

COMMONWEALTH TIMES

Jan. 31 - Feb. 6, 1989

Volume 20, No. 17



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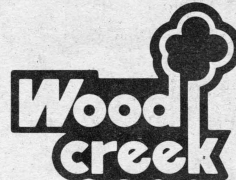
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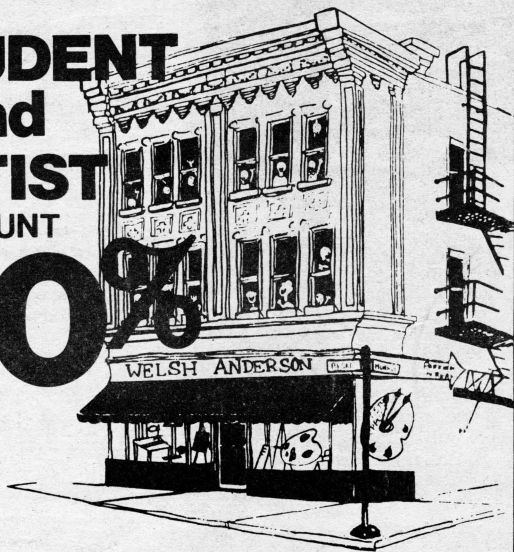
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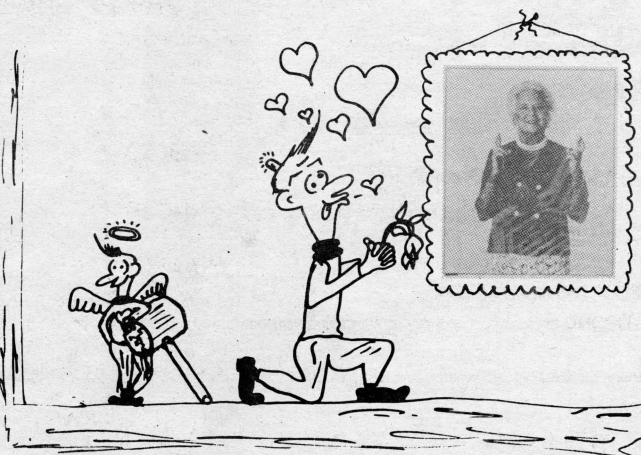
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Black history month

Kickoff of month-long reflections and explorations of black history.

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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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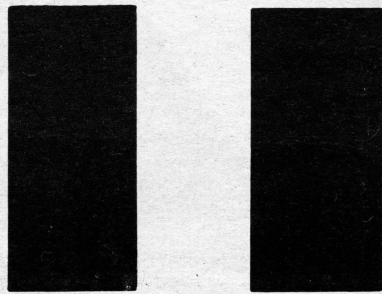
COVER

With this issue we help kick off a month of lectures, films and events in honor of Black history month.

This photo by Bob Adelman demonstrates what life was like in a different era. We celebrate the change.



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NEWS

Black history celebrated in February

Compiled by Katie Sharrar.

Black history is celebrated throughout the month of February nationwide. Many events are happening in Richmond and at VCU to remember the heritage of black Americans. At the Valentine Museum, "Jim Crow: Racism and Reaction in the New South," an exhibit exploring the dehumanizing effects of segregation, opens Feb. 3. A film series exploring black Americans will also be shown.

The origins and evolution of racism from the end of the Civil War to 1940, and early resistance to racial discrimination, are explored in the Valentine Museum exhibition "Jim Crow: Racism and Reaction in the New South" open Feb. 3 through Aug. 21, 1989.

"Jim Crow" is generally defined as "a practice or policy of segregating or discriminating against blacks." The term is derived from a stereotyped black character, Jim Crow, featured in 1840s minstrel shows.

The exhibition includes over 70 artifacts that demonstrate the proliferation of racist thought in mainstream American life. Though the objects are startling in their dehumanizing portrayal of blacks, they are representative of views and images once common throughout the nation that aided whites to rationalize segregation.

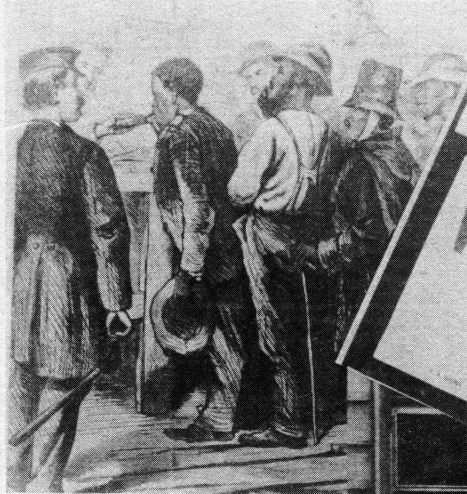
An overview of the origins of racism begins the exhibition with a discussion of the long-held and prevalent belief in the superiority of Northern European culture reflected in the system and justification of slavery and laws passed limiting the freedom of urban slaves and free blacks.

With the abolition of slavery, blacks made attempts to gain political power during Reconstruction. "Jim Crow" examines black political action and voting from 1865 to 1902. Eventually white corruption in politics resulted in the

Constitution of 1902, which ended black political power in Richmond and Virginia.

Prompted by deep-seated fears of black social equality and the activity of blacks demanding their rights, the system of Jim Crow segregation evolved into formal laws in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Few whites seriously questioned segregation and these laws resulted in separate and unequal standards for blacks in most areas of life including justice, housing, health care and education.

This period saw a heightening of racism and racial conflict in America. Racial violence was on the increase and groups promoting racism flourished. The Ku Klux Klan became a formidable political force in the Midwest, as well as the South. The exhibition also looks at the individuals such as Earnest Sevier Cox, whose "scientific studies" of the "color problem" were hailed by racist organizations for giving credence to their ideologies.



Photos courtesy of the Valentine Museum.

Above: Black voters register to vote during the reconstruction era. Right: Segregation signs reflect the belief in the social inequality of the races that was dominant in the South in the early 1900s.

Numerous groups calling for reform sprang up in the early 20th century in Richmond and throughout the South. Often called "Progressives," these reformers addressed issues of health, welfare, education, employment and housing. The exhibition examines the impact of these groups and individuals on society and the foundations they laid for the modern Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s.

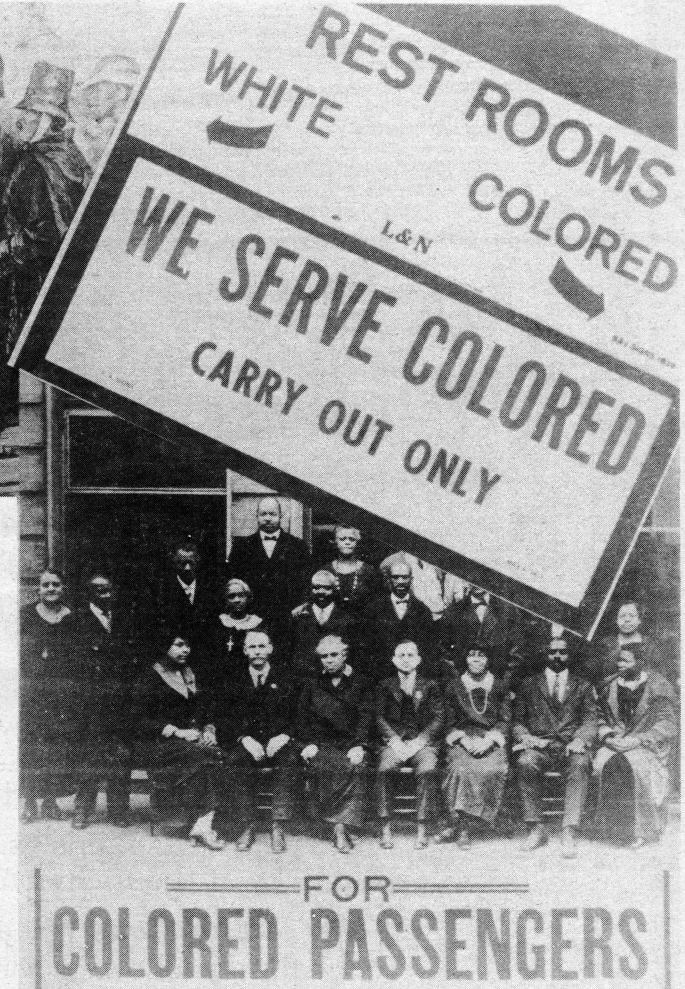
The rise of racial consciousness in reaction to Jim Crow focused the attention of the black community on improving their daily lives. The exhibition looks at life during segregation and the black business, social and educational organizations which developed during the era.

Public programs held in conjunction with "Jim Crow" include a four-part film series and workshops for educators and students. Supported by generous grants from the Virginia Foundation for Humanities and Sciences and the Best Products Foundation, "Jim Crow: Racism and Reaction in the New South" is the fourth exhibition mounted by the Valentine exploring the history of the black community.

Admission to the exhibition and museum is free Feb. 5 and 12. The Valentine, the museum of the life and history of Richmond, is located at 1015 E. Clay St. For more information, call 649-0711.

Series investigates film images

In conjunction with the exhibition "Jim Crow: Racism and Reaction in the



Maggie Walker's Independent Order of St. Luke led the black community.

New South," the Valentine Museum will be sponsoring a four-part film series. The series will explore how blacks have been portrayed in film over the years and will be shown Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Ethnic Notions: Black People in White Minds. Feb. 8. An award-winning 60-minute documentary which traces the roots of racial stereotypes through American history, revealing how racial consciousness has evolved against the dehumanizing images of "Toms," "Sambos" and "Mammies."

Uncle Tom's Cabin. March 15. The 1914 silent version of this film which features the first film portrayal of a black by a black in a starring role. Introduction by Greg Kimball, curator of "Jim Crow: Racism and Reaction in the New South."

The Birth of a Nation. April 19. D.W. Griffith's controversial treatment of the Civil War made at the height of the

Jim Crow era, 1915, supposedly revealed some hidden events in history. Portrait of black attempts to gain political power over whites, and the rise of the Klan. A classic of "Jim Crow" sentiment, the film also illustrates the finest technology of the era. Introduction by historian Marie Tyler-McGraw.

God's Stepchildren. May 17. Based on the story "Naomi Negress," about a light-skinned black woman rebelling against her racial heritage. Produced and directed by Oscar Micheaux with an all-black cast and crew in 1938. Controversial when released because it illustrated blacks discriminating against other blacks.

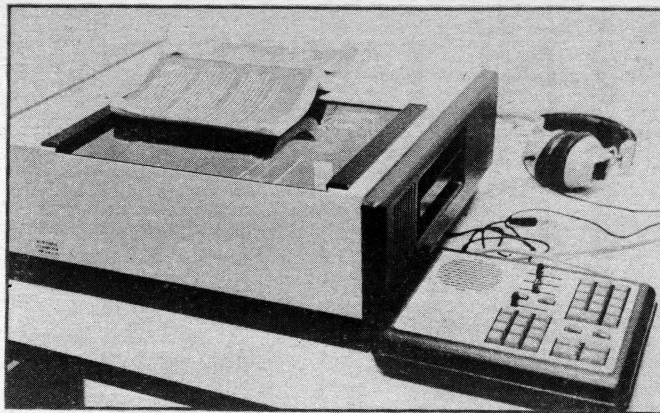
See Calendar page 10

Machine 'reads' books to the blind

Unless a library has a large and expansive collection of Braille books, visually disabled students must pay someone to read textbooks out loud. But at VCU's Cabell library, these special students have another option.

The library has a Kurzweil Reading Machine available, which is a "great invention," according to rehabilitation counseling graduate student Bill Auer. By simply placing a book under the Kurzweil's optical sensor, Auer and other visually disabled students can "read" almost any written work in the library. The Kurzweil was made available through the Xerox Corp. at no charge.

As the lens scans the text, the works are read aloud through a voice synthesizer. Although the Kurzweil cannot translate charts or graphs, it still adds a great deal of freedom to the restricted world of the visually disabled.



Kathy Laraia Commonwealth Times

Incredible visual aid for the blind is now at VCU's Cabell Library.

Auer, for instance, no longer has to rely on human readers or to arrange a complicated schedule of study sessions.

The Kurzweil is only one of several

machines available for the disabled in the Cabell Library. Among the latest applications of advanced technology are a Visualtek reader, a high-magnification

microfiche reader and a "talking" calculator. Auer, however, is partial to the Kurzweil machine. "It was one of the main reasons I decided to come to VCU," he said.

According to VCU librarians, there are no other Kurzweils known in the Richmond area and the closest ones are in Washington, D.C.

'222-MUCH' deemed success

VCU students, in cooperation with Virginia Overland Transportation CO., brought back a popular program this year that offered free rides home to anyone who attended New Year's Eve parties in the Richmond area. The program, named, 222-MUCH after the ride request line number, is designed to prevent drunk driving.

The student group responsible for planning and conducting the program is the VCU Student Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). The program got a big boost from Virginia Overland, who participated by providing vehicles and drivers on New Year's Eve.

According to Regina Bryant, treasurer of ASSE, more than 200 calls were received and 66 rides given, providing 165 individuals with rides home. Twenty-four additional rides were dispatched, but riders could not be located. Rides were provided on a first-call, first-serve basis.

Ms. Bryant noted that many calls were from bartenders and party hosts who were concerned about the welfare of their customers and guests. Calls were also received from party-goers whose dates and spouses had consumed too much.

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| | Students | Alumni, Staff, Friends |
|-------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Game & Concert | \$8 | \$13.50 |
| BBQ (in advance) | \$3 | \$3 |
| BBQ (at the door) | \$4 | \$4 |

Alumni can purchase advance tickets by February 14 at the Alumni Activities Office, 828 West Franklin Street, between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., or by calling 367-0968. Students can purchase advance tickets at the Student Commons and the Larrick Student Center. BBQ tickets only may also be purchased at the Louisiana Purchase Restaurant beginning at 3 p.m., February 18, **unless sold out.**

Alumni who purchase game tickets prior to February 14 will be assigned seats in blocks according to the school or college from which they graduated, if desired.

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Higher standards act as incentive

By Mary Beth Woodford
Staff Writer

According to the deans of the College of Humanities and Sciences and the School of Education, the recent decision by Virginia Commonwealth University's Board of Visitors to raise admissions standards may not make a significant impact on the overall body of students but will send a message to high school students.

The new requirements, effective beginning with those who apply to enter the university in the fall of 1990, increase the minimum number of high school course units required from 18 to 20 and raise required mathematics courses from two units to three, including algebra and geometry.

"Because most of the students already meet the standards, the new requirements are only going to affect a small number of students as far as enrollment is concerned," said Elske Smith, dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences. More importantly, she said, the new standards get a message to the schools that students who want to go to college need a good background. Colleges and universities, Smith explained, are doing a lot that really should be done at the high school level.

"I think you could ask why we didn't do this a long time ago," said John Borgard, associate dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences.

It makes no sense, Borgard said, for the minimum number of high school course units required at VCU to remain at 18 when the minimum requirement for high school graduation is 20. The increase from 18 to 20 will equal the minimum course units required to graduate, he said.

"As long as you are confident that your



John Borgard says new standards emphasize academic achievement.

Kathy Lارا Commonwealth Times

exit standards are the same for everybody, then you have a little less concern about your entrance standards," said John Borgard, associate dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences.

Borgard sees the rise in requirements as an incentive for students to achieve

academically. The new standards, he said, give priority to high school students who complete the advanced studies program offered by state high schools.

Borgard went on to explain that this program recently raised the number of required credits from 22 to 23.

Transfer students, Borgard said, will also be given an incentive to achieve academically under the new standards. Undergraduate transfers who have a cumulative grade point average of 2.25 or

See **Education** page 9

Conference hosts black achievers

By Eric Taylor
Staff Writer

The Third National Black Student Leadership Development Conference, held at the College of William and Mary January 13 and 14, attempted to further develop black college students. It hoped to unify black college students through networking and by discussing common problems students face daily on college campuses.

The conference, sponsored by the College of William and Mary and a gift from the Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators (VASPA), featured a potpourri of speakers including Attorney Patricia Russell-McCloud, Dr. James Anderson of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, actress Cicely Tyson, Dr. Quincy Moore of Virginia Commonwealth University, and college students from various Virginia colleges.

The two-day conference, which has grown to more than twice its size since last year, kicked off with "An Evening with Cicely Tyson."

When she entered the room, the audience of 1,200 welcomed her with thunderous applause and a standing ovation. When they quieted down, Ms. Tyson began speaking about her back-



Attorney Patricia Russell-McCloud was a keynote speaker at the conference.

ground, roots, and how she felt about being a black in America.

"I've traveled all over the world and we in America have no idea how fortunate we are," she said. "No matter how bad we think things are, we are truly a blessed country!"

"More often than not, we seem to be overwhelmed with problems and circumstances. We can't save the world ourselves, but we all can take one little corner and work it like a big quilt . . . Unity is where the strength lies," she added.

Later she requested that the lights be dimmed as she began to read a poignant poem, entitled "Dreams." In the body of the poem, Tyson included excerpts from Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream," and the book "Black, Like Me."

Tyson also reenacted her first day attending a formerly segregated school. She vividly described her fears, names she was called, her disappointments with the school system, as well as her anger about discrimination.

Tyson closed her speech by acting out a passage from her movie, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman." While gripping the podium tightly, she said, "Life for me has been no silver staircase. There have been tacks, splinters, and floors without carpet in my life. But all the time, I've been reaching."

In a sterner voice, she continued, "Don't you sit on the steps because things look hard, 'cause I'm still climbing and going higher everyday! Life for me hasn't been no silver staircase." Tyson again received hardy applause and a

standing ovation.

Dr. James Anderson, psychology professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, addressed the group Saturday on the topic, "Scholarship Preparedness and Courage —Keys to Emerging Black Leadership."

Anderson told students they must have a plan, even if it's in the rough stages. "One can't claim to be a black leader unless he/she is prepared and rooted in knowledge, especially in the political field. Today's colleges must strive for strong mentor programs to create strong leaders. Students don't like to admit when a skill is undeveloped," he said.

"You need to recognize mentors as key sources that will help you grow during your college years. Select your mentors well. Choose mentors that show characteristics of concern, knowledge, and commitment. Latch on to them and you will find that over a period of time, you will set and accomplish realistic goals, and [develop] perception," he said.

Anderson briefly spoke on courage. He defined courage as "having to step forward to represent something."

He warned students not to hide from their weaknesses, but to stand up to them.

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(from page 7)

"It doesn't take any courage to hide from your weaknesses . . . the strength of a leader comes from confronting challenges and conflicts," Anderson noted at a later session.

In the second part of his session, Anderson spoke on the subject "Emerging Black Leaders — Under Everyone's Microscope."

Anderson offered some tips on developing leadership skills. "First of all, you must assume more responsibilities for yourself and your community," he said. He recommended that students religiously follow a study schedule, practice identifying problem areas and be creative in approaching problem solving.

Anderson touched on the issue of confidence and attitude in leadership. He suggested that students build confidence by facing themselves and the world as opposed to running and hiding from it. They should develop high levels of interpersonal communications skills, good planning skills, and act without reservation according to what they believe, he explained.

At the conference's luncheon, the guest speaker, Dr. Maulana Karenga was concerned about black students taking pride in their heritage.

"We are an 'A' class of people," he said, "this makes us an heir of a legacy. We come from a generation that has shaped America. We must see our African heritage as a blessing rather than a burden."

"All that matters is where you're going and what you're going to do once you get there."

Sure, racism still exists—but we will never use this as an excuse not to succeed!"

Small group sessions included one moderated by VCU's Dr. Quincy Moore, acting director of Educational Support Programs. Moore headed a panel of five which included VCU Senior Jefferey Kooy, VCU Alumni Glen Davis, Mr. Ishmail Conway, assistant director of

VCU Student Activities, VCU counselor Dr. Napoleon Peoples, and Mr. L. Victor Collins, director of Minority Student Affairs at Old Dominion University.

Jeffrey Kooy essentially spoke on the importance of having a role model. Kooy advised students to pick people who can help overcome difficulties. He emphasized being independent and grown-up but he warned students, "Don't ever feel like you don't need anybody. There is always someone who can help you overcome life's obstacles if you'd just give them a half of a chance."

Ishmail Conway shared an acronym spelling "COPE" to serve as a guideline for students who did not know what to look for in an effective mentor or role-model. "C," he explained, "stands for looking for someone who is caring, confident, and shows concern; O: look for someone who can observe or tell when things aren't going well with you. P: choose someone who has patience, and E: choose someone who is equipped, that is, they have bright ideas, they have knowledge of your field of interests, and are reliable," said Conway.

Dr. Napoleon Peoples gave guidelines for those students interested in becoming a mentor. He said a person must know their limits, be an active listener, be willing to accept questions that you don't know the answers to have positive self-concepts, set appropriate and realistic expectations, and have the ability to accept their own shortcomings, and that of others.

L. Victor Collins suggested that black students should know themselves and their heritage. "Black students must take a more assertive stand in learning about their true history—not so much taking what others say and accepting it as truth."

"Do some research of your own," he said. Collins also suggested that black students learn more about racism so that they will know different ways to fight it. He added, "You can not fight that which you do not know exists."

The keynote speaker for the closing dinner on Saturday was Attorney Patricia Russell-McCloud. McCloud captivated Saturday's audience with her opening statement "Extra! Extra! Read all about it!" She followed by pointing out poignant problems such as pregnancy, lack of higher educated blacks, high school dropouts, drugs, alcohol, and unemployment. McCloud is known for brilliantly challenging her audiences—motivating each member to act rather than react.

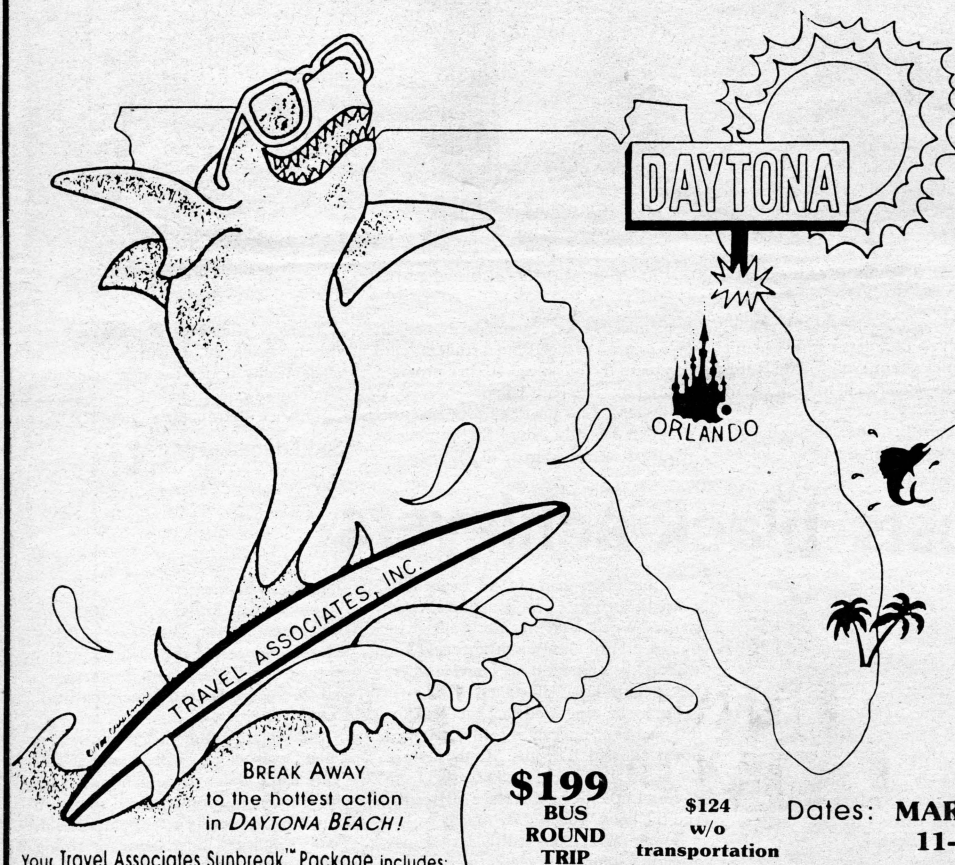
"Some of our youth today do not know just how important they really are. 'You may not have grown up in a fancy house, you may not have been raised in the best of neighborhoods, you may not have had your own car at 16, but it's not what you have, nor does it matter from where you came. All that matters is where you're going and what you're going to do once you get there!'" said McCloud.

Her message was geared towards motivating students to strive for their goals and not to let any kind of obstacles hinder their performance.

"Climb every mountain," she said, "It may seem as though the more mountains you climb, the more mountains there are to climb—but don't worry if you fall, try to fall on your back because if you fall on your back, you can look up and if you can look up, you can get up and, if you can get up, you can go forth."

She warned students not to let anyone tell them that their goal couldn't be reached.

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SPRING BREAK

Weight loss procedure accounts for calories

By Pam Peterson
Staff Writer

It's time to start balancing out those New Year's resolutions and figuring out what needs to be accounted for.

Weight loss, maintenance or gain, follows simple accounting procedures. Each pound of body weight is worth about 3500 calories. If you take in 3500 calories more than you spend, you will be credited with one pound of body weight. If you balance what you eat with what you spend, your weight will stay within budget. When you take in 3500 calories less than you spend, you will be debited one pound.

Your body keeps a balance sheet of debits and credits. (This is better known as your waistline.) Exercise (debit) helps to keep your diet (credit) in check. As you try to decrease your intake of food, try to increase your activity level. Here are some other tips to help you balance your budget, plan your investments, and expand your portfolio by dollars not calories.

SPREAD OUT YOUR INVESTMENTS: Variety is the key to moderate eating and to avoiding binges.

CHECK THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT: Few foods are pure fat, protein, or carbohydrate but foods with fat have more calories than others because fat has more than twice as many calories (9 calories/gram) as protein (4 calories/gram) or carbohydrates (4 calories/gram).

READ THE ANNUAL REPORT: Check food labels for the nutrient and caloric value of foods. Avoid foods that are high in calories and low in nutrients. Eat high calorie foods as a rare snack.

KNOW HOW FAR YOU CAN EXTEND YOURSELF: You can eat anything you want, but not all of anything. Cut down your portion sizes. Use small plates so smaller servings look larger.

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH: Water has zero calories. Fill up by drinking at least one glass of water before meals.

ADD UP THE DIVIDENDS: Every little bite counts. Keep your eye on the extras. Cutting out 2 pats of margarine or butter (at 35 calories each) per day will drop about seven pounds per year.

CONSIDER THE YIELD: Eat slowly and let your stomach catch up to tell you it's full. Cut smaller pieces. Put utensils down between bites. Chew thoroughly. High fiber foods have a high yield — they increase your feeling of fullness and require more chewing.

KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS: A diary of the foods you eat and when you eat them might help identify behavior chains, problem times, tempting foods. Know your weaknesses. Substitute activities at the times of temptation.

BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE

BOARD: Control what goes in your mouth. Ask yourself: Do you really want it? Are you really hungry?

YOU CAN'T MAKE A MILLION OVERNITE: Set realistic weight loss goals. Make small changes in your eating habits and exercise program. Work on one change at a time. Each day is a new day to work towards your goal.

STRIKE IT RICH: Plan non-food rewards for yourself when you reach a goal.

Education

(from page 7)

better on a four-point scale will be given priority, Borgard said. He added that some transfer students are now being admitted with GPA's less than 2.25.

The new admissions policies will include an admissions deadline of Feb. 1. VCU's previous policy of "rolling admissions" had no deadline and considered applications until the class was filled.

"We're getting more applications than we can accept," Borgard said, explaining that increasing and improving numbers of applicants have also contributed to the board's decision.

Several years ago it was decided that around 20,000 students would be all that VCU could physically handle, Borgard said. This number, he added, included

about 1850 freshmen and 1400 to 1500 transfer students for the entire campus per year.

"You have to look at your facilities to see how many students you can adequately educate," Borgard said, adding that the number of freshmen that can be accepted is restricted by limited housing.

Because more students are applying and the number of spaces available doesn't increase, Borgard explained, SAT scores may be driven up due to the large pool of applicants from which to choose. He said this could become a problem for the student who doesn't meet the traditional standards.

Smith and Borgard agreed that one of VCU's roles has been to educate students that are very diverse. They said diversity should continue to be considered in decisions affecting students.

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TABLOID U.

College News Weekly

From the National Affairs Desk

• Four U of Michigan freshmen were accused of running naked through Gamma Phi Beta sorority house and demanding that sorority sisters sign their buttocks to prove they were there. The four freshmen have pleaded no contest to indecent exposure and agree to pay for underwear stolen in the raid. (Wire Services)

• Researchers at U of Florida say women can prevent yeast infections by tossing their underwear into the microwave and cooking the garment. But researchers warned the process only works on cotton panties and would make nylon briefs "go kaboom." (Wire Services)

• U of Maryland at College Park students elected a king to head the student government. James Risner, or "King James," as he prefers to be called by his undergraduate subjects, ran as a Monarchist Party Candidate. Risner's first official act was to commission a cost analysis for accomplishing his No. 1 campaign promise: building a castle behind the main library and a moat full of beer around the campus. The moat would be refrigerated and patrolled by a submarine. (New York Times)

• East Anglia U (England) students elected a gerbil as their president of the Student Union. The gerbil received 194 more votes than his nearest competitor. (Associated Press)

• An Indiana U student is trying to benefit from a free tuition plan offered in 1856. The plan guaranteed free tuition to the purchasers's sons, grandsons, great-grandsons, etc. with the donation of \$100. Scott Raper, great-great-great-great-grandson of one of the purchasers is threatening to sue the university if the school does not honor the scholarship. Says Raper's mother, "It's something that my great-great-great-grandfather purchased in belief that his heirs would be taken care of. He was a supporter of the university, and I'm sure the \$100 helped tremendously at the time (Associated Press)

• Cmdr. Stephen E. Becker, public relations officer at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis does not deny that Army-Navy week is traditionally full of spirit and enthusiasm, "and this year has been no different." But to the U.S. Park Police this year's hijinks have been troublesome. On the eve of the Army — Navy football game, midshipmen hung banners reading, "Navy beat Army" from the Jefferson Memorial, the Memorial Bridge, and the Mall Dinosaur. Said Lt. Hugh Irwin, commander of the Mall monument area, "This is inappropriate because of the possible damage to monuments. Also, we don't need people falling from the monuments and killing themselves." (Washington Post)

VCU EVENTS Black History Month

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

"Beyond the Dream" Teleconference. 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Business Building Auditorium.
M.L. King Banquet. 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Commons Ballroom.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Black History Quiz — Jeopardy Style. 7:30 p.m. Commons Theatre.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

"The Black Economic Experience: From Slavery to Civil Rights." Lecturer Avon Drake. Afro-American Studies. 8:00 p.m. Commons Theatre.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Black Awakening Choir Showcase Concert. 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Location TBA.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

"Black On Black Crime." Panel Discussion; members include Mr. David Baugh, Esq., Mr. William Hicks (Blacks Mobilized Against Crime). 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Commons Theatre.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

"Black Politics." Panel discussion; members include Dr. Roy West, Mr. Saad El-Amin, Esq., Mr. Robert Gray, Esq. 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

"Wellness in the Black Commu-

ity." Panel Discussion; members include Dr. Loretta Sweet, Dr. Francis Dunston, and Dr. Jackson Wright. 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Commons Theatre.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

"Black Business and Economics." Panel discussion; members include Mr. Albert Dobbins, Ms. Dorothea Fowlkes and Mr. Vernard Henley. 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Commons Theatre.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

"Cultural Arts." Poetry recital: Ms. Joanne Harris Lewis. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Commons Ground.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

"Rascism on Campus." Dr. Mary Francis Berry. Black Cuacus and SGA Lecture Committee. 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.



Wed. XL102 Ladies' night with Dick Hungate — Cash giveaways

Thurs. Live & up-close music "The Bone Shakers"

Fri. Dance and rock-n-roll D.J.

Sat. College Dance

1718 E. Main St.
(In Hysteric Shockoe Bottom)

Cowboy Junkies look, sound bored

By Anne Kinnaman & James Rucker
For The Times

When half the members of a band are sitting down you know you're not in for a regular rock and roll show.

And when the female lead singer you've heard such rave reviews about peers catatonically through locks of bride-of-Frankenstein hair, complaining that she just can't sing any louder and that the audience at Rockitz (12:30 on a Friday night) ought to be quiet if they want to hear, well you feel downright betrayed. This band not only sang the blues, it had a terminal case of them.

Promoted as a country-blues band, the Cowboy Junkies lived up to their reputation of playing 3 a.m. music. Soft slow vocals by lead singer, Margo Timmins, and back-up instrumentation of pedal steel guitar, electric violin, accordion, guitar, bass and drums didn't quite live up to expectations.

In fact, all hopes for a satisfying musical experience were dashed like a carton of eggs onto the cold, cold Laurel Street pavement. Screeching feedback was one contributing symptom. Also, the pedal steel guitar player — while obviously the best pure musician and performer in the band — dominated the sound.

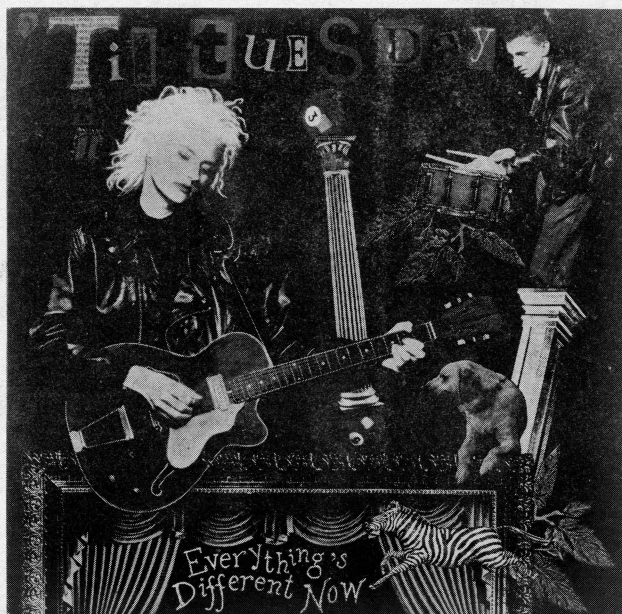
One member of the audience stood next to the sound board all evening



Cowboy Junkies even look bored in publicity shots.

See **Junkies** page 13

Breakup inspires 'Til Tuesday album



By Maureen O'Haire
Staff Writer

Someone broke Aimee Mann's heart. Who cares, right? Well, 'Til Tuesday's lead singer makes you care.

The band's new release, "Everything's Different Now," is an embarrassingly autobiographical portrait of the lead singer's relationship with singer/songwriter Jules Shear. Every song is a page ripped out of her personal diary, a wretched account of a shattered relationship.

"Everything's Different Now" comes as a surprise considering the band's past success ("Voices Carry") and a couple of forgettable albums. Mann has something to write about now. She also plays acoustic guitar on most of the songs, which created a different feel from what you would expect from the band.

The only problem with the album (some might consider it a major problem) is Mann's insistence on writing about her breakup. The songs are insightful and great pop tunes but she beats the subject into the ground. You either feel for her and maybe even relate to what she is

saying, or you end up thinking, "This is a bit much you sappy wimp."

The title track is a prologue to the sadness that follows. With song titles like "Crash and Burn," "How Can You Give Up?" and "(Believed You Were) Lucky," Mann is not struggling to conceal her heartache.

"J for Jules" is a direct shot at Jules Shear, leaving nothing to the imagination. She sings, "You know I'll miss you / and thus it begins / But I'll release you / and thus it continues / Someday we'll be happy again."

Elvis Costello, the king of cynical love songs, co-wrote and sang backup vocals on "The Other End (of the Telescope)." It contains the most potent lyrics — "Your head is so sore from all that thinking / I don't want to hurt you now / but I think you're shrinking."

"Everything's Different Now" is an impressive progression for 'Til Tuesday. It looks like Jules Shear ended up having a lot more influence over the band than just helping Aimee develop a fine sense for pop melodies. He gave us an angry young woman.



Station is moving in new directions

By Luke Funk
Folio Editor

Slow but noticable improvements are being made to the physical environment of the WVCW station. The walls are in the process of being repainted and carpeting is on the way. The production studio is also being upgraded.

Life is becoming easier for the station's disc-jockeys. Long-awaited record cleaners are in and station engineer Arvon Griffiths has installed remote start buttons for records. Station Manager John Stimos says the remotes will "aid the disc-jockey in keeping his or her show moving."

Stimos also talked about other ongoing station matters. While constant transmission has been achieved in Rhoads and Johnson halls along with both floors

of the Hibbs cafeteria, he said that problems in transmission lines have kept the station from being heard in the Gladding Residence Center.

The station is also taking "a more serious approach" towards finding an open-air broadcast frequency, according to Stimos.

Another goal for the station involves attempting more public service projects within the Richmond community. Stimos said the station would like to follow the lead of the university and become more active in community affairs. His rationale is, "WVCW has to care for others before we can expect them to care about us."

In other music news, R.E.M. is coming to Richmond in April and the New Bohemians are rumored to be dropping by around the same time.

Expect a new release from Modern English in the spring. Their fifth album will be their first since 1986.

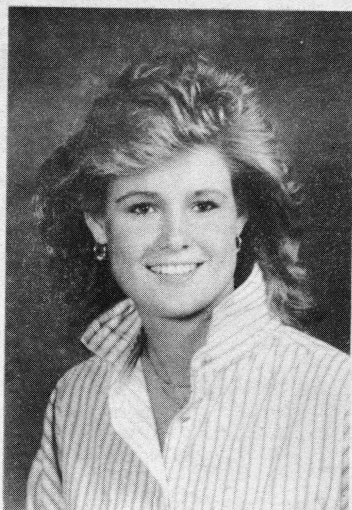
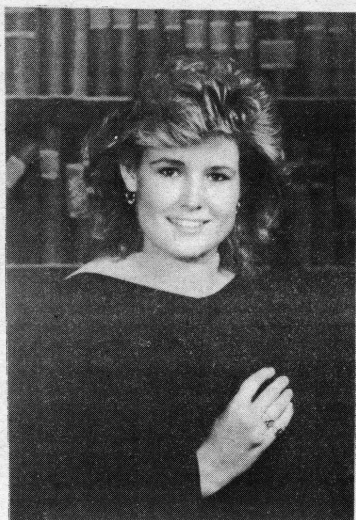
Reviews of 12-inch singles that WVCW has just received follow their top-10 band playlist for last week.

Top 10 List

1. The Fall
2. Rapeman
3. Sonic Youth
4. They Might Be Giants
5. Violent Femmes
6. Dead Milkmen
7. Ministry
8. Feelies
9. R.E.M.
10. New Bohemians

Portraits

CLASS OF 1989

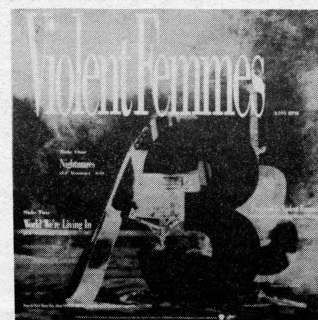


| Day | Time | Commons Room |
|---------|----------|--------------|
| Jan. 30 | 9am-3pm | A |
| Jan. 31 | 11am-7pm | D |
| Feb. 1 | 9am-5pm | D |
| Feb. 2 | 11am-7pm | D |
| Feb. 3 | 9am-6pm | C |

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The Violent Femmes first single from their 1989 release is "Nightmares." The song's acoustic guitar meshes well with the bass and drums and it has a nice solo. Its problem is the singing, which ruins the song. The shallow words don't help either.

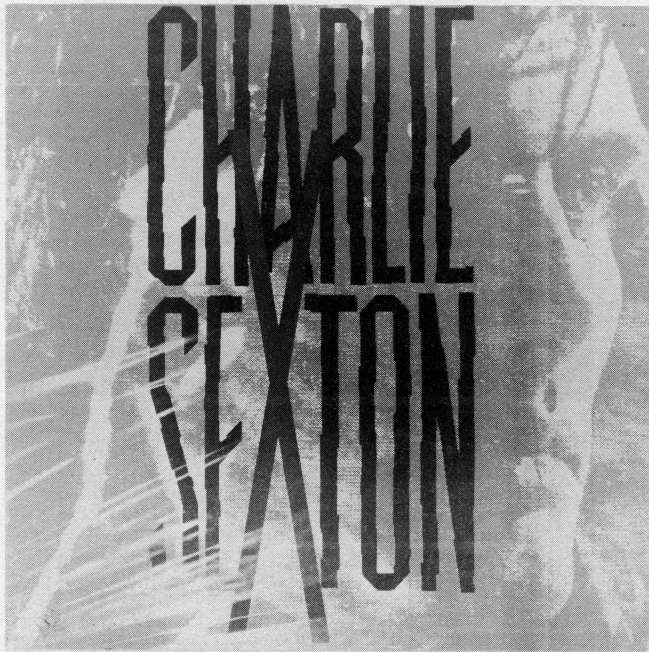
The B-side's "World We're Living In" is a much better song. The slow, mysterious opening changes into a mix of powerful horns and gentle xylophone. The song sounds like a reflection back to their song "Add It Up" in a world with AIDS.



The Thrasing Doves single "Angel Visit" from *Trouble in the Home* has college radio written all over it and isn't that spectacular a song.

One of two B-sides however, "Like A Rock" has a Lou Reed psychedelic sound and some good piano and keyboard work. The first side should be ignored while the second should be played.

Sexton stinks



By Luke Funk
Folio Editor

He was hailed as a future giant; a future master. He had one hit and then he faded. He was Charlie Sexton.

Sexton is back with a 1989 release, entitled *X*. By the sound of the album, he should have let "Beats So Lonely" be his legacy.

The cover touts the song "Don't Look Back", a collaboration with Bryan Adams. The song has top-40 potential because of its formula but lacks the intensity a song needs to become anything close to a classic.

Most of the other songs don't have a chance of ever being accepted by radio audiences. Songs like "For All We Know" and "Seems So Wrong" drag on and on, begging to end.

There are two really good songs on the album, "I Can't Cry" and "Cry Little Sister".

"I Can't Cry" features Sexton's strongest singing and has some good lyrics. "I

won't slip / and I won't fall / and I won't change myself at all / Do it by yourself in your dreams / and in the pictures I can't cry."

"Cry Little Sister" is a song from the *Lost Boys* soundtrack and features explosive guitars and a chilling chorus. Its interesting that one of two good songs on Sexton's new album is not written by himself.

Other songs just don't make much sense. "Blowing Up My Detroit" is a prime example. The words are hard to hear and interpret. On top of that, the song is boring and repetitive. The chorus drives the fact that "she is blowing up my Detroit and knocking down my Broadway" into the ground.

The album should have never seen the light of day. Sexton lacks passion. Even the cover is boring, which features just his name and the "x" in his name blown up.

Do yourself a favor and don't buy the album.



UH—NO THANKS! I'M GOING UP!



Widespread Panic brings their Athens, Ga., sound to New Horizons Saturday, Feb. 4. The band features Richmond's David Schools.

Junkies

(from page 11)

because he said the sound was so bad everywhere else in the club. Several people screamed from the back that they couldn't hear. The Rockitz crowd was ready to groove and instead many had to stay still and concentrate for even minimal musical comprehension.

The words to the songs were unintelligible although the vocal sound was sweet. The strongest songs were those with a traditional blues beat. The country song renditions were rather monotonous for people having to stand up for hours.

The accordion added an interesting touch but couldn't be heard over the pedal steel. The drummer used his brushes more than the drum sticks and added a

very appropriate subtle beat.

The weakness in the show was the painfully obvious lack of enthusiasm on the part of most of the band, particularly the lead singer. When she wasn't singing she turned her back to the audience and stared at the floor. People entertained themselves by trying to guess just what her problem was. What has been hailed as great music on the album was disappointing as a live performance.

I can't tell you how much we wanted to enjoy this show. Tingling all week . . . fits of pre-show nervous nausea . . . facial acne, but it was for naught. They were bad performers. Maybe their record was righteous but in my opinion they ought to stay in the wilds of Canada where Moosehead added tools can't hear the music and don't care.

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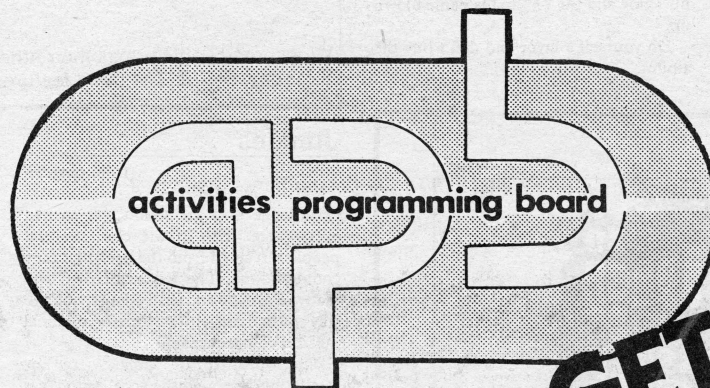
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SPORTS

VCU earns big SBC win over UAB



Bob Helber *Commonwealth Times*

Chris Cheeks drives around UAB's Jack Kramer on his way to 30 points in the Rams' 79-75 victory.

By Denise D. Wood
Sports Editor

"This was a critical game," said Mike Pollio. "It was the first time we have used the word critical all year."

Fortunately VCU was able to come through in the clutch and accomplish everything in the game plan for a 79-75 Sun Belt win over the University of Alabama-Birmingham Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Coliseum.

"The game plan worked to perfection," said Pollio. "Well not to *perfection*, but it worked well."

Pollio felt that the keys to defeating the Blazers were to keep their big guys off balance, keep the Blazers off of the free-

throw line, get as many rebounds as possible and maintain a good running game.

Keeping two of the Blazers' big guys in check seemed to be enough.

By using seven different defenses, the Rams forced the Blazers to change their offensive strategy each time they headed down the court. In doing so they limited the conference's number one and two three-point shooters, Andy Kennedy and Jack Kramer, to a combined 2-12.

Kennedy, 6-foot-8, who is averaging nearly 20 points per game, could only manage five on Thursday.

Alan Ogg, 7-foot-2, and Reginald Turner, 6-foot-8, managed 24 and 19 respectively. Ogg was held to only eight

in the second half.

The Blazers only went to the line eight times, where they hit six. The Rams, who had become notoriously weak from the line were 23-34, including 10 in row late in the game. The Rams were 20-21 from the line against ODU.

"It's funny," said Pollio. "We are a good free-throw shooting team in the gym and we're not very good in games, but it seems to be coming together."

With the strong efforts of freshman Horace Scruggs, who started in place of Antoine Ford, the Rams won the boards 39-30.

"He (Pollio) talked to me before practice," said Scruggs. "He said this was my last chance to prove myself. Either I

play or sit on the bench, so I had to play."

Scruggs hauled in 10 rebounds, seven in the first 10 minutes of the game, setting up key plays to send the Rams to an early eight-point lead.

"I just wanted to get the team going," said Scruggs. "That's all I wanted to do, that was my main goal."

"Scruggs really gave us an effort," said Pollio. "We felt that Antoine maybe needed to come off the bench and spark us, not to get that first foul. It was a gamble, we weren't sure of it, but it worked out. We challenged Horace, and he certainly answered the challenge."

The Blazers came out of the locker

See **Win** page 17

Are athletes here to get an education or not?

By Denise D. Wood
Sports Editor

Saturday, Jan. 14, Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson walked off the court as his Hoyas were set to take on Boston College in protest against Proposition 42.

Proposition 42, approved by a narrow vote at the NCAA convention Jan. 11, prevents high school students from receiving a college scholarship during their first year unless they can meet both of the NCAA's entrance criteria. The minimum criteria are a 2.0 (C) average in a core curriculum and a 700 SAT score or a 15 on the ACT.

Proposition 48, which had been in effect for three years, said that a student

could receive a scholarship by meeting only one of those criteria.

The Proposition was sponsored by the Southeastern Conference in an effort to tighten academic standards for athletes and force high schools to prepare students for a college curriculum.

Thompson argues that the standardized SAT tests have been proven to be discriminatory against minorities.

"I'm in support of the 2.0, but I'm not in support of the SAT scores, which have been proven to be culturally biased," Thompson told reporters.

To many this has proved to be a valid argument and the NCAA may put Proposition 42, slated to go into effect in 1991, on the back burner for a while or repeal it altogether.

This is just one in a long list of problems to hit the world of college athletics in recent years.

Several big name colleges, like Oklahoma and Kansas, have been reprimanded for recruiting violations and similar offenses, such as paying students to sign up and then buying them cars and plane tickets home to keep them around and overlooking drug use, ie; steroids.

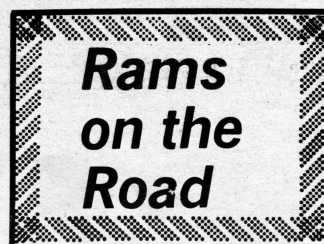
Several weeks ago North Carolina State basketball coach Jim Valvano was accused of fixing student's grades so they could remain eligible. Whether these accusations prove to be true or false is not the issue—the thought of such happenings should force everyone to take a long hard look at college athletics.

I think it is time to remind the athletes,

parents, fans and the coaches why these kids are supposed to attend college.

A college is defined as an institution of higher learning. College athletics have become such a big business that everyone seems to have forgotten about the kids and their futures.

See Prop 42 page 17



Western Kentucky 91, VCU 87

Freshman Mike Wilson put up 24 points, 10 of those during a second-half run to send Western Kentucky past the visiting Rams 91-87 in Sun Belt Conference play Saturday night, Jan. 21.

The Hilltoppers were in a must-win situation coming into the game with a 0-3 conference record. They outscored VCU 23-12 in the first half when Terry Birdsong nailed a baseline jumper putting the Hilltoppers up by one with 5:40 left in the half.

The Rams answered with seven consecutive points to regain the lead 43-37 before the half.

Western Kentucky, now 1-3 in the Sun Belt and 10-7 overall, took control of the game and the boards in the second half as Anthony Smith and Steve Miller combined for 21 rebounds to VCU's 12, helping Wilson and Brett McNeal (22 points) take over at the net and go up 78-67 with 4:39 to play.

See Road page 18

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(from page 15)
room down 41-35 and on the attack.

Turner hit a three-point jumper followed by a layup to send UAB on a 18-4 run. Ogg sank a slam uncontested to give the Blazers a six-point lead.

Derek Thompkins answered by taking the rebound in, missing the first shot, but getting his own followup. Chris Cheeks scored a layup from Lionel Bacon's steal and the Rams were on top 54-53.

Then the free-throw exhibition began. Kennedy sent Orlando Stewart to the line, where he hit both ends of a one-and-one. Ford blocked a shot by Ogg, who fouled Vince Wilson down the court and he went two-for-two, and the Rams were rolling.

Wilson and Cheeks alternated layups, Cheeks hit a three-pointer and the Rams were up 73-66 with 1:40 to play.

The Rams went to the line six more times, hitting six of nine shots. Kramer and Kennedy each went two-for-two at the line and Kramer hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to account for the final margin of 79-75.

Rams come alive

By Steve Guthrow
Staff Writer

No Bone For Retrievers

Kelly Hoover led the way as the Lady Rams' shooting sprung to life in the second half Wednesday night to bury the visiting Maryland-Baltimore County

"We were almost to the point tonight if we had lost we'd have said all right let's start getting ready for the (Sun Belt) tournament," said Pollio.

"The one thing you have got to do in this league is win your home games," he added. "We have a tough road the next eight or ten days, then we have a nice schedule at home. I'm very proud of the way our players played tonight."

Cheeks totaled 30 points, Wilson added 18 for the Rams as they move to 4-2 in conference play and 8-8 overall.

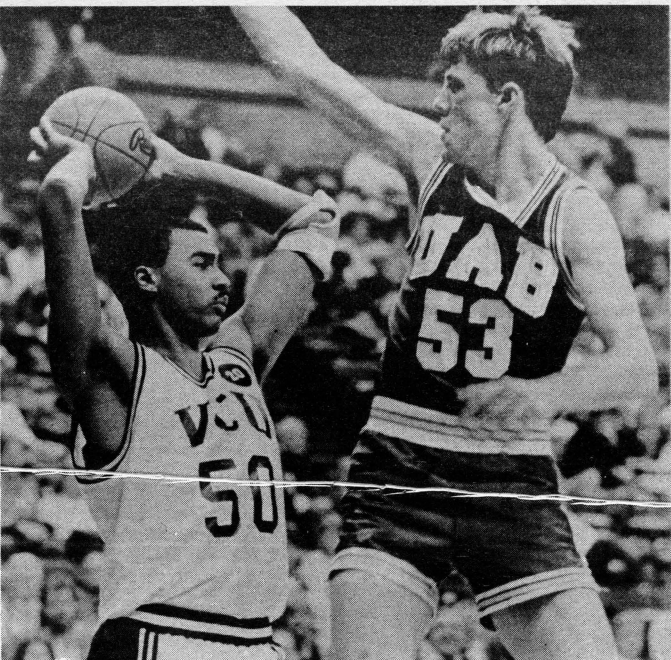
UAB falls to 3-3 and 11-6.

UAB — Turner 19, Rembert 10, Ogg 24, Bearden 8, Kennedy 5, Smith 0, Kramer 9, Howard 0, Lewis 0. Totals 31 6-8 75. Three-point goals: Turner 3, Kramer, Kennedy.

VCU — Scruggs 1, Cheeks 30, Henlan 8, Wilson 18, Bacon 6, Thompkins 5, Stewart 5, Ford 8, Alford 0. Totals 26 23-34 79. Three-point goals: Cheeks 2, Thompkins.

Retrievers 82-49 in the Franklin Street Gym. Hoover scored 18 points and pulled down six rebounds. Lisa Stielper put all of her 12 points on the board after the intermission to help VCU improve to 11-5.

VCU hit 52 percent of its shots (23-44)



Bob Helber Commonwealth Times

Blazers' Alan Ogg attempts to stop Martin Henlan in Thursday's action.

in the second half, after converting just 38 percent from the field in the first.

The margin of victory was the second largest of the year for VCU. Earlier the Rams obliterated visiting Coppin State 98-48. Jenny Hecht and freshman Heather Burik each hauled in seven rebounds in that game.

Tidbits

The win ended the team's longest losing streak of the season to date at two games.

Rhonda Jackson, in her bid to become the sixth Ram to surpass 1,000 career points, put up 10 against M-BC to put her at 996. Carroll Ann Clements reached the 1,000-point plateau three weeks ago against Appalachian State.

The Rams are 9-3 at home, but have yet to win on the road, where they will play nine of their last 11 games, including Sun Belt matchups at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, South Alabama and Old Dominion.

Lady Ram Team

Scoring leaders: Hoover 15.9, Stielper 10.9, Clements 10.9, Jackson 8.2, Ellison 5.7.

Rebounding: Stielper 94, Clements 92, Moss 74, Hecht 66, Hoover 65.

Assists: Hoover 64, Jackson 48, Stielper 41, Jackson 25, Ellison 22.

Sun Belt Conference standings: (as of Jan. 22)

Sun Belt Overall
South Alabama 2-0 11-6
Old Dominion 1-0 12-2
Western Kentucky 2-1 8-7
South Florida 1-1 8-5
UNC Charlotte 1-2 8-7
Va. Commonwealth 0-1 10-4
UAB 0-2 5-12

Last minute report

1,007 and counting — Rhonda Jackson scored 11 points against Liberty Saturday night bringing her career total to 1,007 becoming the sixth Ram to reach the 1,000-point mark.

Lorraine Ellison hit the front end of a one-and-one with just :13 remaining to lift the Rams past homestanding Liberty 77-76.

Prop 42

(from page 16)

Athletes are always treated as a commodity, something special, people who give a little extra to the institution by giving it a winning record. What does the institution give to the athlete?

Sure, winning is fun and the sound of a crowd roaring for a winning basket can be intoxicating, but it may come to an end in four years and then what will happen if the NBA, NFL or any major league sport, slams the door in the athlete's face and says, "You're not good enough for us. You don't have a degree because you weren't in school to get one, you were there to play ball and win games and make the coach happy; to help him secure his job."

What about the future job of the athlete?

I don't think it is too much to ask of our high schools and colleges to help the students hit the books a little harder than usual to earn that athletic scholarship. The operative word here is earn. It has always been my understanding that a scholarship is something that is earned, financial aid is given.

Allowing a kid to scrape by in high school or college so that he play ball doesn't benefit anyone, except maybe the coaches.

This isn't just about grades, it is about developing the discipline to try harder and be better, if not the best, even at something you may not really like, such as chemistry.

By allowing these talented athletes to scrape by for the sake of putting another one in the win-column they don't get a chance to learn that outside of that gym is a world where things are not handed to you, it takes work, of all kinds, to survive. If the NBA gives you a big fat contract great, by all means take it, but just remember, although it may be very tough to see at the age of 16, 18 or 23, those legs won't hold up forever, but an education is something that can never be taken away.



Carroll Ann Clements (22) in action at the Franklin Street Gym.

(from page 16)

Lionel Bacon led the Rams with 23 points, Chris Cheeks added 17, Orlando Stewart 12 and Martin Henlan 11.

The Rams suffered their first conference loss and fall to .500 overall at 7-7 but remain atop the Sun Belt standings with South Alabama losing 72-70 to UNC Charlotte.

Old Dominion 99, VCU 87

Chris Cheeks was on fire again with 30 points, but Anthony Carver was a little hotter with a career-high 35 as he led ODU to a 99-87 win over the visiting Rams Monday, Jan. 23.

Carver said it isn't really a big deal, he just gets behind the picks and directs the ball towards the net. He makes it look just that simple too. Carver was seven for seven from the line and hit six three-pointers.

The game was over for the Rams with 6:18 left in the first half when the Monarchs went on a 19-7 run sparked by Darrin McDonald's seven points, to go up 46-34 at the intermission.

VCU made several attempts to close the gap with a three-pointer by Cheeks and foul shots by Lionel Bacon, and later two three-pointers by Orlando Stewart. But, Carver made sure the Rams would exit the Scope with one more in the loss column by hitting a layup, both ends of a one-and-one and a three-pointer to extend the lead to 87-71 with just over three minutes to play.

Bacon added 18 points for the night and Martin Henlan 13 as the Rams fall to 3-2 in the Sun Belt and below .500 at 7-8. The Monarchs improve to 3-2 and 10-5.

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Same rich white men

By Jeff Draine
Guest Columnist

George Bush came into the presidency proclaiming the emergence of a new breeze blowing across the political bow of America, extending his hand in the spirit of bi-partisanship. It really is a wonderful departure from the Reagan years. It is good to have a president who is not a demigod or a caricature, who is politically vulnerable, and thus that much more accountable to the rest of us. Yet, there is no promise in the hands extended in the new breeze that it is not really the same fingers extended to check the direction of the wind, and thus, the same hot air for four more years.

Less than half of the persons eligible to vote participated in the election last November. Which means that if you consider that Bush won with a little over half the popular vote, it is conceivable that only one quarter of the American people pulled the big "Lever" on election day. I would propose also eliminating from that bunch the folks who were voting against the Duke so that what we have left is *significantly less than one fourth* of the population of this country choosing to vote for

George Bush.

Before the vote, we witnessed the usual plethora of pleas from such cultural notables as rap singers and Congress members telling us again that it is our moral obligation to vote (without ever explaining the moral obligation thing). I have heard on television, from former editors of the Commonwealth Times, and from instructors in the School of Social Work that "you have no right to complain if you don't vote." Like most convincing and pervasive heresies, this has the ring of truth. It is sad that this conventional wisdom is so accepted in the mainstream, because the main message of those who choose not to vote is ignored. The apathy is not ignorance. It is a complaint.

The complaint is that when President Bush calls for the new bi-partisanship, he's calling on the usual suspects, the same rich white men that have always made the decisions with the same considerations. I do not call them rich white men to be cute, cynical, or even radical. By many standards, I would be called the same thing. The point I make is that the government being put into place by Mr. Bush and the Congress lacks the voice that will include the interests of the poor,

the disenfranchised, the grass roots. Bi-partisan doesn't scare anybody in Washington. Jesse Jackson does.

While the press was pleased to paint the Jackson rainbow as a conglomeration of Black organizations and guilty white yuppies, the most lasting contribution Jesse Jackson has made to the political landscape is the hope of the great number of Americans not included in the bi-partisan club that their interests can be a part of the process. Progressives are gaining in political savvy and are getting organized. America will soon learn that "progressive" is not a euphemism for "the L word," but a movement that is preparing for the day when bi-partisan becomes omni-partisan.

The movement symbolized by the Jackson campaign learning that it can fight for its interest just as the current government and business interests fight for theirs. And there is the key difference. The kind of politics that will bring in those who are not coming to the voting booths in droves is the politics of inclusion and empowerment. These are not people fighting for welfare, new social programs or money for the arts. These are people fighting for a say. For Power. That is politics.

Legislature considers revocation bill

By Kent Slonoker
Staff Writer

Virginia's General Assembly is currently considering a bill which, if passed, would allow the revocation of a minor's driving license until he is at least eighteen if he is convicted of possessing or consuming alcohol or any other drugs. The bill covers all drug-related offenses, not just those that are driving related.

The bill should not be passed in its current form for two reasons. To begin with the bill discriminates unjustifiably on the basis of age. In its current form, minors are the only ones affected. The justification for discrimination is that the driver's license is of so much importance to teens that the possibility of losing it will discourage any illegal activity. Well, so would electrocution but it's not quite appropriate, and neither is license revocation.

This brings up the second argument against the bill. The punishment should match the crime. Mere possession of alcohol or even illegal drug use should not be grounds for license revocation.

Proponents of the bill, including Henrico County representative Bill Axselles, mean well with the bill. They are right in saying that the war against drugs will require strong measures. Strong, I agree with. Inappropriate I do not. Two significant changes need to be made to the bill before it is approved.

First, the law should apply to all age groups for illegal drugs. People under twenty-one would still be responsible for alcohol use. To prove that the legislature is serious about all illegal drug use it should target all drug users, not just one age group. After all, a driver's license is even more important to an adult who has to drive to work daily.

While the bill should expand the number of people to whom it applies, it should simultaneously limit the type of offense it is applicable to. License revocation should be used only in instances of driving-related occurrences. A driver who is convicted of driving under the influence should be the only offender who is eligible for automatic revocation.

It is extremely important, when making a law, to insure that the law is both impartial and appropriate. Age or race should not be factors in deciding punishment. The punishment itself should be as severe as the crime, no more or less. It should also, if possible, correlate to the crime. Anyone remember "an eye for an eye?"

Another Sunday in the park

By Orlando Salinas
Guest Columnist

The four men were standing in a huddle at the top of the stairs. The gazebo in Monroe Park, located across from Rhodes Hall, is their perch. If it had been spring or summer most people wouldn't even notice these men, but it's the middle of January. It's cold and wet.

It's the kind of day that most people would enjoy spending in front of the television, or reading a good book at home. If one had a home.

The rain had been coming down for most of the morning. At first it was a steady downpour, now it's a light drizzle. The moisture seems to hang like a heavy fog. Few people are in the park. Several that are, appear to be passing through, using the park as a thoroughfare.

It is Sunday. standing in the gazebo one can see the steady stream of churchgoers entering into, and coming out of the places of worship that encircle the city park.

Only a few hundred feet separate these men without a home from those people that are attending services. If these men were to shout from where they were standing, there is no doubt that they would be heard by the church goers.

Only a slight distance separates these

men in the park from the students and the professors that pass through, yet at the same time, these different groups of people are worlds apart.

As the reporter was making his way across the park, a voice emerged from where these men were gathered, "How's it going?"

Instead of walking away and pretending as if nothing had been heard, the reporter turned in the direction of the men and yelled back a greeting.

Wayne, a tall, lanky man with deep blue eyes, was the first of the group to motion the gesture to come forward. As he did, he fidgeted with his salt and pepper colored beard that reached to the middle of his chest. One hand is propped against the stone structure, as if he were holding up the entire building.

The other men stood away from Wayne. the closer the reporter got, the further the other three men distanced themselves.

Standing in the grey colored stone gazebo, surrounded on three out of four sides by VCU property, one gets the sense of somehow being able to feel the faint pulse of the immediate environment.

The conversation began with the safe topics of the weather, and trying to decide if the men that were present had enough clothes to stay warm on this day.

Three flannel shirts and a grey polyester windbreaker, according to Wayne, were enough for him. The blue wool cap on his

head was a gift from another street person.

"We're all brothers," he says unapologetically.

After several minutes, another man in the group becomes curious enough to ask the reporter his name. As soon as he gets his answer, he asks another question; "You got any money?"

J.D., 55, is the oldest of the four men. He was born in Baton Rouge in 1934. He's been in Richmond for a little over one year.

"I'm a conass," J.D. proclaimed. He stood in front of the other three men, taking on a teacher to student attitude.

"What's a conass?", Wayne yells at the self styled instructor.

J.D. stops pacing and explains, "I'm part French Indian and part nigger!"

The three men laugh, and J.D. retreats inside the gazebo. One can hear the zipper of his pants being pulled down as he urinates somewhere inside the circle structure. When he is done, the fly can be heard going back up.

"ZZZZZZIP!"

"Hey, I asked you if you got any money?" he yells again.

Before he gets any response, he reaches inside his rain soaked, waist-length jacket and pulls out a half empty bottle of red wine. The lip of the clear bottle reaches J.D.'s mouth, and short, heavy slurping

See Sunday page 20

(from page 19)

sounds follow. The other men are laughing quietly now.

J.D. puts the twist cap back on the bottle and places the container safely inside the breast pocket of his corduroy coat. He taps his chest and smiles as he hears the sound of his fingers hitting the glass. His little secret is safe.

The gazebo's stone banister is J.D.'s guide, as he makes his way down the steps to the reporter. Finally stopping when the noses of the two men are almost touching. The reporters individual "space" had been violated, and he was feeling uncomfortable.

"I don't think this asshole can hear me!" J.D.'s breath smelled bad. He was looking directly at the reporter waiting for something, anything. A sudden move, an exchange of words, maybe a laugh. He gets nothing.

Wayne had bunched up with the other men while J.D. approached the reporter. Now he comes back and places his hand on J.D.'s shoulder.

"Hey, now don't give this man the

wrong impression. We're not fighters maybe you are - but we're not."

While Wayne tries to calm his friend down, several bikeriders pass the gazebo. They gaze up at the men, and then turn away quickly as if they hadn't seen a thing. The four men laugh. It's almost as if a joke had been told, and these four men were the only ones who understood it.

"Those guy's are assholes!", said the third man in the group (referring to the bikeriders). Mike makes his comment loud enough for those in the immediate vicinity to hear.

Mike is from Baltimore.

"All these damn VCU students think they're so damn hot, they ain't shit!"

Mike's face is hard. The lines of age run deep from the corners of his brown eyes, down along his high cheekbones until they fade into his trimmed brown beard. The baseball cap on his head doesn't seem to offer much warmth on this cold day. Then again, it doesn't seem to bother him.

"I've been in Richmond on and off for about a year and a half now. The cops in the city are good," he said. "It's the VCU cops who think they're cool. They gotta

protect their little students!"

While Mike is talking, the other men are trying unsuccessfully to light a cigarette. After huddling closer together to block the brisk wind, the tip of the Marlboro glows red. A smoke.

Wayne asks the reporter if he has ever slept out on the street. He is told no.

"I slept at the center last night," states Wayne (the Emergency Shelter Inc., is located on 2 E. Main St.), "but after three days you gotta move on."

The grey stone inside that should have been dry, was wet with urine.

A voice sounding like J.D.'s, says he's slept under the 2nd Street bridge.

Finding work, these men agree, is difficult this time of year. Most street people find work through temporary agencies like Tracy Labor, which is located at 415 W. Grace St. "It's easy for most people to get to," Mike adds. "They [Tracy Labor] drop off and pick up from jobs."

"I make enough money from one day's work to buy some dinner, some cigarettes, and maybe a little beer," J.D. yells from the gazebo.

"Yo, shut up!", J.D. shouts, concerned that his comment wasn't heard.

Wayne, now outside, shouts back quickly, "My name ain't 'yo'!"

Silence.

"If you weren't so ugly, I'd kiss you," Mike says kiddingly to J.D.

The two men take drags from the same cigarette, and share a private joke. Laughter comes from inside the gazebo as the last of the four men walks toward the reporter. His walk is slow, almost methodical.

The wide treads on the bottom of his grey tennis shoes are tearing out at the sides, looking like unkempt strands of black

hair. Not too different from alot of other people's shoes, whether they have a home or not.

Meet Terry. He's from Massachusetts. "I got arrested last night," he said, "I was just walking around in circles, all the shelters were full. I didn't have no place to sleep."

According to Terry, he was approached by the Richmond police last night, and when the officer asked him where he was going, Terry told him he didn't know. The officer, Terry said, told him he'd give him a place to sleep and took him to jail.

At this point Terry pulled out a neatly folded piece of paper from his wallet. A summons.

The violation on the yellow carbon read "D.I.P."

"That's drunk in public, but I wasn't drunk!" he swears.

The noise inside the gazebo becomes faint as the other men listen to Terry. The story is a familiar one, these men say, but everytime they hear it, it hurts.

"We're marked men," said Mike, "as soon as cops find out you're homeless, they stay on your ass."

Terry's words, like his actions, seemed measured. His hands are clasped together, pointing down towards his feet. He straightens his baseball cap and continues to speak.

"I've been here for three and a half weeks. Eventually, I want to get to Spokane, Washington," he said. "I've got a job working for a carnival for six months. Six on and six off."

Terry reaches inside his pants pocket, and seems to count the change by feeling the width and edge of each coin.

"I've got a dollar and seventy cents. I'm going through hard times now, but I've gotta make it."

While Terry spoke, the other three men walked down the steps of the gazebo and around it full circle. Finally standing next to Terry.

"Pace is open for lunch," Mike said (Pace Memorial United Methodist Church, located next to Rhodes Hall at 700 W. Franklin St., serves meals to the homeless).

Wayne motioned to Terry to join them for the bag lunch before the line grew any longer. Terry agreed.

"Later," Mike yelled. The men walked side by side towards Pace Church, stopping for a moment to check the traffic before crossing the street.

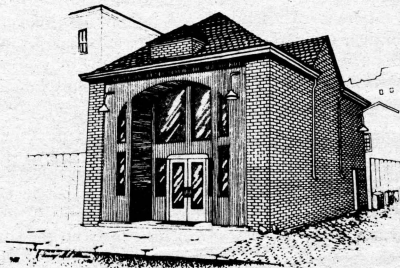
The gazebo held no one. The reporter walked inside the empty structure. The grey stone inside that should have been dry, was wet with urine.

As the reporter walked away from Monroe Park, his stomach growled. He was hungry and he wanted to eat. He didn't think about the four homeless men and their hunger pangs. Whether or not they found a place to sleep that night didn't concern him, he wanted to eat.

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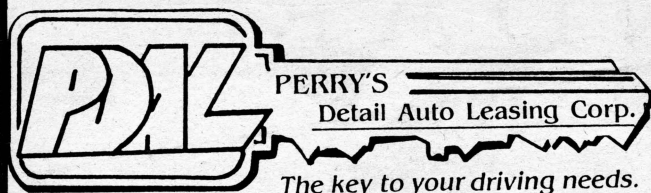
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Shockoe Slip Cafe Cheap Date Night w/ Jonathan
Anderson Gallery "Surface and Intent" exhibit explores a return to minimal imagery through Feb. 26th.
Theatre Virginia *I'm Not Rappaport* through Feb. 4th. Call 367-0831 for info.
Richmond Comedy Club Local talent night
Richmond Coliseum Poison
Grace Street Gallery Black and white photographs by Grace Wen Hwa Ts'ao

WEDNESDAY the 1st

New Horizon Cafe Reggae Video Dance Night
Rockitz House Music Party with D.J. Randy Hutchinson
Business Building Auditorium National Teleconference "Beyond the Dream: A Celebration of Black History" from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Program segments include education, politics, art and the military.
Richmon Public Library "Harriet Tubman and the Undergraound Railroad" 25th & R Streets.
Common Ground D.J. Party 9 p.m.

THURSDAY the 2nd

Va. Musem Fast/Forward Concert at 8 p.m. Kathy Rose will present "Syncoptions" Thursday and Friday.
Rockitz-Love Puddle

FRIDAY the 3rd

Library Tavern Panic
Richmond Coliseum Truck and Tractor Pull Winter Championship Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m.
Richmond Public Library "Freedom's Challenge" A presentation of black history in the lower Tidewater area of Virginia from 1860's - 1890's. 1400 Hull St.
1708 E. Main New and recent paintings by Richard Carlyon, Richard Kevorkian, Kevin McGrath and Paul Ryan.
Carpenter Center Va. Opera presents "Anna Bolena" Donizetti's Account of the queen and her death at the hands of Henry VII. Call 643-6004 for details.
Rockitz Executive Slacks
Jade Elephant Dirty Secrets

SATURDAY the 4th

Library Tavern Spectrum
Jade Elephant Contoocook Line
Rockitz BEN VAUGHN GROUP with the Organ Grinders



Contoocook Line contemplate renovation of their plush Oregon Hill home. Regardless of the outcome, they will be at the Jade Saturday.

SUNDAY the 5th

Carpenter Center Winter Choir Concert at 4 p.m.
Rockitz Wiggins
Jade Elephant D. T. and the Shakes
Commons Theatre The Alternative Film Committee presents Chris Marker's 1982 experimental work *Sans Soleil* at 6 p.m. and Jan Svankmajer's *Alice*, an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic at 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY the 6th

Jade Elephant Open Jam Night
Shockoe Slip Cafe Progressive Night
Rockitz Funk-A-Rama
VCU Commons A joint meeting of Cacus for Peace and Coalition for Student Awareness will be at 7 p.m. in room D.

UP AND COMING

Feb. 7
Constitution Hall John Hiatt and Robert Cray
Feb. 18
Floodzone Leon Russell

ALTERNATIVE FILMS SPRING 1989

MOVIES FOR SPRING 89

Jan 22

6 p.m. Joe's Bed - Stuy Barbershop
8:30 p.m. Betty Blue

Jan 29

6 p.m. Born In Flames
8:30 p.m. Alphaville

Feb 5

6 p.m. Sans Soleil
8:30 p.m. Alice

Feb 12

6 p.m. Pixote
8:30 p.m. Hour of the Star

Feb 19

6 p.m. Jazz on a Summers Day
8:30 p.m. Last of the Blue Devils

Feb 26

6 p.m. Beauty and the Beast
8:30 p.m. Anita: Dances of Vice

March 5

6 p.m. Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant
8:30 p.m. Beyond the Valley of the Dolls

March 19

6 p.m. Who Shall Live/Who Shall Die?
8:30 p.m. TBA

April 2

6 p.m. Woman of the Dunes
8:30 p.m. Demon Pond

April 9

6 p.m. Cartoons & Experimental Short Films
8:30 p.m. A Jumpin Night In the Garden

April 16

6 p.m. The Idiot
8:30 p.m. Night of the Shooting Stars

April 23

6 p.m. The Girl Can't Help It
8:30 p.m. 200 Motels

April 30

6 p.m. The Gospel According to Saint Matthew
8:30 p.m. Vigil

May 7

6 p.m. Fleishertoon Folio
8:30 p.m. Sherman's March

February 3,4

Black History: Lost, Stolen, or Strayed
Claudine

FRIDAY

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

10,11

Cleopatra Jones
Cleopatra Jones and the Casino of Gold

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

17,18

Place of Weeping
Cry Freedom

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

24,25

RAW
Coming to America

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

March 3,4

Bull Durham
Die Hard

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

10,11

Tougher Than Leather
Colors

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

March 31, April 1

Big
Punchline

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

April 7,8

Gorillas in the Mist
The Accused

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

14,15

Friday the 13th: Part VII
A Nightmare on Elm Street: Part IV

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

21,22

A Fish Called Wanda
U2: Rattle and Hum

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

28,29

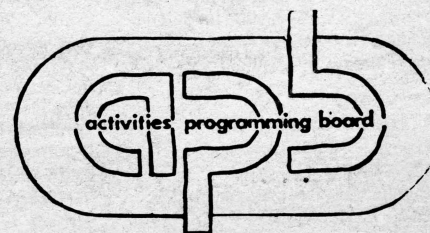
To Be Announced
To Be Announced

8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

10:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

All Films will be shown in the Commons Theater. FREE! to VCU Students with current IDs, \$2.00 to the rest of the world. Funded by Student Activities Fees.

Join the Film Committee, call the Film Committee at 367-6509, or stop by and see Terry F. Brown in the Student Organizational Area.



Please note that all films are in the Business Bldg