

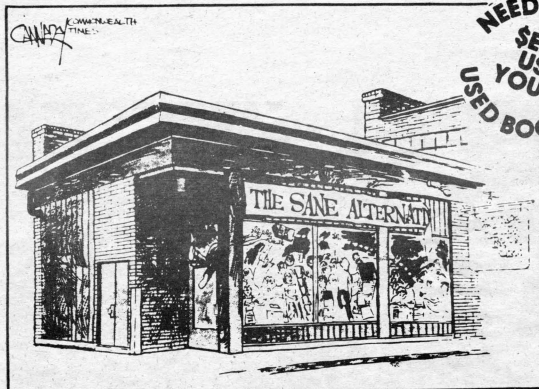
# COMMONWEALTH TIMES

Volume 20, No. 22

April 18 - 24, 1989



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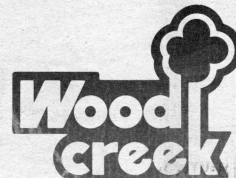


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# CONTENTS

## NEWS

### Grads come back

In celebration of VCU's 150th birthday more than 600 alumni attended reunion parties, dinners, lectures and tours..

page 5

### Experiments with animals

When is animal research necessary? Doctors explain how animals are used at MCV.

page 6

### Parking problems

VCU searches for solutions for handicapped student's parking dilemma.

page 6



## FOLIO

### Preview

R.E.M. brings its obnoxious garage -band sound to... just kidding. R.E.M. returns to Richmond Friday to support its latest top -selling album, "Green."

page 12

### Ballet

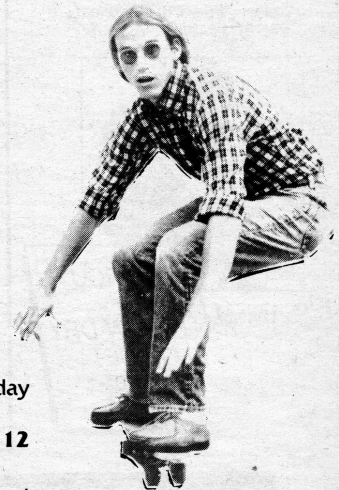
Virginia's only professional company is looking to move towards national and international performances.

page 11

### Music

The Pursuit of Happiness rocks the house down with its inspired sounds.

page 9



## SPORTS

### Soviet visit

The Rams welcomed the Soviet National team with a 16 -2 pounding of the Soviets.

page 17

### Final basketball notes

South Alabama's Jeff Hodge led the Sun Belt Conference in post season honors.

page 17

### Hockey playoff news

Philadelphia takes care of the Washington Capitals in six games.

page 18

## EDITORIAL

### More Fun Moral Decay

Taking a look at AIDS and its impact on our future and past.

page 19

### A New Mother Russia

A few thoughts on the transforming Russia.

page 19

### Pleas of confusion

The drug controversy continues, trying to find the answer.

page 20



### On the cover

Students flocked to Shafer Court Friday afternoon to see Rosebud (cover photo by Kathy Laraia) and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The traditional end -of -the -week concert had been rained out for two weeks.

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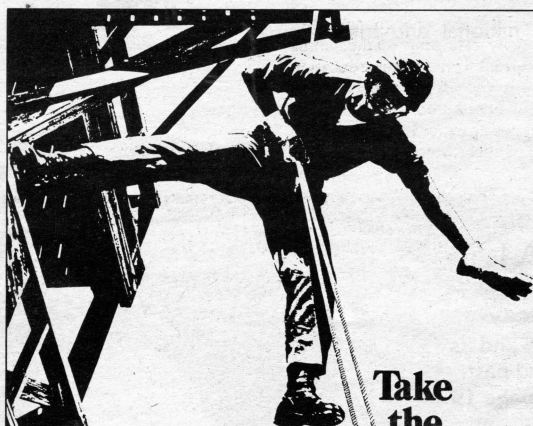
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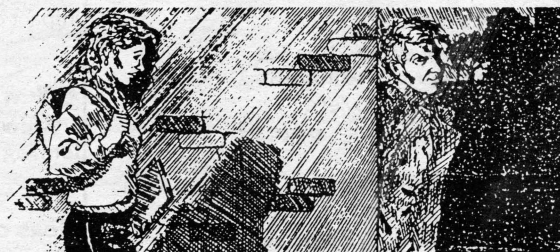
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# NEWS

## Alumni programs created to reach many

By Lisa Tosac  
Staff Writer

Camaraderie was shared by a table of elderly women, art graduates from the class of 1941, as Provost Charles Rook welcomed them at the alumni luncheon held at the Student Commons Ballroom. This kindred spirit was present in about 600 more VCU graduates when they returned to the academic campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend, March 31-April 1.

Alumni Relations sponsored this first-time reunion in celebration of VCU's 150th anniversary. The Alumni Association for the MCV campus partakes in reunion activities each year and prepared continuing education lectures, banquets and tours for its 100th anniversary celebration.

According to Paulette Haskins, an assistant director of VCU's Alumni Activities, the purpose of the reunion was to "promote learning and exchange — learn of achievements of several alumni and other changes first hand."

The reunion and the Big Party at VCU festival may have also served as a promotional tool for VCU's admissions office. Aimed at college-seeking individuals, the Big Party served as an informal open house tour of both campuses.

To increase incoming freshman attendance, Alumni Activities and the admissions office are co-sponsoring the Alumni Counseling Service. This first-year pilot program enlists the help of about 25 alumni from the Northern Virginia/D.C. area to make phone calls to prospective students living in that area.

The alumni offer personal insight to what it's like to be a VCU student.

Admissions Director Horace Woolridge has observed that college recruiting has become competitive and technical. "It's absolutely critical to get across information (about VCU) to students," he said.

In whatever form — T-shirts, bumper stickers, college fairs, word-of-mouth or Woolridge's soon-to-be-made "VCU4U" license plate — college advertising is on the upswing.

Freshman applications from Northern Virginia had declined in the past few years but there has been an 8 percent increase in committed applicants to the school. Most entering freshmen hail from a range of Southwest Danville to Southeast Tidewater, added Woolridge.

The Alumni Counseling Service hopes to maintain the average and up the number of applicants from Northern Virginia.

Kevin Johnson, a 1983 School of Business graduate, returned his alumni activities response card last October and began counseling a list of students and their parents over the phone.

Johnson, a contract management specialist for the Defense Logistic Agency, generally had pleasant phone conversations. He spoke of the history of VCU

and other social and academic aspects of the school to the students he reached. Being a native Richmonder, convenience may have been why he chose VCU as a



Anxious parents listen intently at open house in Tysons Corner.

freshman, Johnson said.

However, when asked why he chose VCU as a freshman, Johnson replied, "Because it's a good university. There's not as much publicity for VCU as other schools. Students hear more about X, Y and Z than VCU. Nothing says it has less of an astringent program."

His main selling point is that VCU is "academically strong" and that there are many undergraduate programs available.

Co-assistant director of alumni activities Diane Stout notes that the program is planning to expand to other regions. Final admissions progress made by the counseling service will not be evaluated

until the next school year.

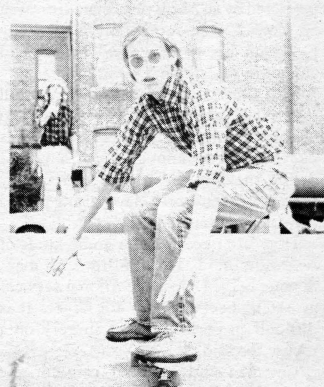
Another Alumni Activities-sponsored event functioning along with the counseling service was the student-alumni reception held April 6 at the Sheraton in Tyson's Corner (Northern Virginia).

The alumni counselors greeted 203 prospective students in person. The task of convincing young adults that VCU is the college for them may not be too easy. Alumni Activities director William Iles expressed at the luncheon that VCU has a "pioneering education." From its early days as Richmond Polytechnic Institute it has grown to 20,700 students between the two campuses and diversified. Dr. Rook further added that VCU has the fourth largest academic medical center in the country and is among the top 75 in research and activities. The average student age is 27, which is comparatively young for urban universities and old for undergraduate school. Graduate Johnson concluded by saying that VCU did prepare him for entering the "real world" and perhaps its versatile city location helped.

As the luncheon was brought to a close many of the alumni were asked by the *Commonwealth Times* what changes they have found by returning to their alma mater. Sandra Tims, a music education major who is also on the School of the Arts alumni board, commented on the increase in performance level as students are becoming more professional.

One 1941 art graduate approached many of the "The Poor Starving Artists" exhibitions. In reply to how artwork has changed since her art student days, she said, "We were naive back then. They're more sophisticated now."

Perhaps this cultural sophistication appealed to incoming VCU students catching a glimpse of the new VCU at the "Big Party" weekend.



70s skateboarder. Yes, a VCU alumni



"Education in an urban age." Educational goals still the same. VCU Alumni have the opportunity to share their experience with prospective students.

# Animal research issue raises many debates

By Anne Kinnaman  
Managing Editor

The Virginia General Assembly recently considered legislation that would have restricted the use of some animals for medical research.

MCV representatives were vigorously opposed.

This type of legislation can have a profound effect on MCV's research department, where 60,000 mice, 10,000 rats, 1,000 other lab rodents and about 300 dogs are used every year.

These animals are used to research the safety of chemicals in the body, study organ transplants and perfect surgical techniques, said Dr. Kenneth Ender, assistant to the vice president and provost at VCU.

Citing a personal example, Ender said his father benefited directly from MCV's animal research program. After having a heart attack his father received bypass surgery. The surgical technique had been perfected by an MCV physician's research on dogs. "Our reputation is partially based on his good work," Ender said about the researcher.

The General Assembly rejected a bill that would have prohibited hospitals to use pound animals for research. Hospitals like MCV buy animals from a pound before they are put to sleep. Generally there is a seven- to 10-day waiting period before the animal is sold.

Dogs are necessary for some kinds of research, said Dr. Philip Coleman, director of the Division of Animal Services at MCV, because they are larger. It is difficult to perform heart surgery on a mouse, he said.

Coleman and his staff care for the animals until they are delivered to a scientist for a study. They also monitor surgical and anesthesia procedures to make sure they are properly administered.

After the study, the animals are generally put to sleep, he said. "We do everything we can to insure that the animals don't suffer."

Dr. William Dewey, MCV's director of animal research, said MCV's reputation as a research school depends on its continued ability to use animals.

He cited a recent MCV study as an example. An animal's body fluid was used to develop a technique to measure chemicals in the body. "Using those techniques we are able to diagnose and treat children who are dying from Infant Death Syndrome," he said. He said animal tests are the only way to verify the safety of some chemicals.

But animal rights activists would like to see researchers find another way to run their experiments.

During a recent program sponsored by the NOAH project Dr. Neil Barnard, founder and chairman of the Citizen's Committee for Responsible Medicine and Ender debated the ethics of using animals for research.

In front of about 60 people in the Business Building Auditorium Barnard said, "It's a mistake to advocate for animal research as a method."

He said animals are often mistreated during research and that the research isn't effective. Scientists can and do learn more about how to treat humans by observing humans, he said. "Animal

experiments are worse than nothing — they get in our way."

Animals and people are different, he said. Animal research is not conclusive and can never lead to direct use in humans without human testing.

He advocated tissue culture testing, done on a live group of human or animal cells, as a more "elegant and direct method."

Calling the issue complex and emotionally charged, Ender said "We believe human life is not equivocal to animal life."

Animal research, he said, has led to important discoveries about transplants, open-heart surgery and vaccinations. And

animal research shouldn't be ruled out for research on current medical issues such as AIDS, Infant Death Syndrome and high blood pressure.

While Ender supports using tissue cultures and computer modeling whenever possible, he said subcultures don't have bones and organs and just can't be used for some types of study.

Dewey said all research animals are cared for by a trained staff and are always treated humanely. All animals are anesthetized before a study begins. "The animal is not to suffer pain," he said.

At MCV an animal use and care committee composed of researchers, veterinarians and members of the

community must approve any request for animal use in medical studies. They study how the animals are to be used, if there is proper anesthesia, and whether the experiment is necessary before they allow the researcher to use animals.

Also the U.S. Department of Agriculture can inspect a research lab at any time to observe procedures.

While most researchers advocate exploring other methods, they say they still must rely heavily on animal-based research.

"There's no question," Ender said, "If we didn't have the animals we couldn't do the research."

## Parking Frustrating for handicapped students

By Jane Terrell  
Staff Writer

Students with disabilities at VCU have to tangle with parking problems on the academic campus.

The Code of Virginia defines a person with a disability as "any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of his major life activities or has a record of such impairment."

The results of a 1980 survey and the figures used by national organizations that work with the disabled say. "In a typical lunchtime crowd on a busy street in any United States city, one out of 10 persons is disabled is some way."

Harold Greenwald, of VCU's division of records and registration, said that this spring there are 910 off-campus students, 14,010 day and 4,785 evening students. This gives a total enrollment of 19,705 students.

Two hundred forty-seven, or 1.25 percent, of these students are classified as disabled, explained Ellen D. Pearson, the assistant dean of student affairs.

To Pearson's knowledge, no student has ever been denied admission to VCU because his disability could not be accommodated.

Twenty parking lots are scattered throughout VCU's academic campus. They provide a total of 1,785 parking spaces for faculty, staff and students. In those lots, 27 spaces are designated for handicapped parking.

The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code says the when parking is provided, a minimum of 3 percent of those spaces will be for the handicapped.

Three percent of the deck's 1,015 spaces is 30. Thus, in order to meet the minimum of 3 percent, 17 more handicapped spaces need to be added to the deck.

Those spaces are not clearly marked. "One of the reasons for this," said Joseph E. Santi, the academic campus parking manager, "is vandalism; it occurs after hours. As soon as we put up the handicapped sign, someone steals it," he explained.

Only those vehicles with state-issued handicapped license tags or people with handicapped decals are permitted to park in handicapped spaces.

Handicapped tags or decals are secured by first getting a doctor's written permission and then applying to the Division of Motor Vehicles for a permit.

Two types of permits are issued by the DMV: temporary and permanent. There is no charge for either.

A temporary permit must be for at least 90 days and not more than 12 months. The permanent one must be renewed every five years. The permit is issued to an individual, not to a car.

A disabled person may not be able to drive a car, but can still apply for the decal and have it to use when being driven by someone else.

"Students possessing handicapped decals or state-issued plates can purchase VCU permits for \$26 a month, valid day or night," Hobgood explained.

The permit is issued for a handicapped space in a specific lot. If all the handicapped spaces are taken, the disabled student may then park in any available space in that lot.

University parking lots are reserved during the day for faculty and staff only.

"Handicapped spaces are also available to the Mosque users," said Sylvia Hobgood, director of parking and transportation at VCU. If theatergoers are disabled and use all 13 handicapped spaces, there are none left for VCU to use.

Disabled or not, all students have their share of frustrations and problems when trying to find place to park on VCU's academic campus in the city of Richmond.

## Profile: Alex Ghazarian

By Anastasia Stith  
Staff Writer

It's here. Early registration. Time to beat mass confusion and long lines of procrastinators who are waiting until the fall to register.

But no matter how early anyone registers, and no matter how many times anyone sees his adviser, most of us face the terrifying task of making sure our schedule is absolutely, positively what we want.

Isn't there somewhere we can go to have someone go through the registration process and explain it to us clearly, rather than sit in a plastic fold-out chair and face someone ready to whiz us through some

computer?

Yes, there is.

Alex Ghazarian, office services specialist at records and registration, has been working with students at VCU for 12 years, first as a transcript clerk for seven years and then five years behind the counter.

Ghazarian can answer any question, not only about registration but about where to get more information about financial aid, course selections, student ID's and even world events.

One would think that Ghazarian is bombarded everyday with thousands of questions, but he assures us that though there are many repetitive questions, things run smoothly at registration because he

likes working with the students so much. He does not rush students, but takes the time to make sure they get the answers they want thoroughly and politely.

Because of his impressive work at VCU, Ghazarian has received many letters of thanks, as well as a certificate of appreciation awarded by the Defense Investigative Services for "invaluable, expeditious and cheerful assistance rendered the Defense Investigative Service and to the Department of Defense from 1983 to present."

So if you are beginning to feel anxious about your next semester at VCU, talk to Alex. He will help you figure out what to do.

# Blank stares no reason to give up

By Mary Vail Ware  
Staff Writer

You walk into your adviser's office and he stares at you blankly.

"May I help you?" he says. "Marvelous," you think, "I only made this appointment two weeks ago."

You respond patiently, "I made an appointment with you two weeks ago because I am confused about my schedule."

"Oh, I can't possibly meet with you today. I have to go to a departmental meeting. Let me reschedule you. Now what was your name?"

Scenario two: Your professor is explaining a tedious and difficult subject. He ends class 10 minutes late. As you are hurriedly stuffing your notebook into your backpack and formulating a play to inconspicuously enter your next class (because even sprinting across campus you will still be late for that class that always starts on time), your professor asks, "Any questions?"

"Yeah," you think, "Why didn't you give us time to ask any?"

Unfortunately, the previous scenarios are all familiar to the students at VCU. One possible reason could be that there are 19,831 students at VCU and only 1600 instructional faculty, including the MCV campus. That averages .081 faculty members per student (and that figure was rounded up). Another possible explanation for this problem is the pressure on professors to get published, and the pressures on graduate and doctoral students to complete their degree requirements as well as conduct a class. The last, and least desirable, of the explanations is that the faculty does not recognize that there is a problem, and the students do not push the issue.

Perhaps students do not push the issue, but that does not mean that they will not acknowledge that there is a problem.

Kim Hillard, a sophomore majoring in biology, feels that the advising system does little to meet the needs of the students. "When I first met with my

adviser, he just told me to pick out some classes and he would sign my schedule. I know too many people that have gone to their adviser and have ended up taking classes that they don't need."

A senior social work student had her own theory about the communication gap between faculty and students.

"I think that what happens is that it is left up to the students to be aggressive, and if the adviser cannot answer their questions, the students don't go back," she stated.

On a more encouraging note, some of the faculty realize that communication between faculty and students is sorely lacking. One professor, who asked not to be named, commented that "something needs to be done," but also added that "it may be too late . . . students' complaints may not be enough." This professor was also instrumental in providing background information for this article.

Dr. King Davis offered a solution to the dilemma. "You learn advising by advising. Part of what we [faculty and administrators] need to concentrate on is making advising a high priority."

The psychology department has created its own advising center. It is staffed with five graduate students, is open forty hours a week, and is open during some evening hours.

An adviser at the center, explained the creation of the center. "We are providing a valuable service to the students . . . we are aware that some departments don't even assign advisers." Indeed, when questioned about their advising systems, none of the departments approached made any reference to an advising center, or even a faculty member who was assigned the task of answering students' questions.

There is a ray of hope; a sophomore education major has the adviser all students dream of. "My adviser is great! If you ask her a question and she doesn't know the answer, she writes down the question and follows up on it."

Here are some helpful strategies to get

your problems solved and questions answered:

1. Stop by your adviser's office until he knows and remembers your name. (Twice a month should do it.)

2. Do not give up on your adviser — maybe he needs practice. In other words, do not let your adviser off the hook by making out your own schedule and asking your friend's advice about classes. If you make a mistake in scheduling, at least you

can blame it on somebody who is supposed to know what he is doing.

3. Write a list of questions for your adviser, and if some questions remain unanswered, ask him when he will know those answers, and set a date to get in touch with him and obtain the information that you need.

4. If all else fails, change your major to psychology — they have their own advising center.

## Special luncheon for Women addresses PMS as a 'real problem'

By A.J. Harmon  
Staff Writer

A special program for women faculty members will feature a lecture on premenstrual syndrome and discussion about networking strategies at a Brown Bag lunch Wednesday, April 19, in the Student Commons' rooms A and B. It will begin at noon.

Judith Collins, coordinator of VCU's health policy office, will discuss PMS. Beverly Koerin, director of off-campus social work programs, and Barbara Munjas, professor of community and psychiatric nursing, will discuss the American Association of University Women's networking strategies.

"These lectures are convenient and accessible for women on tight schedules, enabling them to eat lunch and hear about a topic that interests them in an informal setting," said Shirley McDaniel, EEO analyst who coordinates the programs.

"Practical approaches to help deal with some of the (pre-menstrual) symptoms" will be important in the discussion as well as its definition, causes, current assessments, and management programs," said Collins.

The speaker also will discuss the medical community's direction and search for understanding in PMS research.

"The medical community began to recognize PMS as a real problem," said Collins, who coordinates the PMS clinic at MCV.

"Networking as being an attempt to bring together women in the university to discuss common issues and see if we can be supportive of one another in our work," Munjas explained.

In planning for a "VCU Women's Network," Koerin and Munjas, both representatives of the AAUW, circulated a questionnaire to women faculty members to determine if their interests can be networked.

Koerin and Munjas' topic for the lunch will concentrate on finding out if there is enough interest and support to set up a networking system to coincide with the AAUW.

"We are just organizing to see if (the faculty) is interested and what can be done," Munjas said. The two women said they hope to set up a network for faculty to share interests and knowledge.

The AAUW brochure lists the organization's responsibilities as promoting equity for women, education and self-development over their lifespan through positive societal change.

The organization provides scholarships for women graduate students and helps fund research on issues and concerns of university women. Its involvement in other areas includes advocating and lobbying the government for policies helping women, and to educate and empower women.

"The AAUW provides a way for women graduates to remain connected and share similar interests in some of these areas," Koerin said.

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## Women on AIDS

A panel discussion, "Women Readdressing AIDS," will be held on April 17 at 7 p.m. in the VCU School of Business Auditorium, 1015 Floyd Avenue. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Topics to be discussed include medical and psychosocial aspects of AIDS, political and policy issues, AIDS education, community AIDS services and advocacy.

The panelists are Betsy Brinson of the Richmonds AIDS Ministry, Jill Covert on of the Minority Health Consortium, Dr. Shelly Klinger of the VCU department of psychiatry, Elaine Martin of the Virginia Department of Health AIDS Activity Program and Charlotte Syran of the VCU department of social work. The moderator will be Judy Bradford of the VCU Survey Research Lab.

The meeting is sponsored by the VCU Women's Caucus. For more info, call 358-6343.

## 'Team Building'

"Team Building for Business Professionals" will be the topic of discussion at the next Brown Bag Lunch, to be held at the Richmond Public Library, 101 East Franklin Street, on Friday, April 28 from 12-1 p.m. Acting director Lue Armbricht and George Buston, program specialist with the Challenge/Discovery Program at Virginia Health Center, Inc., will describe this exciting therapeutic adventure program and its application to team building.

Challenge/Discovery serves businesses as well as adolescents and young adults and uses activities such as rock-climbing, whitewater paddling, caving, cross-country skiing, backpacking and a ropes initiative course as tools to increase self-esteem, build trust, develop teamwork and improve communication.

For more information on this free seminar, call Pat McKay at 780-4256.

## Awards Ceremony

Professors and students were recognized for outstanding achievement at the College of Humanities and Sciences annual Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 12.

Dr. Elizabeth Reynolds, professor of English, was presented with The 1989 Distinguished Teacher Award. College of Humanities and Sciences Dean Elske Smith gave the award, citing her achievements in "devolving a core of medieval courses in the English department."

The Distinguished Scholarship Award was presented to Dr. Daryl Cumber Dance, professor of English. Dr. Dance received the first Arts and Sciences Lecturer Award. She has authored several books concerning contemporary black folklore including *Slouchin' and Jivin': Folklore from Contemporary Black Americans* and *The Meechling Six and the Theme of Escape in Black Folklore*. Dr. Dance has been a faculty member at VCU since 1972.

Dr. Herbert Hirsch, chairman of the political science department, was the

recipient of the distinguished Lecturer Award.

Among other professors honored were Dr. Timothy Elliot, who received the Wayne C. Hall Research Award, and Dr. Thomas O. Hall, who received the Outstanding Faculty Award.

Students awards included acknowledgment of the top one percent of each department in the College of Humanities and Sciences.

## Times Staff Members Receive Awards

*Commonwealth Times* editors Luke Funk and Erika Johnson received scholarships. Staff writer Todd L'Herrou was awarded the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors Award. Staff writer Michael Trotti was recognized as first place winner of the Dean's Essay on Peace & War (1987-88).

## Interculture Communication

There is more to successful foreign trade than learning a language or converting currency. To help prepare businessmen and other professionals who deal with people of different cultural backgrounds, VCU will hold three workshops entitled "Across Cultures."

Sponsored by VCU's Office of International Education, the workshops will be held April 20, May 18, and June 6.

Designed to help increase global awareness, each workshop will focus on a different aspect of cross-cultural relationships. The April 20 workshop, entitled "Intercultural Communication," deals with understanding those with different cultural backgrounds and how the differences affect both our working and personal relationships.

The last two workshops, "Conflict Resolution Across Cultures" and "Negotiating Across Cultures" deal with professionals in business, health care, government agencies and other areas who would like to learn methods of negotiating conflict in intercultural situations and how cultural factors may affect work practices.

The workshops will be team-taught by Washington, D.C., consultants Fanchon Silberstein and Sandra Munford Fowler. Silberstein is an intercultural consultant and teacher with government and private organizations. She is the former director of the Foreign Service Institute Overseas Briefing Center.

Fowler is a specialist in training, cultural adjustment and simulation gaming. For seven years, she has managed a major cross-cultural program for the U.S. Navy.

All three workshops will be held at Maymont Park Assembly, 1700 Hampton St.

For more info on times and registration fees, call VCU's Office of International Education at 367-8471.

## Humanitarians Recognized

VCU alumni Stephen Lenton and Donnie Conner have been elected by the American Association for Counseling and Development as this year's co-recipients of the Gilbert and Kathleen Wrenn Award



Mandy Lee—Commonwealth Times

## Dr. Elizabeth Reynolds receives Distinguished Teacher Award

for a Humanitarian and Caring Person.

Dr. Lenton and Dr. Conner are both licensed professional counselors in private practice at Commonwealth Professional Services in Richmond.

The Wrenn Award is presented annually and honors a person or persons who exhibit the quality of giving to others "without fanfare or expectation of reward."

In giving this year's award, AACD awards chairperson Nancy Handy noted that both Lenton and Conner have been deeply involved in providing therapy for HIV-infected persons, their partners and families. They have provided training and lectures not only in the Richmond area, but on the state and national level also.

Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz, director of the AIDS program at the MCV Hospitals, said of the two men: "They will frequently make hospital visits and even middle-of-the-night calls when necessary to provide support to their clients. They have championed the concerns of many who have few other places to turn for support."

At the national level Lenton and Conner have donated a substantial amount of their own time to develop an AIDS counselor training manual and video for the American Mental Health Counselors Association.

Among their efforts on the local level, they have volunteered their time to support group for health care workers working with AIDS patients at MCV.

"Their work with this support group has enabled many of us to avoid complete burnout and to learn to deal with the

frustrations, anger and grief involved in treating persons with HIV-infection," Dr. Kaplowitz said.

## Graphics at VCU Library

A new computer graphics system has been installed at VCU's Cabell Library.

The system is designed to help faculty create slides to accompany their classroom lectures. In addition to slides, the system also produces charts and graphs for publication.

The system is so versatile that, according to graphic artist Leslie Harper, "We are still discovering all the different ways we can improve our work."

Before the system was installed, a single slide could take 10 to 15 working days before it was ready for the client's approval. With the new system, most jobs can be finished in five working days, and at a lower cost.

Another benefit of the computer graphics system is its networking capabilities. Clients will be able to design slides on their computers and transfer the information to the library's computer, where the slides will be produced.

The slides produced are of top quality, with up to 8,000 lines of resolution. Because the information that is used to make a slide can be stored on a disk, a customer can easily have revised slides or have exact duplicates made at any time.

See Briefs page 9

# Baby born and frozen Embryo

Last September, a 40-year old Richmond woman was the first in the area to become pregnant through the use of a frozen embryo. Earlier this week, the woman, who prefers to remain anonymous, delivered a healthy baby boy at at MCV, announced Dr. Kenneth Steingold, director of the hospital's in vitro fertilization program.

"Although the baby boy was about four weeks early, he is doing well in the hospital's regular nursery," Dr. Steingold said.

According to Dr. Dennis Matt, IVF laboratory director, there are several advantages to freezing embryos. One of the most significant is that the patient will not have to repeat the entire IVF cycle if she doesn't get pregnant after the first standard attempt. He said there is also a definite cost savings, since a frozen embryo cycle costs the patient about \$1,500 as compared to another IVF cycle, which costs about \$6,000.

In the case of the Richmond woman, she was given drugs that caused her ovaries to release several eggs at one time. They were place in a laboratory dish with her husband's sperm, in a culture medium in which fertilization occurred.

Those embryos that were not transferred to her womb on the first attempt to achieve pregnancy were preserved by freezing. The embryo used to achieve the pregnancy had been stored for two months at the temperature of liquid nitrogen, about 320 degrees below zero.

MCV has been freezing embryos for about a year and a half. It is estimated that fewer than 100 babies have been produced in the United States through the use of frozen embryos.

## Volunteers needed

The YWCA needs volunteers for its newly established battered women's shelter in Chesterfield County.

Training will be held May 1-17, on Monday and Wednesday evenings at the Chesterfield Department of Social Services.

Prospective volunteers should call Ruth Anne Young at 796-3066.

## Senior Art Exhibition

VCU and the City of Richmond will present "Four Years Later," a senior exhibition by students in VCU's painting and printmaking department, April 26-28, at the Carillon in Byrd Park. The students have been responsible for collecting the works, planning and promoting and hanging the show, an essential experience for students who want to succeed in the art world.

The exhibition is funded by the painting and printmaking department and sponsored by the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation.



Kathy Laria—Commonwealth Times

Indian dance part of Friday's fashion show, the last event of International Week. Sponsored by the International Student Union.

# CORNERSTONE THEATER COMPANY

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*In Association with Theatre IV*



April 20-22 at 8:00 P.M.  
With Saturday matinees at 2:30

Tickets are \$8. Student rush tickets are \$5, available for all performances.  
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## Richmond Ballet ready to expand

By Maureen O'Haire  
Staff Writer

A lot has happened in the past five years down at the corner of Lombardy and Broad streets. Virginia's only professional ballet company has laid the groundwork for Richmond's fastest-moving arts organization.

Paul Tyler, the general manager of the company said the Richmond Ballet is the city's best chance at making an impact in the performing arts world.

With that kind of confidence and the talent to back it up, the company is ready to expand.

The most basic and requested change to look forward to will be more performances each season. The company currently does four productions a year; they perform each production twice except for *The Nutcracker*, which was performed seven times this past season.

Tyler said it seems to be a waste to spend six weeks trying to perfect a piece, spend thousands of dollars to stage it and then only perform it twice. He said it costs \$100,000 to open a show but only about \$7,000 to do the same performance the next night.

The company plans to take *Coppelia*, a full-length ballet, on the road for 10 performances around the state next year. Some of the cities will include Norfolk, Wise and McLean. Tyler said they would also like to add another production to each season.

Robert Merritt, the dance critic for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, said the

increased stage time will not only help calm the dancers' nerves at performance time, but it will keep the company fresh in the public's mind. He said the community tends to be forgetful unless you consistently remind them the city has an active professional dance company.

The only way another production would be feasible would be to offer the dancers longer contracts. Each of the 21 dancers currently has a 32-week contract. They have a major break during the summer, with others dispersed throughout the year.

Tyler said a 42-week contract would be ideal. Since it takes at least six weeks to prepare each production the 42-week contract would allow time for another production plus touring.

Brett D. Bonda, professional dancer with the Richmond Ballet, said he not only hopes for a longer contract, but he would like to see the company tour out of state. Tyler even mentioned touring outside of the country.

"I would like to take the dancers on an international tour, possibly Russia or the Far East," the general manager said.

On a local level, however, the company still has a long way to go until they reach what Tyler called their natural limit. He said if they tripled the number of people that currently attend their performances they would be starting to reach that limit.

Merritt said the Richmond Ballet already has an educated core audience but they still need to work on attracting "borderline audiences" that do not attend dance on a regular basis. He said once you



get people in the door they usually find out they like ballet and they keep coming back.

The company's repertory programs,

Merritt said, have helped the Ballet attract audiences because of the caliber of guest

See Ballet page 14

### Theatre

## Company's adaptation is innovative, successful

By Mike Carosi  
Executive Editor

The Cornerstone Theatre Company's adaptation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which opened last week, is innovative and successful. This imaginative "Dream" presents the Rude Mechanicals as electric lamps; Oberon, Titania, Puck as puppets; and the Lovers as students who attend Catholic high school under the supervision of "Sister" Hippolyta and her lover "Father" Theseus. The play opens with the conquered Hippolyta (in a nun's habit) vowing her love to priestly-garbed Theseus. Their vows are interrupted by a power failure, which prompts the hysterical motif of bringing in lamps. The search for a working lamp is disrupted with the arrival of the Lovers, and the play is underway.

Traditional adaptations often explore visual beauty and far fetched settings: Theseus has wooed Hippolyta at dawn for early risers in the Stratford countryside, fairies have rolled in on skates and Bottom has been a "seahorse." While



original, such interpretations rarely eliminate physical characters by turning them into inanimate objects.

Cornerstone's hour and a half prod-

uction reduces the Rude Mechanicals to lamps and the Fairy Band to puppets, in order to focus on the Lovers. Their presentation as contemporary teenagers lends consideration to sexual curiosity, rejection, rebellion and subtle warnings of safe sex.

Director Bill Rauch's concept is amazing. He moves the Lovers through sliding screens, on which are projected shadow puppets. These "shadows" are animated, observing fairies. The choice to substitute puppets for actors is a risk that works. Rauch's fairies are magical shadows that appear and disappear with spotlights, creating beautiful imagery and comic flexibility.

The Lovers' confusion in the midst of these shadows is interjected with the continuing motif of finding a lamp that works. Finally, a lamp must go to the shop to be repaired. On the way, it is intercepted by puppet Puck, who changes the shade to an ass' head, and Titania "straightaway loved" a puppet lamp.

Rauch's radical interpretation of the script is complemented by an amazing

troupe. To single out one actor is an injustice to the seven other cast members. The ensemble is outstanding; no actor outweighs another for any length of time. Together, they develop a rapport with the audience. Lines and speeches are carefully intertwined with body motion, supported by music varying from Dion and the Belmonts to Tracy Chapman to Guns N' Roses.

The company spares no energy in taking risks. The production could have successfully ended as the lovers were reunited with the lords. However, Cornerstone takes it one step further. Rauch presents the "play within a play" acted out by blinking "rude mechanical" lamps. Actors sigh as they watch the green lamp, Pyramis, burn his last bit of light.

This "Dream" is a radical and refreshing interpretation that works.

The Cornerstone Theatre Company will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" through April 22 at the Regency Theatre on West Broad Street. For ticket information call the box office at 344-8040.

# Talk about the R.E.



By Tito Chazo and Nik Ashburn  
Staff Writers

The cover of the Dec. 3, 1987, issue of *Rolling Stone* boldly announced R.E.M. as *America's Best Rock & Roll Band*. No small achievement. Now, two *Stone* covers later, and a handful of praise the Athens, Ga., band is starting to find a firmer foot in the history of American music. However, with praise there is criticism. *Green* heralds the beginning of a new, larger audience while unfortunately leaving behind some of their faithful followers.

Lead singer and head maestro Michael Stipe was probably most responsible for grabbing up the original limelight that has brought R.E.M. this far. However, in the most mature fashion a rock band can muster, they have managed to reach a level of higher accessibility, hopefully without compromising the reigns of

success. This has been greatly debated, as many former followers began to rethink their pledges of allegiance. The majority have claimed that *Lifes Rich Pageant*, their fourth LP, began a series of less challenging statements to later be followed up on *Document* and *Green*. Gratefully, there are other opinions, often less based in bandwagon politics and anti-Top 40 non-conformity.

*Chronic Town*, their 1980 premiere EP,

clubs that usually catered to a select crowd. And even when there was alternate airplay, the same songs were being heard over and over. It wasn't commercial airplay, but it was air time nonetheless.

By the time *Mummer*, their first full-fledged album, came out R.E.M. was the epitome of a college band. "Radio Free Europe," their first single, could be heard in college hallways from Maine to Florida. It also had the advantage of introducing

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was the first R.E.M. captured on vinyl. But by then many college students and "underground rock" fans had already heard of these four University of Georgia dropouts. Mostly known throughout the Southeast, I.R.S. (the band's recording label) hoped *Chronic Town* would get them the airplay that other college bands were receiving. It did.

To a point.

The airplay the album received was on mostly college stations and small dance

R.E.M. videos into the mainstream outlets, reinforcing the already popular songs.

Even in 1984, would-be fans still had to be introduced to R.E.M. because the airplay was limited to college radio and left them still waiting in the wings. What's new? However, the band answered the challenge with *Reckoning*. Once again the band managed to stop itself from being consumed by commercial demands.

Responding successfully to a band, allowing yourself to actually come as close to the performers in understanding messages, requires more than listening to the album. As with R.E.M., many groups are remarkable chance gatherings of personality. These personalities are the

### Profile

## Drivin' n' Cryin'

By Maureen O'Haire  
Staff Writer

Kevn Kinney wants to pay his dues. He wants to make sure when success comes, it's for real.

Kinney's band, Drivin' n' Cryin', will be in town on Friday with R.E.M. The simple fact Drivin' n' Cryin' will be playing before several thousand people in the next couple of weeks seems to indicate success may not be too far off. But after 11 East Coast-dates with their Georgia neighbors, they'll be going out west to test some fairly new ground.

"It's hard to gauge what's going on when you play a city you've never played before if you're opening for R.E.M.," Kinney said in a recent interview. That's why he'd rather open the coliseum shows on the east coast even though they already have somewhat of a following in many of the areas.

"When we play someplace like Athens, it's not really a challenge. It's more like a circus," he said. "Hopefully this will be a kick in the pants, and we'll be able to sell out some bigger places around here."

Kinney said when they play some place like Seattle for the first time he wants it to be on their own. "I want to do it slow and honest," he explained.

Drivin' n' Cryin' started as a three-piece band down in Atlanta. Kinney said the rule of the band was they would have



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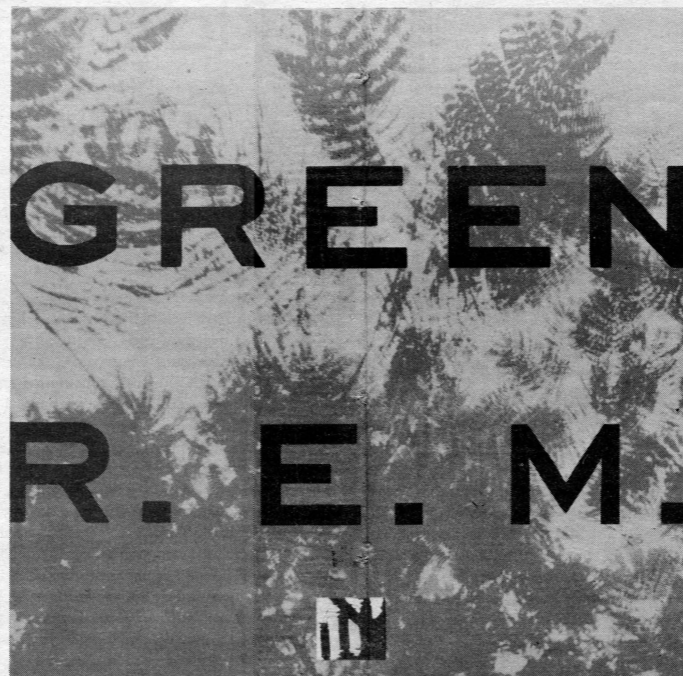
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music.

Guitarist Peter Buck has used R.E.M. as the vehicle to carve his personal niche in music history, certainly never taking a back seat to Stipe's scratchy, young-boy voice; his guitar style has already taken a firm hold in influencing new bands. This is a remarkable task for someone only 29 years old.

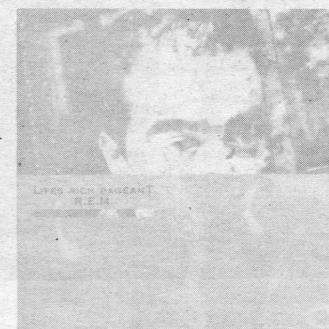
Providing the rhythm to the tone, Bill Berry brings his Athens-style drumming to the band. His work varies — in some efforts the drums are more pronounced (*Murmur*), while darkly muffled in others (*Fables*).

Mike Mills provides a juxtaposition, with his almost nerdy looks and his incredibly cool bass lines quietly snaking and driving through the music (especially noticeable on *Dead Letter Office*, a 1987 compilation of unpublished barn-studio demos and B-sides).

However, there is always Stipe taking a good sound and warping it, sometimes to the band's displeasure. Especially by now, since Stipe had built a reputation of

mumbling his lyrics in such a fashion that he reinvented lyrics for many concerts. In the 1987 *Stone* interview he stated that "9 - 9" (on *Murmur*) was purposely recorded so you could never be able to decipher any of the words except the very last phrase, which is 'conversation fear,' which is what the song is about." Nonetheless fans were captivated not by their lyrics, but by their presence as a band and by their sound.

Influences such as Velvet Underground and the Byrds can be heard on almost every early R.E.M. work. Sound was not taken as an added ingredient left over from a song. It had a purpose, a feeling. Stipe's voice is not used as a singer of lyrics in a song, but more as an instrument. But fans were looking for more to come out of the band's lyrics, as little by little Stipe's voice was becoming clearer and cleaner. This subtle but rapid change



success in future works.

In 1986 the band had turned in a darker and harder-edged album with *Lifes Rich Pageant*. As with every R.E.M. album released, many fans were thinking that this must be the one that would bring them a much-deserved wider audience. Unfortunately this attempt, although musically more progressive, only inched them a few steps closer.

1987's *Document* and last year's *Green* brought many fans to the assumption that R.E.M. had gone over-commercial. The band had most likely sold out. While *Document* and *Green* were more commercially successful than their earlier attempts ("The One I Love" became their first No. 1 hit), it can also be said that they were more punk-influenced. The music was harsher, more sharply defined rock & roll (no doubt a quality responsible for their popularity).

So now it's 1989 and R.E.M. is under way, touring and promoting their latest release. For once in a rare opportunity, Richmond will have the pleasure of hosting a true rock & roll concert as R.E.M. find their way here April 21. The response has been overwhelming — the



show sold out in a relatively short period of time.

What the concert will have in store is hard to say, and for many it might be the deciding factor in where the band is headed. However, past shows have shown a wide display of incredible magnetism and charisma. But stories from one concert to the next often vary in extremes.

The arenas may be bigger, the audience younger, but if *Green* is any indication, R.E.M. still plays honest rock & roll.

## Profile

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By Maureen O'Haire  
Staff Writer

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have been bigger than the Beatles it'd be the other way around."

Besides being able to rock a hell of a lot harder than most of their southern counterparts, the power quartet also accommodates Kinney's yearning for country music.

"I love it when people want to hear country music. The reason I don't play it as much in concert is I think I'm boring people yelling 'Powerhouse' in your face."

The band recently released *Mystery Road*, their second album on Island Records. Kinney produced the album along with the band's bassist Tim Nielsen and friend Scott MacPherson, unlike their previous release, which was produced by Aton Fier.

Kinney said it was Fier who gave him the discipline and formula needed to produce his own album. "Anton was the best school in the world. I couldn't have done this without him, but now I think I can do what I need to do with Scott MacPherson. He's more of an engineer and a song arranger."

"I don't want to be a record producer," he added. "I'm just a songwriter, and I thought I could do me better than anyone else."

Whether it's at the Richmond Coliseum or some slimy bar in Seattle, Drivin' n' Cryin' is going to be able to stand on their own feet, doing their own thing.

## '9 -9' (on *Mummer*) was purposely recorded so you could never be able to decipher any of the words except the very last phrase which is 'conversation fear,' which is what the song is about.

—Michael Stipe



seems to have brought Stipe around to more message-minded lyrics. Finally, he was beginning to bring the best of the band's powers together with his own.

*Fables of the Reconstruction*, their 1985 release, was considered to be the band's first commercial record because of the moody feeling it exudes, something often associated with commercial pop albums. This, however, was an inauspicious time for the band. During recording time band members were asking producer Joe Boyd to turn the instruments down during mixing out of embarrassment.

But the band now seems to enjoy the accomplishments of the album, rising to meet the waves of semi-commercial

# E.M. passion



music.

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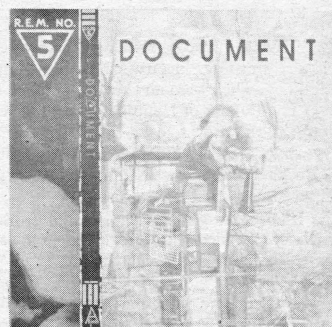
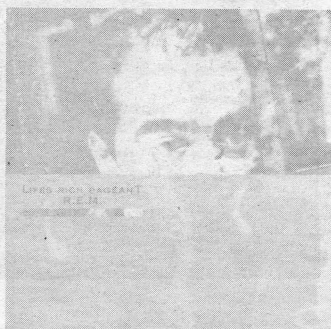
Providing the rhythm to the tone, Bill Berry brings his Athens-style drumming to the band. His work varies — in some efforts the drums are more pronounced (*Murmur*), while darkly muffled in others (*Fables*).

Mike Mills provides a juxtaposition, with his almost nerdy looks and his incredibly cool bass lines quietly snaking and driving through the music (especially noticeable on *Dead Letter Office*, a 1987 compilation of unpolished barn-studio demos and B-sides).

However, there is always Stipe taking a good sound and warping it, sometimes to the band's displeasure. Especially by now, since Stipe had built a reputation of

mumbling his lyrics in such a fashion that he reinvented lyrics for many concerts. In the 1987 *Stone* interview he stated that "9 - 9" (on *Murmur*) was purposely recorded so you could never be able to decipher any of the words except the very last phrase, which is 'conversation fear,' which is what the song is about." Nonetheless fans were captivated not by their lyrics, but by their presence as a band and by their sound.

Influences such as Velvet Underground and the Byrds can be heard on almost every early R.E.M. work. Sound was not taken as an added ingredient left over from a song. It had a purpose, a feeling. Stipe's voice is not used as a singer of lyrics in a song, but more as an instrument. But fans were looking for more to come out of the band's lyrics, as little by little Stipe's voice was becoming clearer and cleaner. This subtle but rapid change



success in future works.

In 1986 the band had turned in a darker and harder-edged album with *Lifes Rich Pageant*. As with every R.E.M. album released, many fans were thinking that this must be the one that would bring them a much-deserved wider audience. Unfortunately this attempt, although musically more progressive, only inched them a few steps closer.

1987's *Document* and last year's *Green* brought many fans to the assumption that R.E.M. had gone over-commercial. The band had most likely sold out. While *Document* and *Green* were more commercially successful than their earlier attempts ("The One I Love" became their first No. 1 hit), it can also be said that they were more punk-influenced. The music was harsher, more sharply defined rock & roll (no doubt a quality responsible for their popularity).

So now it's 1989 and R.E.M. is under way, touring and promoting their latest release. For once in a rare opportunity, Richmond will have the pleasure of hosting a true rock & roll concert as R.E.M. find their way here April 21. The response has been overwhelming — the

have been bigger than the Beatles it'd be the other way around."

Besides being able to rock a hell of a lot harder than most of their southern counterparts, the power quartet also accommodates Kinney's yearning for country music.

"I love it when people want to hear country music. The reason I don't play it as much in concert is I think I'm boring people yelling 'Powerhouse' in your face."

The band recently released *Mystery Road*, their second album on Island Records. Kinney produced the album along with the band's bassist Tim Nielsen and friend Scott MacPherson, unlike their previous release, which was produced by Aton Fier.

Kinney said it was Fier who gave him the discipline and formula needed to produce his own album. "Anton was the best school in the world. I couldn't have done this without him, but now I think I can do what I need to do with Scott McPherson. He's more of an engineer and a song arranger."

"I don't want to be a record producer," he added. "I'm just a songwriter, and I thought I could do me better than anyone else."

Whether it's at the Richmond Coliseum or some slimy bar in Seattle, Drivin' n' Cryin' is going to be able to stand on their own feet, doing their own thing.

**'9 -9' (on *Mummer*) was purposely recorded so you could never be able to decipher any of the words except the very last phrase which is 'conversation fear,' which is what the song is about.**

**—Michael Stipe**



seems to have brought Stipe around to more message-minded lyrics. Finally, he was beginning to bring the best of the band's powers together with his own.

*Fables of the Reconstruction*, their 1985 release, was considered to be the band's first commercial record because of the moody feeling it exudes, something often associated with commercial pop albums. This, however, was an inauspicious time for the band. During recording time band members were asking producer Joe Boyd to turn the instruments down during mixing out of embarrassment.

But the band now seems to enjoy the accomplishments of the album, rising to meet the waves of semi-commercial

show sold out in a relatively short period of time.

What the concert will have in store is hard to say, and for many it might be the deciding factor in where the band is headed. However, past shows have shown a wide display of incredible magnetism and charisma. But stories from one concert to the next often vary in extremes.

The arenas may be bigger, the audience younger, but if *Green* is any indication, R.E.M. still plays honest rock & roll.

# TPOH well received by Rockitz crowd

By Luke Funk and Maureen O'Haire  
Staff Writers

They had it all — dancing girls, flying hair, burning incense and thrashing guitars. They were no Cowboy Junkies.

The Pursuit of Happiness didn't have to ask the crowd to be quiet like their fellow Canadians did when they played at Rockitz. And the crowd definitely didn't have to ask the band to turn it up.

The three-guy, two-girl band from Toronto added a little excitement to a usually mundane Monday night.

After a sip of beer and a polite hello, Moe Berg and his band exploded into "Ten Fingers" off of their new album *Love Junk*, an impressive debut produced by Todd Rundgren.

In an interview before the show at Rockitz, drummer David Gilby said Rundgren was the band's first choice to produce the album, somewhat of a surprise since TPOH was virtually unknown.

Gilby credits the band's performance on the album to Rundgren. "We had to keep playing until he said fine. We would do a take and he would say 'O.K.', that was at a Grateful Dead level, now let's make it better."

The result is an album well-received by college radio and fueled by the single, "I'm an Adult Now." Oddly enough, the single was released as a video before the band had been signed to a label or had even been in the studio.

Gilby said Berg knew someone in the film business who volunteered to help them produce the video. They had only been together two months at the time and after the surprising success of the single they started shopping for a record deal.

They were offered several contracts from Canadian record companies but held out for an American deal. "We know of lots of bands who signed with Canadian labels and that's where they stayed," Gilby said.

They were finally signed to Chrysalis. After cutting the album the company assigned them to tour with labelmate Duran Duran.

Surprisingly, they picked up an audience of adolescent girls dancing to lyrics like *I can't even look at young girls anymore / People will think I'm some kind of pervert / Adult sex is either boring or dirty / Young people get away with murder*, from "I'm an Adult Now."



After five months of constant touring, the band was well-polished for their Richmond show.

The rhythm section, composed of Johnny Sinclair on bass, Kris Abbott on guitar, Gilby on drums and occasionally the crowd-pleasing Leslie Stanwyck on acoustic guitar, drove a beat that augmented Berg's crystal-clear vocals and lead guitar.

Unfortunately, Abbot and Stanwyck's strong backing vocals on the album did not come across as well in the live show, being almost inaudible at times.

Their tongue-in-cheek humor came out in songs like "Killed by Love," dedicated to Gilby in honor of his divorce, which was made official that day.

*I thought you were an angel / and I trusted your embrace / but you turned into a monster / and you spit right in my face.*

The band's sarcastic lyrics may seem obnoxious, but as Gilby explained, "We're just a bunch of smart-asses." He added, "It's easy to get depressed but you have to keep a sense of humor just to survive in the world."

"Looking for Girls" is a prime example. Its lyrics have been misconstrued even by their own fans.

The line *I'm going to do it, do it to her 487,000 times* is not about your basic frat-boy. Instead it's about finding a "soulmate," Gilby said. "It would take a lifetime to get laid that many times."

## Ballet

(from page 11)

choreographers and several world premiers. He said the repertory programs are more difficult and different every year.

Educating the community also helps to increase support for the Ballet. The School of the Richmond Ballet has over 500 students that study at two different locations. Tyler would like to expand the school and add another location in the West End.

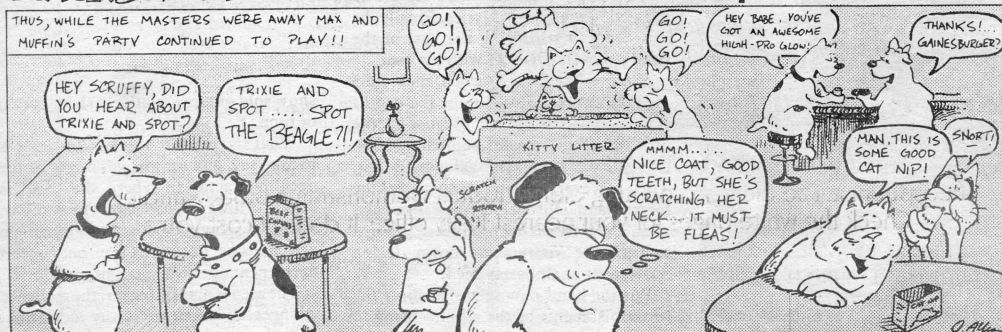
The company also offers lecture/demonstration programs and workshops at schools around the state. Bonda said the programs take ballet to people that might not have ever had the opportunity or the interest to see live ballet.

Beverly M. Jones, director of marketing and public relations, said the programs help cultivate the audiences of the future. They will be more educated and receptive to what the Ballet is doing, thus making it easier for the company to grow and expand with their support, she said.

With constant support from the community the Richmond Ballet will be able to continue presenting what director Stoner Winslett described as "works of enduring value," whether it be a classic full-length ballet or an exotic contemporary piece.

The company also offers discounts to full-time students to keep the ballet accessible to those who might think a night of civilized entertainment is beyond their budget. Jones said the company's discount, which is 75 percent off for subscribers, is more generous than any of the cities other arts organizations.

## Broadsides



## encore performance

# Replacements show they've grown

By Rick Pfamatter  
Staff Writer

Last Monday night I got the chance to talk to Moe Berg, the lead singer for The Pursuit of Happiness. He asked my friend and I if we were going to go see the Replacements the following night at the Mosque. I said that we were going, but we were not expecting much out of the show because the Replacements have an infamous reputation of getting too drunk to play well in concert. Berg said that they had just opened for them in Ann Arbor, Mich., and that the guys sounded really tight and while they were not off the wagon, they were in control of themselves most of the time.

This was good news because many people had been excited about this show for quite some time, and I hoped that these guys would slow down a little bit so they would be able to make a few more albums. I know that all the guys in the band were now married and the last disc they released, *Don't Tell A Soul*, was a more mature sound. This was a signal that the Replacements have grown up. I wanted to see for myself.

Tommy Keene opened the show with a rocking set to the pleasure of most of those in attendance. The drummer for his backup band really rocked, but sadly, we never found out anyone's name before they left the stage. People clapped politely when they left the stage, but this was definitely a Replacements crowd.

When the band took the stage about 15 minutes later, two things became apparent. The band had their drinking accoutrements, from the traditional Jack Daniel's to beer, and the bass player must have seen "Beetlejuice" too many times because he was dressed like Micheal Keaton was in that particular movie. They stumbled on stage, slurred their words and yelled at the roadies that some of the speakers were not working and to turn up the house lights because they wanted to see the audience.

Once these technicalities had been straightened out, they proceeded to rock through material from their latest albums, concentrating mostly on *Pleased to Meet Me* and *Don't Tell A Soul*. And they rocked. Even some of the more mellow stuff on the new release sounded better once the band got concert fever and speeded up their sound a little more. The deafening noise helped to cover up Paul Westerberg's vocals, because it was obvious that he was losing his voice. He even admitted that "When I was younger, I could sing better," which launched the band into "Kiss Me on the Bus," from the album *Tim*. His vocals have shined before but too many cigarettes, beers and fifths of bourbon have taken their toll.

But don't get the feeling that he let that get in the way of a good time. The best moment of the concert (for those up front, anyway) was when Westerberg jumped from the stage into the orchestra pit (no mean feat even for a sober man) and sat down front row center for "Nightclub Jitters." As he was searching for a light for his cigarette, the crowd of mostly teenagers sang the words for him. It was a touchingly human moment, letting those kids sing for him while Westerberg was looking over this 14-year-old chick and even sharing the microphone with her. It's all rock 'n' roll, baby, he seemend to be thinking, and you

can avoid growing up all you want to, but sooner or later Father Time is going to come rolling around and catch up to you. Even if you are in a great rock 'n' roll band. Maybe even more so.

When the band stumbled off the stage after the first set, bassist Tommy Stinson admitted, "Yeah, we're intoxicated." I was just glad that guitarist Slim Dunlap didn't fall flat onto his guitar from the catatonic trance he was in. They did return for an encore, but by the time they got to "Alex Chilton" Westerberg's voice was totally shot and only the wall of noise the band put up could cover these vocal shortcomings. Maybe Westerberg was just too tired to sing anymore, as he did almost an entire song on his back during the first set. But they are the Replacements, and they are a rock 'n' roll band.

They have come to symbolize men in the '80s: They laugh, they cry and they fuck up a lot.

Before the show I was talking to a guy in a local band who said that the Replacements need to sell out a little so they can help redefine the boundaries of rock that is played on the radio. During the show, Westerberg conceded sarcastically that *Don't Tell A Soul* was going to make them a million dollars. But I think the guy in a local band was missing the point. These guys are rock 'n' roll, and every stereotype fits here. Most of them dropped out of high school, drank all day and played all night and offended a lot of people along the way by being what they wanted to be. If they want to make a commercially successful record, let them. Even if you told them they couldn't they would

anyway. So I don't think the Replacements have grown up yet, but they are getting older, and wiser.

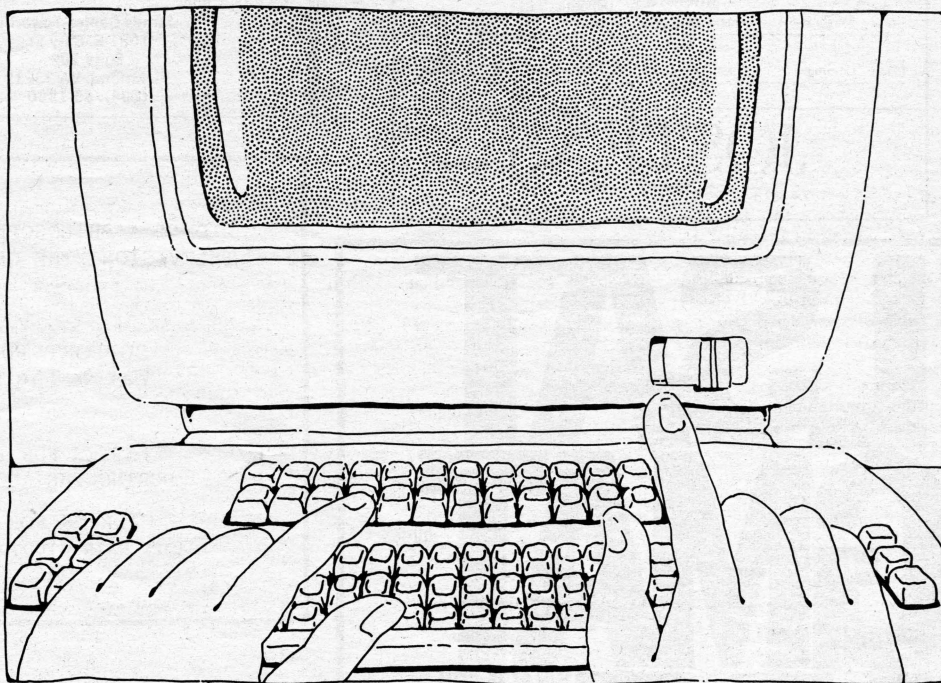
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*So no don't be a stranger  
You know it really don't matter to me  
I'd be willing to wager  
That it don't matter much  
If we keep in touch  
It won't matter much  
Cause I've got that touch*

---

After the great show the Replacements put on at the Mosque, I do hope they keep in touch because they are THE definitive rock-n-roll band.

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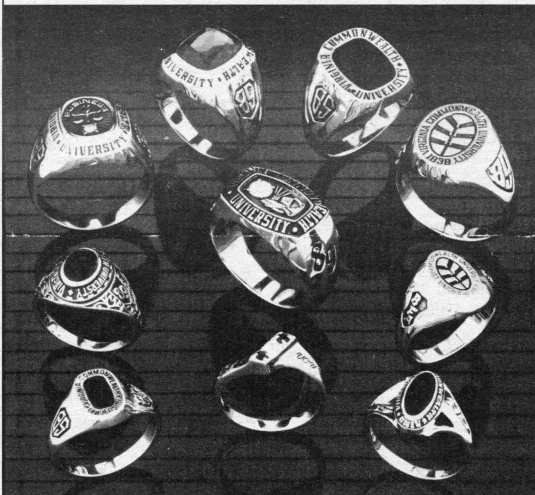
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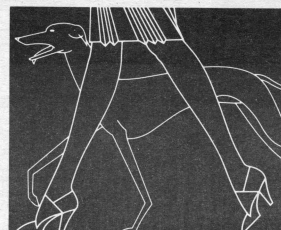
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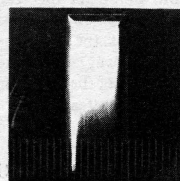
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# SPORTS

## VCU pounds Soviets in exhibition game

By Denise D. Wood  
Sports Editor

The Soviet Union decided to field a baseball team two years ago to prepare for the 1996 Summer Olympics.

This year the team decided it was ready for a little tour of the United States, and, considering the fact that they have only been playing for two years, they weren't that bad. And when you consider that the Soviet coaches and players got a lot of advice from their American counterparts, we can be guaranteed that the team we saw last week will not be the same one that returns here in a few more years to show off. That team will be hot.

After a 21-1 pounding at the hands of the Navy and later a 20-1 loss to George Washington and a 11-1 loss in Maryland, a 16-2 loss to the Rams doesn't seem so bad. The Soviet team did get one more run, but more importantly they made some improvements hitting and despite a few miscommunications in the outfield, they put on a good show.

The crowd seemed to be pulling for the Soviets, and the players seemed fairly pleased with the whole experience, as they left the Diamond with T-shirts and Richmond Braves banners.

Although they wouldn't elaborate on exactly how much and what kind of fun they did have, the players gave reporters an enthusiastic "yes" when asked if they were having a good time.

Shortstop Kuca Biblishvili said he was most impressed with the American players'

accuracy here in hitting and on the field, and that is what he hopes to take home with him.

In practicing with the Rams Biblishvili was able to pick up on a few hand exercises.

While Biblishvili wasn't able to pick up any hits of his own, his quickness in the field robbed a couple of VCU players of hits, that was enough to impress VCU coach Tony Guzzo.

"I liked his range an awful lot. You can tell that he is picking up the game very quickly."

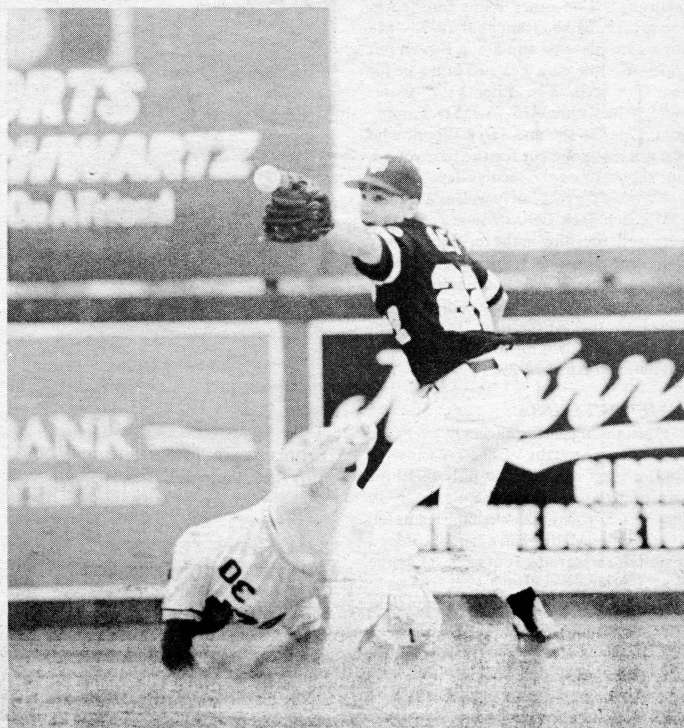
Indeed Biblishvili is catching on very quickly but so is the entire team.

Americans learn the basics of the game beginning at the age of about 6 or 7. The Soviet team is composed of Soviet soldiers aged 19 to 26 who are learning the game for the first time. When one considers that it only took the Soviets about five years to become a dominant force in ice hockey, being a contender for a medal in baseball in the '96 Summer Games doesn't seem to be such a far-fetched idea.

**NOTES** - After taking two of three games with conference foe Jacksonville, the Rams managed to venture back into Baseball America's rankings at No. 23.

With three strikeouts in his appearance against Jacksonville, pitcher Jerry Dipoto set a Rams' record for career K's with 169.

Just in case you were wondering VCU has had 14 games rained out so far this spring in Richmond.



Bob Helber *Commonwealth Times*

The Soviets stopped at the Diamond for an afternoon and fell to the Rams 16-2.



Bob Helber *Commonwealth Times*

Chris Cheeks named to All-Seaboard team.

## Hodge leads SBC in year-end honors

By Denise D. Wood  
Sports Editor

Just when you thought it was safe to pull out the baseball glove and put away that big orange ball for a few months, its back, the final basketball update of the year is here.

The Sun Belt Conference has tallied up its players of the year and here they are: (Drum roll please) South Alabama senior Jeff Hodge collected six honors, including player of the year, SBC Tournament MVP, winner of the Jerry D. Young Memorial Award and senior of the year as well as being named to the All-Sun Belt first team and the SBC All-Tournament team. It comes as no surprise that USA coach Ronnie Arrow was named coach of the year.

Now on to some things that you probably didn't know.

Jacksonville's Dee Brown was named junior of the year. Old Dominion's Chris Gatling came up with sophomore of the year honors and UNC Charlotte's Henry Williams ran away with the freshman of the year honors.

VCU's Chris Cheeks finished up the season atop the scoring list with a 23.8 average and 667 on the year. Vince Wilson finished ninth in the assists category with a 4.1 average (115 total) and also finished right behind Cheeks in steals with 1.7 (48). Cheeks was fourth with 1.8 per game (49). Lionel Bacon wasn't too far behind in eighth with 1.6 (46).

Martin Henlan totaled 253 rebounds a 9.0 average, which was good enough for third.

Chris Cheeks earned a spot on the Basketball Times' Honorable Mention All-Seaboard team.

# Sports Briefs

## GOLF

VCU had another excellent team performance on the golf course last weekend, finishing fourth in the Tar Invitational behind Duke, North Carolina and N.C. State.

Once again, it was senior Mickey Moore leading the Rams with a 73-73--146, good enough for a fifth place tie in the individual standings. Two other Rams finished in the top 15. Mike Grant shot 70-78--148 for a 13th place tie and Doug Brown put in 73-76--149, which earned him a tie for the 15th spot. The other VCU scores were; Chris Quick 75-76--151, Tommy Joyce 78-78--156 and Jerry Wood, who did not make the cut for the first round, but shot a 78 on the second day.

"We are playing fairly well as a team," said coach Jack Bell. "Mickey is doing very well, finishing in the top five of every tournament but one. He deserves a chance to play in the NCAA Tournament."

The Rams have a few days off and will travel to the Apprentice Tournament April 21 and then on to the Kent State Invitational April 28-29.

## MEN'S TENNIS

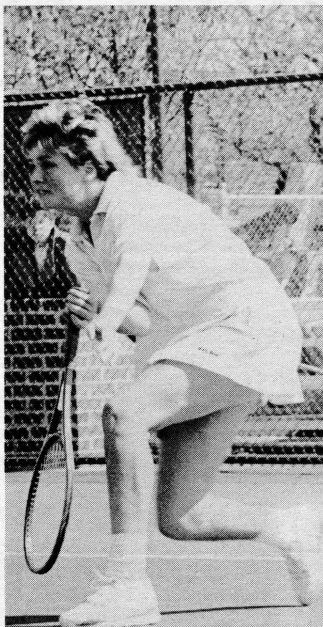
Outstanding performances by everyone on the team brought VCU a 7-2 win over Radford last week. It was only the third win of the season for the Rams in 16 matches. Earlier in the week the Rams fell 5-1 to James Madison in a rain-shortened match and were rained out against George Washington.

Steve Tyson won a hard-fought match, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, playing in the number three spot. Another freshman, Steven Beinart, from South Africa, also had a tough time with his 6-4, 7-6 (7-2) win at the number four spot. Joe Sharma, a junior from Toronto, won each of his singles matches against Radford and JMU, and won his match versus GWU before the match was finally cancelled.

"Joe hasn't lost since last Sunday (April 3)," said coach Eric Wamrock. "He is now playing to his expected potential and I expect him to move his play to the next level."

"The team as a whole is getting better and gaining more confidence with every match."

This weekend the Rams are headed to the Sun Belt Tournament.



Tennis team looks strong going into SBC Tourney.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

Despite dropping two matches last week, hopes are high for a successful finish for the women's tennis team. The Rams lost 8-1 to Sun Belt Conference standout Old Dominion and 7-2 to Howard.

The bright spot against ODU was the doubles play of Janina Fox and Jennifer Schultz, who also won a three-set nail-biter 7-6, 1-6, 7-6 at the number two singles spot. Fox lost her three-set duel 3-6, 6-4, 4-6.

"When we beat Radford last week, it showed how far we have come (as a two-year-old program)," said coach Eva Bard. "After playing ODU, it shows how far we have to go to get to a higher level."

The Lady Rams are also headed to the Sun Belt Tournament this weekend after wrapping up their regular season early this week.



## HOCKEY PLAYOFF NEWS

Well, everyone thought this would be the year the Washington Capitals would shake the playoff jinx and make it past the Patrick Division finals. The Caps won the regular season title for the first time in their 15-year history, and with the acquisition of goal scorer Dino Ciccarelli from Minnesota, Washington looked to be in top form.

But the Philadelphia Flyers had other ideas. The Capitals had dominated the series with the Flyers during the regular season, but April 5 was a whole new beginning.

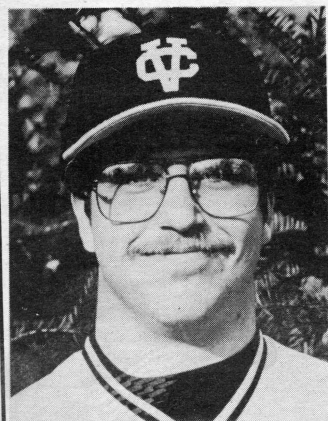
After splitting games one and two in the Capital Centre in Landover, Md., the Caps were off to the Spectrum where they were beaten handily, 5-2 in game three and needed overtime to win game four and head back to the Cap Centre.

Home didn't prove to be a very friendly place for the Caps as the Flyers took advantage of a weak defense and a tired Pete Peeters to pound Washington 8-5 and force a sixth game in Philadelphia. Not only did the Flyers force another game they got a big shift of momentum with the strength of their play around the net.

Flyers' goaltender Ron Hextall scored the second goal of his career and became the first goaltender to ever score a goal in the playoffs. Hextall is a master at clearing the puck and he used it well as the Caps pulled Peeters out of the net in favor of a sixth attacker on the power play with just over three minutes remaining in the third period, leaving the goal wide open for Hextall.

With their win over Washington last Thursday night the Flyers move on to face the Pittsburgh Penguins in the Divisional finals beginning this week. It is the first time the Pennsylvania teams have met in the playoffs.

## Knically honored



### Athlete of the Week

With 11 hits in 19 at bats and a .600 on base percentage in four games last week, VCU catcher, Adam Knically has earned athlete of the week honors.

Knically has been working on a nine-game hitting streak and is 21-36 with 15 runs scored and nine stolen bases. He has a streak of 16 straight steals.

"Any success we have had during the last four years, Adam has had a key part in," said coach Tony Guzzo. "This year is no different. When he gets on as the leadoff batter, we play better. I don't know how we can replace him next year."

## SBC Baseball Standings

(as of April 1)

EAST DIVISION	Sun Belt	Overall
Jacksonville	7-2	26-6
Va. Commonwealth	3-3	17-4
UNC Charlotte	3-6	13-8
Old Dominion	2-4	15-13

WEST DIVISION	Sun Belt	Overall
South Alabama	3-0	22-9
South Florida	3-3	29-9
Ala.-Birmingham	3-3	16-9
Western Kentucky	0-3	12-16

# EDITORIAL

## Morality: AIDS and the Fall of Rome

By Michael Snapp  
Guest Columnist

Today, the decades of the '60s and '70s symbolize the American public's awakening to the constitutional rights of all mankind. In the enthusiasm of this legislative celebration two messages became the driving force for what many feel is the root of the type of social chaos we have inherited in contemporary America. Those are the "Me" generation, where contrary to popular belief, self, not the sun, is the center of the universe. And there is also the "If it feels good do it," slogan, which sounds halfway believable only when coming from Dr. Ruth. We have become a generation that wants the government to do just about everything but defend our country and set standards for our morality. After all, what right does the government have in telling me what I can do in the privacy of my own home, or with the company of a consenting adult? A noble inquiry for sure, and the battle to find an answer is being waged daily. By perpetuating this logic to the fullest extent, the doors were opened for the homosexual community to speak out for their civil rights, wrapped in the ever-ingrained "Gay Pride Movement." In essence, homosexuals wanted to be labeled a minority, in the hope that they would receive the legislated rights that blacks, women and the disabled had newly acquired. But it was not easy convincing people that engaging in homosexual activity was as uncontrollable as the color of one's skin or the physical health of one's body. Understandably, they were resented by minorities who felt that the label was losing its original meaning and intent.

With help from Hollywood, which has taken on the tedious responsibility of deciding what is and what is not acceptable morality, and the news media, which assures us that Hollywood is right, homosexuals were on the way to success; they had their eyes on the prize. That is, until the AIDS epidemic hit head-on in the early 1980s. AIDS is a unique disease in that it is discriminatory in regard to its victims, for this disease preys on those of our culture who engage in unlawful substance abuse and immoral, deviant sexual behavior. The majority of people have no need to worry about contracting AIDS. The Virginia State Health Department of Sexually Transmitted Disease Control has some interesting information concerning who is affected by the disease. Statistics show that of all AIDS cases, 60 percent are gay and bisexual men, 17 percent are homosexual intravenous drug abusers, 8 percent are gay men who abuse intravenous drugs, 4 percent are heterosexual partners of the above, and 3 percent are hemophiliacs and people who have had blood transfusions. This leaves 2 percent of all cases to heterosexuals and infants born with the disease. This is a disease where 8.5 percent of all cases are

directly connected to the homosexual community, while 2.5 percent more strike people who are willfully breaking the law and destroying their bodies simultaneously. "Gay pneumonia," the original name for AIDS, is a disease which focuses

are scientific mutations, rejecting the human instinct for survival. Homosexuals cannot procreate, hence slapping evolution in the face. Religiously, homosexuality is an abomination before God. The Bible speaks of the destruction of Sodom and

**AIDS is a unique disease, discriminatory in regards to its victims, preying on those of our culture who engage in unlawful substance abuse and immoral, deviant sexual behavior. The majority of people do not have to worry . . .**

on homosexuality but extends to other forms of promiscuity as well. Why then is AIDS the first disease of epidemic proportions in U.S. history where the patients fight for their medical privacy and civil rights? Mainly because the majority of the patients are pursuers of this homosexual lifestyle who feel threatened by the public's desire to demand that this behavior end. The real victims of this disease are the unborn children and hemophiliacs who did not choose their predicament but must share in the burden of this fatal illness. Thanks to quick and responsible action, blood transfusions have once again been safeguarded against possible infection.

What, if anything, is positive about being a homosexual? Biologically, they

Gomorrah, and the New Testament calls it an "unnatural affection" and a "sin." Socially it is unacceptable in many geographic regions, especially here in the south. Many feel unable to express themselves openly, due to alienation from mainstream society, which cannot comprehend this alternative way of life. Medically, homosexuals fall into the high risk category for the AIDS disease, accounting for most of the cases. Is it reasonable to force biology, religion, society and medicine to change so that this minority can continue to thrive? More importantly, is this realistic? Those for "Gay Pride" contend that they were born with this persuasion, but it stands to reason that this is more psychological conditioning than an innate human characteristic. At

least there is no evidence to show that this is an inherent genetic problem.

Unless there is a new development within the virus, AIDS will most likely stay confined to the homosexual community. Research, precaution, and the distribution of accurate information on the disease is imperative to solving the problem. Of course, quarantining those infected is out of the question in our society, but it is not an unreasonable approach to the situation. No doubt, it has been done many times in the past. Nevertheless, it seems unthinkable that a public university like VCU would sponsor a gay and lesbian organization when the whole issue of homosexuality is not assumed to be moral to begin with. We are told time and time again that they are normal, that they have a right to practice their lifestyle openly. Many feel that the heterosexual public have no right to voice their complaints. However, the majority of tax revenue, that money which is used to research and treat AIDS, is taken from these same heterosexuals. Surely, they have some right to feel indignant. What is needed most importantly are responsible sexual behaviors, self-esteem and respect for our bodies and a restored sense of family values. The great Holy Roman Empire fell from the moral decay within, not from external forces. If we continue on the same path, we just may see history repeat itself.

## Fables of Russian Reconstruction

By Allison Skaggs  
Staff Writer

To our wonder and amazement, we in the western world have been astonished to see the energy being exerted from our comrades in Russia. Day after day, we are witnessing the developments, both good and not-so-good, in Russia during the Gorbachev era. The two most important reformations have been underway in Russia: *perestroika* and *glasnost*. The most compelling of the two, Gorbachev's *glasnost*, has brought about a new policy of openness in everything from the release of Soviet dissidents, like Dr. Andrei Sakharov, from internal exile, to the latest — free elections. However, not surprisingly, this change has brought with it restlessness in many ethnic groups and xenophobia in many Russian nationalists. The change taking place, however, is beginning to overwhelm and intoxicate those people who have lived with strict guidelines throughout their lives. Freedom of choice is replacing strict guidelines, but these choices (which haven't undergone huge alterations) are becoming more confusing to the Russian citizen instead of actually helping him or her. The glaring question that we are

facing in America is whether or not this once "mysterious and evil" country is really changing positively. Or is this predicament just weakening the minds and hearts of Russia?

In the few years that Gorbachev has been in office, have we been witness to any considerable change in the government's role in the everyday citizen's life? So, I guess to see any change we must first overlook the absence of any sort of competition, for the obvious reason that state ownership of property and capital is still a widespread system. Overlook the fact that all economic activity is directed by a central planning system? Well, we'll try to anyway, and we must realize that we are seeing a number of positive changes in some aspects of Soviet life. For instance, artists and writers are starting to enjoy some of the freedoms they have in the past been denied. Artists such as Kandinsky are being given large retrospectives. Even some lesser known artists are enjoying some public recognition. Some citizens, after being able to abandon restrictions, are greedily devouring this new literature by such writers as Alexander Solzhenitsyn. But on the other hand, there are those who still feel the cold winds, and afraid, they face the

realities of *perestroika* and are left with very small appetites.

These people, however, long for a different substance to devour, but this substance we call food is not the only thing that many in Russia are lacking. The health care and education systems seem to glare with inadequacies also. So in reality these common people, who make up the largest percentage of the population, still live a dull, drab and deprived existence in the western world's eyes. This problem not only exists for the adult population, but for the younger generation as well. Of the government-run educational programs, about half lack central heating, running water and sewage systems! The backlash of underplanned reformation is also visible on the medical side of Russian affairs. The infant mortality rate is increasing sharply because medical equipment is so scarce. If an infant needs medical care a doctor might have to actually bend or scrape rusty needles so he can reuse them. The state of public health conditions is incredibly shocking also, with hazards like sewage seeping into public water systems in places like Leningrad; it gives

See New Bear page 20

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us good reason to believe that the infant mortality rate would be on the rise. Even the Baltic and Caspian seas have been targeted by many as "disaster zones." Yet still, no matter how overwhelming these problems may seem to be, an even worse situation is the food crisis taking place in Russia.

Moscow shoppers were just recently given the bad news about the need to ration such supplies as sugar, butter and meat, which hasn't had to go into effect since the end of World War II. To add to this problem, the influx of bootlegging alcoholic beverages (because of the government cutback) has made it very

important for harvesters to have large supplies of sugar on hand. So what's going to happen? What it looks like is that someone will have to do without. However, sugar isn't the only valuable and hard-to-come-by product. Muscovites go each day to the marketplace, hoping to fill their shopping bags to the brim with food for their families, but they are left buying from mounds of yellowish, wilted cabbage and bruised and scarred tomatoes. These food shortages are becoming more and more common.

These problems aren't likely to change with the swiftness we had expected to see from these newfound freedoms in Russia. We did, however, expect to see a more expansive and freer market and a more enthusiastic society. Instead we are left

with a bad taste in our mouths. This change we, and I'm sure they, were hoping to see take place can never occur until the whole system undergoes change. There has to be more to it than a switch in city planners. The people's best interests need to be kept in mind. Glasnost and perestroika are ideas of great hope, but as one Soviet woman said, "The diets of Soviets are worse than they have ever been, and of the Soviet population, it is worse now than it ever was under the last czar." So the question still remains: Is change really taking place, and are we naive enough to believe what we read and hear? But still we must keep our fingers crossed, because change is needed for our comrades in Russia.

## Legalize It

## Judging the Issue of Civil Rights

By Laura Saxon  
Guest Columnist

How far, exactly, should our civil rights be extended? Swiss Stockton, the leader of VCU's branch of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, gave his reasons why marijuana should be legalized. His main argument seemed to be that smoking marijuana is, or rather should be, a basic civil right. He went on to give facts and figures of the numbers of deaths related to smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol. Stockton's reference to the number of deaths related to drug use (5,000), as opposed to the 500,000 alcohol and cigarette deaths, is a totally useless figure. After all, what's the difference? Alcohol and nicotine *a re* drugs. Also, what about the thousands of people who are killed every year by those who take it upon themselves to use drugs? For example, a train engineer was high two years ago when he crashed it in Maryland. Are you going to tell those people's families that they did not die from someone's direct use of marijuana? Stockton also says that no one has ever directly died from smoking marijuana. No one has ever died from smoking one cigarette either, but from lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and the list goes on.

As far as medical uses go, the only medical reason that I can think of offhand to use marijuana is for glaucoma. Even then marijuana is not the cure; the tetrahydrocannabinol in it helps patients fight blindness, and until THC can be extracted, marijuana is available through the government and I agree it should be made available for medical reasons.

In many places already, smoking cigarettes in public is illegal. For those in doubt, Montgomery County, Md., banned smoking in public just last year. This trend towards banning smoking in public does not support the notion of legalizing

marijuana at all. If we are barring cigarette use, then we will never legalize pot. Sixty percent of all Americans do not smoke cigarettes, and even more do not smoke marijuana. The majority makes the laws. Of course, the minority has rights too, but not the right to endanger my health or the health of millions of other people. Is the main concern of the people who want to make marijuana legal just to be able to get stoned legally? This is so totally absurd I cannot believe I have

I do not condone the use of drugs, including alcohol and nicotine. We already have so many problems in this country;

to defend my views. Why would anyone waste his time getting stoned when there are so many worthwhile causes he could be helping? Are we that altogether bored as a country? Nothing better to do? Come on, face the real issue of civil rights. Grow up.

I do not condone the use of drugs, including nicotine and alcohol. We already have so many problems in this country; do we really need any more? I can think of no one except the businessman who could benefit from the legalization of marijuana. They would just love it as Americans got even more lazy and sat around watching television, having no other ideas in their heads except what to buy. I believe that creativity comes from the inside and is not artificially induced. Where will the innovative ideas come from? We as a people should have the power; why should

we throw it all away by making one bad decision after another?

Besides the businessman (whose benefits would be short-lived because of a rise in absenteeism and decline in production if marijuana were made legal), there is no one else who could possibly benefit from the legalization of pot. Would the already unstable person benefit from drugs? When you light up a joint, you are not opening your mind, you are closing it off from a world that could really use some help from you. Should this unstable person be able to make that dangerous decision and start smoking pot, only to lead him to take more dangerous and disabling drugs? The studies that have been done on marijuana use show that smoking pot does lead to harder drugs. Do not tell me Buck (*Ed. note: Buck Jones contributed to the marijuana controversy in his letter last issue*) did not prove the point himself. By the way, Buck, cocaine was available in the '60s, even if it wasn't the "drug of choice." Granted, smoking pot one or two times does not have a noticeable effect on anyone, but haven't you ever known anyone who has smoked pot for long enough that he is always slow to react and always has a glazed look in his eyes? It is a sad reality.

Josh's (*Ed. note: another contributor to the editorial page's drug controversy*) letter was not about hate. He does not condemn anyone as you have all seen fit to condemn him. You argue for the '60s, how great it was, how the whole '60's movement was based on love and openness. Or do you? Don't be either a hypocrite or a hateful person because you cannot find it in yourself to hear and understand when all someone wants to do is help. How can you judge and make assumptions about someone you do not even know? You can't. Who's right, and how far do our civil liberties extend? what is the real issue here?

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## On Vietnam

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago, the *Commonwealth Times* published an editorial by Michael W. Adams, in which Mr. Adams relates his generation and the generation of protesters, hippies, radicals and "sixties" types. He tries to associate that abhorrent opportunist, Jane Fonda, as a spokesperson for the anti-war movement, and our American involvement in Vietnam as justified because the "yellow man" called for our help (as if the "yellow man" didn't know any better). This "yellow man" was being oppressed by his fellow "yellow men," who were wearing the political "symbol" of red radical Communism. This evil "red/yellow" man was oppressing the poor, innocent good "yellow" man. What nonsense!

Then, the following week, we have yet another editorial by Mr. Keith Preston, in which he says that Mr. Adams has "distorted his facts," and that the REAL evil yellow man was rather a "peasant-based, fascist-model guerilla movement than a socialist revolutionary movement of the working class." My, my, how knowledgeable these two gentlemen are! But I'll bet anything that neither of them can read Vietnamese, understand Vietnamese, and probably have never even seen a Vietnamese "yellow" person!!! Yet they, like so many Americans, continue to define Asian politics in terms of Euro-American-Western Capitalism/Communism, essentially Western ideologies, filled with racist "we know what's best for you" arguments.

I am now a VCU teacher's assistant/graduate student who was an active participant in the anti-war movement. It was not, as Mr. Adams would like to think, a glamorized, sexually liberated movement of naked long-hairs, dancing in the buff at Woodstock, but a group of self-sacrificing individuals who believed in America, in democracy, and did not want to see American men, average age of 19, die, become dismembered or become drug addicts.

On the other hand, we were never Jane Fonda-like, Hollywood hipsters, who used publicity, wanted publicity, or wanted to "romanticize" ourselves, exploit sex, nor were we cowards, afraid to fight for our country. We didn't give a hoot in hell what the Vietnamese people did, no more than the Vietnamese people cared about us.

And the victim of all this continues to be the Vietnam vet, who suffered, died, fought as bravely as any soldier, but was never told for what reason. It was not to free the "yellow" man, that's for sure. It was not for the likes of Mr. Preston, either; those intellectuals who seem to know oh-so-many "facts" — facts of such a dubious nature, with a lot of "off-the-wall-numbers" (what is he, the Pulitzer Prize winner of the Vietnamese press?!!), it just boggles the mind! How does he know, and in such detail, what the National Liberation Front is, or the Khmer Rouge? How did he get to be such an authority?

What a lot of racist rot! This continues to be the ideology of both the American left and right, which is, The Master Race

knows best. Both sides succumb to this insanity that we know how "they" should live, that we know more facts and have a better political/economic/sociological understanding than the average person who lives in Asia, Africa or the Middle East. Unfortunately, the whole world knows what happened to the last race we got ahold of and told how to exist — it was the American Indian, and their history makes it very clear to the rest of the world that they don't want us, no way, no how!

It's no wonder why they write on the walls, "Yankee, Go Home!" "Go left, or go right, but please, GO HOME!"

Sincerely,  
David Krasner

## Cartoon Insanity

Dear Editors:

Don't you think Kimberly Ford's article "An American hang-up: Sex" was a little arrogant?

The fact that she "couldn't think of one incident in the news where a man has left and X-rated movie theater and gone and raped someone" is insignificant. Her ignorance is certainly not what we should base a judgement on.

Secondly, what gives her the right to say that Ted Bundy was lying when he said that pornography led him to commit violent murders? What would she suggest, he saw too many cartoons?

We must realize that pornography and violence can't just be lumped into big categories like "safe" and "harmful." They are powerful and complex elements that affect each person differently. Kimberly's analysis was too simple. She shouldn't have tried to make a conclusion for everyone based on her experiences and reactions alone.

John Lindner

## Sports

To the Editor:

After reading "Wadsworth Tired of Atmosphere" by Denise D. Wood, and "Milano Concerned About Treatment" by volleyball player Donna Milano in the Feb. 21-27 issue of *The Commonwealth Times*, I am very disheartened about the lack of administrative as well as student interest in VCU women's sports. While I am not a student athlete nor have I ever been, it still angers me that once again, some very talented, very bright, and very motivated young women are being pushed into the shadows of male sports once again.

While men's basketball is the star attraction of VCU sports and draws a major amount of money into VCU, they, as well as some other athletes, are not the all-around students they should be to earn scholarships here. Year after year some very good student athletes whose GPA is as impressive as their rebound percentage enter VCU, but unfortunately, not enough. It is also distressing to learn that the women's volleyball team only has 2.2 scholarships to distribute among ten people. I am sure teams like men's basketball are not concerned or

affected as much by such problems.

As students we can make a difference by supporting lesser-known teams. We can show the administration that we think these other intercollegiate sports are an essential component in the development of VCU as a college to be reckoned with. Ideally, everyone would attend everything; apathetically, no one attends anything. But hopefully, we could all be able to say, "I attended at least one women's game this season."

As for Ms. Wadsworth, I cannot blame her for giving up her position, one that obviously meant a great deal to her at one time. How can anyone be expected to love what she is doing when she is not supported and is literally ignored in every way?

Sincerely,  
Jennifer D. Wright

## More Sports

To the Editor:

Don't you think it's about time we heard more news about the sports at our school? We hear plenty about basketball. We are kept up with everyone, which is good! What about other sports, such as women's sports (besides basketball)? We need to hear more. I myself, never know what is going on. I might see something in one newspaper and never hear about it again. For instance, rugby is definitely a great sport to watch; why

don't we ever hear what is going on with them? They should definitely get some recognition in this school instead of just one paragraph in our newspaper. All sports should get more publicity and recognition. These people put too much time in something they love to have it go unnoticed. Do you think all they play for is their health? Think again. They are representing VCU and we should make an effort to get involved. I am a sports watcher and a sports reader and I want to know more about our sports and the people involved. Think about it, what do you want? Do you want to be informed?

Sincerely,  
Andi Larison

## 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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# CALENDAR



Post-R.E.M. Party at the Jade with Miracle Legion

## TUESDAY the 18th

**Jade Elephant** Bar and Band Night  
**Va. Museum** "Harlem Renaissance: Art of Black America," includes works by Aaron Douglas, Palmer Hayden, Meta Warrick Fuller and William H. Johnson.  
**Last Stop Gallery** Paintings by Thomas Stockett and Delilah Pierce  
**Richmond Comedy Club** Local talent night  
**Rockitz** Randall B.'s Dance Night  
**Shockoe Slip Cafe** Cheap Date Night  
**1708 E. Main** Works by Rith Bolduan and Elizabeth King.  
**A Gallery Space** Paintings by Wayne Fitzgerald and Mark Scala.  
**9:30 Club** Firehose  
**Whistlers** Nat Raddles

exhibition of paintings by Sarah Johnson  
**Hand Workshop** "City. Woodworks," furniture, sculpture and carvings by 25 local artists  
**Richmond International Airport** Art at the Airport features works by VCU graduate students.  
**Shockoe Slip Cafe** Eccentrics  
**Library Tavern** Boy O Boy  
**Richmond Comedy Club** Shirley Hemp-hill with Greg Poole through the 22nd.  
**5th. Above Shockoe Slip Cafe**, call 745-3166 for info.  
**Valentine Museum** Film "Birth of a Nation" at 7:30. Free.  
**Whistlers** Big Gulp Night  
**9:30 Club** Go-Betweens  
**Theatre Virginia** "oqPump Boys and Dinettes" through the 22nd.

## THURSDAY the 20th

**Whistlers** Blue Dogs  
**9:30 Club** Sam Phillips  
**Artspace 1306** Paintings by Roomy Pak and paintings, books and sculptures by VCU graduate Mitzi Humphrey  
**Common Ground** Dance with a D.J. at 9 p.m.  
**Va. Museum** Six life-sized, bark-covered figures by Tom Czarnopys  
**Shockoe Slip Cafe** My Uncles Old Army Buddies  
**New Horizon Cafe** Saffire

## FRIDAY the 21st

**Shafer Court** Radiant  
**Richmond Coliseum** R.E.M. and Drivin' and Cryin'  
**Commons Theatre** "A Fish Called Wanda" at 8 p.m. and "U2: Rattle and Hum" at 10:30 p.m.  
**Jade Elephant** Post R.E.M. Party with Miracle Legion. Only \$3 with R.E.M. ticket stub  
**9:30 Club** Pandoras  
**Shockoe Slip Cafe** Madnetics  
**Farmers Market Inn** Bobcats  
**Library Tavern** BS&M  
**Whistlers** Page Wilson  
**Comed Club** Chris Coccia and Rob Reibold  
**Renegades** Freestyle, call 747-8717 for info.

## SATURDAY the 22nd

**Jade Elephant** Hangmen with the Prevaricators  
**Commons Theatre** "U2: Rattle and Hum" at 8 p.m. and "A Fish Called Wanda" at 10:30 p.m.  
**Shockoe Slip Cafe** Panic  
**Farmers Market Inn** Bobcats  
**New Horizon Cafe** Olu and Crown of Honor  
**Whistlers** Page Wilson  
**Library Tavern** Jumpin' Johnny and the Blues Show

**Richmond Coliseum** Cinderella and Winger

## SUNDAY the 23rd

**Jade Elephant** Sunday Showcase  
**Shockoe Slip Cafe** Sunday Splash Bash  
**Business Building Auditorium** "The Girl Can't Help It" at 6 p.m. and "200 Motels" at 8:30 p.m.  
**9:30 Club** Nitzer Ebb  
**Floodzone** Melissa Etheridge

## MONDAY The 24th

**Jade Elephant** Open Jam Night  
**Shockoe Slip Cafe** Progressive Night  
**Rockitz** Funk-A-Rama

## UP AND COMING

**May 4th**  
**Jade Elephant** Fleshtones

**May 10th**  
**9:30 Club** Carl Perkins

**May 18th**  
**Va. Museum** Sun Ra and His Inter-galactic Arkestra. Call 367-8148 for info.

## WEDNESDAY the 19th

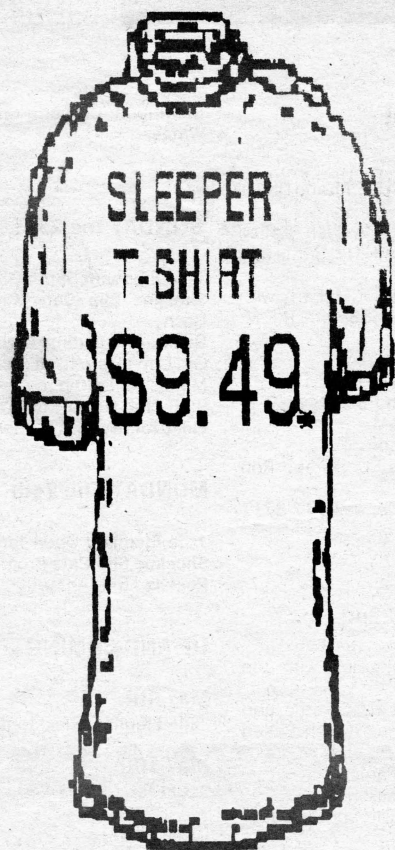
**Grace Street Gallery** Taylor Dabney presents photographs of Greece. Call 648-0515.  
**Rockitz** House Music Party with D.J. Randy Hutchinson  
**Cudahy's** Vicki Bruner and Joe Monk's mixed media, drawings and colored clay vessels and plates  
**Jade Elephant** Loud Ladies Night  
**Student Art Space** "A Child," an

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