 15

Florida fever

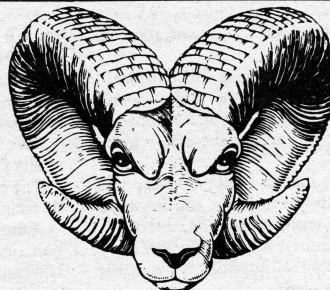
Jack Bell's golf team comes in sixth at the Florida Invitational Tournament.

page 15

Ram talk

A new radio show informs listeners about VCU sports teams and the athletic world.

page 16



VCU RAMS

Editorial

Front Page

Two views on the political scene, ala post election.

page 17

Grammatical Errors, Flippancy

A special midnight armchair leads the *'Times* into a blaze of sub-mediocrity.

page 19

Letters

Before retiring to the land of turkey and yams, read, think.

page 18

Policy

The Commonwealth Times, a newsmagazine serving Virginia Commonwealth University and its surrounding community, is published weekly, except during holidays and examination periods, by students of VCU.

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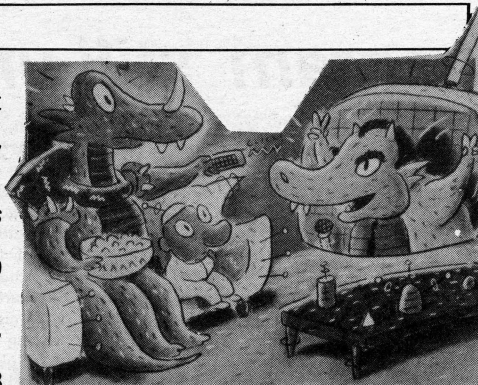
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The *Commonwealth Times* wishes you all a happy Thanksgiving. Our next issue will come out Dec. 6.



Career fair deemed a success

By Amanda Kell
Staff Writer

More than 600 students, alumni and faculty attended "Prospects '88," VCU's first career fair, from 1 to 6:30 p.m. last Wednesday, Nov. 16 in the Student Commons.

The fair, sponsored by Career Planning and Placement, was the place for job-seekers to meet recruiters from 29 corporations and local, state and federal governments. Prospective employers included the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Power and IBM.

Some were on campus for the first time, like Pepsi-Cola Co.

"We're recruiting for sales, marketing and manufacturing positions," said Bob Ravener, Pepsi's Virginia employee relations manager. "We've talked to a lot of sales and marketing majors."

"What's really good here is the number of December graduates," he said. "I've been to Hampton, UVA and Virginia Tech and we haven't seen that."

Well-dressed students and graduates milled around the Commons ballroom, some carrying resumes, others handfuls of corporate souvenirs and brochures.

Maria Hart, a junior in Elementary Education, came to the fair because she saw the U.S. Peace Corps listed on a promotional flyer. She said she has always been interested in different cultures.

"This is the first chance I've had a chance to talk to a legal representative of the Peace Corps," she said. "You hear so many rumors."

Senior Vince Lamantia was checking on May job openings with Investors Savings Bank and Crestar Bank. He is majoring in business administration and



Students stop at various booths at VCU's Prospects '88 Career Fair.

Kathy Larcia Commonwealth Times

management with a concentration in personnel.

"This is a good arena in which to look," he said, gesturing to the tables around him. "It's good to see which companies are willing to put out the effort to be here."

Fair coordinator Susan Spencer was pleased with the turn-out and the good reviews she received from recruiters.

"The recruiters told me they saw more students than they normally see at career fairs," she added.

To prepare for the fair, she and the career office staff visited career fairs in

the area, including the University of Virginia's minority job fair, the College of William and Mary, Mary Washington College and a career fair in Washington, D.C. sponsored by 10 colleges.

"We wanted to look at the best points of all of them," she said.

The companies invited were suggested by faculty members, she said.

Employers visiting VCU for the first time, including Pepsi, Henrico County, IBM and the state Department of Social Services, will be contacted again by the career office.

"We wanted to have them all re-

presented on our spring interview schedule," Spencer said.

The fair was advertised heavily with radio spots on local stations, advertisements in the *Commonwealth Times* and the *Richmond newspapers*, flyers, posters, buttons and class announcements. Spencer also did an interview on WVCW 820 AM, the campus radio station, which was broadcast the day before the fair.

Spencer said the success of the fair probably means it will become an annual November event.

Education Program still under revision

By Mary Beth Woodford
Staff Writer

Although final details of the Extended Program are incomplete, some School of Education officials are working on ways to improve the education courses.

"We developed the program conceptually and then began to focus on its parts," said John Oehler, dean of the School of Education.

An important part of course development, Oehler said, is evaluating and restructuring based on information about how students learn.

Dan Reeves, chairman of the Department of Art Education in the School of the Arts, is working with the education school in developing a proposal congruent with the Extended Program. Reeves said studies have shown visual arts are very important in the way a person learns.

The School of the Arts, Reeves said, is planning to work out a program proposal with the School of Education that will

place an emphasis on creative arts.

"There's something in the works but we just don't know what it's going to be," Reeves said.

The art education chairman said that it has not been decided if the program will make use of existing courses or if completely new courses will be created.

Even though the idea of an art emphasis for education students is still in the planning process, Reeves said, it is very probable the classes wouldn't be advanced art classes. The advanced art classes, he explained, are built on art foundation classes for art majors — not the education students.

"What I have noticed in the public schools is a great deal of emphasis placed on learning through the arts," Reeves said, explaining that the arts help children express themselves.

The arts also play an important role in a child's learning process, he added, pointing out that "arts" include music and drama as well as the visual arts.

The program, now in place in the School of the Arts, offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a certification in music, drama or visual arts.

In the College of Humanities and Sciences, the students in the Extended Program spend their first two years completing general requirements for their degrees. They are permitted to begin their education classes their junior year — after entering an upper division in their major discipline.

"We chose to begin education classes in their third year for many reasons," Oehler said.

One reason, he explained, is that other extended program studies show it's not successful to put all education classes in the fifth year. Oehler said studies indicate that learning should last about three years for maximum benefit. The dean said another reason is to allow students the opportunity for clinical experience throughout their studies, making them more comfortable in a classroom environment.

Still another factor influencing when students enroll in education courses is the high number of transfer students admitted to VCU's education school.

Oehler estimates that 60 percent of the school's enrollment is composed of transfer students — something he sees as a major factor in changing curriculums.

Alan McLeod, head of the Division of Teacher Education, said that students coming into the field of education have a very diverse background — some come straight out of high school, some are older students who decide to come back to school, and some are transfer students.

"We have for a number of years served people coming from different backgrounds," McLeod said, pointing out the differences between an 18-year-old and a 47-year-old.

Oehler agrees that life experiences are important. Some of the older students, he said, return to school after raising a

See Education page 6

Sperm bank provides altruistic service

By Orlando Salinas Jr.
Staff Writer

Nice guys can masturbate in a petri dish and get paid for their effort, according to an ad that appeared in *Commonwealth Times*. This startling intelligence was confirmed by Dr. James M. East, director of the Andrology Center at Henrico Doctors Hospital.

If a prospective donor, after screening, is found to have an above average semen count, motility concentration and morphology (size, shape, and structure of sperm), he will be compensated for donating his sperm. East said that the donors are paid \$30 "for each visit," up to three visits a week, for a maximum of \$1,000 per school semester.

Dr. East said that currently about 10 males are screened thoroughly before two are found to be acceptable as donors in the program.

Presently, the Medical College of Virginia is Richmond's only other health care facility operating a sperm donor program at this time. According to a spokesperson for MCV, only medical and dental students from the school are being accepted as donors for their program.

Henrico Doctors' sperm donor program is in its third year of operation, and along with services that test for male infertility and offer in vitro fertilization (test tube pregnancy), together make up the Andrology Center at the hospital.

The American Fertility Society (AFS)

has created guidelines that Dr. East said are voluntary, but are adhered to by their program. The AFS, according to Dr. East, is considered by many donor programs to be an expert in the field of fertility, and has created what he termed "standards of care." Dr. East also added that although there is no federal regulation of the fertility industry, many programs around the country abide by the "strict" guidelines set up by the AFS.

Screening that is done at Henrico Doctors Hospital, by AFS standards, must also check for sexually-transmitted diseases, including AIDS. Hepatitis and various other diseases are screened as well. A medical history of the prospective donor, including his immediate and

distant family, is developed as well.

If a male is found to be "unacceptable" as a sperm donor, Dr. East maintains that that does not mean that prospective donor is incapable of having children if he so desires. "All that it (being found unacceptable) means, is that he wasn't able to meet our standards, and by looking at the number of males who are rejected as donors, you can tell (the standards) are quite high," said Dr. East. "Prospective donors who are rejected for the program, Dr. East added, "are told specifically why they were not accepted." "If someone tests positive for AIDS, or any other sexually transmitted disease, we don't

See Sperm page 6

ROTC emphasizes leadership



Cadets march in formation during weekend training at Fort Pickett.

Photo courtesy ROTC

By Katie Sharrar
News Editor

It's 5 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, a time when some people are just stumbling into bed after all-night adventures. For the VCU ROTC students who spent the Halloween weekend in Field Training Exercises at Fort Pickett though, 5 a.m. meant a three mile run.

ROTC, or Reserved Officers Training Corps, is a program for college students sponsored by various branches of the U.S. armed services. It allows students many options, such as developing

leadership skills, preparing for a career in the military and earning money for school. At VCU, the ROTC program is sponsored by the Army.

ROTC students are required to spend their junior and senior years in the MS-3 and MS-4 program. They take military science and leadership classes at VCU and are obligated to spend one weekend a semester in field training. ROTC students spend the summer between junior and senior years in advance camp, (in essence basic training or boot camp), at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. After graduation, ROTC scholarship cadets are

obligated to spend either four years on active duty and four years in reserves or eight years in the reserves.

In exchange for the students hard work, the Army provides the ROTC cadets with a monthly stipend while in college and also has many scholarships opportunities available. But, according to many VCU cadets, the most appealing aspects of ROTC are the leadership opportunities and excellent discipline that the Army can provide.

Lieutenant Colonel Sullivan, Professor of Military Science at the University of Richmond, defined leadership as "the

ability to focus a group of people on a common goal for a common purpose."

He pointed out that training for this leadership ability is not unique to the military however, as VCU Cadet Patrick Fauver, a junior criminal justice major, observed, the difference between military and business leadership is that in the military "you're responsible for the lives of 50 men."

Since leadership in the Army means responsibility for the lives of others, ROTC stresses the ability to think under

See ROTC page 10

Sperm

(from page 5)

just tell them what they've got and let them go, we refer them to an appropriate clinic or center where they can get counseling if possible or treatment."

Since federal law requires that donor records be kept for only seven years, the possibility of a child discovering who his or her father is, remains almost nonexistent. Daniel Graff, the programs senior technician, states that although this problem occurs periodically with adopted children, sperm donors have virtually "nothing" to worry about. Compared to adoption, Graff states that even if 20 years from now the child of a sperm donor wanted to find out his father's identity, it would be next to impossible. "After seven years, we don't need to keep the records, and after that point they would be destroyed," Graff said. Since the program at Henrico Doctors is only in its third year, complete records of the approximately 30 sperm donors accepted into the program since 1985, are still on file.

The donor program at the hospital, according to Dr. East, was created to help the single woman who wants to bear a child without a husband being involved physically, and for couples, if the man has a low sperm count or is completely infertile.

The advertisements for sperm donors appeared in student newspapers at Virginia Commonwealth University and

the University of Richmond. Dr. East says the ads may have been the reason for a recent increase in student inquiries at the center. Dr. East admits the attempt to appeal to males who may be considering becoming donors is made in two ways. "First, donors could look at this altruistically — they are doing a great service for people who can't have children. On the second level, they are given the chance to make a considerable amount of money in a short amount of time."

Currently, women and couples who purchase sperm from the Andrology Center, pay \$120 for 1 c.c. (20 million motile sperm). Graff added that although the woman or couples are charged for the sperm, current hospital policy allows for only their physician or other authorized personnel to handle the specimen. All donated sperm is frozen in liquid nitrogen at the center until there is a request for it. Once the sperm has been purchased, it is transported to the office of the woman's physician, where the insemination takes place. According to Graff, "it is a minor procedure."

The Andrology Center provides copies of men's magazines such as "Playboy" and "Penthouse", to serve as sexual stimulants for the male donors. Dr. East added that "couples, either married or engaged, are encouraged, anything that will help the male relax." Theoretically, a male who answers all the questions on the initial application "the right way", will be tested thoroughly. If he is found anywhere in the screening process to be unfit as a

donor "for any reason," the procedure is stopped immediately.

When asked if two males would be allowed to enter the "collecting room" (where the male ejaculates) together, East replied no. After conferring with hospital attorneys about whether not allowing two men to enter the collecting room together would constitute discrimination, East responded, "there is no biological reason for two males to be in that room together, and also there is no way to know who is providing the specimen if the (males) go in together."

While East was quick to emphasize that the Andrology Center is not targeting homosexuals for discrimination in the donor program, Graff said homosexuality "is not normal behavior," and he would not encourage their participation. "The first responsibility the Andrology Center has," said Graff, "is to potential recipients — that means compliance with AFS rules, which disallow high risk groups to be donors, and homosexuals fall into that category."

The emergence of AIDS onto the health scene has been and continues to be addressed in the sperm donor program, Dr. East maintained. Still, as a precaution, women must sign a release form, waving the hospital and its employees from any consequences that may result from specimens supplied by the center. John Mitchell, Communications Officer at Henrico Doctors Hospital said that chance of an aids-infected specimen escaping detection "is not probable although not

impossible."

One Virginia hospital administrator said the possibility of a woman delivering an AIDS-infected infant, as a result of infected donor sperm, cannot be overlooked. The physician, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that "although the medical community is doing all that is humanly possible to contain the spread of the disease, to say that sperm donor programs are immune from it (AIDS) would be wrong."

According to Dr. East, the Andrology Center at Henrico Doctors Hospital supplies enough donor sperm for approximately 420 inseminations each year.

Education

(from page 4)

family or working in another profession and these students have very different needs from those coming straight out of high school.

McLeod said plans are underway to create programs for potential teachers who already have a bachelor's degree. A task force, the division head added, is working on such a program this semester, and colleagues from public schools will be consulted to help with proposals.

As dean, Oehler has the final responsibilities for the Education School's Extended Program, and he sees the need to continue working to improve the plan on the drawing board.

"We're building the final pieces of the programs as the students are in them," Oehler said, explaining that upper-level coursework for the Extended Program has not yet been completed.

Some hints to drop at Christmas!

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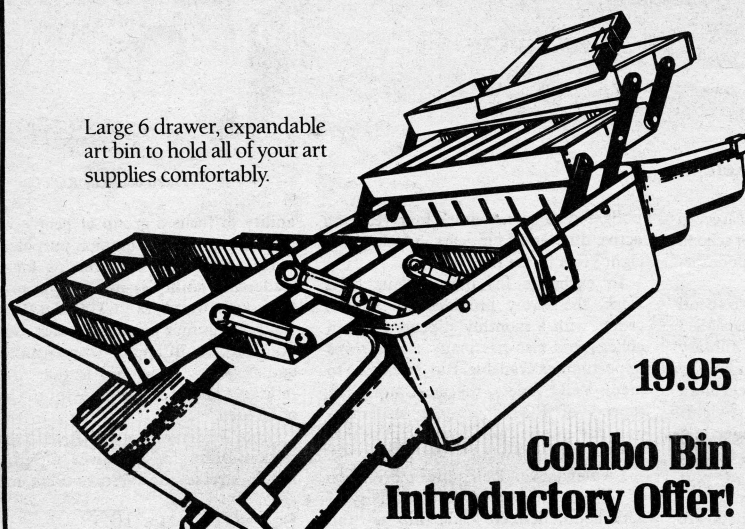
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Lecturer discusses tenure denial

By Scott Loving
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Nov. 10, Leonard Minsky addressed the topic of ideological censorship in his lecture, "McCarthyism in the 80's: Can It Happen Here?"

Minsky, the executive director of the National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest, began the lecture with general information on McCarthyism.

According to Minsky, western nations funded white forces under the czar during the revolution in the Soviet Union in 1917. This was done in order to keep communism from spreading to other countries.

By the 1950's, there were a few communists in the United States, but they were weak and poorly organized.

Joe McCarthy wanted to expose the communists, in hopes that the nation would band against them.

His ideas were tolerated until he attempted to expose communists in the army. When he attacked the military, McCarthy was removed from office.

Minsky said that McCarthyism is the tendency to only tolerate a specific point of view. He went on to assert that a subtle form of McCarthyism is being practiced at universities across the nation.

"The desire to get rid of people on the left has gone underground," said Minsky.

Minsky said that this is done through the tenure process.

In 1965, the Higher Education Act opened up universities to minorities and offered student loans at low interest rates.

According to Minsky, the minorities said that the curriculum needed to be changed in order to allow for minority studies. The universities brought people in to teach these new courses, but also brought in a new way of evaluating them.

Minsky stated that three major criteria for determining whether or not an instructor should be granted tenure are community service, teaching and the policy of "publish or perish."

The problem with the "publish or perish" system, Minsky said, is that minorities tend to publish in minority

journals which are not recognized as having the same importance as the "mainstream" journals.

Minsky said that when it came time for a minority instructor to be evaluated for tenure, the evaluating committee could claim that the instructor did not write enough in "mainstream" journals and deny that individual tenure.

He went on to say that there is now a fourth major way of determining whether an instructor should be granted tenure: money.

"Money now makes a bigger difference

to faculty selection than the faculty knows about," Minsky said. He went on to say that in 1980, the government cut funds to universities, so that now they are forced to go to corporations for necessary funding.

Minsky said that in the vast majority of the cases that the Coalition handles, outside money is the real criteria behind an instructor's tenure denial. Outside money is promised to a university if certain faculty members "disappear."

The lecture was presented by the Committee for Academic Freedom.

Philosophy and Religious Studies Chairman Mark Overvold dies at age 40

By Katie Sharrar
News Editor

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, Mark Overvold, chairman of VCU's Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, died of cancer. He was 40 years old.

Professor Overvold found out about the cancer in late August. Despite the physical pain and emotional trauma of having a terminal illness, Overvold maintained a "sunny disposition," according to other faculty members in his department.

Philosophy professor Brad Hooker observed "the few people Mark told were moving around with wet cheeks from

crying while other people had a hard time believing anything was wrong from him. Mark was unbelievably brave."

Professor Earle Coleman was at VCU when Overvold arrived eleven years ago.

About his colleague and friend, Coleman said that Overvold embodied both the virtues of spirit and intellect that were extolled by Aristotle. As Coleman said, "He combined an excellent mind with a good heart."

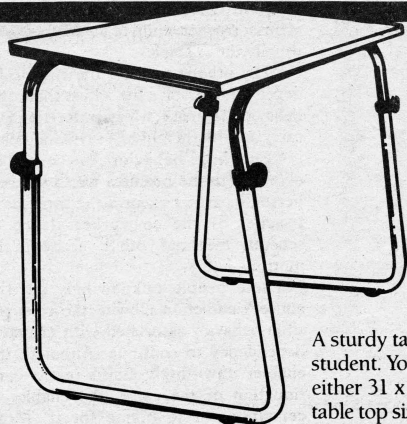
Coleman, like Hooker, noted the cheerfulness of Overvold's spirit during his last months. He said, "it was a daily ordeal to see his body wither while his spirit was so damn positive."

Overvold was known internationally

for his research on the philosophical concept of self-interest. He also wrote logic questions for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test). At VCU, Overvold taught ethics, political philosophy and the philosophy of knowledge.

In Richmond, Overvold is survived by his wife Angelina, and his two sons, Leif and Jon-Mark.

If you would like to contribute to the trust fund for the education of Professor Overvold's two sons, gifts can be sent to Jim Beran, Trustee, 2101 California Street, Apartment 104, Mountain View, CA 94040, payable to "Mark Overvold Trust."



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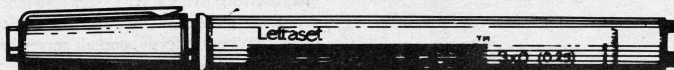
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PLAZA

Volunteer group founded

By Debbie Barnett
Staff Writer

Non-profit community service organizations usually require a great deal of attention during the winter season. Funds are low and help is hard to find, leaving some of the organizations unable to assist needy clients.

The Community Activity Coordinating Agency (CACA) was founded by a group of VCU public administration students to address this situation.

Realizing that fraternities and sororities are always looking for worthwhile service projects, CACA created a "link-up" system. The "link-up" system matches organizations in need of service projects with a fraternity or sorority willing to do that service project.

Bucky Taylor, the director of CACA,

summed up the group's efforts: "We made an effort to contact the NFP (Not-for-Profit) organizations that were close to campus and had a genuine need. We've gotten some extremely positive responses from eleven organizations and they welcome the help . . . any help.

"The problem we are having, and it is a disturbing one, is trying to get campus organizations to commit to helping these NFP organizations. Either the campus organizations are too busy or are too apathetic. The disturbing factor is that many of these organizations have service-oriented charters."

The NFP's who have set up service projects include MDA, the Ronald McDonald House, the Emergency Shelter, and the Red Cross.

Organizations who have expressed interest in these service projects include

Alpha Kappa Lambda, Phi Omicron Psi, Gamma Psi, Phi Mu, Delta Sigma Theta, and Alpha Sigma Alpha. Plans are currently underway to include more organizations, as each of the NFP's mentioned have a variety of service projects that are waiting to be done.

The unique part of this group project is that it will not end at the conclusion of the fall semester.

A new organization called the Student Volunteer Services has recently formed to provide this service on a regular basis. Their hopes include working with all organizations at VCU to help show the "service spirit."

For more information on how to become involved in the Student Volunteer Services, contact Anthony Jones at 358-8392.

Enablers help them drink

Do you pour alcohol down the drain, hoping the drinking will stop? Are you making excuses for a loved one who is constantly late or forgets appointments altogether? If you answer yes to these questions, you could be "enabling" a chemically dependent person — giving him or her reasons to avoid confronting his or her actions.

"The enabler's behavior begins with the need to adjust to the chemically dependent person and to fill in the activities where that person leaves off," explains Michael Goodman, program director of the Outpatient Chemical Dependency Unit at Dominion Hospital.

"For example," he explained, "Children will keep track of what day the trash is going out because Dad doesn't remember to do it. Or a husband doesn't invite people home on Fridays because he knows that his wife will be drunk."

Goodman continues, "New behaviors are incorporated into the enabler's life in an effort to maintain the family's harmony as best as possible."

According to Goodman, the enabler is an important person in the abuser's life. For each chemically dependent person, there are another four people who are affected. One of these people — be it spouse, partner, child or co-worker — is usually the enabler.

"The other people in the chemically dependent person's life adjust their own behavior to make it easier for them to carry on with their lives," says Goodman.

"Enabling behavior can even be observed in the business world where a person's partner excuses the three-hour lunches or the co-workers learn to schedule meetings with the abuser in the morning hours."

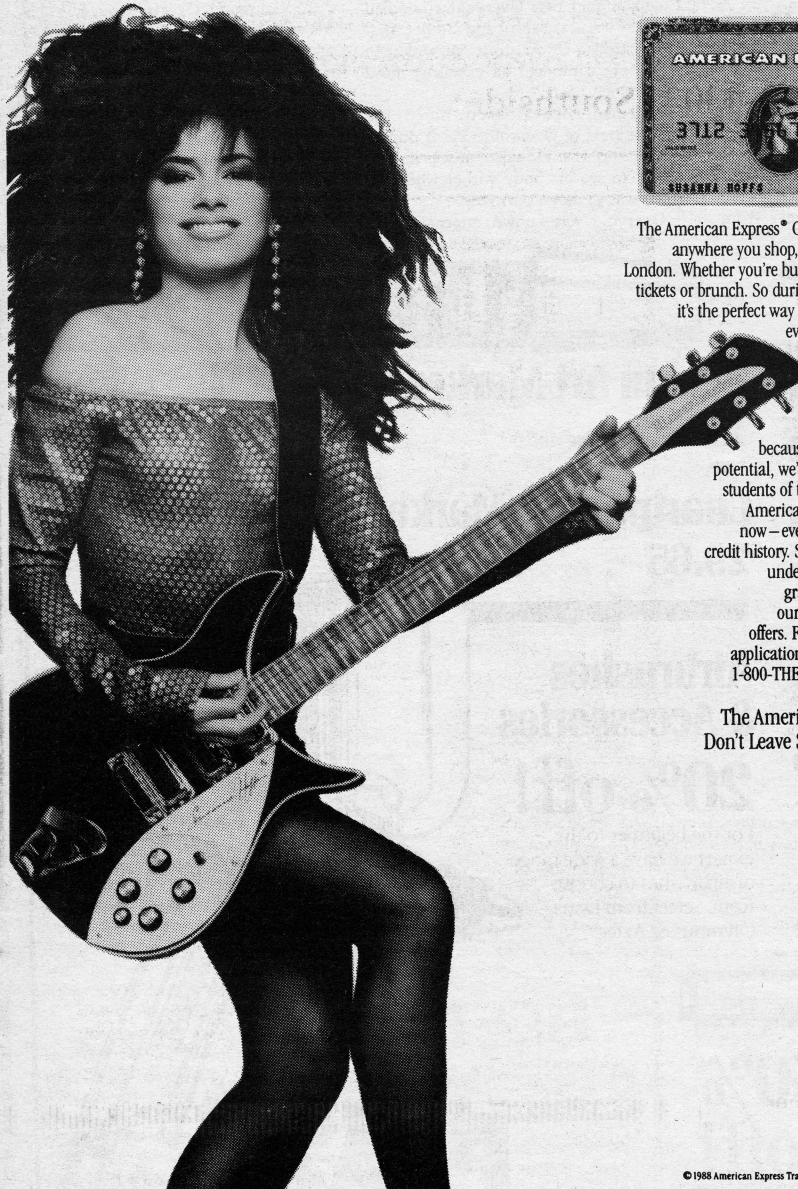
These people unknowingly aid the abuser's addiction allowing the irresponsible behavior associated with chemical dependency to continue. Although the enabler unwittingly assists in the continuation of the cycle, the enabler is certainly not to blame for it. More importantly, they are usually the best people to help break the cycle of addiction.

"Enabling behavior becomes a coping method that can continue for as long as 15 to 20 years. And the cycle of assisting the alcoholic doesn't just stop by itself," continues Goodman.

"The best way to identify yourself or someone else as an enabler is through examining addictive behaviors. Hopefully, through identification of particular behaviors, most enablers will realize what has been occurring and will seek assistance for themselves even if they are not able to help the chemically dependent person get treatment," he adds.

"Learning about enabling and intervention methods allows the enabler to shape his own behavior in such a way as to make the abuser realize his or her problem sooner. Ideally the behavior pattern is broken before the physical damages of addiction are irreversible," concludes Goodman.

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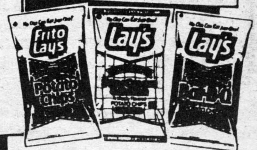


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(from page 5)

pressure. The Army establishes specific procedures of appropriate actions to take when in high pressure situations in which a cadet might truly be responsible for the lives of 50 men.

Lt. Delaney, an '88 graduate of the University of Richmond's ROTC program, said "leadership is making decisions. In the Army you are given guidelines to work in — like any job. In the Army you learn to make the correct decision at the correct time."

Making appropriate decisions is a skill which can later be applied to the corporate world. Many students are interested in cultivating their leadership skills in ROTC and then moving on to the corporate world after serving their military obligation.

Cadet Stephen Davis, a junior majoring in business management, noted that the discipline of the military is a good way to learn leadership skills and develop discipline. He pointed out with a smile, "if I can come out here at 5:30 and run, I can definitely make it to the office by eight."

Many female cadets also enjoy the benefits, opportunities and leadership development of ROTC.

Women do have to work a little harder in the beginning to prove that they can make it physically and mentally.

As Captain Spinelli, an instructor at VCU, observed, "(Women) have to prove that we can keep up physically. After a while, we start getting treated like everyone else." She also said, "the more women that come in, the better it (the military) gets for women."

Cadet Mary Weist, a junior nursing student, also believes that there are not too many barriers for women in the military on one condition.

"If you're willing to take the leadership roles and have enough confidence to carry it out, then there are not too many (barriers) — as long as you can adjust," West said. West will be commanding a platoon of 32 cadets — both male and female — when she goes to advanced camp this summer.

Cadet Theresa Watts, a senior nursing student, wants to make a lifelong career of the military. She started reading about military nursing and inquired about the ROTC program during her sophomore year. She went to basic camp, a different program than advanced camp, and enjoyed it.

Because of the stable career benefits and the advantage of being able to do the same job with many different people in different places, Watts wants to make a career out of the military.

Lt. Sullivan recommended that students come in and try out a course or two since there is no obligation to the Army until paperwork is signed — something a student does not do by simply taking a class.

Sullivan emphasized the potential benefits of the military: scholarship opportunities, opportunities for graduate school, leadership experience and discipline.

However, both ROTC students and military officers who interact with the students remarked that ROTC and the military is not meant for everyone. The best thing to do is try it out and see how well you like it. As for the overall quality of ROTC students, neither Sullivan or Delaney could resist bragging a little bit about the quality of the VCU cadets. They both agreed—the VCU cadets are "super."



Cadets learn about field training in outdoor classroom.

Photo courtesy ROTC

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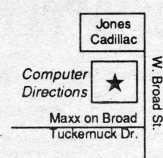
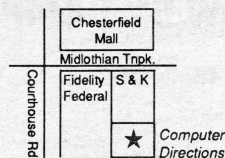
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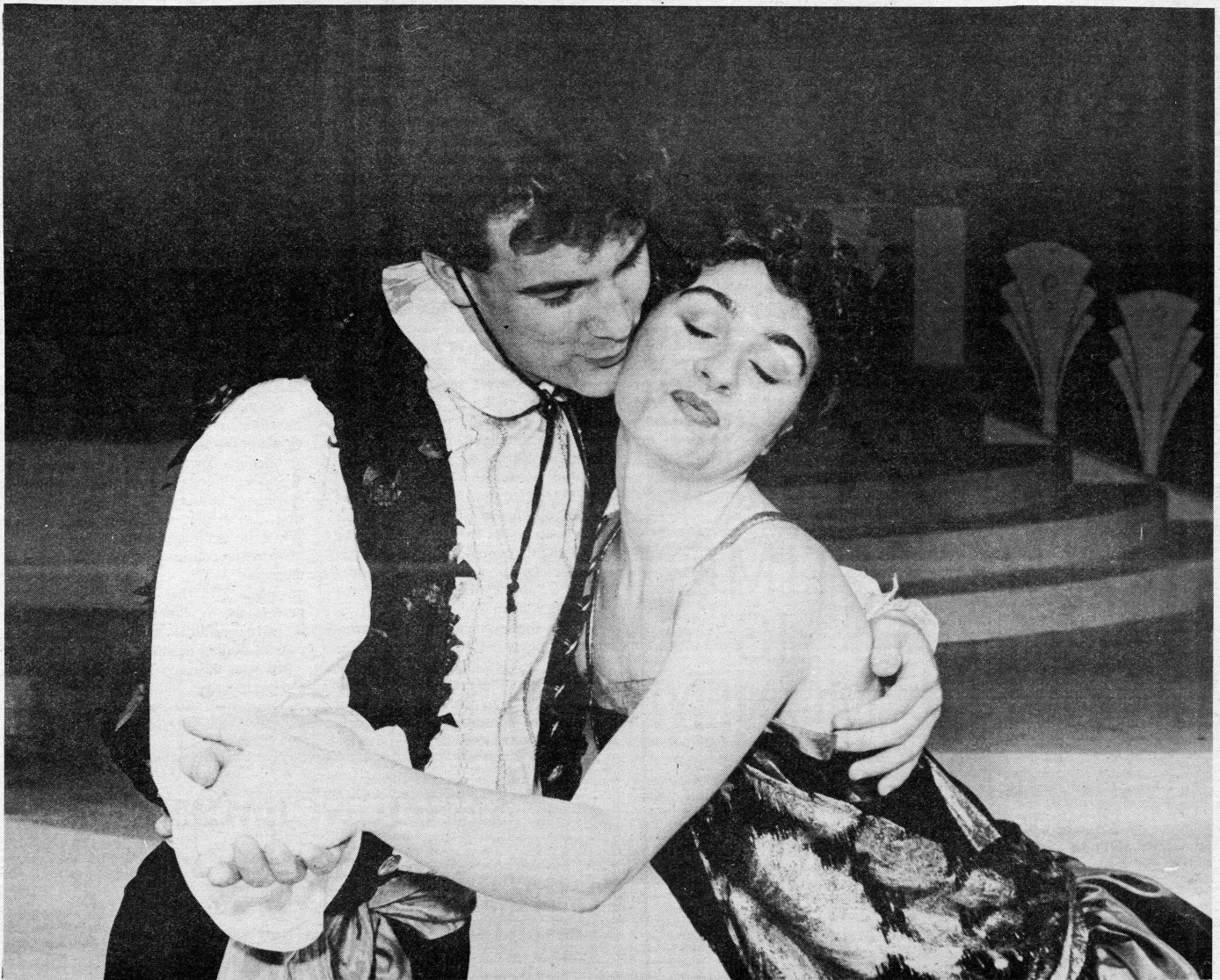
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Theatre VCU's *The Boy Friend*



Jon Cook and Gretchen Casler in VCU's *The Boy Friend*

By Hetty Lipscomb
Staff Writer

The Boy Friend, a classic Boy Meets Girl musical comedy by Sandy Wilson, is the last show of Theatre VCU's fall season. Friday's performance was an example of the best efforts of VCU's theater, music and stage design departments. The opening moments of the presentation looked promising with the brightly-colored, stylized art deco set and upbeat music provided by pianists Jose C. Simbulan, Emily K. Townley and drummer Richard Grundy. Their performances were the most lively and consistent throughout the show. Musical comedy is perhaps the most difficult genre of theatre to really bring off. It takes a lot of what the VCU students had to offer, and that's ENERGY.

The Boy Friend is a particular toughie

because it deals with the silliest of sex role playing, dated humor, sentimental lyrics and an overall saccharine quality. But that's what this show is about. It's a relaxing, No Agnst Allowed bit of evening fluff. My Aunt Jenna May would love it. The challenge of a musical like *the Boy Friend* is to get the humor past kitsch and into parody.

The Boy Friend is set during the Roaring '20s in the South of France. Polly Browne, a rich man's daughter at Madame Dubonnet's finishing school, longs for a boyfriend to take her to the upcoming masquerade ball. When a delivery boy brings Polly her costume, it's love at first sight. Fearing that he'll only love her for her money, Polly tells the boy that she's a secretary for Madame. Little does she know that the delivery boy is Tony Brockhurst, a wealthy man to be who is on the run from Oxford. Meeting

later at the beach, Tony is spotted by his parents. He runs away in fear, leaving Polly abandoned, sad and dateless. Thanks to the maneuvering of Hortense the maid and Madame Dubonnet, Polly attends the ball after all. Tony arrives to make amends, everyone confesses to their true identity and the whole stage ends up in couples, with the unfortunate exception of Hortense.

The first act of Friday's performance was lackluster. Although the singers were clearly giving their best effort, they were self-conscious while smirking, giggling and speaking in trilled, inconsistent British accents. Instincts were good, when for example, Polly meets Tony for the first time. As he hands her a dress box, they stare into each others eyes one second . . . two . . . three . . . BANG, the box falls on the floor. It's a cute idea, but it didn't quite work — maybe because the

actors felt afraid to go through with the action in the big, almost overdone way that this type of theatre requires.

The choreography, based on the Charleston and other '20s-style finger shaking, hands on knees, cliched steps, was uninspired and repetitive. The pantomime during "A Room in Bloomsbury" was vague; Is she cooking or what?! Far more enjoyable were the group dance performances, specifically in the second act when Maisie, vibrantly performed by Gretchen Casler, explains in a song entitled "Safety in Numbers" to a group of male admirers that she loves them all. Flirting and dancing with each, her character was ininspired and repetitive. The pantomime during "A Room in Bloomsbury" was vague; Is she cooking or what?! Far more enjoyable were the

See *Boy Friend* page 14

"The History of Women in Music"

By Shelley Ottenbrite
Staff Writer

One of the reasons for women's studies classes is the fact that the perspectives, values and ways of thinking of one-half the human race have been left out of most areas of study.

This is not to say that these perspectives are less valuable, or that women are not included in most courses—we all know of some women who are commonly studied . . . Flannery O'Connor, Georgia O'Keefe and Queen Victoria. But the "add women and stir" method of including women in the syllabus means students miss out on contextual understandings and on an opportunity to intellectually explore cultural alternatives.

Fortunately, there are people involved in promoting women's studies at VCU, and it was through them that I learned of a lecture at the University of Richmond: "The History of Women in Music," with Judy Gorman-Jacobs.

Since UR doesn't have the greatest sense in hiring speakers (I'm thinking of Timothy Leary), I approached the lecture last week with caution.

Gorman-Jacobs is a singer who has recorded on the One Sky Music International label called "If Dreams Were Thunder."

She is a humorous, down-to-earth lecturer who has shared her craft at a long list of colleges and international music

festivals.

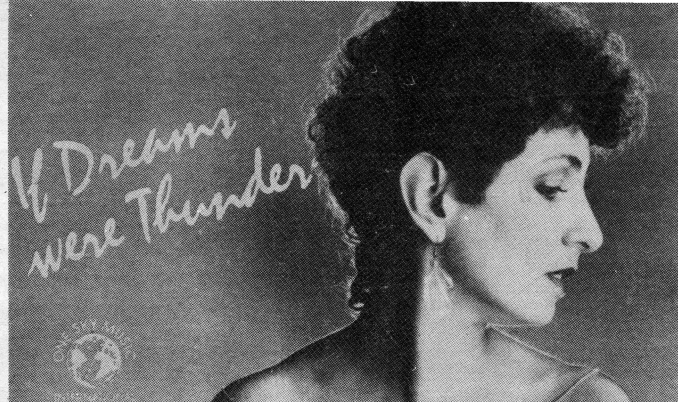
Dressed in black leather, she delivered her raspy-voiced sketch of women's involvement in music by quoting from index cards and a textbook.

More importantly, through personal observations, she encouraged every woman in the room to question the status quo, which denies the value of women's culture.

People's connection to their culture is empowering, declared Gorman-Jacobs, and ever since patriarchy became a dominant social condition, women's lifestyles have been devalued.

Highlighting women's culture is not just about gender differences, she said, but about cultural values, and what it means to be wholly human. Learning about the role of music in women's experience is one way to appreciate and find meaning in human life.

For instance, before the corruption of women's culture, belly-dancing was a sacred event when women would perform for other women preparing for childbirth. This dance would let the pregnant woman celebrate and reflect on the special position she held. As a ritual, it conveyed a sense of familiarity, mastery and security in the face of the unknown. Furthermore, women went through childbirth surrounded by a chorus of women—perhaps a better distraction from pain than today's breathing techniques and the hand of a squeamish husband.



Feminist musician Judy Gorman-Jacobs

The earliest examples of women's history in music are inscriptions on pottery from days when goddesses reigned. At this time, women had enormous power as keepers of the sacred, holy life-force for their socio-religious community.

It is not surprising, then, that the pottery is decorated with umbilical cords and other women's symbols, as well as women playing musical instruments.

Later, women were wiped out of cultural involvement in Western society. The Roman Catholic Church, rather than corrupt its sacred rituals with the participation of female singers, bought boys from poor families and castrated them. This mutilation necessarily occurred on a sizable scale since medical conditions meant most boys died, and not every castrated male could sing. The reigning opinion was: better to geld some males than to let men and women be everything they could. Needless to say, it wasn't women performing these adjustments. So much for the myth of the castrating woman.

By the Renaissance, musical instruments came to be socially defined as masculine and feminine. Masculine instruments were those which were played with the mouth or which involve open postures, the contortion of body parts and frantic gesticulation. Feminine in-

struments were large and unweildly, and couldn't be played outside the home (like the harpsichord).

Musical taboos are still reflected in our culture, though they are disappearing. For instance, about half the Richmond symphony, including one of the conductors, are women.

Around town, there are a few female singers, drummers and guitar players. However, lyrics are still written mostly by males, many of whom hold stereotypical opinions about witchy, man-eating, heart-stealing babes.

Gorman-Jacobs, being more of a travelling songstress than a scholar, ended with a group song about being a woman and being a powerful part of society.

She reminded everyone that we are all carriers of culture. All of us can write, sing, dance, play sports and tell jokes. While the dominant ideology would have us be passive consumers of music, records, tapes and MTV, we don't need to ally ourselves with that culture. It disempowers us by ignoring and denying individual abilities to follow our own ways of finding meaning in the world.

Knowing the reaches of human abilities and perspectives and learning to decide on your own life-course is what an education should be all about.

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Open hearing on the use of Student Activity Fees and all related monies for compensation and salaries to student organizational members will be held in the University Student Commons, Room A, Tuesday, November 29, 1988 from 3:00 — 5:00 p.m.

Individuals wishing to speak at the hearing are asked to register with Rosa Richardson or Barbara Smith by calling 367-1244. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes. Questions will follow each presentation.

This Hearing will be conducted by the Committee on Student Affairs (a sub-committee of The University Council).

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group dance performances, specifically in the second act when Maisie, vibrantly performed by Gretchen Casler, explains in a song entitled "Safety in Numbers" to a group of male admirers that she loves them all. Flirting and dancing with each, her character was clearly enjoying herself — who wouldn't? Likewise, in the third act, the couples at the masquerade ball had fun not only as characters, but as performers. It makes sense that these "up" moments in the show occurred when the actors could have a good time with their work, relax and break away from their self-consciousness.

Another outstanding performance came from Elizabeth Williams, an MFA candidate in acting. She played Madame Dubonnet, the sultry head of a finishing school. Williams wasn't afraid of the dramatic quality of her character as she sashayed around Mr. Brown, Polly's father, reminding him of their former trysts. CeCi Stephens was a real hoot as Hortense, Madame Dubonnet's maid. Her parodied French accent was the best understood, while her scoldings, exclamations, and facial expressions reminded me of Albain in *La Cage Aux Folles*. Michael Joyner gave a strong performance as Tony, the smitten, newfound boyfriend of Polly. His singing while clear and bold, needed to be focused more towards the audience. His British accent was the most bearable of the lot the result, perhaps, of logging many hours watching "Masterpiece Theater" reruns. Finally, Debra Wagoner who played Polly became increasingly comfortable with her role as the evening



Elizabeth Williams and Debra Wagoner in VCU's *The Boy Friend*

progressed and took advantage of its comic potential. During "Poor Little Pierette," a duo with Madame Dubonnet, Wagoner sang powerfully, and did not have to compete with the musicians to be heard.

Costumes, like many other aspects of *The Boy Friend* were inconsistent. Madame Dubonnet slinked in her sumptuous black jacket with yard-long sleeves. Maisie was a sexy bit of goods in her Spanish dancer costume. Polly's low-waisted flowered dress and Tony's straw hat made them look like the quintessential twenties couple. Yet, the costumes during

the beach scenes looked like stray pieces of spandex found at the gym, someone's borrowed aerobic shoes, and some wigs from a sale at Gigi Hats. At the finale's masquerade ball, Tony appeared to be dressed as a large Hefty bag. The wigs with which many female cast members were afflicted often seemed in danger of slipping their moorings and flying across the stage. Were they really necessary?

The technical work that went into VCU's production of *The Boy Friend* was excellent. The moment the spotlights hit the musicians, they clicked into action.

Sound was clear throughout the theater, particularly during the song and dance numbers, though perhaps some of the performers needed to work on not swallowing their words. Overall, the production was well-timed, on cue and sharp.

I want to recognize the talent and hard work of everyone involved in Friday's performance. I say applause all around as Theater VCU experiments with the challenges of traditional theater fare such as *The Boy Friend* as well as the more contemporary work of David Mamet.

When exams have passed . . . After the holidays . . .



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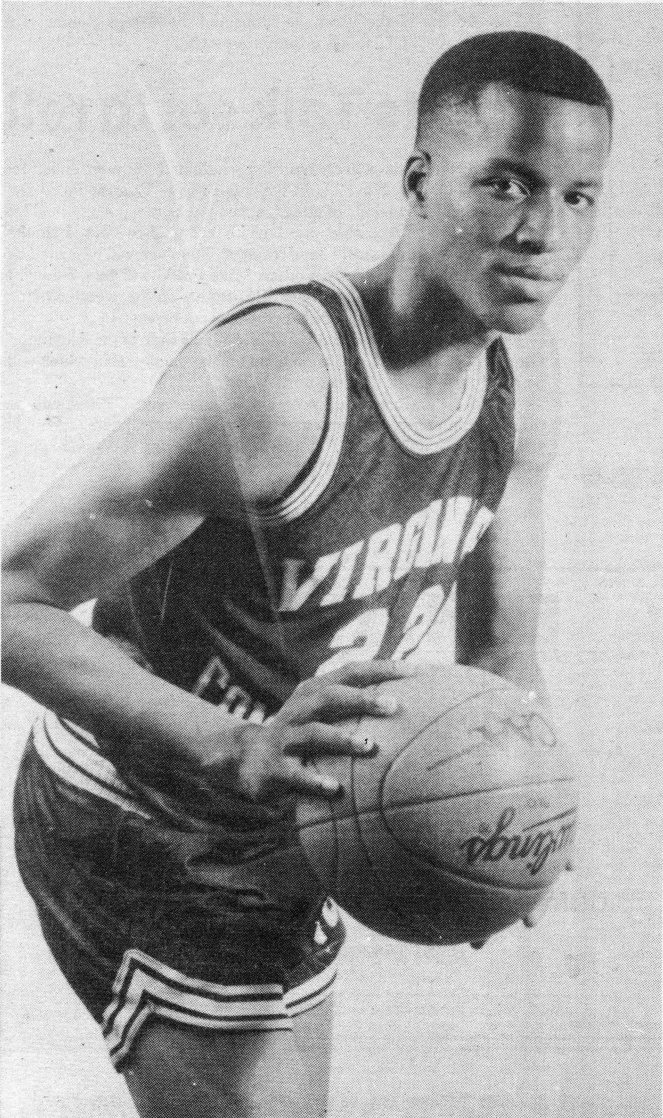
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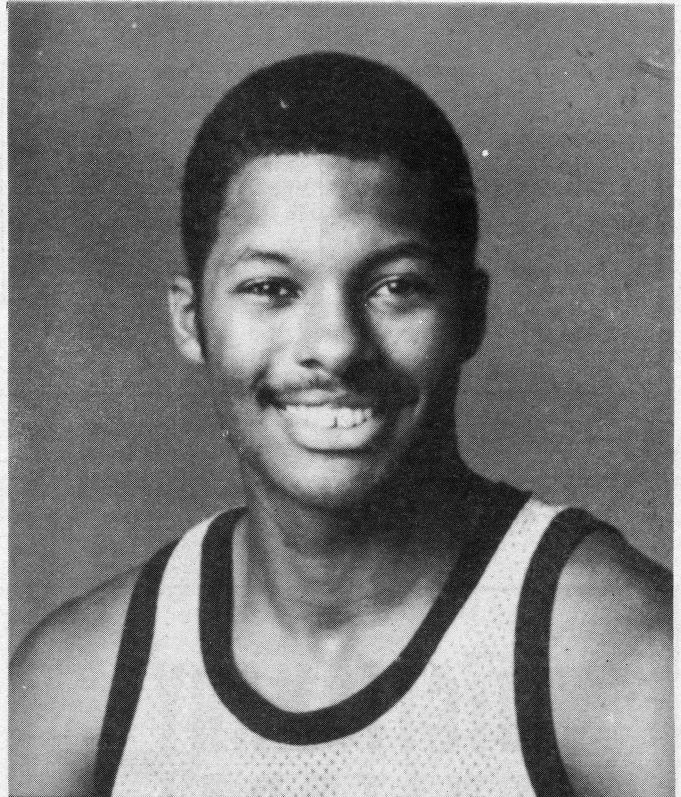
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Rams top Marathon Oil, 87-83 for openers



Horace Scruggs



Lionel Bacon

Courtesy VCU Sports Information Dept.

By Kim Vaughan
Staff Writer

VCU's men's basketball team began their 1988-89 play on the right foot with a pre-season victory of 87-83 over Marathon Oil on Friday, Nov. 11.

Leading in the first half with a score of 47-38, several Ram players provided points to ensure the final win. Key players included senior Chris Cheeks with 14 points, junior Lionel Bacon, 22 points, and freshman Horace Scruggs with 15 points. Described as a "stiff test" in pre-season play, Marathon Oil is com-

posed of former college players from various schools, ranging from Mississippi Valley State University to Central Michigan University. Although the team is not made up of the biggest names in the circuit, it does have a reputation for being tough. Before losing to VCU, Marathon Oil defeated North Carolina State and later defeated Wake Forest and Virginia Tech. Could the Rams' win over Marathon Oil prove to be a sign of more victories to come? The answer will be revealed at their second exhibition game against the Turkish National team on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at the Ashe Center.

Bell's team finishes sixth in Florida

By Bobby Ford
Staff Writer

Despite a high third round, the VCU golf team showed traces of their early season form en route to a sixth place finish at the Florida International Tournament Nov. 12-14 at the Mel Reese Resort Golf Course near Miami.

The Rams were near the top of the leader board heading into the final day as they were within ten shots of the lead and

in third place. The second-round score of 194 the Rams posted was their best one-day total since they shot a 292 Oct. 4 at the Campbell Invitational. Mickey Moore's 3-under-par 69 and Doug Brown's 1-over-par 73 led the Rams charge on the second day.

The Rams' second-day scores resembled the performances from the early part of the year. The Rams had two second-place finishes and a tournament title in their first three events. The Rams didn't

fare as well in their next two events as they struggled to an eighth-place finish and a fourth-place standing.

The second-day success didn't carry into the third day, however, as the Rams were 15 shots worse than the day before.

VCU finished the three-day event in sixth place, 29 shots behind Central Florida. Central Florida's three-day total of 875 was good enough to win the 17-team event.

Moore was VCU's medalist as the

senior finished the event with a three-day total of 220, 4-over-par. Jerry Wood was second on the team with a 226. Brown shot a 228 for the tournament, his third round score of 81 didn't count in the team standings. Tommy Joyce shot a 233 and Mike Grant, who was not involved in the second day's standings, shot a 234.

The tournament marked the end of the Rams' fall season. VCU finished the fall season with a record of 92-17.

Golf

Team Statistics

Record: 92-17

Guilford Invitational 2nd of 15
James Madison Invitational 1st of 23
Campbell Invitational 2nd of 26
John Ryan Memorial (Duke) 8th of 23
Virginia State Tournament 4th of 11
Florida International Tournament 6th of 17

Individual Statistics

Player	Tournaments	Rounds	Counters*	Avg.	Top 10
Mickey Moore	6	13	13	73.7	3
Tommy Joyce	6	13	12	74.7	3
Doug Brown	6	13	12	75.4	3
Jerry Wood	6	13	10	76.3	1
Mike Grant	4	9	4	79.1	0
Gary Soltes	1	2	0	81.5	0
Jeff Jorgensen	1	2	0	83.0	0
Ryan Andrews	2	4	1	83.3	0

*A counter is one of the team's four lowest scores during a round.

Copeland honored

Colleen Copeland, who is off to the best start of her three-year career, has been selected Athlete-of-the-Week at VCU.

Copeland won one race and was touched out in another against William & Mary.

"If there was one individual who stood out in this met, it has to be Colleen Copeland," said coach Ron Tsuchiya. "She swam great races. This is definitely her best seasonal start. She returned to school this fall in better condition and attitude."

The junior from Fairfax scored most of her points on relays last year. She swam the 50 and 100 freestyle against W&M. A four-time letter winner at Robinson high and 1985 Junior Nationals swimmer, she is majoring in physical education.

The Athlete-of-the-Week is sponsored by Disco Sports and selected by the VCU sports information staff.

Sports Talk set to roll

VCU Sports Talk, a lively hour long radio talk show will make its debut on Tuesday, Nov. 29, on WDYL-FM (92.1), announced Dr. Richard Sander, director of athletics, last week.

"This show will enable our fans to keep up-to-date with the activities of our programs," Sander stated. The show will be hosted by John J. Schwartz. Basketball coach Mike Pollio will be a frequent guest on the show, which will provide insights on the overall athletic program and the sporting scene across the country.

The show will take place at the White Water Cafe at the Richmond Omni. A live audience will be on hand for the weekly affair which will be aired throughout the year until May.

"It will be an interesting program," Sander said. "There will be call-ins, comments and controversy. We will have updates on VCU athletics, national sports... almost anything having to do with sports will be covered in the show."

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That was then, this is now

By Zachary Reid
For the Times

As usual, with recent political campaigns, the bright faces of those people capable of admirably running our country were nowhere to be found come election day. Whether by choice of their own or that of the public, we as a nation, have once again been cheated of the qualified president we deserve. The likes of Sam Nunn choose not to enter the glorified battle royal of an election; Joe Biden borrowed a speech from the leader of the British Labor Party without consent or giving due credit, thus eliminating himself with the help of the Dukakis camp; Gary Hart found out the hard way that America will not condone the JFK-like behavior he pursued, also eliminating himself not once, but twice. There were also a handful of men who ran without conflict, but somehow managed to be slighted by their respective parties. Bob Dole appeared the man to beat on the Republican spectrum, but he somehow lost their support; fading out of contention. His differences with Bush cost him the Vice-Presidency. On the Democratic side of things, Jesse Jackson put together a serious campaign willing to face the issues, but the public decided they were not quite ready for his style of politics. Though he seemed a strong candidate for the second in command position, he was also slighted for reasons less than obvious.

Lloyd Bentsen was perhaps a stronger,

"more qualified" politician who would have helped his party more. That is possible, but the likelihood of it and the justification behind it are suspect. He was chosen because he was strong in Texas. George Bush is also strong in Texas, and history now shows that Bush took Texas and all the electoral votes it offered. That choice, however, came nowhere close to matching the mystery behind the appointment of Little Danny Quayle to the number two spot on the Republican ticket. Maybe the Republicans felt as the Democrats had four years before. We are going to lose, so why not make a statement? They choose a woman, we can tab an idiot. But the Republicans were very much in the race, as we now know. Dan Quayle more qualified than Bob Dole? Not by a long shot. More qualified than Jack Kemp? Not quite. If Bush stooped to let his personal differences with a more capable Dole stand in the way, why not pick Pat Robertson? They shared ideologies and God knows Pat could not have raised as many eyebrows as Quayle.

Unfortunately, the question of who our 41st president will be is history. No amount of second-guessing, Monday morning quarterbacking, or back seat driving will change that. It is time now to go forward, if at all possible, or avoid going back too far at the least. Yes, George Bush is "our" President. Yes, Dan Quayle, as is so often emphasized, is but a heart beat away from the Presidency. But "our" can be construed loosely. I did

not vote for him. My precinct did not vote for him. Richmond did not vote for him. Living in a land of democracy, with freedom of choice a staple of everyday life, I make the choice that George Bush is not my president today, nor will he be any day during the next four years. If that Quayle person should happen to ascend to the Presidency, I will be seen packing my bags very quickly, headed either north or south. Which-ever way I can obtain a visa the quickest. In reality I suppose I have to accept Bush in some manner. The manner I choose is that he is the lesser of two evils, though not by much. He should feel safe from domestic attempts to take his life. I feel reasonably confident in my beliefs about the office he occupies and so do many other people. To take his life would be to give Dan Quayle control over the country so many men went to war to protect. It is doubtful that he has the ability to run a country on a militaristic basis. The main concern for Bush is travel abroad. All presidents have a responsibility to visit foreign dignitaries. It is here that our new leader should exercise the utmost caution. There are factions that pose a hostile relationship towards the United States; it is these people who would bask in the glory of president number 42 being that fearless ex-Senator from Indiana.

Before conceding the presidency to Quayle, we need to take a serious look at what George Bush has to offer. He offers more experience than anything else, just

ask him. "I have been vice president for almost eight years." Well, sir, what exactly have you done to constitute your using this term as experience? "Well, I, uh, no comment." Enough said. What it appears he is offering is more of what Reagan has shoved down our throats for so long now. Here, I pity the homeless, the poor, the old, those in dire need of public assistance. Call me a bleeding heart liberal, so be it. I am. But no apologies needed here. We as tax payers expect public help when it concerns us, so we are obliged to help those less fortunate. Perhaps we should not pay to support their lifestyles, but in a way they are paying to support ours. Their tax dollars pay for our roads and our schools. It is the lower class and middle class people who are burdened with the butt of taxes in this nation.

It is time for a change in the tax structure, but it is not likely to happen with the election of Bush. Ronald Reagan has spent eight years in office as if he were at a masquerade party, playing Robin Hood in reverse. The silent apprentice played the part of an anti-hero Little John, waiting for the opportunity to step into the big shoes. His opportunity has arrived and he talks as though he is ready to continue this legalized robbery. The hope is for the Democratic majority in the House and Senate to fight George all the way. With Democratic Congressional control there is still hope for America.

Let's do it in the booth

By Chris Maxwell
Guest Columnist

So, how about that election?! President-elect Bush said, "The people have spoken!" Ah, yes, the sweetest words to elected officials ears. However, there is still some question as to who did the speaking. The statistics show that less than half of the eligible voters apparently felt strongly enough to get off their duff to do their patriotic duty. In fact, from my sources, I understand that this is merely a recent victory for the steadily declining trend of voter participation. All this makes me wonder what democracy really is, do we all believe in it and is there legitimate cause for panic?

America has often been described as the "Great Experiment." It is true, though, that other countries have taken on the trappings of democracy and have succeeded. However, possibly some of our assumptions are wrong, and the experiment is wearing thin. We naturally assume that the people are the defenders of the dear democratic principles. Thus, we often assume that the masses believe in democracy. Could we be assuming too much?

So, what is this democracy thing and who are these "people" that are the curators of it? Well, the best way to

describe democracy's effects is to consider the country without the benefit of it. One party rule, no competition. That means if you have conflict with the ruling party due to incompetence, corruption or oppression, you're basically without a means to change the system, excepting the nasty little idea of revolution. It's that simple. Authority doesn't like to give up the position once they've got it, hence you have to force it away from them. This is where the elements of violence, blood, strife, hunger and injustice come in to play.

Democracy allows us the opportunity to replace these leaders with those we more or less agree with. Or at least someone you don't feel completely at odds with. So, democracy, in this respect, acts as a peaceful conflict resolution device. The whole executive, legislative and judicial standing of our system is protected by great institutions like the Constitution. It isn't fool-proof, but it does its part in keeping the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

With only about 48 percent of the eligibles doing it in the booth, it seems that my primary civics book has left something out. Either a great number of us feel no conflict of interest with the government; no gripes with Uncle Sam's military policies, welfare actions, attitudes

to the needy and studious and the handling of the almighty dollar. Or the majority is practicing a new policy that might be called, "Just Say No to Democracy."

24 percent of the population just sat back and said, "Hmmm. . . Naw, we just aren't into politics, man." While 75 percent of the registered voters did participate.

So, it would seem that next year's edition of school text books should read, "America is a democracy, of, for and by the interested people."

Not everyone has had an equal chance to express their opinion. As a matter of fact, the presidential election of George Washington was only affected by 6 percent of the people. Apathy? Nope, hardly. The problem was a matter of eligibility; you have to be male, white, landowner and taxpayer. Unfortunately, most of our revolutionary ancestors were bare subsistence farmers, shopkeepers, labor and/or slaves. All of this makes 6 percent sound like a whopping turnout. By the 1900's we were reporting a vote of 73 percent of the population. However, white males (still the commanding force in suffrage) made up less than half of America's population.

All of this, taken relatively, means that the average voter turnout was 32 percent. This, of course, later was affected by the

complete suffrage rights of American Indians, blacks and the female population.

However, although the novelty of voting was a powerful influence among these groups, it quickly died out. And once again we are finding that it is the white male who is the carrier of voting power. Despite the fact that education and party affiliation play large roles in getting people out and to the polls, there are still some missing pieces to the puzzle.

40 percent of the eligible votership is registered as Democratic, as opposed to the Republican's tight 25 percent. However, statistics show that the responsibility to vote is carried consistently by the Republicans, while the Democratic party has mediocre turnout. This is the "We the People," that has made their voice heard.

Which all brings us to Bush and the new era that he may usher in. How much do we have to worry about as far as the state of democracy in America? Statistics taken from polls show that many Americans would be very supportive of government action in the controversial area of censorship. We are left to remind ourselves of Nazi Germany. Hitler palmed the European world without raising a single hair before he started his reign of

See Doin' it page 21

To the Editor:

Thanksgiving approaches, I would like to share some thoughts on the subject with you. This day was set aside by the Pilgrims in order to look back at the hardships which they had to endure and to also thank everyone involved in helping them overcome the obstacles that were presented to them. This day of reflection was turned into a celebration called Thanksgiving.

Through the years, this celebration has been transformed into a couch potato's dream. For many of us, this day will consist of television and food. Many people will be thankful, but this gratitude will be limited in scope to include only the fact that they can miss a day of work or school without being penalized.

My Thanksgiving Day is not going to be much different than anyone else's couch potato inclination that seems to be prevalent in most of us, will no doubt have an effect on my day. Like most people, I will eat too much turkey and watch too much tv. However, I hope to add a couple more dimensions to my Thanksgiving. With my body suffering from turkey overdose, these dimensions will have no choice but to exercise my mind. I plan to spend some time on reflection, which I'm sure will then lead to a sense of gratitude for many people.

As I look back upon the past year, it becomes readily apparent to me that any significant goals that I set for myself could not have been accomplished without the sacrifices and help of other people. We live in a society where it is not possible to become a "self-made" person.

For example, many people have had to make sacrifices for me to be able to attend VCU. My parents have had to adjust to having a twenty-three year old son come home after spending over five years in the Navy. Believe me, this has caused significant changes in my parent's way of life. Many of my friends have used their spare time to help me study. Co-workers have less freedom in the choice of hours, because my school schedule and homework limits my availability. In this example, everyone was aware of the sacrifices which were required and readily agreed to them. But occasionally we set goals without considering the price you have to pay.

This past summer, I decided that I was going to run the Richmond Newspaper's Marathon. I gave little or no consideration on how my decision would affect others. After all, I was the one who was going to run the marathon. In reality, it took a whole crew of people to get me ready for the marathon. I had three wonderful running partners to train with, and we had a support group of five that at various times gave up a Saturday or Sunday morning to provide us with encouragement and liquids during long training runs. My parents were subjected to many inconveniences and schedule changes that were a direct result of my decision to run the marathon. Other friends offered encouragement and often asked how my training was coming along. Take away the support of any of these people and I wouldn't have made it to the starting line.

These examples provide clear cut evidence that no matter what we do, we often require assistance from others to

reach our goals and desires. I personally feel, that some time should be spent on this Thanksgiving reflecting on the past year. If we're lucky this look back will teach us something about ourselves and the people we depend on.

On Thanksgiving Day, I may feel like a stuffed turkey (too much food) and have blood-shot eyes (too much tv), but I'll have a warm spot in my heart for all of the special people who made sacrifices in order to make the past year so fulfilling for me.

To the Editor:

Normally I am not the type of person who writes letters to newspapers. Rather, I suffer the sins against grammar and journalism which seem to be indigenous to this paper, and hope that somehow things will get better with time. But events, if anything, have taken a turn for the worse as I see it, and I feel obliged to speak out.

Beginning with that horrendous piece on nose-picking, of all things, at the

beginning of the semester, the *Commonwealth Times* has proceeded to undermine the very foundations of college journalism. Far from being the gadfly that Nik Ashburn would have us believe in his recent editorial (No. 13, 11/15-21), the student paper has the image of being somewhat unreadable. While I think that student apathy has part in this reaction, I feel that a good deal of the blame lies with the *Commonwealth Times* itself.

The tragedy is that so many good

See **Tragedy** page 21

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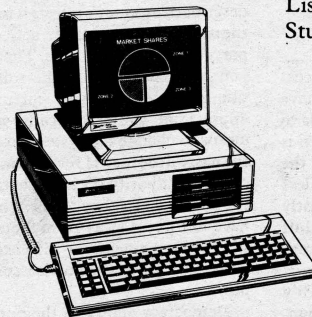
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In a blaze of sub-mediocrity*

By Nik Ashburn & Tito Chazo
For the Times

After encountering another late night/early morning, break-neck race to finish the Commonwealth Times just hours prior to publishing, we find ourselves sitting back, beers in hand, frantically trying to find something of redeeming social quality on the ole boob tube. I'm wondering if maybe my counterpart and fellow staffer, Tito Chazo (better known to the world as simply THE CHAZ) knows the real reason they call the staple of nuclear life the boob tube. Instead, however, I turn to him after scanning the channels endless times over, and pose the question, "WHY THE HELL DON'T YOU HAVE CABLE?!"

He hushes me, points up to the ceiling indicating that his sleeping parents are not likely to appreciate the noise at this ungodly hour, and then answers me. "What do you mean, we've got basic cable."

Turning back to the useless task once again, I correct him on his correction. The word basic means basically nothing when it comes to cable, except that you've got extra versions of the original three networks. Something, maybe it was the eerie quiet, tells me that he is contemplating telling me off by making light of the fact that I don't have cable at all (mainly because I don't even own a television set).

WHAMMMMBANGGGG!!!! Excuse me, but the sound you just read was me throwing Nik out of the armchair. This is THE CHAZ, himself, and I'd just like to apologize. As usual Nik was rambling and this story idea, originally mine, is becoming entangled in one of those mindless scene narrations that just don't belong on the Editorial Page. So, I'm doing what I should have done in the first place, telling the story, while Nik sits idle and

does what he does best. Which, without a doubt, is smoking cigarettes while talking way too much.

So, to make a short story long, we finally settled on the only action that was within our power. . . hopelessly flipping channels until the world's electricity supply finally burned itself out or we burned ourselves out.

We put it on channel five, but actually I think that five on the dial is seven in real life. Or is it six. Regardless, the remote said five and that's what we'll call it (GEEZ! This armchair must have a case of rambler's disease and it's catching.) And our road-mapped eyes were blessed with the sight of Jim Robison, er, excuse me, The Rev. Jim Robison. This was our first exposure to the idea of graphic t.v. evangelism, so we watched on despite the obvious warning sign of the title; THE DEVIL, TEMPTATION AND IDOLS.

Seems kind of funny, I mean knowing that truckloads of devoted watchers were stretching out their arms and, yes, probably worshipping Rev. Jim who seemed to be . . .

I can't really remember what he seemed to be because we immediately held a conference and the channel was changed to 34. Or was it 62. Sorry, but by this time the dead soldiers were beginning to clutter the floor and the facts were a little fuzzy. Anyway, the next channel gratefully whisked us away to yet another tele-preacher. Right as I was about to exercise my power of remote, we realized it was somebody along the lines of the famous Ernest Angley. We, regretfully, couldn't help watching just a couple of the 'miracle healings.' It's sick what comedy can come to at 4:15 in the morning.

Finally we pulled ourselves from the throws of laughter and settled on a 24 hour political channel (and Nik thought

basic cable was limited). Besides, I think we were both beginning to get the creepy feeling that if we kept up with the religious jokes, we would surely go to hell (as if we weren't there already).

Most people might think that switching from religion to politics is a big jump. The suits might cost a little more, the talk might be just a tad more sugar-and-spice, and like I said, people *might* think it's a big jump. It isn't.

I was actually beginning to feel pretty good. I mean, if you could have heard these guys talk about the economy, I was feeling bad about casting my ballot for the Duke. But I wandered on to the CNN Total News Network (an out of hand experiment in NUZAK) and, with the Republican ringing in my ears, I watched a news feature on the 80,000 farmers losing their farms, the value of the dollar going down, down, down, trade deficit going up, up, up, and the national deficit at an extremely low, low, low, 235 trillion dollars. I could go on, but somehow I think you get the picture and I just created the longest run-on sentence in the history of English.

All of which brings us to channel . . . OH! Hell, I really don't know what channel it was. You'll just have to trust me on this one, I saw it myself. Anyways, our guide for this evening's finale was just another Joe Polyester, who looked like a nightmare child of a freakish marriage between a carefree Jerry Falwell and a more insecure and aggressive Geraldo (if there was such a thing).

His pitch, if you will allow me this one slighted statement (and why shouldn't you after all of the other ones I've already made), was the "Crusade of the Month." Ya' know, Crusades. Like in rushing the streets of some poor, underprivileged country in hopes of helping them find total enlightenment; even if that means smashing the head of an occasional baby

on the way.

Unfortunately this Crusade virus is also special to the area of politics. Many Crusades have been fought, even in places like America. These efforts often go down in the history books as some of the more patriotic feats of our great pioneering ancestors. Like the heroic last stand of General Custer. A fact so twisted into fanciful, down-with-the-ship bravery and flag-waving that it's mere legend (offerable only to the venues of trashy supermarket tabloids).

General George Custer, even before he was decorated for such final bravery, was one of the leading thinkers in the Late West movement to drive the plains indians away from their land. Once again the Crusade effort claimed innocent lives of men, women and, yes, babies.

There wasn't any religion involved in the political Crusades that I can think of, but then again, the same is true for all the "religious" Crusades I know.

By this time the sun, still invisible behind the horizon, was starting to light the early morning. I sighed one of those heavy sighs you get from realizing that you've been up all night for the past three nights. I took a final swig from the beer and flipped a few more channels. To my delight I found a MR. ED rerun and as I turned to Nik, I found him dead asleep in the chair. I was about to wake him, but then I decided to appreciate this quiet, smokeless moment.

Well, that's about all I've got to say about politics and religion and late night t.v. I guess I'll hand the armchair back over to Mr. Nik and let him ramble this piece to it's absolute end.

But then again, Nik has once again fallen asleep, so let's just appreciate this one together. Just wish I had a camera.

*Direct quote (Andrew Riley), as taken from letter on page 18.

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(from page 17)

anti-semitism and destruction. We may have come to regard allusions to this chapter in history as modern day clichés, but clichés wouldn't be around if they didn't hold some truth.

However, the majority of the voices that are heard every day in our houses of government are those who would never allow the breakdown to reach such a point. As a matter of fact, this is where we can be happy in America's irresponsibility to its patriotic duty. Even if the sappy officials can get the public to express an opinion in the polls . . . well, the old phrase, "You can lead a man to the booth, but you can't make him vote," comes to mind. How about those of us that did

vote? I hope you were very critical in your decision, avoided voting in the tradition of your parents just because it was tradition and dug through the sound bites to find the real meat. The election was like watching a television show from 100 miles away, standing in the rain. There was just too much interference to get anything solid without scrutinizing, but it can be done. And if you took the time and made the effort, congratulate yourself. Be proud.

And if you didn't vote, then you probably won't listen to anything anyway. But make sure that next time you start to comment on the current administration, you just remember that you were more than willing to let us do the picking for you. Maybe Bush will be the wrong choice, just so next time you'll have reason to investigate and vote!

Tragedy

(from page 18)

points which could be made are masked in grammatical errors, flippancy, and in the case of Mr. Ashburn, a rather annoying tendency of the writer to believe himself witty. The piece published a few weeks ago regarding the problem of the art school being spread to the ends of the campus and back had a very good objective, but got lost somehow along the way in a forest of poor grammar and lousy punctuation. Do not editors have the responsibility to proofread anymore? Possibly they could write fewer of the editorials that they find so amusing and devote at least some time to overseeing the finished product.

The case of Nik Ashburn is a special one which would require far more atten-

tion than I could give in a short letter. Suffice it to say that if he spent less time italicizing ridiculous comments in vain attempts at endearing himself to the readers, he might find (or we the readers might find) some sort of reasoning behind his weekly ramblings.

I do not claim to be any sort of English language god descending with the laws of journalism written in stone. I merely do not want to see the school paper, an institution in which I believe quite strongly, go down in a blaze of sub-mediocrity. You are all capable of better and I think that the students here merit such.

Sincerely,

Andrew Riley

A note to our readers:

The Commonwealth Times welcomes letters from our readers. The Times reserves the right to edit for grammar, taste and available space. Submissions must be signed and include a phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Thursday to be considered for the next edition. Our offices are located at 916 W. Franklin St. Our mailing address is:

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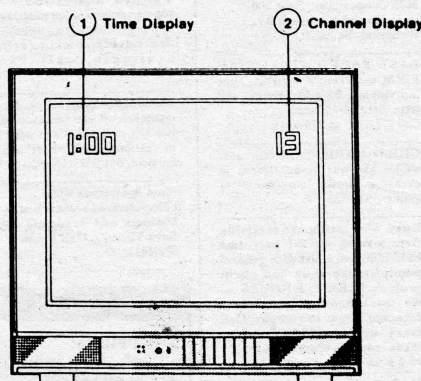


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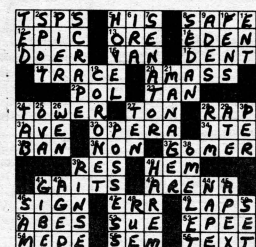
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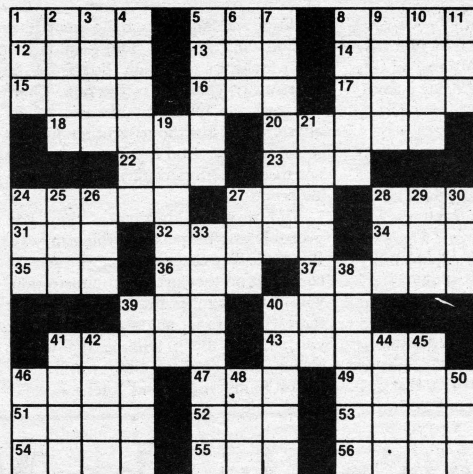
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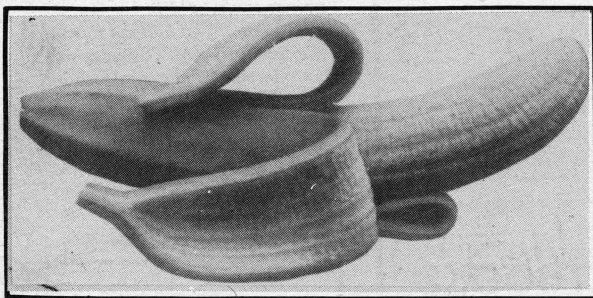
1. Teaspoons (abbr.)
5. Not hers
8. Tale
12. Narrative poem
13. Mineral
14. Paradise
15. Worker
16. Covered truck
17. Depression
18. Follow trail of
20. Pile up
22. Politics (abbr.)
23. Expose to sun
24. Tall structure
27. 2,000 lbs.
28. Hit sharply
31. Hail
32. Musical drama
34. Native (abbr.)
35. Stop
36. Not (pref.)
37. _____ Pyle
39. Point in law
40. Edge of garment
41. Horses' movements
43. Place for contest
46. Indication

DOWN

47. Mistake
49. Circuits
51. Abraham's nickname (pl.)
52. Take to court
53. Fencing sword
54. Inhab. of ancient media
55. Seminary (abbr.)
56. Class book
1. Spread to dry, as hay
2. Mark
3. Wharf
4. Rub with considerable pressure
5. Small, miserable dwelling
6. Ireland, political org. (abbr.)
7. Politician
8. Car
9. Sweetened drinks (suf.)
10. Marshes
11. Ear, Nose, Throat (abbr.)
19. Prince's crown
21. Person in charge
24. Projection

25. Eggs
26. Cyst
27. Number
28. Edge
29. Dined
30. Each
33. Has
38. Egg dish
39. Wash lightly
40. Moslem wives
41. Mocking remarks
42. Older
44. Back of neck
45. Highest point
46. _____ Snead
48. Remorse
50. Put

See Solution page 21



CLASSIFIEDSCLASSIFIEDSCLASSIFIEDSCLASSIFIEDSCLASSIFIEDSCLASSIFIEDSCLASSIFIEDSCLASSIFIEDS

Attention

ADOPTION: Joyful family wishes to adopt an infant. If you are pregnant and considering adoption please call Harvey & Amy's adoption advisor collect at (802)325-3520. We look forward to hearing from you.

ADOPTION: Hugs and cuddles await the infant we hope to adopt. If you are pregnant and considering adoption please call Robert and Lorraine collect at (201) 701-0636

PREGNANT? We Care. We Can Help. Free Pregnancy Tests and Counseling. Explore all your options. Help with medical care. You may help choose your baby's adoptive parents. Children's Home Society of Virginia 353-0191.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR LONG DISTANCE SERVICE? INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT CALLING PLANS AND SPECIAL PRODUCTS THAT MAY SAVE YOU MONEY? Contact Paul Adams, your AT&T Student Campus Manager here at VCU. Call: 232-9116 Between 5-7p.m. Mon.-Fri.

For Rent

Furnished basement apt. for rent. Near Byrd Park. \$300 per month includes all utilities and laundry privileges. Call 353-9822.

For Sale

Homes for Sale
Government Homes from \$1. "U Repair" also tax delinquent property. Call 805-644-9533 ext.613 for info.

1982 Ford Exp, 4 Speed, Air Condition, Stereo Cassette, Very Clean \$1695. Call 782-0061 ask for Wayne.

'71 Ford LTD V-8. Good engine, power brakes and steer. Hitch. New: exhaust system, starter, tires. Runs very well. \$475. 794-2640.

'61 Classic VW Bug. Rebuilt engine, new paint job. Beautiful interior. Unique and dependable. 8/89 Inspection sticker. \$950 or best offer. Come see it parked behind Grace House (116 Floyd) or call Barbara at 358-4939.

CHEAP WHEELS! 1982 Renault Le Car. Excellent condition. 4 speed, sun roof, metallic gold, great gas mileage. Fun to drive, a dream to park. Perfect for student or Fan resident. One owner. Complete service record. \$1350. 359-2410.

PARKING SPACES 2 blocks W. Franklin St. Secured/Towing Enforced. \$40/month, 6 month contracts. 344-8488 days, 359-2163 nights.

Help Wanted

MODELS WANTED for photography work in Richmond Tri-City area. Modeling, dancing, or theatre experience preferred but not required. Call Micheal NeSmith at (804)458-4050.

OVERSEAS JOBS: Summer, year round. Europe, S. Amer., Australia, Asia. All fields. \$900-2000/mo. Sightseeing. Free info. Write IJC, PO Box 52-VA06, Corona Del Mar, CA 92625.

Government Jobs \$15,400-\$72,500 Now Hiring. Excellent Benefits. Call 1-312-741-8400 Ext. J5155.

Schedulers/Telemarketers: Part-time openings now available. Your excellent communication skills are needed to contact customers on behalf of major local utility. No product sales required. At DMCE we offer free training, an excellent salary plus incentives, and convenient afternoon, evening and Saturday hours. For immediate consideration call (804)353-4451. DMC Energy, Inc. 3805 Cuthaw Ave., Suite 200 (near 195 and Monument Ave.) Richmond, Va 23220.

FAST PACED FINANCIAL FIRM is seeking a few Part Time individuals. Flexible hours, will train. Earn \$5-10 hourly. Call 276-7487 or 276-8345.

CHILD CARE One infant near VCU. \$3/hour or apartment in exchange of 100 hours/month of sitting. 353-9822.

Busy Marketing/Advertising firm looking for 2-3 part-time individuals to assist with general administrative work and client projects. **FLEXIBLE HOURS...** we work around your class schedule. Close to campus. Call Cary at 780-1777 Monday, Wednesday, Friday, from 12-6 p.m.

Marketing Firm seeks individual to work full or part-time marketing credit cards to students on campus. Flexible hours. Earn between \$90 & \$150 per day. Call 1-800-932-0528 ext. 25.

Students paid to participate in nationwide survey. Call Joanne or Kim at Campus Dimensions, 1-800-592-2121.

Professional Libraries want filers for accounting and legal libraries. Work when you want between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. \$5/hour. Call 328-1340, leave message.

CRUISE SHIPS

Now Hiring Men and Women. Summer & Career Opportunities (Will Train). Excellent Pay Plus World Travel. Hawaii, Bahamas, Caribbean, etc. CALL NOW! (206)736-7000 Ext. 1006C

Services

TYPING SERVICES— term papers, resumes, other miscellaneous typing upon request, fast dependable, pickup/delivery available, call Pat at 790-1191.

RESUMES: Quick service...typed or typeset...updates while you wait... free kits, evaluations and storage... professional staff writer. AESOP Services, 644-9525.

Need Assistance with computerized research of business and academic topics? Save Time... Call Pat at 272-4813.

CHILD CARE CENTER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

part-time afternoons until 6:30 p.m. Could be ideal for student with Education or Early Childhood major. Childcare experience in a daycare setting required. Also need substitutes for all shifts, no experience necessary. Call 353-2433.

Bus Stop Restaurant is looking for experienced persons for wait, bus, dishwasher, cleaning, and host positions. Full or part time. Apply within 8-10:30 a.m./2:30-6 p.m. ask for Aimee. 1210½ E. Cary St.

PART-TIME HELP needed during Winter break at nearby child care center. Also need substitutes for all shifts, continuing throughout the year. Call 353-2433 ASAP.

TWO-BEDROOM FAN APARTMENT available immediately, \$350/mo. Call 270-4221 or 270-5872.

WORK FOR YOURSELF

As a campus representative you'll be responsible for placing advertising materials on bulletin boards and working on marketing programs for clients such as American Express, Boston University, Eural, and various movie companies, among others. Part-time work, choose your own hours. No sales. Many of our reps stay with us long after graduation. If you are self-motivated, hard-working, and a bit of an entrepreneur, call or write for more information to: **AMERICAN PASSAGE NETWORK** 6211 W. HOWARD STREET CHICAGO, IL 60648 1(800) 221-5942 or (312) 647-6860 CHICAGO DALLAS LOS ANGELES NEW YORK SEATTLE

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Calendar

TUESDAY the 22nd

Rockitz Randall B.'s Dance Night
Va. Museum Thirty recent works by John Cage will be on exhibit. Call 367-0844 for info.

Science Museum of Va. Joy From the World, annual celebration of Christmas around the world. call 367-0000.

Shockoe Slip Cafe Cheap Date Night w/Nard's.

Bird in Hand Good Guy

Anderson Gallery "Art and the Law," an artistic exploration of legal themes. Call 367-1522 for info.

Marsh Gallery Drawings and sculpture by Margaret Cherubin and theater photos by Eric Dobbs at Moldin Fine Arts Center, UR. Call 289-8276 for more info

Empire Theatre Theatre IV presents *Olympus On My Mind* at the Empire Theatre. 118 W. Broad St., 344-8040.

Dennis Auditorium Modern Music Series with the Richmond Symphony at UR, 788-1212.

WEDNESDAY the 23rd

New Horizon Cafe Reggae Video Dance Night

Pyramid Club DANCE, DANCE, DANCE from 10 p.m. -2:30 a.m. Wed. - Sat.

Richmond Comedy Club Ric Schrader through the 26th. Call 745-3166 for info.

Artspace 1306 Photographs by Etta Edwards and watercolors by Judy Bumgardner. 1306 E. Cary St., 782-8672.

Va. Museum "Collecting Photographs: Aquisitions 1980-1988" through Nov. 27th. Call 367-0852 for info.ockitz Butthole Surfers

Last Stop Gallery Paintings by Lynn and collage by Sam Graham through Nov. 30. 1719 E. Main St., 344-4540.

Shockoe Slip Cafe The Press

Empire Theatre Educating Rita featuring Maury Erickson and Susan Burrell runs through Dec. 4. 114 W. Broad St., 344-8040.

THURSDAY the 24th

1708 East Main Susanne Arnold's sculpture and paintings, Willie Anne Wright's photographic series of Civil War reenactments and Arleen Cohen's watercolors through the 26th. 1708 E. Main St., 643-7829.

Artspace 1306 Photographs of Etta Edwards and watercolors by Judy Bumgardner through the 30th. 1306 E. Cary St. 782-8672

Jade Elephant Flipside

FRIDAY the 25th

Mosque Cats through the 29th: Call 782-3930 for info.



Hampton Coliseum Ozzy Osbourne with Anthrax

New Horizon Cafe Barton, Shaffer & Mills

Jade Elephant Cashmere Jungle Lords with Contoocook Line

Shockoe Slip Cafe Bopcats

Farmer's Market Inn Vistacruisers

Ivory's Najee, Anjela Boffill and Lonnie-Liston Smith. Tickets are \$17.50.

SATURDAY the 26th

Richmond Coliseum Public Enemy, EPMD, Stetsasonic, Jungle Brothers and Guy at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50

New Horizon Cafe H.R.

Shockoe Slip Cafe Bopcats

Jade Elephant S**thouse and Beex
Byrd Theatre Art Afternoons presents "Jean de Florette" and "Manon of the Spring." French director Claude Beri

brings Marcel Pagnol's epic novel to the screen. Sat. & Sun.

Farmer's Market Inn Vistacruisers
Constitution Hall Tracey Chapman

SUNDAY the 27th

Commons Theatre The VCU Alternative Films Committee presents "The Brother from Another Planet" (1984) a science-fiction comedy directed by John Sayles at 5 p.m. and "Variety" (1984) a controversial study in women's rights to sexual fantasy directed by Bette Gordon at 7:30.

Renee Reston Gallery "Inside Outside" features collage, painting and printing by Dicke, Dana MacBean and Mary VanViet. 3031 W. Cary St., 353-5480.

Shockoe Slip Cafe Sunday Splash Bash

Richmond Coliseum Mid-Atlantic Wrestl-

ing at 7:30.

Rockitz In Tua Nua from Ireland with Future Neighbors

Constitution Hall KEITH RICHARDS

MONDAY the 28th

Jade Elephant Open Jam Night
Shockoe Slip Cafe Nard's Rock and Roll Revue
Rockitz FUNK-A-RAMA. Shake that thang.

UP AND COMING

Dec. 2

Floodzone Reggaeman Monty Montgomery

Dec. 5

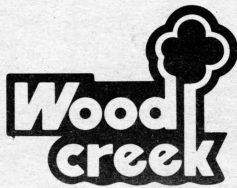
Bayou Warren Zevon in D.C.

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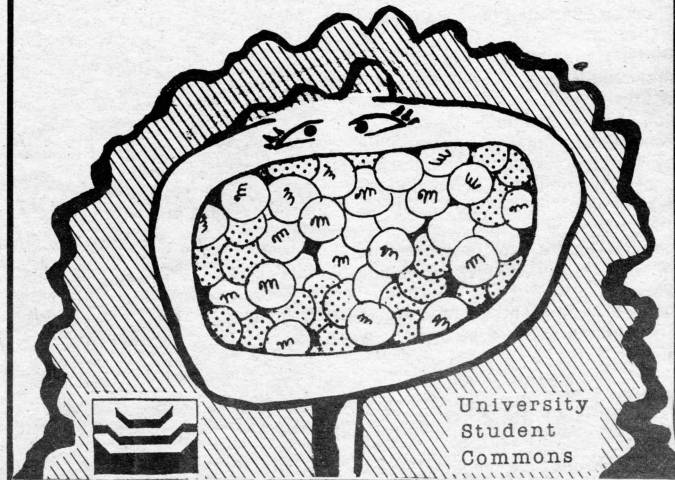
Be Good to Yourself.

Midterms are over -
the end is in sight.

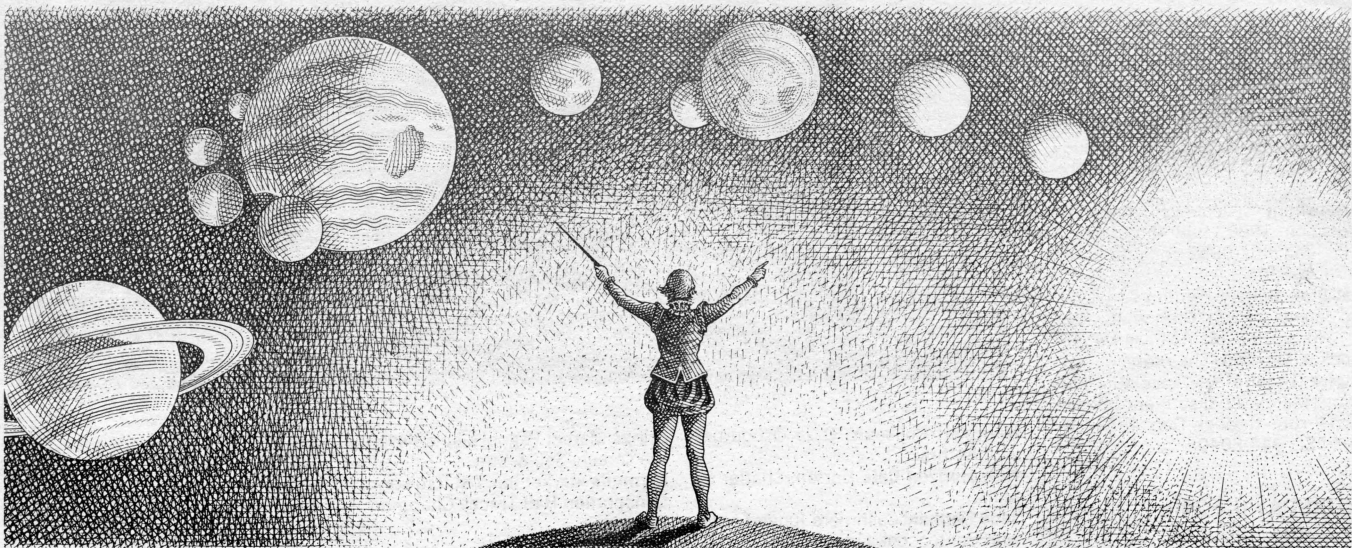
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It seems unfair. The genius had all that time. While you have a few short hours to learn your sun spots from your satellites before the dreaded astronomy exam.

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If Galileo had used Vivarin, maybe he could have mastered the solar system faster, too.

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