



THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES

R.V. PICKMAN

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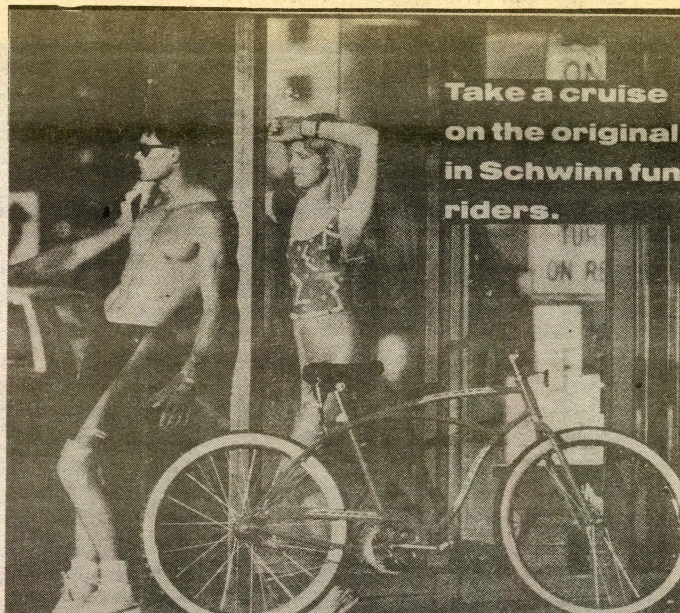
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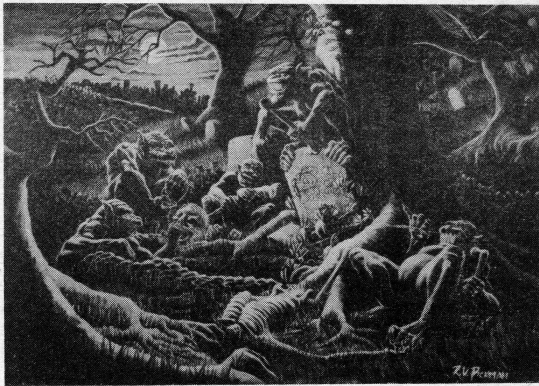
Suit up in casual clothing from the VCU Bookstore and enjoy the practical comfort of T-shirts, sweatshirts, pants, and shorts to fit any lifestyle and budget. These are just samples of the wide selection of exciting styles available every day at either campus bookstore. So try out some school spirit today!

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THE COVER:
about Sam Inabinet

Cover: "'Ghoul Feeding' by Richard Upton Pickman" by Sam Inabinet

I came to Richmond about seven years ago and proceeded to plunder VCU's Communication Arts Department for everything I could get before bailing out to embark on a career as a filmmaker, role-playing scenario illustrator and graphic novelist. Since these fields are hard to break into for someone with a deficiency of raw aggression, I have spent the meantime laying out hospital rooms for X-ray installation, drawing caricatures and airbrushing T-shirts at a local amusement park (I mean, amusement park), washing dishes and cleaning construction sites. Insofar as my original ambitions are concerned, I can list to my credit the following: One four-page comic story and a few single illos for the excellent but dearly departed **Game News**; three back-up stories for Adventure Comics (the last stories in **Ninja Elite** #2, and **Warriors** #1&2, for all you faithful out there); covers and interior art for **Renegade Dreams**, a role-playing adventure recently unleashed by the Blacksburg Tactical Research Center; and a lavish Arabian Nights pastiche for **Dark Horse Presents** #35, which will hopefully be out by the time you read these words (or shortly thereafter). I am also currently working with J. E. Barnes of Pain, Ink. on his video productions, **Legends of Valhalla** and the upcoming **Savage Fists of the Men in Black**, which can be seen on local cable's public access; I hope to get some of my student film projects onto Public Access as well, once I slap a soundtrack on 'em.

"'Ghoul Feeding' by Richard Upton Pickman" is part of a series of drawings I did for a "dream project" of sorts, a film adaptation of "Pickman's Model" by H. P. Lovecraft. I intended this to be my magnum opus for my VCU filmmaking class until I realized just how much it would cost to film an hour-long production in 16 millimeter, as I had originally planned. With 80 percent of the pre-production work done, my only setbacks to filming have been the loss of a principal actor to a high-paying job in California, and a state of being chronically sub-rich. If anyone reading this is a wealthy patron of macabre art or a demented actor with a passion for Lovecraft, and is interested in helping me get this project together, please send \$5,000 or a videotape of yourself glaring into the camera and uttering the words "You needn't think I'm crazy, Eliot. . ." to 2900 Monument Ave. #1, Richmond, Va. 23221

NEWS

p. 4 Founder's Day is VCU's celebration of the founding of the University (or at least the MCV part of it). The University is 151 years old this year, and the Office of Alumni Activities is hosting its second annual gala fest.

WVCW, the University's only radio station, can only be picked up wandering through Hibbs or several of the dormitories. Contrary to popular belief, however, WDCE is not the only alternative station in town. Find out what's happening on the third floor of the Milhiser House.

FOLIO

p. 9 The Department of Dance and Choreography recently hosted one of the most exciting events the City of Richmond has experienced in recent times. What exactly was it that you missed? Why, the Cultural Heritage Series, which featured dance and music that you could never hope to see at the Metro.

p. 12 The Commonwealth Times compensates for commercial Halloween specials with a six-page section devoted entirely to the history of the holiday, an interview with a local wicce, a description of a pagan ceremony and a color photo spread devoted to Edgar Allan Poe, who Richmond often tries to claim as a "native son".

p. 18-19 The Department of Afro-American Studies entertained several hundred VCU students last week with visiting lecturer/performer Jerry Eastman. In the more structured corners of the city, the Richmond Ballet will soon begin its season. Student and faculty exhibits can be seen around campus above the Commons Theater and in the Anderson Gallery. All of this, and the new installment of OUTLANDS...

SPORTS

p. 23 VCU is going to the Sun Belt Conference Championships. Although basketball doesn't start for several weeks, there's plenty of action on the Sports page with previews of all the Sun Belt action, from cross country to volleyball.

EDITORIAL

p. 26 No punches pulled this week, with guest columnist Michael L. Snapp laying out campus Republicans as apathetic wimps and campus liberals as ignorant activists. Editorial editor Tracy Ebbert is addressing yet another "Myth America" contest and a look at the ghosts of education past, present and future.

NEWS

VCU to celebrate 151st anniversary

By James A. Smith
Staff Writer

On Friday, November 3, VCU will observe its 151st anniversary with the second annual Founder's Day Gala to be held at the Richmond Omni.

The initial preparation for this year's Founder's Day started back in February, when the Office of Alumni Activities and the Activities Programming Board got together to discuss funding and entertainment.

At a later date, the theme "STARS" was chosen to represent the evening's events. Soon the Office of Major Programs became involved and all three organizations began the detailed work of making Founder's Day a reality.

According to Fred Wayne, director of the Office of Major Projects, this year's Founder's Day is personalized.

"We are going to stress the stars of this university: the students, the faculty, and the alumni. These are the people who make this

university great," Wayne said.

He also said Founder's Day will provide an opportunity for VCU to recognize the alumni who have made significant contributions to society and the school.

Founder's Day, which began last year as an outgrowth of a fall celebration, will feature the roots of VCU — the individual schools.

"VCU began as a collection of schools and not as a traditional university," said Dr. Bill Iles, director of the Office of Alumni Activities.

Iles is responsible for ensuring that VCU develops "a supportive and united program that involves alumni across the nation in their university." He sees the continuation of Founder's Day as a means of VCU establishing credibility among future alumni.

Diane Stout, assistant director of the Office of Alumni Activities, said students are "directly involved with the program." She cited the involvement of the East Campus SGA's social committee and the West Campus APB. She also said the newly organized Student Alumni Ambassadors are

taking part in organizing and participating in the evening's events.

"It is not often that students from both campuses have the opportunity to work together on a project of this scale," said George Andrews, chairman of the East Campus' Social Committee.

He also said that "Founder's Day provides students with the opportunity to meet distinguished alumni and celebrate the university's diverse history."

The format of Founder's Day will resemble that of an Academy Awards event. The focal point of the gala will be the alumni awards presentation, which will be done by Brenda Hughes and Jeff Hill of WWBT, Channel 12. Award recipients will include Tom Robbins, author of "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," and George Woltz, who created the slogan "Virginia Is for Lovers."

Other events of the night include musical entertainment by the New York Swing Band, a contemporary oldies band, and the Good Guys, who play "cross-cultural" rock. There will also be displays featuring the history of the various schools of VCU, original stu-

Founder's Day provides students with the opportunity to meet distinguished alumni and celebrate the university's diverse history.

dent art sculptures, and a student art auction.

Semi-formal dress is required. Tickets are \$8 for students, \$15 for non-students. They will be on sale starting Oct. 23 in the Student Commons and the Larrick Student Center. Tickets may also be purchased at the Office of Alumni Activities, 828 W. Franklin St.

WVCW faces "catch-22" in FM quest

By Jacquelyn Johnson
Staff Writer

Converting to FM would enable more students to enjoy VCU's radio station, WVCW, but the process will not be an easy one.

It will take money and time, said Kurt Keppler, assistant dean of student affairs. Four questions are just a few of the ones that must be answered before a plan is developed, he said.

What FM stations are available?

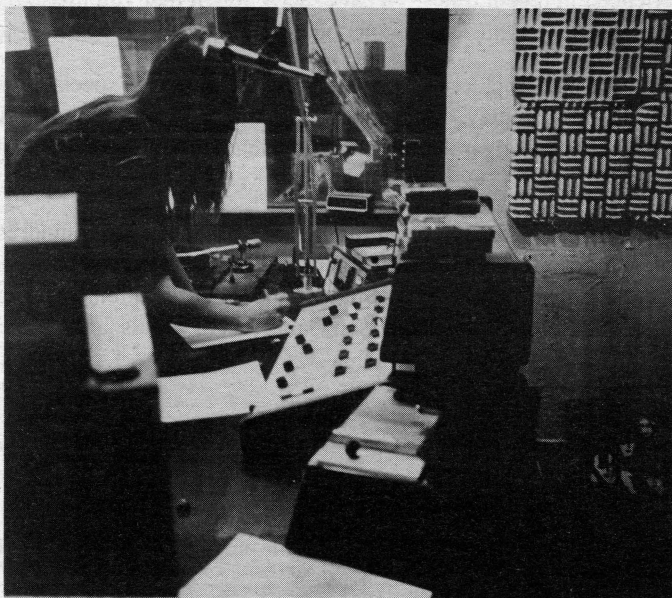
The lower section of the FM dial, which is where WVCW would be located, constitutes the education band — consultants must be hired to find an available station.

Where will a tower be placed to enable long-distance transmission and will any interference result?

George Crutchfield, professor and former director of the School of Mass Communications, said a study, conducted nearly 17 years ago, found a way to increase power of WVCW by placing a tower on WTVR's roof, however, interference would have resulted so the plan was axed.

What equipment and wiring is necessary, Keppler said, is another factor that must be considered, which takes research and money.

Currently WVCW broadcasts to the Hibbs cafeteria and Johnson, Rhoads and Gladding residence centers on 640 AM. The music is a diverse mix of progressive, his-



Helen Link-Commonwealth Times

panic, folk, and Christian rock and metal — to name a few.

Unlike the University of Richmond's radio station, WDCE, WVCW has scheduled times and days for particular music, said John Graham Stimis, who has three

jobs in addition to his station manager position at WVCW.

Stimis said he realizes the "incredible bureaucracy" involved with a state-funded university, but added, "The university hasn't really been aware of how difficult it is ... getting the station on the air. They're (the

university) afraid of the damage a station could do to the university image rather than the benefit of its existence."

All of the community doesn't know the advantages VCU and MCV offer, he said, adding that WVCW could be an influential communication outlet.

WVCW gets its money for equipment and maintenance from the Student Media Commission, which is made up of selected students, faculty and administration representatives. When money is needed by a particular medium, they must submit a request to the SMC, which votes on awarding the request.

Since the SMC gets its money from student activities fees, Richard Wilson, vice provost for student affairs, said student fees would have to increase to compensate the expense of FM expansion.

Max Ryder, production director at WVCW, said the radio station is a "business and should try to be maintained as one," which includes more advertising revenues.

Although it sometimes becomes frustrating because of lack of material, Ryder said you can add more input at a small station than at a big station.

Wilson said it's a "catch-22 dilemma." The station has more flexibility with a small audience and would have to conform to a larger FM audience. WVCW might agree to target that audience, but in doing so it would lose the flexibility and programming for which it is known on campus.

Life is a matter of choice, ex-football star claims

By Dee Dee Hirsch
Staff Writer

Eugene Edward "Mercury" Morris did not come to VCU to speak about drugs. The 42-year-old former Miami Dolphin, who was arrested for cocaine possession and trafficking, spoke about choice.

Morris, who spoke in the Commons Theater last Tuesday night, began by taking his audience on a trip through history to see how America has become what it is today.

The former football star spoke about the Vietnam conflict, the civil rights conflict and the anti-establishment conflict. All of these conflicts led to a cause, Morris said.

"Over 100,000 men who were in that conflict (Vietnam) who made it back to these shores, committed suicide," Morris said. This is almost twice as many as the number of names on the Vietnam Memorial wall in Washington.

He said after Vietnam and the civil rights conflicts, America was left with the anti-establishment conflict.

"Now what we had left was the residual effect of what we were as a country," Morris said.



Kathy Laraia--Commonwealth Times

Morris then edged into the 1980s and the focus of his presentation: choice. He cited an incident last year in Kentucky, when a drunken driver ran into a school bus, killing 27 children.

"A guy goes to a legal drug supplier in Kentucky by choice. He consumes \$27 worth of a legal drug by choice. He goes and gets in his pickup truck and drives down the street by choice. What he didn't choose to do directly was run into that school bus and kill 27 kids on their way home from a church picnic and then plead not guilty," Morris said.

He said he believes this reflects the lack of accountability that has been built into this country.

Morris then went back in history even further — to the time of Adam. Adam was advised by God, but he made the wrong choice. Adam, Morris said, was a fool.

"'Mercury' Morris was a fool for a time in his life only because of the foolish things

he chose to do," he said.

Morris next switched his attention to the lottery.

When people play the lottery, and the odds are a billion to one, they don't look at the billion — they look at the one, he said.

Morris said that Len Bias and Donny Rogers, two sports stars who died freebasing cocaine, were caught in the lottery of involvement.

"They looked at the billion and never looked at the one," Morris said. "They didn't die of a cocaine overdose. They died of a choice."

"The concept of drug use and the misconception of drug abuse is carried by the

singular factor, as was Adam, of the failure to recognize that it was his choice," he said.

A drug, Morris stated, is not an abusable item. When you use drugs, you only abuse yourself.

"You never see an ounce of coke on the 6 o'clock news going to jail in the back of a police car in handcuffs," he said.

If individuals carefully consider their options, they will make the right choices. People must also accept responsibility for their actions, he said. Morris changed his life by changing his choices.

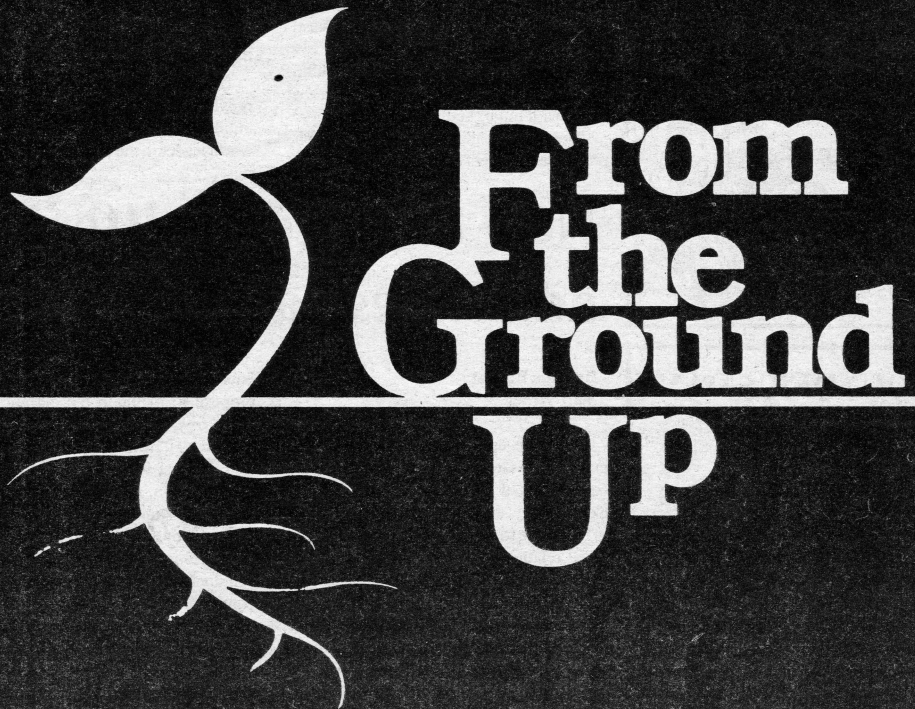
"'Mercury' Morris did not stop using drugs. 'Mercury' Morris wanted to be a better father, he wanted to be a better husband,

he wanted to be a better person in the community, but first he wanted to be someone who can be depended upon. Those things have nothing to do with drugs. They have everything to do with choice," Morris said.

Not even God could keep Adam from making the wrong choices; everyone does many times, he pointed out.

"I made some real bad choices in my life. The idea is to make the right choice. The choice belongs to you. It's a gift," Morris said.

"The choice is yours. It's always been yours. And this whole thing called life is a matter of choice."



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MCV research center could be "best in the world"

By Susan B. Schermerhorn
Staff Writer

Dr. Barry M. Dorsey, associate director of the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia, said he believes the Council's proposal to establish MCV as a research center for brain injury may make the center "the best in the world."

In its recommendation to the 1989-90 biennium of the Virginia General Assembly, the Council voted in favor of an unspecified amount of state funds to help finance the proposed Commonwealth Center. In order for the center to be funded, it must be ranked among the top four of its kind in the nation.

Already recognized as outstanding, the brain injury center at MCV would evolve around a nationally known group of investigators who have contributed significantly to the scientific community's understanding of neurological and vascular changes that occur with injury and influence recovery.

The VCU center, which wishes to improve the treatment of brain injuries, will be

established around existing rehabilitative services at the university's health science division.

"If the General Assembly approves the Council's recommendation, the outlook for the brain injury center at MCV is very optimistic," said Dorsey.

Dr. John Povlishock, of MCV's rehabilitative medicine, stated that "head injury is often looked upon as a disease of the young due to sports injuries and automobile accidents which occur at a young age.

"The most important thing is further acceleration of better treatment of head injuries through new therapeutic remedies and facilitated training. The multi-centered efforts developed in the labs are now going to clinical trial at MCV," Povlishock added.

Once put into action the Commonwealth Center should lead to significant new information, including broad-ranging central nervous system disorders such as stroke.

This will ultimately translate into improved management and treatment of brain-injured humans at MCV, an acknowledged world leader in the treatment of neural injuries.

New SGA committee addresses race relations

By Julie Bryant
Staff Writer

Still in its early stages of development, the Student Government Association's recently formed Human Relations Ad Hoc Committee is attempting to make progress.

"We hope to educate VCU students about racial relations not only among black and white students, but among international students as well," said Andy Malik, chairman of the committee.

The committee's premiere forum has been tentatively scheduled for the first Monday in November.

"A lot of preparation is going into the first forum to make sure it's a success," Malik said. The committee has also made plans to meet with the Greek Council, the Black Caucus and the Black Student Union to ensure that everyone has a chance to become involved.

They plan to target freshman dorms in

hopes of getting a large turnout and also propose to maintain the current Monday night, 6-9 p.m. schedule.

Todd L'Herrou, an SGA member-at-large, said the first forum "will probably host a guest speaker, an anonymous question and answer session, and some type of film on race relations."

Topics up for discussion include the recent incidents of racial tension on campus, controversial T-shirts, and graffiti that has appeared on and around campus.

Gwen Eatherton, director of Student Activities, said the committee is necessary and "will accomplish a better understanding of the variety of cultures here on this campus."

L. Victor Collins, director of the Office of Student Minority Affairs, commended the SGA's effort.

"Anytime we can contribute to any chance of greater understanding between races it is a worthwhile effort."

School of Business proposes GPA increase

By Cecily Peeples
Staff Writer

Recently, the School of Business proposed a new plan to increase the minimum grade point average requirement, as well as solve the immediate problem of overcrowded classrooms.

In a proposal issued by the dean's office, beginning in the fall of 1991, applicants to the school will be subject to a GPA requirement of 2.5 instead of the current 2.25.

Dr. Iris Johnson, associate dean of Undergraduate Studies, said that the reason

"Our main goal is to bring the school's quality and reputation up to a point where we can compete with some of the best business schools in the nation."

for the proposal "is to be able to work within our resources while getting quality at the same time." She said the decision came about when the school saw that the school could not balance its limited resources and the increasing number of applicants to its business program.

Johnson said this will have little effect on current undergraduates, since only 2.7 percent of the students presently have averages below the proposed increase.

She said that although the implementation of the plan had changed since its introduction, the intent of the plan had remained the same.

"The original plan was to phase in the change in GPA over several years," said Johnson. "However, after thinking about it, we decided that it would lead to much confusion for the students, and it would be hard for us to keep track of what student came in at what time."

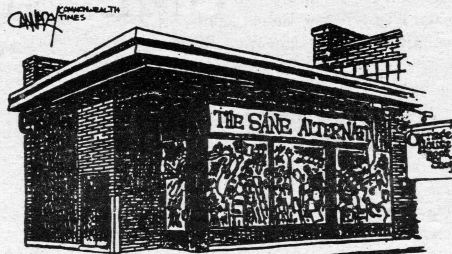
The proposal was unanimously passed by the School of Business Undergraduate Committee, and will next be presented to Dr. Robert R. Trumble, dean of the School of Business. If passed, it will be submitted for approval to the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

The school has already implemented one program designed to improve the quality of education, an early admissions program similar to the one currently used by MCV. The program guarantees admission to students with an SAT score of 1200 or higher and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5.

"Our main goal," said Johnson, "is to bring the school's quality and reputation up to a point where we can compete with some of the best business schools in the nation."

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AKL to sponsor Halloween watch

By Kim Phillips
Staff Writer

Parents in the Fan can feel safe taking their children trick-or-treating this year, thanks to a local fraternity.

The Virginia Commonwealth University chapter of Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity and the Fan District Association are sponsoring the second annual Halloween Watch on Oct. 31 from 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Two men will be stationed on each street corner in the fan area bound by Floyd and Stuart avenues, and Strawberry and Allen streets.

Approximately 50 men will be taking part in the watch this year.

"We just want to try and make it a safe area for parents and their children," said Alpha Kappa Lambda president, Chris Gutzmer.

Because the high crime rate has brought a decline of participation in the age-old ritual of trick-or-treating, Gutzmer said he hopes this program encourages both parents and their children.

Last year, several fraternity brothers, while covering a larger area, chased off a burglar who was breaking into a house.

Gutzmer said the police never caught the burglar, but at least they scared him away.

Alpha Kappa Lambda is planning to sponsor the Halloween Watch every year.

The pledges of the fraternity this year are also having a Pumpkin Fest at Sixth Street Marketplace, where they will be giving pumpkins to underprivileged children.

Local charged with student rape

A Richmond man has been arrested and charged with raping an 18-year-old VCU student on Oct. 16.

It was the second reported rape of a student this semester. Both assaults occurred off campus.

In last week's incident, a woman told police she was assaulted by a man at his Fan District home at about 11 p.m. Two hours later, police arrested Carlton Wendell Duncan, 24, of the 1600 block of Grove Avenue.

No other information on that case was available.

On Aug. 31, a man was shot twice by a Richmond police officer when he was caught in the Jackson Ward apartment of a 21-year-old woman who had been raped and stabbed.

Patrolman Paul Tuttle responded to a reported breaking and entering at a home in the 100 block of West Clay Street about 11:30 p.m. The officer entered the apartment after hearing a woman scream. When a man came out of a bathroom and lunged at the officer with a butcher knife, Tuttle fired his revolver, striking the man in the abdomen and the leg.

Police then found the woman, who was treated at MCV Hospital and released.

The man charged in the incident, Raymond Randolph Scott, 31, of the 2400 block of Wood Street, was wanted in a series of burglaries and sexual assaults.

News Briefs

VCU Student Commended for Outstanding Journalism

Jennifer Williams, a senior at VCU, won the 1989 Agnes Cooke Scholarship awarded the Virginia Women's Press Association.

The award is based on dedication to the field of journalism, writing samples, quality of experience and need.

Williams has worked as a sports writer for Richmond Newspapers Inc., the Potomac News, The Commonwealth Times and Stafford County Chronicle. She recently completed an internship at the Virginia Lawyers Weekly in Richmond.

She is immediate past president of the VCU campus chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists, former sports editor of The Commonwealth Times and a member of the Association for Women in Sports Media.

Bag Lunch Highlights Virginia Museum

"The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts: Where Art Lives" will be the topic of discussion at the Brown Bag Lunch to be held at the Richmond Public Library, 101 E. Franklin St., on Friday, Nov. 3 from noon to 1 p.m.

Deborah A. Frazier, assistant manager of the Office of Education and Outreach, will speak on the history of the Virginia Museum collections, architecture and resources, in addition to pointing out highlights that are "not to be missed."

This program is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call 780-4256.

1708 East Main Hosts Fundraiser

1708 East Main's annual Invitational Exhibition, a fundraiser for the artist-run, non-profit gallery, will this year feature 90 area artists, the highest number ever to participate in one of the Richmond art scene's most popular shows.

The exhibition and sale opens with a reception on Friday, Nov. 3 from 7 to 10 p.m. More than 150 original works of art will be on show through Saturday, Nov. 18. Works include paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography, prints and mixed-media pieces with most works in the \$100-150 range.

Artist exhibiting include Bernard Martin, Ann Chenoweth, Aggie Zed, Gail-Nathan, James Miller, James Bumgardner, Michael Drought, Tom Gordon, Barbara Tisserat, David Camden, Diana Detamore, Gerald Donato, Joan Gaustad, Harold North, Joe Seipel, George Cruger, Jane Ware, Richard Carlyon, Eleanor Rufty and Myron Helfgott.

Oxfam: Fast for a World Harvest

On Nov. 16, the Thursday before Thanksgiving, more than one million Americans will take part in Oxfam America's Fast for a World Harvest to benefit poor people

throughout the world. A large percentage of those who fast each year are students at colleges and universities throughout the nation.

The 16th annual fast is sponsored by veteran TV actor Mike Farrell of "M*A*S*H," Talking Heads musician and film director David Byrne, Father Theodore Hesburgh and civil rights crusader Coretta Scott King, among others.

The Fast for a World Harvest is Oxfam's annual education and fund-raising campaign. Each year thousands of people join together to fight hunger through the symbolic act of fasting. The money they save by not eating is given to Oxfam to support its international programs.

Oxfam American is a non-profit, international agency that funds self-help development and disaster-relief projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Students Selected for Presidential Search Committee

The following students have been selected to serve on the student steering committee for the Presidential Search: Paul L. Adams, Jr. (chair), Candace Greco, Floyd E. Miller and Lavaunda Roundtree from the Academic Campus and David Blankenship, Bernard Gross, Chris Hooper and Carol Radmore from MCV.

School of Nursing Hosts Reception

The School of Nursing held a reception for newly admitted Afro-American students during the orientation program for the fall semester. Black alumni from the Saint Philip School of Nursing and from MCV were there to help celebrate and begin relationships with the new students.

The Minority Affairs Committee of the School also wants to plan a reception for other multi-cultural students but needs help locating information concerning graduates who are Asian-Pacific, Hispanic, Indian or Native American.

Please contact Terry Whitson, director of development and alumni affairs, at 786-0724 or Theresa M. Fernandez, coordinator of minority affairs, at 786-0835 if you have more information.

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For information, call Jim East, Director of the Andrology Center, at 289-4955.

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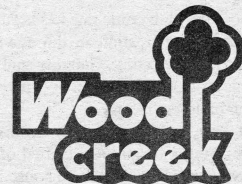
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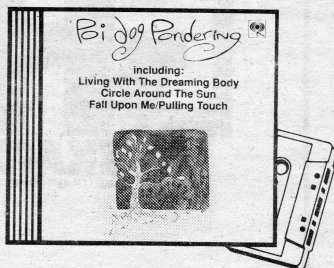
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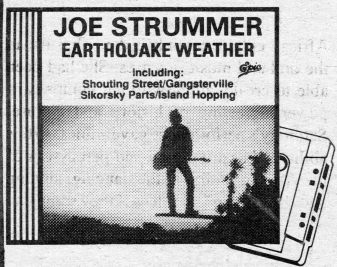
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CULTURAL HERITAGE

"Telling A Story With Your Feet"



By John Sarvay
Staff Writer

"If you do not do it, it will not be done," said Garth Fagan in the closing moments of the Cultural Heritage Series panel discussion last week.

The Cultural Heritage Series, which presented performances by nationally recognized dance groups, culminated last week with a panel discussion, featuring Fagan, La Vaughn Robinson of the Philadelphia Tap Dances, Ferne Caulker-Bronson of Ko Thi Dance Company and Katrina Hazzard-Gordon of the Diaspora Dance Theatre, and a performance by the Garth Fagan Bucket Dance Company.

The panel discussion, moderated by Eva Gholson of Temple University, drew several hundred students and faculty to the Commons Theater to hear the artists' views on dance, art and society.

The discussion, which was entitled "Cultural Heritage in a Changing World," focused on three main strands of the black cultural experience: the urban development of "hoofin'" as portrayed by Robinson, the Diaspora and Ko Thi interpretations of traditional African dance and the synthesis of these and others as explored by Fagan. By the end of the discussion, however, it became apparent that the similarities far out-

weigh the differences for these artists.

Caulker-Bronson, who spoke to the audience first, commented on the nature of art. Art, she said, comes directly from living.

As a child, Caulker-Bronson was very interested in the space she was in. "I wasn't always interested in what was at the next bend," she said.

Katrina Gordon, of the Diaspora Dance Company, is very interested in preserving what she sees as a shrinking cultural base. Her group is involved in taking African dance vocabulary and codifying it in simple terms so that its movements and motions can be preserved, even if they are set aside by generations.

She also spoke of how the motions of modern and traditional African dance are evolved from the work and play of the early Africans.

Her students often ask her, "Why do we warm up? When Africans dance, they don't warm up."

She laughs and replies, "If you bend up and down in the field all day, you don't need to stretch your hamstrings on the bar."

All of the artists became involved with their culture at an early age; Robinson was introduced to hoofing at the age of seven.

"I learned the art of hoofing on the streets of Philadelphia," said Robinson.

The art he learned was a street art, devel-

oped from the bottom down. It was not, he emphasized, acrobatic tap dancing, but "board beating." Gradually, by watching other performers in the Philadelphia streets, Robinson learned to connect the rhythm in his head with the movement in his feet. As he matured, so did his dance.

"When you get older," Robinson said, "you start telling a story with your feet."

Robinson said that many of his techniques were "stolen" from other hoofers, by watching their techniques and adapting them to his styles.

Garth Fagan, with his Bucket Dance Company, uses much the same method, indicating that his troupe, for instance, will take a classical ballet movement and adapt it to African music or rhythms.

The hierarchy of American dance, he said, is such that ballet ranks at the top, and ethnic dance falls much lower. Fagan's group incorporates African, Caribbean and urban movements with the more traditional methods of dance to create some of the most difficult, and different, dance routines possible.

One thing all the artists have contended with is financing. Robinson noted that in 1956 he would often give two performances for the price of one, simply because the white club owners were not willing to give black artists equal footing with whites. The

agents, he said, got rich off the black dancers.

Bronson sees the gaps in financing as being political, insofar as her company faces competition from other groups competing for the same funds, and from the increased use of technology.

All of the panelists emphasized the quality of their "products." Fagan said that Gordon's Diaspora company was such that "The quality is so good that people have to let it happen." He also acknowledged that entertainment is easier to understand for most people, making any messages that may exist in performance secondary.

For Gordon and the other artists, the preservation of their cultural base, of a general cultural base, is important.

"The music, the dance, it is essential to a person's base," said Bronson. And it is essential to our cultural heritage.

Ko Thi Spiritually lifts Audience

By Meg Fredgren

The spirit of Afro-American dance, music and culture came to life last Saturday at the performance given by the Ko Thi Dance Company as part of VCU's Department of Dance and Choreography's Cultural Heritage series. The evening left the audience virtually spellbound, as words such as "incredible," "spiritual" and "moving" filled the air.

Ferne Caulker-Bronson, as artistic director and choreographer of Ko Thi, is the mastermind behind this successful endeavor to revitalize and preserve the traditions of African culture not only in dance but also in the oral and musical senses. She had been able to create, along with her company, a powerful feeling of history and culture. Saturday's performance gave witness to this ability. With drumming and percussion of the African tradition, the dancing, singing and shouting, many felt as if they wanted to join the artists on stage.

The technique and precision were remarkable in this program. As Caulker-Bronson later remarked in a seminar, "We have

See THI, page 11

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LaVaughn Robinson of PhiladelphiaTap

By Meg Fredgren

Last Sunday morning LaVaughn Robinson of Philadelphia Tap Dances gave a wonderful master class in the tradition of black American tap. Though Robinson has been tapping for over 50 years, he still has a passion for the art. People seem to have a talent to learn the tradition for which he and many others of his era have become so famous.

Robinson created a warm and relaxed atmosphere for the dancers, telling them to be calm and not to hurry through things. The class began at a moderate, manageable pace, warming up the dancers. As the combinations gradually became more difficult, occasional gasps or chuckles of disbelief could be heard throughout the group. Robinson continually stressed the involvement of the mind: "In order to do this, you must think fast." You must remain one step ahead mentally.

When teaching a turning step, he tried to explain the tricks of the trade. "Don't leave the ground; you haven't the time. Use the lift of your arms instead; that's what gives the illusion of flight." The dancers remained attentive to his comments as if he were a prophet. He called attention several times to the importance of absolute precision to the rhythm of tap. "It's just like this," he said as he broke into an elaborate series of steps without a second thought. "You must know the rhythm and stay close to the floor." The class was amused and nodded their heads in understanding of the idea but didn't exactly understand how it was done "so easily."

Robinson ended the class with a repetition exercise. He would tap a pattern and the class would throw it back to him without missing a beat. Finally, he smiled and executed a pattern of a much higher level, and the class responded with laughter and applause. With that, Robinson took a modest bow and ended the class.

Sunday evening many of those students appeared in the auditorium of the Performing Arts Center to see Robinson and his partner, Germaine Ingram, in action as Philadelphia Tap Dances joined the Callahan

Jazz Ensemble for an evening of fantastic tap and jazz.

The ensemble played two pieces before Robinson and Ingram appeared. When they finally appeared on stage they were warmly received by the audience. The duo worked their way through a delightful routine and then greeted the audience.

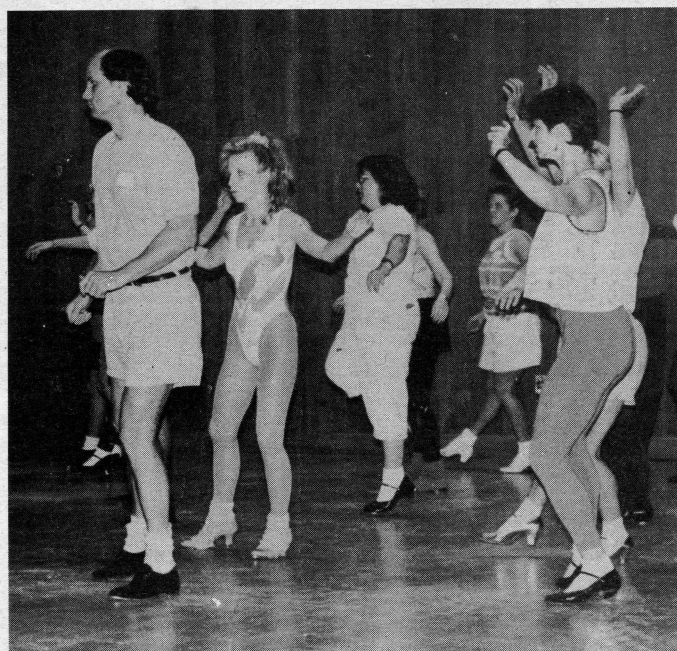
Robinson told the story of how he and Ingram met and became a team. In 1979, she saw him perform and she asked him to teach her to tap. "She came to me and said, 'Mr. Robinson, I want to learn to tap.' I said 'What do you do?' She replied, 'I'm a lawyer.' I then asked her how she would have the time, and you know, she scared me. She said 'I'll make time.'" In 1988, they became a duo.

The audience laughed as the two told stories of each other; their rapport on stage was excellent. Before one piece, Ingram announced that they would be using "an

ancient instrument" for the accompaniment. She proceeded then to sing and hum as they tapped. It gave the flavor of tap on the street corner, where Robinson and many others began. They also tapped without any accompaniment at all and even performed a selection while seated in folding chairs.

The two share a style that is moving, spiritual and dynamic. They complement each other remarkably well. "Germaine is good for me," Robinson stated. "You know, I turned 62 a year and a half ago — she keeps me going."

The tradition of wonderful tap dance — hoofing as it was called years ago — is still being handed down. To see two generations upon stage tapping together in perfect rhythm and with such joy gave real testimony to this passing on of an art form. The evening was one of sharing a great American tradition, given to us by our black brothers and sisters, that will hopefully never die.



James Smith - Commonwealth Times

Fagan Sculpts Dancers With Style

By Melody Williams

An entranced audience gave Garth Fagan's Bucket Dance troupe a standing ovation Tuesday night at the Carpenter Center, and was rewarded with an encore of "Traipsing Through the May."

In the piece, set to Vivaldi cello concertos, a delicate maiden (Valentina Alexander) is joined by a "god-like" lover, Norwood Pennewell. The piece itself was robust, charming and humorous. The entrance of a second lovelorn maiden and humorous suitors created tension among the first two lovers. The facial expressions and antics of the dancers charmed the audience.

The program, which ended with "Traipsing Through the May," began with "Prelude," subtitled "Discipline is Freedom." In

"Prelude," the dancers demonstrated their instrumental moves and ability to move as one flowing unit. The vibrant and energetic "Prelude" was set to jazz music by Abdullah Ibrahim (Dollar Brand) and Max Roach.

Jamaican-born Fagan founded the company in 1970 in order to give inner-city kids in Rochester, New York, the opportunity to perform. He named the troupe "Bottom of the Bucket, But Dance Theatre."

Fagan shaped his dancers like a sculptor would shape a sculpture, to his liking. Realizing his dancers were clearly talented professionals, Fagan changed the company's name.

In "Touring Jubilee 1924 (PROFES-SIONAL)," Fagan pays tribute to New Orleans jazz. The piece is sleek and well-organized. Set to music by the Preservation

Hall Jazz Band, "Jubilee" is refreshing and lively.

Included on the bill was the famed "Oatka Trail," a 1979 piece set to the adagio of Dvorak's Cello Concerto and "Time After Before Place." "Oatka Trail" explores the wonders of the body and it is a trio piece for Steve Humphrey, A. Roger Smith and Norwood Pennewell.

Fagan's methods of modern dance are a mixture of African, West Indian and American dance held within the lines of ballet and classical modern dance.

Fagan's dancers bring his methods alive on stage with a flair. Fagan is a composer who eloquently conducts his dancers. I applaud the talent of the Bucket dancers as well as their endurance and teacher, Garth Fagan.



Helen Link--Commonwealth Times

had to work to get rid of the stereotypes of what people saw [in our dance], no form and no technique. What we do has those things. The form and technique are as necessary as in ballet." The members of Ko Thi, in their cultural costumes of joyful colors, executed everything with the precision of which Caulker-Bronson spoke.

Though the group was truly one in spirit, movement and purpose, there was still an obvious individuality about each dancer. It was not distracting, but enhancing and playful. There was such a freedom and sincerity working its way among the group, that one could not help but become moved by it. The skill achieved in Ko Thi's art form was very warmly accepted and appreciated by the audience.

On Sunday, Caulker-Bronson conducted a master class in African Dance. Prior to the class there was a seminar on African drumming given by Ko Thi's percussion ensemble. Some participants from this semi-

nar were chosen to assist in drumming for the dance class.

The class began with body isolations to warm the body slowly. The dancers then worked their way up to full body coordination and eventually to executing patterns traveling across the floor. The attention and enjoyment were equally intense.

When the participating dancers began to get carried away with the movement, Caulker-Bronson stressed the technique again: "It is quality of movement [we're looking for], not quantity." She wanted the spirit to remain prevalent but to be accompanied by technique. "It's not about moving out and how much travel you do," she re-

With drumming and percussion of the African tradition, the dancing, singing and shouting, many felt as if they wanted to join the artists on stage.

marked of one particular exercise, "... but about getting down to our ancestors — into the movement. Hold onto your spine, like in ballet."

The dancers were also involved in some traditional African songs prefacing a couple of exercises. Watching the dancers sing, dance and drum, there was an aura of freedom and spirituality, a genuine happiness, that filled the room. Ko Thi and VCU's Department of Dance and Choreography together accomplished the creation of a wonderful experience. It was one shared both mentally and physically by its participants.



Helen Link--Commonwealth Times

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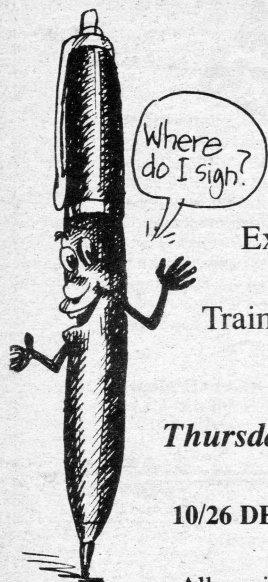
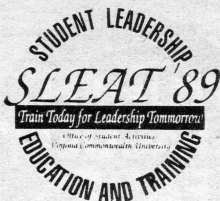
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Helen Link--Commonwealth Times

The History of Halloween



Something Wicked This Way Comes

Reprinted from the UNC-Charlotte *Revue*

By Christy Beatty
UNC-C *Revue* Staff Writer

Halloween, like most other American holidays, has long since and inevitably gone the way that most American capitalists would gladly have it go-commercial. This is no surprise. We've all donned a Spiderman costume at one point or another in our childhood without having the slightest idea of what "Halloween" really was. It meant nothing more than an opportunity to stay out late, try to spook one another, and eat loads and loads of candy. Not exactly a bad way to spend an evening, as far as children are concerned. Which is why most kids (or adults) never bother to question the holiday's origin.

In a roundabout way, Halloween developed from the ancient Druid belief that, once a year, all dead souls come to life. "All Soul's Day," as it was called, occurred traditionally on October 31. The Druids celebrated with a feast honoring Saman, lord of Death, who called together all wicked souls and condemned them to inhabit animal bodies during the coming year. So, dead souls, ghosts and sundry spirits were reportedly about every October 31.

The next day on the calendar, November first, was the day of an ancient Roman harvest celebration in honor of Pomona, goddess of fruits. As Roman culture assimilated with Celtic culture in the early Christian era, this feast eventually was combined with "All Soul's Day" and became a general celebration of the coming New Year. Fruits and nuts were stored for the winter and great bonfires were built. "All Soul's Day" then came to be known as "All Hallow's Eve."

It seems that children and what some considered "low-life" villagers began to take advantage of the stores of food people had in their homes during Halloween by playing upon their superstitious beliefs. Those eager to scare others would dress as ghouls and grotesque spirits, visiting homes and demanding gifts of food, or "treats."

Those expecting the return of the dead on this day would of course believe the costumed vandals were ghosts and offer them food in hopes of keeping harm away. Hence, the somewhat harmful origin of modern-day "trick or treating."

Trick-or-treating is the main focus of today's Halloween for children; arraying themselves in silly costumes and becoming intoxicated is the main focus of today's Halloween for adults. The whole event costs quite a bit, but means very little. Halloween for the Druids actually went much further than trick-or-treating, which was then considered a "low-life" activity. Foretelling the future was a big part of the festival activities.

The Druids believed that, on October 31, the veil between the living and the dead was partially lifted. Future divination on Halloween seemed to

it eventually fell to the hands of gypsies and adventurers. While palm-reading may be popular even in today's society, it has no status in modern science.

Tarot cards are another form of fortune-telling. Evidence suggests that tarot cards were introduced westward by migrating gypsies who came from the areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan and northern India. The cards had reached Italy and France by the fourteenth century and so took on the overtones of medieval court life. The deck is generally dealt through random chance in a [specifically shaped pattern, such as the Celtic Cross,] and the characters on the cards pulled by players, suggest future phases or influences present in their lives. [Specific places that the card lands in the pattern also adds to the meaning.] For example, drawing the card of The Devil [in the goal area, suggests you are striving to overcome] limitations or bondage in your life. The card of The Sun [in the personal area indicates that you are presently] experiencing joy and happiness. The Wheel of Fortune [in the future area] suggests the inevitability of change in the player's life.

Numerology and astrology are forms of foretelling the future that are still very popular today. But belief in the return of all dead souls on the 31st of October is not such a popular thing any longer. Halloween is now a day of costumes and candy; a rather simple way to celebrate the coming of winter. It's certainly no longer filled with the many "wicked, pagan" practices of the ancient Celts. Halloween, like Christmas and Easter, has become just another American way to spend money. [Unless you are a neo-pagan. See related articles on Samhain rituals and an interview with a pagan] [additional text added by Mandy Lee, Commonwealth Times staff writer]

come naturally, since spirits were about and Druid witches were free and in the mood to give predictions. The Celtic New Year was the time for marriage, as the coming winter was (to put it rudely) the mating season. Young men and women were curious as to who they would be paired with, so marriage prophecies were in top demand, as were predictions of death.

A popular form of determining a future husband in this time was "catching" or "dipping" for apples, a practice we now refer to as "bobbing for apples." A girl labelled several apples with names of potential husbands and dropped the apples into a large tub of water. She then attempted to retrieve one of the apples by mouth, without the use of her hands. The apple retrieved would be labelled with the name of her future husband. Apple peels were also tossed over the left shoulder and the shape assumed when the peel landed was to be the first letter of a future spouse's name.

Other forms of divination were widely practiced. Palmistry, an ancient art reportedly first practiced by the Hindus, was very popular during the Middle Ages. But the Church scorned the practice as "pagan" and



Helen Link—Commonwealth Times

Legend says that at this time of year, the veils between the worlds of the living and the dead are the thinnest. Certain gifted peoples traverse these inner and outer worlds through the realm of the wiccan craft, another name for the ancient practice of witchcraft.

Witchcraft often connotes mysterious visions of faces hidden with dark robes, crystal balls, candlelit ceremonies and worship of many deities. It is all these things and yet more complex than the general public perceives. Often, the term witchcraft is misinterpreted as Satanic worship.

Satanic practices are deeply intertwined with the defamation of Christianity. People who call themselves Satanists practice reverse Christianity; all of their rituals and beliefs center on negating Christian beliefs and motifs.

But if you call yourself a wicce (the root term of witch, meaning to bend or shape truth or reality in accordance with your will) then Christianity has nothing to do with your religion. The base of wicce is pre-Christian, i.e., pagan.

The pagan world existed for centuries before organized religion exerted its exclusive power. Christianity co-opted many pagan images and practices in its early stages for smoother conversion from many religions into the one belief of Christianity. Many people today do not realize how deep the pagan roots of Christianity travel.

The word pagan comes from *paganus*, "country-dweller." Hence, paganism exists in the world of nature worship. It centers on the seasons and the moon as they were important elements to our ancestors who planted the Mother Earth. Paganism recognizes many energies (manifesting as goddesses and gods) in the universe and seeks communion with these natural forces. In the post-atomic age, the revival of paganism conveys many urgent messages beyond the reclaiming of pre-Christian spiritual elements; promoting religious tolerance and preserving the Earth from any more harm are two examples of the scope of the Pagan belief. Hence an environmentalist suggests a pagan nature in that they too respect and revere the Earth and wish to protect all its living creatures.

The main tenet of Paganism is simple and all-embracing. "This is the law and the whole of the Law: Do no harm to anyone, not in deed, nor word, nor thought. So that you hold to this, do as you desire." (Pagan Oral Tradition)

The following is an interview with a Richmond wicce, Callista. Callista is a chosen outer name representing an aspect of her pagan nature. The name is the slightly changed form of the Greek name, Callisto. In Greek mythology, Callisto was changed by Artemis into a she-bear to keep her safe from the advances of Zeus.

***Why do you call yourself a wicce and not a witch?**

The word witch has such negative cultural connotations. Though it is important to reclaim the word, the meaning is often buried under such a loaded label. Wicce is the [etymological] origin of witch so they share meaning, but wicce is mostly unfamiliar to the public and therefore less easily pigeonholed and condemned on first hearing.

***Why did you become a wicce?**

I went through a lot of searching through different religions and had my heaviest atheist period in my teenage years. In my early 20s a spiritual self was needed. I had a friend in the craft and had read literature that appealed to my feminist nature. There are many powerful women in the history of the craft and who practice and teach today. What is special about the Wiccan religion, for me, is its female focus as the goddess is given preeminence (a somewhat cultural backlash since the goddess has been so repressed). However, there is a great emphasis placed on the balance between the male and female aspects. Through my all my searchings, I realized I had been pagan since childhood.

***What do you mean by craft and how is it related to neo-paganism?**

Wicce is another name for the religion of witchcraft. The craft is how you practice your beliefs. This is done through ritual magic and other skills such as survival skills. Many pagans ask themselves how they can live in harmony with the earth in spirit when they cannot live practically in nature itself. Neo-paganism grew out of a wiccan revival in the 60s and 70s. It includes much more than the Wiccan movement, such as the reformed Druids, Gardnerians, Order of the Golden Dawn and the Church of All Worlds, to name just a few.

***What are the elements of ritual magic?**

First, magic is divorced from good and evil. The

***How do you practice the craft? Individually or with others?**

You can practice with other people or individually. At the moment, I work with one other person. A coven consists of two or more people who strongly agree on the magic and worship that they wish to perform.

***What are the holidays of the pagans?**

Wicce's participate in ritual on the cycles of the moon (lunar Esbats) and the Sabbats that occur eight times a year. The Sabbats are seasonal holidays based on the Celtic pagan Calendar, also referred to as the wheel of the year.

The New Year begins on Samhain (Halloween) as it marks the dark of the year. You start with the dark and move into the light as the wheel turns. Also, day used to be marked from sunset to sunset. The Holidays are:

Samhain : See article in this issue on a Samhain ritual.

Yule : (now Christmas). The celebration of the winter solstice (the longest night of the year).

Imbolc : (Candlemas). The Feast of the Lights. This holiday occurs on Groundhog Day (Feb. 2). The celebration of the first stirrings of spring and the goddess Brigit - the triple figure Irish celtic goddess of smithcraft, poetry and fire.

Eostar : (now Easter). The celebration of Spring Equinox, regeneration and birth.

Beltane : (May Day). The celebration of Spring.

Litha : Summer solstice.

Lammas (Lughnasadh) : (August 1st). The celebration of the first harvest.

Magon : Autumn Equinox (equal day and night).

Lunar Esbats : (More private than the Sabbats). Smaller celebrations occurring at the full and new moon.

***Why is the moon so important to the pagans?**

The Moon has more effect on earth than any other heavenly body. Everything is tied with the moon: the ebb and flow of the tides, a woman's cycle, our moods and tides of life. The old year used to have thirteen months as it was lunar-oriented. It is also a material symbol of the goddess as the three phases of the moon relate to the three phases of womanhood: maiden (new moon, waxing) mother (full moon) and crone (the moon, waning).

***Why is there such a negative image associated with the practice of magic?**

I feel this fear goes back to the Inquisition. Magic has been a part of the Western mind since before the Greeks. Yet, during these Dark Ages, magic was forced out of the hands of the people and placed into the male priesthood. There was a lot of investment placed in the efforts to convince people that magic was not good for them. It was a very successful propaganda campaign that still affects us today. The idea of magic has also been trivialized by tv witches such as Samantha of "Bewitched" or sensationalized by the fundamentalist's belief that magic means bloody devil worship.

***Isn't the horned god or Pan (the original devil figure) part of Paganism?**

The old worship's revolved around fertility rites. The horned god was a symbol of divine ecstasy and consort of the goddess. Pan was a horned greek god of the grapes, the wine, the flute and the harvest. The Inquisition, in order to successfully

The Voice and Vision of A Wicce: Interview with a Pagan

by Mandy Lee

Staff Writer



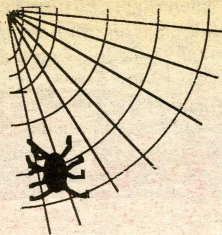
ritual emotionally prepares you for affirmation (truly believing that what you want is here and now, not out of your reach). Essentially it means believing in yourself. It can be used in many different ways but in the wiccan system it is used for positive ends only. The reason for this is the pagan belief in the law of the threefold or the law of return — namely what you do comes back to you, multiplied three times, so by creating positive energy, you will receive positive energy and vice-versa. An example of performing magic is a healing where you would repair damage done physically or psychologically to the seeker. All of the work is done inside the mind. That is the most powerful tool of all.

***What are some of the means and tools utilized in magic?**

Well, candle magic and cord magic is practiced. If you were working on healing, you could light certain candles in a particular pattern and focus on the lights to create a white cleansing force. Cord magic uses strings and knotting. Tarot cards [cards that contain universal images of the practical and the divine] are also used for divination and meditation. In this way, a wicce can read trends and fluctuations of energy in order to deal with the future and the present. I do believe it possible to see into the future.

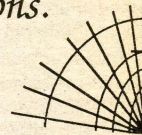
Things seemed unusually quiet at the University Student Commons, so the Captain was relaxing at the Information Desk. Feeling a little hungry, he thought about buying some candy. His eyes were scanning the counter when he noticed the special Halloween candy sign. "Which one do I want?" he thought. Deciding on mellocream pumpkins, the Captain opened the cabinet.

Halloween Candy
 Mellocream Pumpkins \$1.50/lb
 Indian Corn \$2.00/lb
 Tootsie Roll Lollipops \$3.92/lb



*She's
 coming
 on
 Halloween
 night!*

*Catch a glimpse of her at 7:00 p.m.
 at the Break Point Games Room in
 the University Student Commons.*



Reaching for some pumpkins, the Captain discovered that the mellocream pumpkins were scattered all over the floor. And then the Captain heard a vicious laugh echoing throughout the building. In an instant, the Captain recognized the laugh as that of his dreaded nemesis, The Candy Striker—a Halloween candy fiend. Immediately, the Captain began to chase the sound. Following a trail of indian corn, and colorful Tootsie pops, Captain Commons ran off into the shadows.

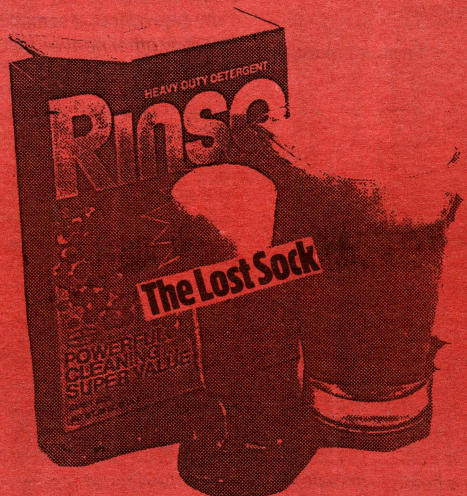


Will our hero recover the stolen candy from the Candy Striker?

Stay Tuned

Same Commontime

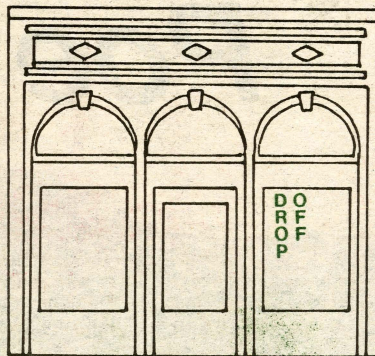
Same Commonplace



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HALLOWEEN

a tribute to

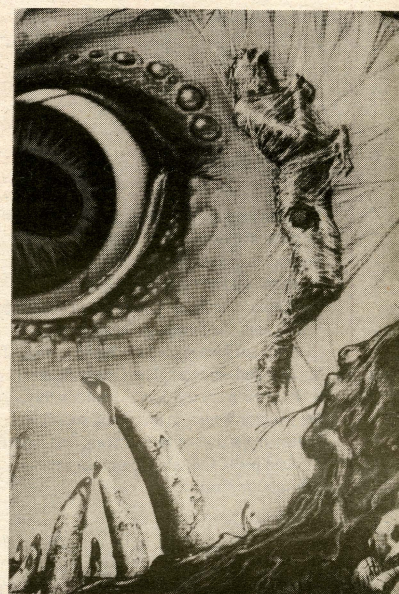
Edgar

Allan

Poe



Photo Jeanloup Sieff



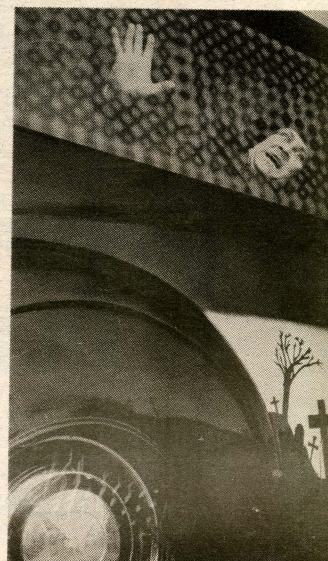
"There was blood upon her white robes, and the evidence of some bitter struggle upon every portion of her emaciated frame. For a moment she remained trembling and reeling to and fro upon the threshold, then, with a low moaning cry, fell heavily inward upon the person of her brother, and in her violent and now final death-agonies, bore him to the floor a corpse, and a victim of the terrors he had anticipated."

-The Fall of the House of Usher



James Smith - Commonwealth Times

Lo! Death has reared himself a throne /In a strange city lying alone/Far down within the dim West,/Where the good and the bad and the worst and the best/Have gone to their eternal rest.



HALLOWEEN

a tribute to

Edgar Allan Poe



Photo Jeanloup Sieff



"There was blood upon her white robes, and the evidence of some bitter struggle upon every portion of her emaciated frame. For a moment she remained trembling and reeling to and fro upon the threshold, then, with a low moaning cry, fell heavily inward upon the person of her brother, and in her violent and now final death-agonies, bore him to the floor a corpse, and a victim of the terrors he had anticipated."

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Photograph REX Features

Spirits of the Dead

I
Thy soul shall find itself alone
Mid dark thoughts of the gray tombstone -
Not one, of all the crowd, to pry
Into thine hour of secrecy;

II
Be silent in that solitude,
Which is not the loneliness - for then
The spirits of the dead who stood
In life before thee, are again
In death around thee - and their will
Shall overshadow thee: be still.

III
The night - tho' clear - shall frown -
And the night stars shall look not down,
From their high thrones in the heaven,
With light like Hope to mortals given -
But their red orbs, without beam,
To thy weariness shall seem
As a burning and a fever
Which would cling to thee for ever.

IV
Now are thoughts thou shalt not banish
Now are visions ne'er to vanish
From thy spirit shall they pass
No more - like dew-drops from the grass.

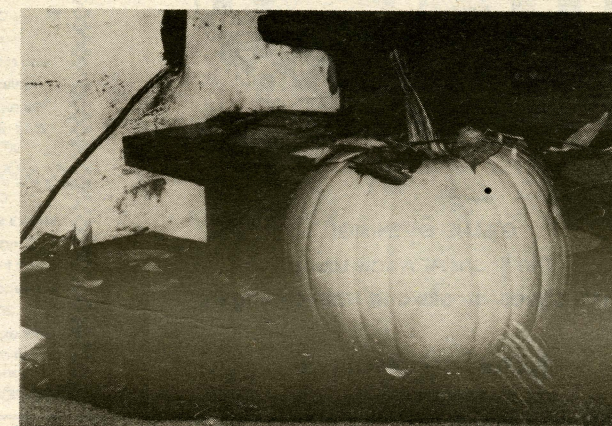
V
The breeze - the breath of God - is still -
And the mist upon the hill
Shadowy - shadowy - yet unbroken,
Is a symbol and a token -
How it hangs upon the trees,
A mystery of mysteries! -

The skies they were ashen and sober;
The leaves they were crisped and sere-
The leaves they were withering and sere:
It was night in the lonesome October
Of my most immemorial year.

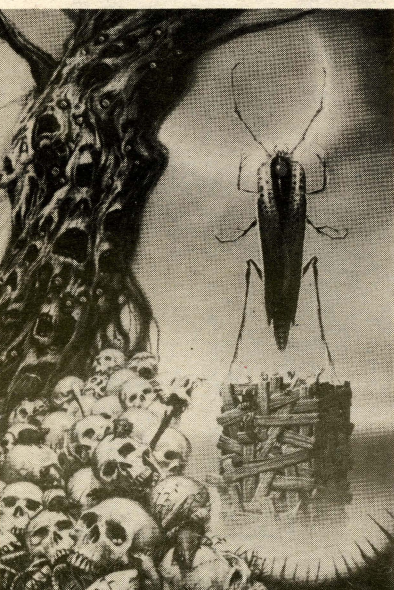
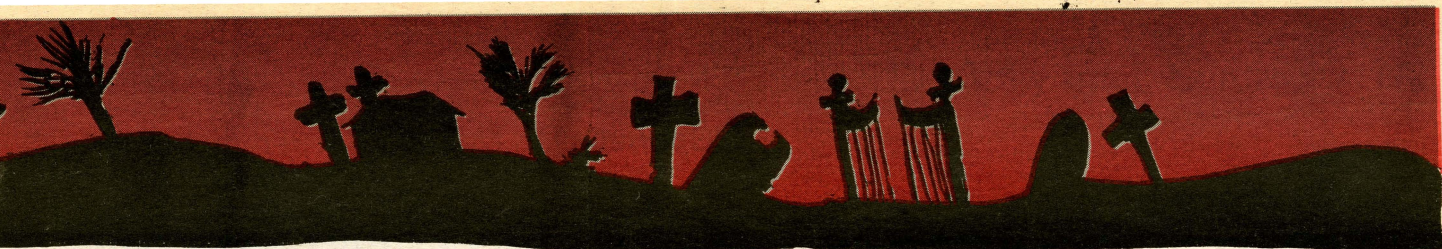


Kathy Larcia - Commonwealth Times

The boundaries which divide Life from Death are at best shadowy and vague. Who shall say where the one ends, and where the other begins?



James Smith - Commonwealth Times



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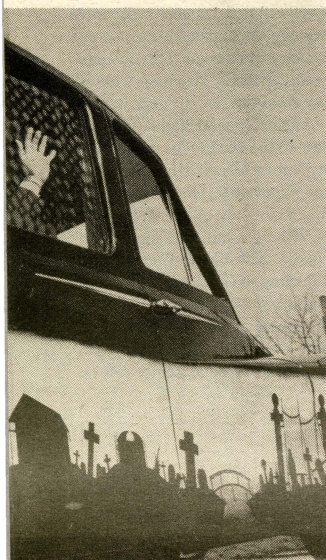
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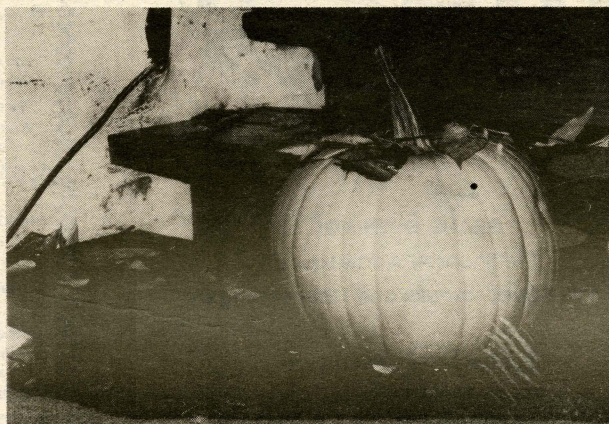
Kathy Laraia - Commonwealth Times

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James Smith - Commonwealth Times

Jerry Eastman Jams with VCU

By Julie Bryant

On October 16, Jerry Eastman, an internationally known blues guitarist and composer who has jammed with the likes of Count Basie, played to an enthusiastic crowd in the Commons Theater.

Ishmail Conway and Avon Drake gave opening remarks for the presentation, which was sponsored by the Afro-American Studies Program. Conway explained that this program was designed to help students understand the origins of black culture in a positive way, and he encouraged students to continue to come out and participate in programs such as these.

Eastman began by giving students a musical history of the blues, demonstrating the different sounds and rhythms, and explaining how blues has changed over time.

He pointed out that blues made its start in Africa and was carried over to America by slaves who originally used this type of music as entertainment. He also talked about the styles of many blues composers such as Allen Lomatts, Robert Johnson and Reverend Gary Davis, and explained how they influenced the progression of blues.

Blues was eventually recorded, said Eastman, and that is when it all was officially begun even though it had been around for thousands of years. "Without blues," he said, "there would be no rock & roll."

Eastman went on to play his own blues creations, including a song entitled "Joydance." He ended his concert by encouraging people to keep listening to the blues. "It's everybody's music," Eastman said. "It's your heritage and you need to know about it."

Ballet Preview

"Coppelia" to Open at Carpenter Center

By Kathleen Stevens
Staff Writer

On October 27 the Richmond Ballet will perform "Coppelia" at the Carpenter Center. The plot of the story revolves around three main characters: Franz, played by Malcolm Burn; Swan Lida, played by Maria Gisladdottir; and the toymaker, Dr. Coppelius, played by Jerry Schwender.

Swan Lida and Franz are young lovers on the eve of their marriage. Franz is fascinated by Coppelia, a doll that Dr. Coppelius has made. This creates insecurity in his fiancée and it appears that the wedding is canceled. Neither Franz nor Swan Lida is aware that Coppelia is actually a doll.

Out of curiosity, Swan Lida, accompanied by friends, sneaks into the toymaker's house and ends up making a mess. When Dr. Coppelius breaks in on the party, furious, Swan Lida hides. Franz, at this time, is climbing into a window when Dr. Coppelius sees him and gives him a potion to make him sleep, hoping he can be used to bring his doll to life.

Dr. Coppelius is unaware that Swan Lida is dressed in Coppelia's clothes and orders her to dance. He is overjoyed when she obeys but soon she tires of the game, awakens Franz and they are united. It ends with the payment of gold to the toymaker for damages caused by Swan Lida and her friends.

The Richmond Ballet, celebrating its 10th anniversary, has been professional for six of those years. Being in the ballet requires a lot of hard work. They work at least eight hours a day, six days a week, 34 weeks a year.



They often rehearse for more than one ballet at a time. The first 90 minutes of each day are spent warming up and working on techniques.

The Ballet will perform "Coppelia" in nine Virginia cities and one in West Virginia. Richmond is the third stop on their tour, with Longwood College in Farmville being the next to welcome them on October 30.

The last time they performed "Coppelia," which is considered one of the finest in comedy history, was in 1984. Written by Etta Hoffmon, "Coppelia" was first performed in 1870 in Paris at the Theatre de L'Opera. The scenery was designed by Charles Caldwell, the assistant artistic director to the Theatre of Virginia who also designed settings for "Swan Lake," "The Nutcracker Suite" and "Don Quixote."

Caldwell studied Dutch Landscapes before designing the expandable and contractable scenery. He designed the scenery especially so it can fit any size stage without taking away from the overall appearance. The choreographer, Frederic Franklin, artistic consultant to the Dance Theatre of Harlem, is considered a legend in his own time. The director of the ballet is Stoner Winslett.

Performances will be at 8 p.m., October 27 and 28, with an additional showing at 2:30 p.m. on the 28th. David Commanday will be conducting the Richmond Sinfonia, which will be accompanying each performance. Ticket prices range from \$6 to \$30. Student admission is half-price with a valid ID. There also are special senior-citizen rates.

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Commons Sculpture Exhibit "Controlled"

By Natasha Veytsman

The sculpture exhibit "Controlled," by Christopher Furman, Shailesh Patel and John Piper, is running through October 20 in the Student Art Space. This sculpture exhibit is very different from what one would often expect a sculpture exhibit to be like.

Upon examining the sculptures closely, I had mixed feelings as to what each one represented. Some were humorous and amusing to look at, yet others represented the harsh realities of life. Therefore, the exhibit was balanced in representing different ideas and emotions. All of the pieces were industrial-looking and some were mechanical which made the exhibition more interesting to view.

The piece I found most shocking was an image of a woman holding a gun to a child's head on what had appeared to be a computer screen.

I was very impressed by the variety of media used by the artists. Mirror, wood, metal, glass, food, electricity, paper and plastic were incorporated into the sculptures.

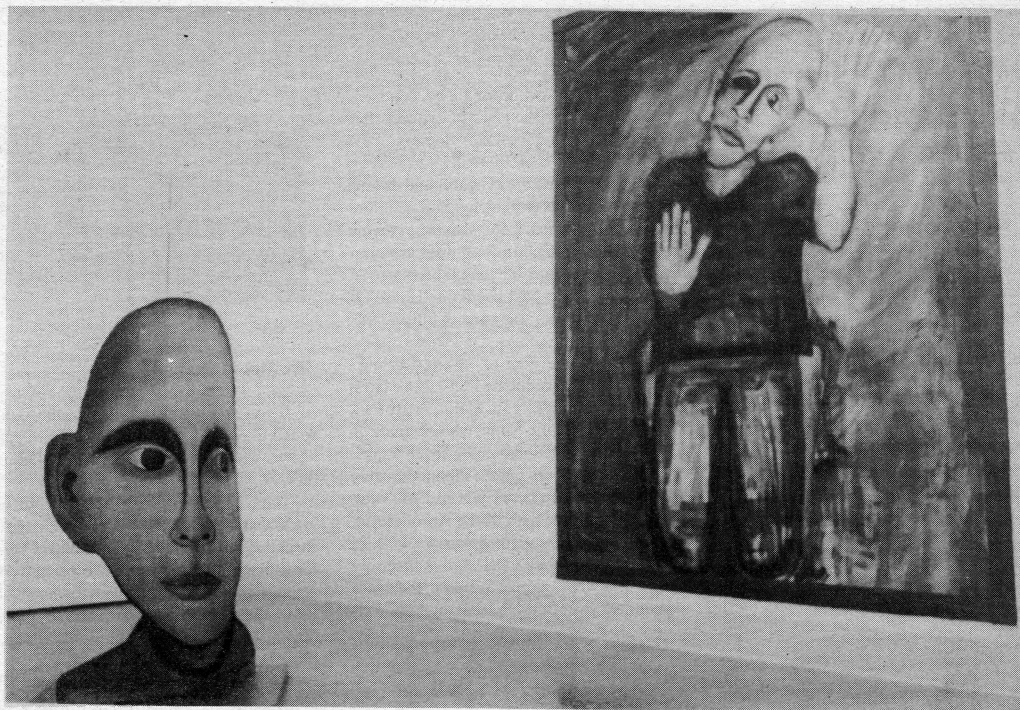
One of the most complex pieces in the exhibit is a wooden sculpture resembling the human body, with a square piece of mirror as the head. It made me very curious as to how the piece moved in different positions every couple of minutes, each time lasting about 30 seconds.

The major weakness of the exhibit is not the artwork but the disorganization of the show. I was extremely confused as to which artist did each piece. It would have been very helpful if there were cards or small pieces of paper next to the sculptures telling the viewer the name of the work and identifying the artist. It also would have been beneficial if the card gave us information about the medium used or perhaps the year it was completed. Although all of these things were missing, the exhibition worked well with the name "Controlled."

The word "controlled" can be applied to all of the pieces in many different ways. This contributes to the success of the show because it leaves one thinking about the pieces long after leaving the gallery as to how it applies to each sculpture.



KathyLaraia--Commonwealth Times



KathyLaraia--Commonwealth Times

Faculty exhibits give insight to understand instructors

by Kathleen Stevens

Going to the faculty exhibit at the Anderson Gallery is like getting a peek into the personalities of the art instructors at VCU. Never would it be otherwise possible to see such a diversified quantity of quality art at one show.

Art students get the chance to see what turns their instructors on, what they are all about, and the creativity behind the skill. This is a valuable opportunity to learn without being taught, to understand without having explanation and to acquire awareness of the world in which we live through vision and in one particular case, in an audio-visual fashion. This is also an opportunity for all to see a representation of the Commonwealth's art.

The artwork ranges from the utilitarian to the purely decorative, from the thoughtful to the humorous. Nancy Thompson's "Brooch" serves a dual purpose as an elegant piece of art and as a pin.

Elizabeth King has two delicate pieces of art being shown. One, a porcelain sculpture titled "Myself with Other Eyes," is an example of King's incorporation of glass into her work.

painting, watches the figure on the wall. This piece, entitled "Watching," communicates to all who see it.

Photography is an important commodity of the Anderson Gallery exhibit. An example of this is Jim Long's two-part exhibit, which obviously has a very deep, soul-searching meaning that can not adequately be expressed in the column; it must be viewed.

Jerry Bates and John Malinoski, both professors in the Commercial Arts department, exhibit different aspects of design. One depicts the humanistic side, while the other is purely technical.

Gregory Kelly's "Sebastian" is a comical-looking creature that is an evolution of all species of man. This ingenuity of sculpture combines the personalities of the working man, the lustful man, the ironical side of man, the political man and obviously, the thoughtful man, to name a few. Though "Sebastian" is amusing to look at, his purpose is more than to humor the public. On the second floor is a small, standing, mechanical talking man. His look is rather ordinary but his message is of importance and if you listen closely his purpose can be heard.

Reni Gower's corner-standing sculpture of mixed media is vibrant and alive. This piece, entitled "Zebo Fa," is so appealing it's compelling to touch. Kevin Kelly's art is part painting, part sculpture. The painting on the wall in bold colors improvises a being pressing against a glass looking out, while the sculpture, a face in duplicate of the

These are just a few of the artists and their works but surely there is something for everyone in this exhibit and it's always interesting to see the creativity and imagination behind the skill and intellect. The faculty exhibit will be showing through November 12.

Folio Briefs

On October 26 volunteer docent Jan Warren will present a tour titled "Faces: Portraits from the Lewis Contemporary Galleries" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts as part of the museum's free Spend Thursday Evenings with Art series.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will mark the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography with an exhibition by Paul Outerbridge. "A Singular Aesthetic" will present an overview of the work of a major contributor to the innovations in photography from 1920 to 1941.

The 1708 East Main Poetry and Fiction Series begins its 1989-90 season Wednesday with readings by Ron Tanner and Walter Norris at the 1708 gallery.

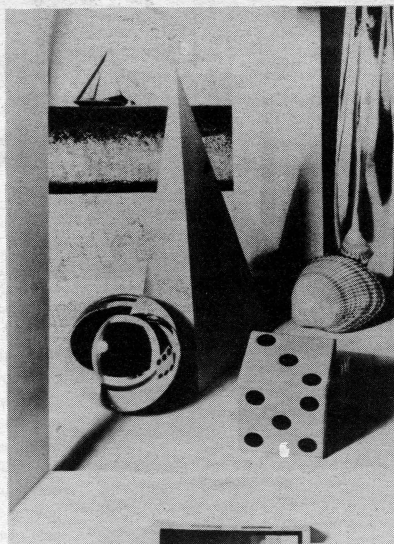
Tanner teaches creative writing at VCU. Norris writes fiction and is a former Hoynes Fellow at U. Va.

"Fine Arts and Flowers," an exhibition in which works of art are interpreted in flowers, will be on display October 24 and 25 at the Virginia Museum.

Over 60 works of art from the museum's permanent collection will be interpreted in flowers.

The exhibition is funded in part by a grant from Strange's Florist. Twenty etchings and lithographs by Parisian artist Marie Laurencin will be displayed at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts through December 3.

Laurencin was one of the few easel painters whose works were readily used in French



"Images de Deauville," c. 1936, by Paul Outerbridge, at the Virginia Museum

interiors during the art deco period of the late 1920s and early '30s, according to Frederick Brandt, curator of 20th-century

art at the Museum.

Laurencin was educated at the Lycee Lamartine and later studied drawing at the Academie Humbert, where she met Georges Braque, who introduced her to Picasso.

"Tom Sawyer" returns to the Barter Theatre in Abingdon October 24 to November 11. Public performances will take place on weekends. For ticket information call the Barter Box Office at 1-800-572-2081. The theater is partially supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Virginia Opera will present "Traveling Troubadours," an evening of arias featuring members of the cast of the company's November production of "Il Travatore," tonight at 8 p.m. at the VCU Performing Arts Center. The artists will perform selections from the operatic and classical song repertoire. Admission is free.

Poet, critic, translator and editor Jon Silkin will read from his work on Thursday, October 26 at 8 p.m. in the Business School Auditorium.

The reading is the first event in the 1989-90 VCU Visiting Writers Readings Series.

Silkin's nine volumes of poetry have brought him international recognition as one of Britain's foremost poets. He is a frequent translator of contemporary Israeli poetry.

Under the Needle

Malcolm McLaren Waltz Darling

By Scott Loving
Staff Writer

Close your eyes and try to picture a merry-go-round in a disco. Chances are, you're going to have a hard time doing it, unless you happen to be a fan of former Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren.

McClaren's latest release, "Waltz Darling," with the Bootzilla Orchestra, is noteworthy for two reasons. The first is his curious absence from any of the songs on the album. He did co-write and co-produce all eight tracks, but it does leave the listener wondering what his name is doing on the album cover.

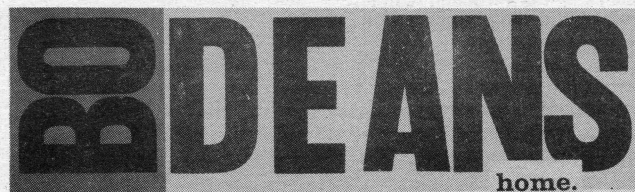
The second reason is the music. With the exception of two songs, "Something's Jumping In Your Shirt" and "Algernon's Simply Awfully Good At Algebra," McClaren's lyrics are simply forgettable. The music,

though, has to be heard to be believed. McClaren mixes the classics (waltzes, but you knew that), performed by Bootsy Collins and Jeff Beck (the Bootzilla Orchestra), with electric guitars, keyboards and drums.

The mixture is entrancing. Soft melodies give way to harsh, bone-shaking rhythms and then back again. The music switches from sleep to slam, keeping the listener on the edge. This is best heard on "House Of The Blue Danube," the album's only instrumental.

The ultimate goal of "Waltz Darling" appears to be introducing McClaren's latest group of "darlings," Lisa Marie, Pretty Fatt, Lourdes and Willie Ninja, who alternate on lead vocals for the remaining seven tracks. They do a fine job, but the album probably would have been better if it had followed more closely the path of the Art of Noise, opting solely for instrumentals.

All in all, "Waltz Darling" is precisely what you would expect to hear in the dance halls next year. But watch out for the horses.



By Rick Pfamatter

If you ever wondered what Bono would sound like if he grew up in Milwaukee, the answer would be found in the new BoDeans disk, *Home*.

The U2 influence is not hidden. Testifying to that fact is the liner notes on the lyric sheet that include notes that the bluesy performance of "Good Work" was performed at the Hampton Coliseum with members of U2 on their 1987 Joshua Tree tour, or more obviously on the first single off the album, "You Don't Get Much."

The third BoDean record was recorded in the BoDeans' hometown of Milwaukee. These gritty rockers have filled the LP with songs of gentle beginnings that magnify themselves into body-shaking songs that end with a triumphant head toss. The stand out rockers on this collection are "World Away" and "Good Work," songs from the established rock & roll tradition of hard

work and a working man's sweat.

The heartstrings are given by dual singers Kurt Neuman and Sam Llanas — a gentle tug on the quiet, romantic ballad "Far, Far Away From my Heart." The best cut on the record is the first video to come from the new album, "You Don't Get Much." With a guitar opening stolen straight from The Edge's lesson book and the imagery of the poetry to match, the BoDeans may be reaching their collective hand for stardom.

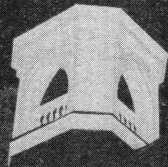
Going from restrained energy to an outpouring of energy, the song combines all the elements that give the BoDeans their special sound.

And if you saw these guys at the Flood Zone last year, you know that they effectively do this live as well.

Obviously, the BoDeans' maturity is shown on this new disk. They are ready for the world. But is the world (and Top 40 radio) ready for them?



Celebrating Halloween: The Pagan Ritual of Samhain



Helen Link--Commonwealth Times

By Callista, Wiccan Priestess

You are at a private campsite about thirty minutes from town, sitting and talking by a fire with friends who have all gathered together to celebrate the ancient Celtic New Year, the solemn rite of Samhain. Images of Hallowe'en, or All Hallows', come to your mind from childhood memories of trick or treat, stories of ghosts and goblins, and legends of primeval celebrations. Yet, the mood around this campfire is lighthearted, with singing and talking, and preparations for the feasting to come.

Some of the folks at the fire you know well; others are new acquaintances. All of them share a common bond: they are Pagans, who hold all life in reverence, celebrating the cycle of the seasons and of Nature Herself. As dark approaches, a young woman you have seen occasionally in one of your classes explains the meaning of the coming ritual, and tells basically what you should expect to happen. You have read books about it, but somehow what she describes seem different than the image you have conjured for yourself. Something close to apprehension lurks in the back of your mind, even though you are well aware that you are perfectly safe, and among friends. As the darkness deepens, the drum begins the beat.

You are treading a path through the forest. Ahead of you is the young woman who spoke earlier, carrying a candle. The moon is dark, and you must concentrate on your steps, as time seems to stretch out into infinity and the drumbeat continues. Suddenly, you come upon a clearing in the forest. The woman stops at the edge of a large circle, where candles burn and the sweet scent of incense fills the air. You have been told what to expect: you know the woman and man standing at the center of the circle are the priestess and priest, and that the passwords for entry to the rite are "perfect love and perfect trust." You give the word in your turn, and are drawn into the circle by the

priestess, and embraced in welcome. Your nervousness subsides.

You have joined hands with all the others in the circle. Everyone chants a simple tune, beginning to dance clockwise around the circle. The step is simple and easy to follow, as you join in, increasingly comfortable and sure of yourself.

You are in a world set apart. Even the normal sounds of the forest seem hushed, as the priestess

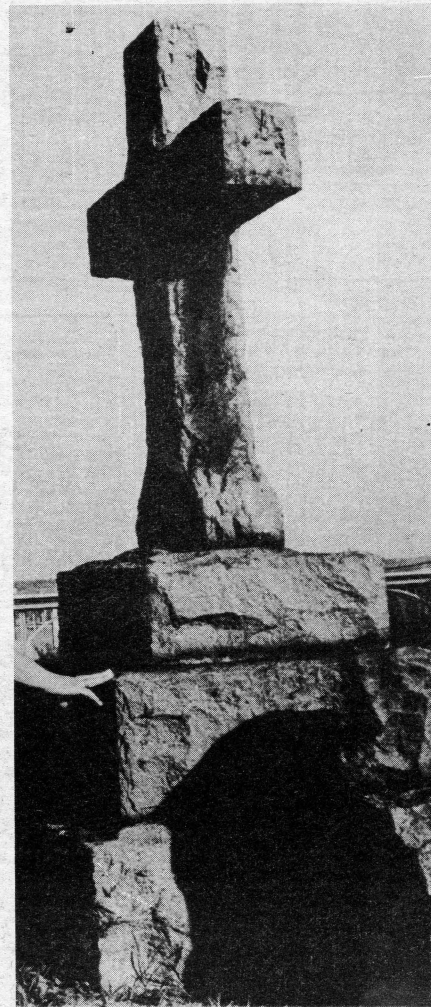
brings the cup to you. "Drink your fill of the cup of fruitfulness" she says, as you lift the cup to your lips. The wine is sweet and light. You realize suddenly that you know this priestess: she is the one who invited you to join this celebration! She seems very distant now, clad in a long, hooded robe; yet somehow very accessible. You are seeing a different side which you couldn't have known existed. She smiles, reassuring you, and it comes to you that she was once where you are now, attending her first Sabbat.

It is Samhain, the Celtic New Year; the time as the priest is saying, "when the veil between this world and the next is thinnest." One by one, the others in the circle approach the center, taking a candle. Each person speaks of one they have loved who has passed over, and lights a candle in remembrance, placing it in the cauldron at the center. You know from your reading that it is the Cauldron of Regeneration of Celtic legend, symbolizing rebirth as well as knowledge. You will approach and light a candle also, remembering as you do your grandfather, or maybe a close friend who has died recently. You feel their warm, embracing presence.

It is quite late, and the feasting is drawing to a close. A couple of people are playing guitars and singing by the fire. You draw closer to listen, but sit at the edge of the group, feeling still a bit drawn into the experience of the ritual.

The priestess joins you. In street clothes, she seems much the same person as you have always known. You sit companionably with her for a short while, saying very little. Eventually, she asks if your experience was what you expected. You smile, and tell her no, it wasn't, it was very different from your expectations, but very right nonetheless. She seems pleased by your answer as she lean over to hug you, then rises to refill her glass.

You join the group at the fire. The mood is once again lighthearted as you sing folksongs with the rest. One of the drums finds its way into your hands. You feel quite at home with the group, and satisfied with life itself; you join the drumming.



Helen Link--Commonwealth Times

Interview, from page 14

put down the old rites, had to turn something good into something evil. We still feel the after effects of this suppression.

***How is the wiccan religion similar to other religions?**

It's similar with all the faiths that try and bolster the human spirit. Some religions lift you up to your best or keep you down to the lowest levels. Wiccan religion is similar to religions that attempt to liberate all the selves of the individual seeker as well as integrate the meanings of life on a community level.

***Would you suggest some literature that would shed light on the Wiccan Religion and the Neopaganists?**

*"Positive Magic" by Marion Weinstein
"Drawing Down the Moon" by Margot Adler
"The Spiral Dance" by Starhawk*

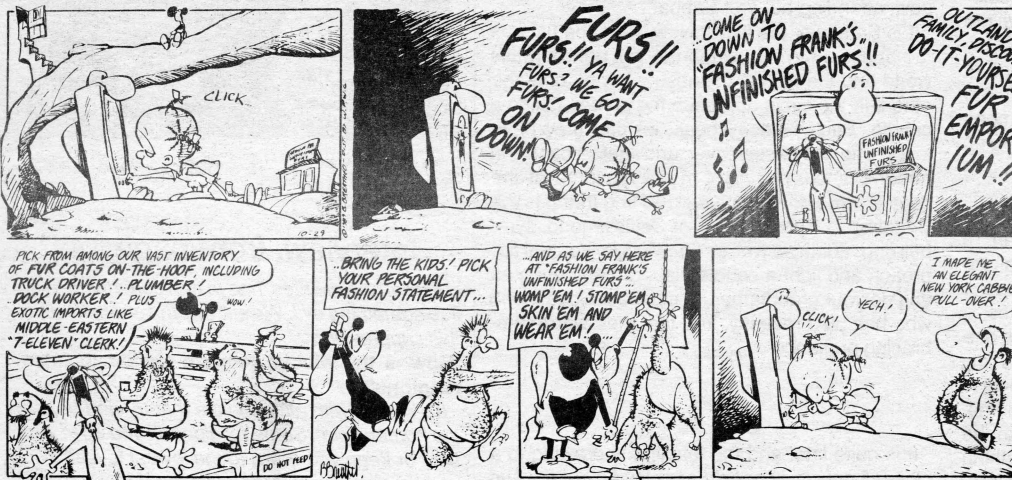
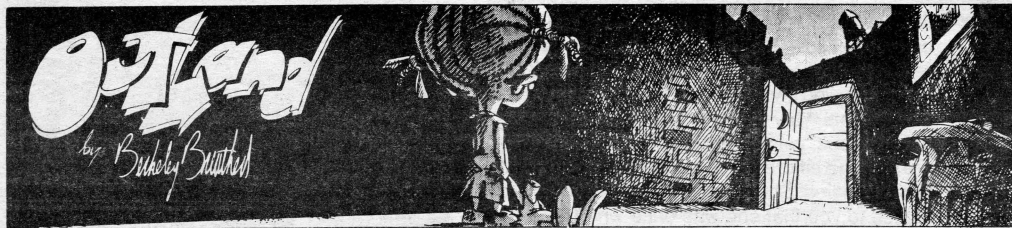
If you are interested in learning more about the pagan community, paganism and other movements in Richmond there is an info bulletin board in the Aquarian Book Store (in Richmond Shopping Center in Cary Town) as well as a great deal of literature.



SPENCER



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DANK SHADOWS

By ANDREW POLLOCK



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SPORTS

Sun Belt Championship Preview

Compiled by Rob Crosby
Sports Editor

As the fall sports season winds down, the Sun Belt conference championships begin to take shape. The eight-school league that includes VCU is very competitive this year in its fall conference sports (volleyball, cross country and soccer) and this guide will review all the teams vying for Sun Belt crowns.

(For standings, here's the key: ODU (Old Dominion), UNCC (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), JU (Jacksonville University), USA (University of South Alabama), WKU (Western Kentucky University), USF (University of South Florida), UAB (University of Alabama-Birmingham) and VCU (Virginia Commonwealth University).)

UAB: Statistically the best team in the conference, Alabama-Birmingham has strong players in Julie Myers (2nd in SBC in hitting percentage with .343, 3rd in kill average with 3.40), who has 309 kills, 47 aces and 235 digs, Melissa Cobb (2nd in kill average with 3.50) and Danielle Reaves (5th in hitting percentage with .307). Although they've played only one conference foe (Western Kentucky), they soundly defeated them in three games. The Blazers have also played tough competition, defeating Georgia Tech, Tennessee State, James Madison, Auburn and Alabama. They are ninth in the nation in hitting percentage (0.2890). Prediction: First in SBC championships.

USA: Although the Jaguars lost their first seven matches, they have come on strong this past month. Victories over Western Kentucky and Alabama have keyed USA's resurgence and senior Ninette Encalade has provided the leadership. She was named MVP at the Mississippi State Invitational Oct. 14 and ranks fourth in the SBC in hitting percentage. Keturah Carter and Jennifer Autry have dominated the SBC in digs and blocks, ranking one and two in those categories respectively. Carter has 342 digs in 95 games while Autry has 168 blocks in 84 decisions. This team is hot and if the momentum favors them in the championships, they could win it all. Prediction: Second.

USF: The Bulls are deceptive. Although they have a losing record (9-11), they easily handled Western Kentucky, Alabama, Maryland and Stetson. Anna Lazzarino had a team season-high eight block assists against Morehead State, while Crystal Maracle became the third Bull to set this season vs. Tampa, turning in a 27-assist performance. Renata Ratnik ranks third in the SBC in hitting percentage and Belinda Spivey has 159 digs in 58 games (4th in SBC). They're too inconsistent, however, and need a lot of help from younger players to win the Sun Belt. Prediction: Fourth.

JU: The Dolphins should be 8-5 instead of 5-8 because they had to forfeit their first three victories due to an ineligible player.

One must wonder how this has affected their season and their morale for the upcoming SBC tournament. Strong players include Gisela Anderson, who ranks first in the SBC in hitting percentage, Melanie Barnard (117 kills in 42 games) and Farley Snow (36 aces in 42 games, 2nd in SBC). If they put their troubles behind them, Jacksonville could finish near the top. Prediction: Fifth.

WKU: The Hilltoppers have been struggling all year. Losing their first eight games demoralized this young team, with costly defeats against Sun Belt foes South Florida, South Alabama and Alabama-Birmingham. Michele Mingus has been providing the leadership in all team statistics, ranking fourth in the SBC in aces (50 in 88 games). Becky Davis helps out in blocks, recording 40 in 48 games. Unless a miracle happens at the tournament, Western Kentucky should not threaten anybody except UNCC. Prediction: Sixth.

UNCC: The 49ers have been hit hard by injuries, losing veterans Michelle Smith, DeAnna Lee and Amy Black for most of the season. Monica Holmes has been providing the leadership, recording 53 blocks in 60 games. Even if the wounded return, they might not be effective enough to help out. Prediction: Seventh.

SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIP: Nov. 16-18 in Tampa, Fla.

CROSS COUNTRY

This meet is a toss-up. It all depends on which team takes command at the SBC championship and provides the most depth. For the men, early favorites include Old Dominion and UAB. VCU's Larry Cluff should place a high finish. Among the other league standouts (UAB's John Faulkner, JU's Tim Lindley, ODU's John Murray and UNCC's Seamus Donohue), Murray should be considered the favorite.

For the women, VCU's Lacey Clews should have strong finish. UAB's Lori Willingham, JU's Jenna Dunn, ODU's Cris Snarsky, USA's Beth Lemon and USF's Alison Titcomb should pace the pack. Predictions: MEN: 1) ODU, 2) UAB, 3) USF, 4) VCU, 5) USA, 6) UNCC, 7) JU, 8) WKU. WOMEN: 1) UAB, 2) USA, 3) USF, 4) VCU, 5) WKU, 6) JU, 7) ODU, 8) UNCC. **SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIP:** Oct. 28 in Mobile, Ala.

Only four teams go to the SBC tournament, the two top teams from each division. VCU, JU and UAB have no chance for SBC post-season play. Western Kentucky and South Florida will fight it out for the last spot this weekend.

USA: Easily the conference's strongest team, the Jaguars boast the top scorer and goalie in the league, with Goggi Rognvaldsson's 19 goals and eight assists and Eduardo Carvacho's 0.59 goals-against average. Other standouts include Sigfus Karason (6 goals, 6 assists) and Seamus Lynch (5 goals, 2 assists). A lot of foreign

names should mean a big victory in Norfolk. Prediction: First.

WKU: Although they haven't secured a spot yet, the Hilltoppers should knock out South Florida and give USA a run for their money in the tournament. Chris Hutchinson (14 goals, 2 assists) is second in the league in points. Brian Lewis (5 goals, 3 assists) should also provide some offensive punch. Keeper Shane Bordwine is third in the league with a 0.85 GAA, while substitute Mark Freer ranks fourth (1.24 GAA). It will be a close call for second place but WKU should prevail over ODU because of their depth. Prediction: Second.

ODU: The Monarchs could surprise everyone in the tournament, if they get lucky. The offensive is led by Peter Spargo with five goals and three assists. Keeper Joe Mallia is second in the league with a 0.68 GAA. Since they are the host team, ODU will have an advantage. They've won seven straight and the momentum should carry in the tournament. Monarch newcomers have accounted for 16 of the 24 goals this season, making them a spunky team. If an upset were to happen, expect it from ODU. Prediction: Third.

UNCC: The 49ers have a good team and, in any other year, they would be a shoo-in for the title. But they happen to be considerably outmatched by the other contenders. Gabe Garcia leads the offense with eight goals and seven assists; Carlos Garcia follows close behind with five goals and four assists. Keeper Aidan Heaney has a 1.28

GAA, highest among other tournament keepers. Prediction: Fourth.

SUN BELT TOURNAMENT: Nov. 3-4 in Norfolk.

SOCCER

Standings through Oct. 15

EAST DIVISION

team	conf.	overall	GF	GA
*ODU	2-0-1	9-2-2	19	8
*UNCC	1-0-2	7-4-2	35	18
VCU	1-1-1	4-8-1	14	32
JU	0-3	2-10-1	14	35

WEST DIVISION

team	conf.	overall	GF	GA
*USA	3-0	12-1-1	65	11
WKU	1-1	12-2-1	40	15
USF	0-1	6-7-0	20	20
UAB	0-2	5-8-0	18	46

* clinched Sun Belt tournament spot



VCU RAMS

VOLLEYBALL

Standings through Oct. 15

Team	Games	W-L	kill ave.	ast. ave.	ace ave.	dig ave.	blk. ave
UAB	9	15-1	12.9	10.80	2.36	15.16	2.22
US	99	13-1	12.24	9.63	2.0	17.48	4.14
VCU	62	8-8	9.53	6.43	1.88	7.60	2.36
USF	71	9-11	13.66	10.57	2.31	13.37	2.26
JU	47	5-8	9.71	8.03	2.42	8.35	0.66
UNCC	69	5-14	9.98	7.87	2.33	12.24	1.96
WKU	85	6-18	10.16	8.88	1.71	11.69	2.12

"Mercury" Morris Makes A Choice

By Rob Crosby
Sports Editor

When one looks at the sports pages these days, it is sometimes hard to tell them from the news section. Instead of player accomplishments dominating space, sexual assault, robbery, suicide, illegal gambling and drugs make sports headlines.

Until this decade, the most horrible sports item a fan would read was that his favorite football player was traded to another team, or that his baseball team's .300 hitter got injured before the playoffs.

Not anymore.

The 1980s will be remembered, among other things, as a time when sports became more than an entertainment escape. It became a reflection of everyday life.

In the 1972-73 NFL season, the Miami Dolphins won the Super Bowl and finished an unprecedented 17-0 campaign. A big part of their running game involved Eugene "Mercury" Morris, a quick and agile running back who complemented a unique three-back unit that included Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick.

In 1982 Morris was arrested for possession of cocaine and drug trafficking, and sentenced to 10 years in a federal prison — serving only three and a half before winning an appeal. He said he had made a bad choice.

In a speech at the Student Commons Theater sponsored by the Activities Program Board, Morris talked very little about drugs. Instead he talked to the crowd of around 100 about trends, Vietnam, politics and making choices.

"Trends are funny things," said Morris, 42. "In the '60s and '70s certain things (drugs) in my generation were a groove. Now to the younger generation, those things have become a rut."

Morris is a very intelligent and articulate individual. As an orator, he was engrossing. It was obvious he didn't want to give an obligatory I-got-caught-so-I-have-to-tell-you-about-the-evils-of-drugs speech. You could also tell he was tired of sports figures like himself falling from grace.

"I used to love to read the sports pages," he said. "Now its depressing."

The hour-and-a-half speech covered a variety of topics, all focusing on one theme: making choices. One story he told involved his football-playing days.

"I had a Ferrari," he said. "My mindset was if I had a car that could go 150 miles per hour, I'd buy it. One day I was driving 180 and blew past a Florida state trooper. He had my license plate number so there was no point in running from him. I let him catch up to me. When he came to window he recognized me as a Dolphin. He said I made a bad choice."

Morris went on to say that the officer let him off with a warning. He said that he got so used to accepting special treatment that he often did not account himself for his actions. Making the right choices was hard because he had no accountability. Eventually it caught up to him.

After his arrest he decided he hadn't been good with decisions. He changed his attitude primarily because he did not want to

die. He discovered that drugs weren't the killers, people's choices were.

"The word 'drug abuse' is a poorly chosen term," he said. "You don't abuse a drug, you abuse your body. And the only way to stop taking drugs is if you realize that your body is dying. No one wants to die. Those stupid politicians and their so-called 'War on Drugs' will only cause people to do more. I know, I always hated directives from authority.

"Len Bias died of choice, not overdose."

For those with poor short-term memories, Bias was an exceptional University of Maryland basketball player who was drafted by the Boston Celtics, the first player picked overall in 1986. To celebrate, he and his friends freebased cocaine. After an all-night coke binge, Bias went into cardiac arrest and died. The news shocked the sports world.

"Many people play the lottery and hope that their 14 million-to-one odds will pay off," said Morris. "They're hoping for that

one. But when Bias smoked cocaine, there was probably a billion-to-one chance he'd

Not Enter."

Morris did not preach to the audience. He reasoned with them. And now he's making

**"By the grace of God, I'm here.
The gift of choice is the gift of life."**

die. Except he didn't think about that one, he thought about the billion."

Morris also blamed society's tolerance of alcohol with today's bogus drug war.

"The reason we don't have a war on alcohol — the most dangerous drug of them all — is because it's acceptable. The politicians are drinkers.

"We need to be more positive on the drug issue," he continued. "I'm more apt to listen to a sign that says 'Wrong Way' than 'Do

the right choices.

"By the grace of God, I'm here," he said. "The gift of choice is the gift of life."

The drug issue does not belong on the sports page, but until some highly paid young athletes learn to make the right decisions, it will continue to occupy space once reserved for box scores.

"Aren't you tired of this drug issue?" asked Morris. "I am. But it isn't going away until athletes start wishing for a touchdown instead of a buzz."

RAMS Stumble after Achieving Ranking



James Smith - Commonwealth Times

by Jeff Amernick
Sports Writer

The VCU women's field hockey team, ranked nationally in the College Field Hockey Coaches Association Poll for the first time ever, lost to the University of North Carolina 2-0 last Tuesday night at the Cary Street Field under rainy conditions.

The Tar Heels, ranked No. 1 in the poll, narrowly outlasted the 20th-ranked Rams and snapped a six-game winning streak.

UNC got on the scoreboard early when Amy Cox netted a goal two minutes into the contest. Breaking away from defenders, she

crossed a shot that fooled Rams keeper Krista Varady.

The VCU defense settled down after that initial miscue but couldn't produce offensively. The Tar Heels kept Denean Powellson, the Rams' leading scorer, in check, denying her any real scoring opportunity. UNC dominated possession of the ball throughout the first half.

The Rams offensive woes continued in the second half, while the Tar Heels added an insurance score. Despite allowing only 12 shots on goal, the Rams defense broke down. Aided by the slippery astroturf, UNC

capitalized on a fallen Ram and scored.

The game was played under miserable conditions. The cool temperatures and constant drizzle (with periodic downpours) hindered both teams from playing up to their usual standards. The crowd, expected to be the largest of the season, understandably turned out to be small.

The Rams record dropped to 10-6-1 with the defeat. They next play Old Dominion at the Cary Street Field Thursday, Oct. 26 at 3:30 p.m. The team hopes for better weather, a bigger crowd and a victory against the Norfolk rivals.

Runners hit the Wall at State Meet

By Karen Blem
Sports Writer

It was yet another disappointing meet for VCU's cross country teams Oct. 14 in the State Meet at William & Mary. The men's team finished 10th out of 10 teams while the women finished seventh out of 10. On the bright side, the women avenged an earlier loss to the University of Richmond, beating them by 30 points.

Junior Larry Cluff placed ninth overall with a time of 25:46 over the hilly five-mile course. Sean Killen finished 49th with a time of 27:16, followed by John Moses (27:33), who placed 59th and Ferron Powell (27:47), who placed 63rd.

Rounding out the top seven for VCU were Morris Taylor (28:55), Ricky Taylor (29:27) and Matt Tessier (30:20).

"What can I say," said Coach Craig Hedley. "We didn't do nearly as well as I expected."

Sophomore Lacey Clews finished first for the VCU women and 22nd overall with a time of 19:28. She was followed by Karen Blem (19:56), who placed 33rd, Christiane Cole (20:32), placing 47th, and Lauren Brennan (20:44), placing 52nd.

"The women did better than the men," said Hedley. "But I was expecting more from them also."

Rounding out the women's team were Kelly Bumgarner (21:34), Jody Crognaile (21:58) and Shelly McAfee (23:54).

The Rams next travel to the Sun Belt Championships at the University of South Alabama in Mobile on Oct. 28. Then VCU's final meet will be at the NCAA Regionals at Furman.

RESULTS

FIELD HOCKEY

Oct. 17 North Carolina 2, VCU 0.

VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 13 Loss to American 17-15, 11-15, 15-9, 15-11.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FIELD HOCKEY:

Coach Pat Stauffer chairs the South Region for the College Field Hockey Coaches Association Poll. The Rams were ranked No. 20 last week ... After victories over American Oct. 10 and Pfeiffer Oct. 15, VCU accumulated a six-game winning streak before losing to the University of North Carolina last Tuesday night ... The Rams continue their homestand against Old Dominion Oct. 26 at Cary Street Field. The Monarchs are ranked No. 2 in the CFHCA poll ... VCU will head for the South Atlantic Field Hockey League Tournament Nov. 3-5 in Baltimore. Their last regular season game is against Loyola on Oct. 28.

SOCCER:

Rumor has it that coach Rosie Lundy is extremely frustrated with the Rams' demise this season. The young team has turned out good performances but recently has deteriorated. Inside sources say he's thinking of resigning but one hopes the rumor is false. More on the Lundy situation as it develops ... The team has been knocked out of the Sun Belt Tournament, sitting in third place of the league's Eastern Division with no chance of advancing any higher. Only the top two teams from both divisions compete for the Sun Belt crown.

VOLLEYBALL:

Junior Jonnie Stone continues to lead the Rams in every statistical category ... After the Rams participate in the Delaware Invitational Oct. 20-21, they will host the VCU Invitational Nov. 3-4. Teams expected to show up are Liberty University, Drexel and University of the District of Columbia. Before the Delaware affair, the team was 8-8 ... After the VCU Invitational, the Rams have only one more regular season match (against East Carolina) before departing for the Sun Belt Tournament.

CROSS COUNTRY:

Junior Larry Cluff and sophomore Lacey Clews have led the men's and women's teams, respectively, all season long ... The Rams are also winding down their season with the Sun Belt meet on Oct. 28 and the NCAA Regionals Nov. 11.

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EDITORIAL

Conservatism, Anyone ?

By Michael L. Snapp
Guest Columnist

An important part of understanding others, especially those we differ with, is to find positive qualities about them. Although my human nature fights against this, I am always able to find at least one positive trait in everyone. As the president of Free Access to Conservative Truth, a special interest on-campus organization, I must swallow my conservative pride and share with you my feelings about VCU liberals. Campus liberals don't just talk, they act. They have the ability to effectively organize and implement their agenda with students.

Liberalism is an institution at VCU, and there are no plans for its influence to be swayed. You name it and if it's liberal, there will be a club for it. We have a group for homosexuals, anarchists, Democrats, peace-lovers, environmentalists, feminists and of course, one for blacks. I stand in awe of it all. Meanwhile, the rightists can join the College Republicans or FACT. (I'm intentionally leaving out the religious-oriented groups, since they now swing left to right depending on the members.)

Whether you're liberal or not, you must admit that these people know what they're doing, and they are doing a good job in the process! So, I ask the question: What's wrong with the conservatives at VCU? The answer is not clear cut, but I have some ideas that might shed light on the issue.

First, we are a minority. I gave up on the idea of a silent majority long ago. But that's no excuse, all it takes is one person to stir the pot, burning the comfortable establishment. Second, we are misunderstood. A friend of mine once told me that he thought being conservative meant being a white supremacist and never willing to change positions on anything.

A conservative is one who believes in traditional morality, who believes that there are absolute truths and strives to live by them. He prefers to relate to others based on their personalities rather than their skin color. Conservatives change when they are wrong, but they must be loyal to their convictions. We must also remember that change does not necessarily mean change for the better.

Third, we are afraid, and admitting this is half of the battle. When conservatives speak out, we make waves and ruffle feathers because we actually have the nerve to decide that some things are just plain wrong. It is difficult to challenge your professor when it seems that you are the only one in class who recognizes his liberal bias. No one wants to be thought of as closed-minded or discriminatory, and holding fast to your convictions is tough. My experience with college has not been one that encourages free thinking, unless you are aligned with the liberal education provided. If your philosophy collides with it, then you are either encouraged to be

"enlightened" or "get in touch" with society.

Finally, we become indifferent and decide that our forces are no match for the establishment. It does seem that we are so deeply embedded in the leftists' rhetoric that we are speaking upon deaf ears. Who really cares, anyway?

I am disappointed in our VCU conservatives. FACT began as a haven for those who were tired of hearing the same propaganda year after year, and we believed that they would be enthusiastic about waging a war of ideologies. Sure, I've had many people tell me of their own liberal horror stories, inside of the classroom and out. And I've had several more express interest in FACT, with a zeal that convinced me that this was some-

thing good. However, when it came time to organize into action, to fight the good fight, those people were nowhere to be found.

Conservatives, for the most part, aren't willing to use the same methods, tactics, and strength that liberals use to broadcast their message. We could learn a lot from liberals in that respect, and for their determination, I salute them. I'm not as angered when I see an obnoxious feminist screaming about her

right to kill her young as I am by the one who regards it as murder yet remains silent. After all, conservatives

"My experience with college has not been one that encourages free thinking, unless you are aligned with the liberal education the college provides. If your philosophy collides with it, then you are either encouraged to be "enlightened" or "get in touch" with society."

ideologies. I've had many people tell me of their own liberal horror stories, inside of the classroom and out. And I've had several more express interest in FACT, with a zeal that convinced me that this was some-

have the same First Amendment rights as everyone else, and it would do us good to exercise them from time to time.

What does all of this mean? It means that as long as you do nothing, nothing will be

done. The attitude of futility doesn't solve the problem of college liberalism; it only breeds resentment against others. We have no right to resent liberals; they are only fighting for their beliefs, and as long as we keep silent, they don't have to prove anything.

I can hardly imagine what it must be like to have a monopoly on ideology, but I am sure it is next to paradise. Are we going to change that? You, the VCU college conservative, will decide the answer. FACT welcomes anyone who is ready and willing to oppose intellectual immorality and defend traditional morality. Before you decide, why not talk with me? I assure you that I can find something for you to do if you don't know where to start. Nevertheless, if you have your own suggestions, we not only want to hear them, we will probably do our best to act upon them.

The next time you become indignant over the prevalent immensity of liberal truths, stop and ask yourself if you've done anything to further the awareness of conservative truth.

Myth, um ... Miss America

The neatest things turn up in the mailbox around here! This little beauty came just the other day.

It was accompanied by a letter requesting that The Commonwealth Times print the "camera-ready public service announcement" (above) to benefit everyone from the women on this campus to charity hospitals. While we don't know the exact nature of the financial arrangements under which this organization functions, we're sure the organization does indeed "strive to generate funds for scholarships" and for the charity they represent.

But our flinty-eyed business manager said that it might be some time before this particular PSA surfaced under the stack of requests for PSAs from environmental and church groups, concerned citizens listing missing persons, that sort of thing. In fact, the announcement somehow migrated from that stack to the Editorial mail.

When I got it in my mailbox, I figured it appeared there to entice me to enter the contest. I really could use that \$1,000 scholarship.

After reading more closely, though, I know I don't have a chance. So I've written a letter to the organization, apologizing for our inability to print their PSA at this time, and to let them know how disappointed I was not to be able to enter the contest, and why. Since we're a little short on letters to the Editor this week (Hello! Is anybody out there?) I'll share some of this letter from the Editor with you.

"Some of us are, like myself, simply too

ugly to pass the first requirement," I wrote.

"The requirements for poise, communication skill, marital status and age, talent, school spirit, and showbusiness appeal are likewise beyond our ken. While I like to think I might possess the requisite communication skills, I tend to lose my poise in the face of blatant sexism (or ageism or elitism for that matter)."

"As for talent, I wonder if my modest abilities as a heavy metal guitarist would pass muster. You have no doubt already

passed judgement on my personality. Just a tad bit strident, huh? Personally, I think "college spirit" is a little vague, and I certainly hope you don't mean what it sounds like; I'm not a drinking woman myself. As for showbusiness appeal, would that mean that I find showbusiness appealing, or that I would appeal to showbusiness? (Honestly, do you really think show business is one word?) Although we have a very fine School of the Arts, we don't have a School of Showbusiness, so you'd have to clarify that a little.

"Really, though, don't you think a 34-year-old honor student with a mean Fender

Stratocaster guitar and a distinctly non-bubbly personality, or a single mother with a physical disability who returns to evening school is the ideal college coed? At least in the dictionary sense of "a person ... who is regarded as a standard for attainment or imitation," that's who I'd like to emulate.

"At the very least, I think you should open the contest to our Executive Editor. This contestant possesses beauty, communication skills, poise, talent, personality and, no doubt, showbusiness appeal. But I guess

MISS PAGEANT February 1990 Los Angeles, CA

WINNER to receive a \$1,000. Scholarship from her College



The search is on to find next year's ideal college coed, Miss [redacted] 1990! The eighth young college woman to hold the title of Miss [redacted] will be selected in February, 1990 at Los Angeles, California. Contestants will be evaluated on beauty, communication skills, poise, talent, personality, college spirit, and showbusiness appeal. To qualify, applicants must be single, between the ages of 18-24 as of Feb. 22, 1990, be an undergraduate college coed, be proud of her university, and enjoy appearing and performing before others either in live productions or on TV. Miss [redacted] will represent the United States in the Miss [redacted] beauty competition in the spring of 1991. To obtain free entry information preliminary to the Miss [redacted] Pageant, send name, address, birthday, and name of University/College to [redacted]

he doesn't qualify either. Like the average student at VCU, he's over 24 years of age."

Yours for an enlightened world,

Tracy Ebbert
Editorial Editor

Tracy Ebbert's
SECOND WIND
When Your
Second Wind
Blows III

In the spring you've got showers, in the summer it's mosquitoes, and this time of year you've got those pesky ghosts. Have you ever noticed how close this campus is to Hollywood Cemetery?

Of course, since you're an adult and you've got good sense (well, you had enough sense to go back to school, right?) you're not scared of ghosts. Not the kind that come out of the grave on All Saint's Eve, anyway. But when the maples turn golden and the days grow brief, some ghosts still seem to have the power to make you feel, if not haunted, at least gloomy.

The Ghost of Outfits Past lurks in the closet. His voice rustles when you pull the tissue paper out of a carefully stored sweater, only to find that an intrepid moth got there first. Re-weave the hole, try on the matching trousers, and you'll see the Ghost of Too Many Ice Cream Cones. That's his shadow obscuring your toes.

The Ghost of Incomplete Classes has a unique vocal quality. At the beginning of the semester it goes "niggle, niggle, niggle." Busting this ghost is usually not accomplished until it sounds more like "NIGGLE, NIGGLE, NIGGLE," usually within two weeks of the last possible moment you can finish the work and still get the grade.

Ghosts can take many forms, but goblins are invariably mischievous and ugly. There's no hard evidence on this, but I think there may be some correlation between Halloween and the emergence of politicians from their usual haunts and to our television screens. It is said that Satan is a liar, and it certainly seems his minions in the realm of elected politics emulate his style. Hey, that's not my opinion; that's what they say about each other.

Unique, I think, to the life of the older student, would be the Ex-Ghouls. Not many 21-year-old juniors have the voice of an ex-husband or wife whispering out of the past. "You're taking Statistics? You couldn't even balance the checkbook!" Much as you might like to show off your academic successes to the Ex, though, may I be so bold as to suggest leaving that old carcass right there in whatever personal Memorial Garden you have buried it? Some things are just too awful to, well, exhume.

Maybe thoughts turn to death and gloom because the greenery of summer is dying all around. A plunging thermometer shouldn't necessarily signal a similarly plunging mood. Think of the season as a sloughing of the old, dry skin and an opportunity to grow. Specters of the past can slow you down. A second (or third, or fourth) chance at school is a fresh, cool breeze through your life. Wrap your memories around you like the cedar-scented quilts pulled from summer storage, making them your servants rather than the masters they would be, and, as my aerobics instructor would say, when things start to get you down, exorcise.

A Dearth of Salesmen

By Matt Mobley
 Guest Columnist

All I wanted to do was buy a pair of shoes. While I have shoes like Imelda Marcos has shoes, I've worn all of mine fishing once or twice. Funny how one little fishing trip can have so much impact on the appearance of a pair of shoes. But I digress.

I had my mission and that mission was to buy shoes. So off I went, smoke pouring from the exact spots on my pockets that my financial aid money was burning.

But let's get something straight right now. I'm not one of those people who buys a product because of its appearance exclusively; I want to know about the product. I want to know why the product is right for

to be the standard greeting and pitch.

"Yes, may I speak to the salesman?" is my stock response. I mean, if this shoe store thinks I'm just going to buy *their* shoes for no reason at all, they would do well to reconsider. The problem was, I never did find a shoe salesman. The problem is, I still don't have a new pair of shoes. That's fine with me. I'll make my own. At least then I'll know something about how they're made.

The point of this whole thing really has very little to do with shoes. The question is: What is a salesman? And where are they? I know that I don't stand alone when I express the wish that an establishment whose business is supported by my money, should provide an agent to help me spend my money the way that suits me best.



James Smith - Commonwealth Times

me. More specifically, I want shoes that are right for me! Downside: Aside from the fact that they cost lots of money, I don't know anything about shoes.

That, my friends, is the purpose of a

Machiavellian? Maybe. But it works ...

salesman. A shoe salesman is the perfect subject for a joke, until you try to decide between a million pairs of shoes, all costing more than a cheap set of encyclopedias. A salesman then becomes indispensable.

On the day I shopped, there were no salesmen. There were only shoe stores and gawky high-school kids posing as salesmen.

"Do you wanna see something?" seemed

How many times have you been to a restaurant only to be treated by your waitperson like you weren't welcome or somehow were causing him displeasure? Maybe the waitperson was forgetful or didn't know anything about the menu. Happens all the time. I know, I go out a lot. And no matter how bad the service gets, for some reason the server always expects a tip.

A waiter or waitress is only a salesman working under a different title. How often do you have a waitperson actually recommend something? Is their food that bad? Next time you're out, ask your waitperson what he or she recommends. When they answer with some outright confidence, I almost always order what they've recommended. But when the answer is something along the lines of "It's all good," I know that I'm either being lied to or that the person doesn't know or doesn't care about his or her product. Sounds kind of harsh, but I lop five percent off just for that. I always reward good service, so why not penalize bad service?

By the way, all you waiters and wait-

resses, one unwarranted rude remark and you shouldn't get any tip at all. Tips is the acronym for "to insure proper service," so whenever an irate server comes chasing after me wondering about the tip I respond, "Here's a tip: Get out of the business."

A shoe salesman is the perfect subject for a joke, until you try to decide between a million pairs of shoes, all costing more than a cheap set of encyclopedias.

I find it amazing how few decent sales persons I encounter. I would even go so far as to hypothesize that salesmanship is a lost art. But that shouldn't be the case. In fact it doesn't make a lick of sense if one considers how our nation's business schools are virtually teeming with marketing majors. I haven't figured this one out yet.

One thing I have figured out. Any business whose salesmen don't sell cannot project success. And I didn't even go to business school.

But I was a salesman once. I sold food and wine. Yes, I was a waiter, but I worked in a restaurant that rewarded salesmanship. I still hold several single-night and all-time sales records.

So I speak from experience when I say there are several tricks to salesmanship. Try this: After selling a bottle of wine to a four-some, be sure to get back to the table to refill the glasses. When you do so, fill all the glasses in a way that leaves little or none for the host, then ask him if he would like to order another bottle.

Whenever a customer had a question, I had an answer. Right or wrong, the salesman has the answer. Machiavellian? Maybe. But it works, and if the customer is happy, the salesman has done his job.

People look down on salesmen. Too many people think people think sales is blue-collar work or something. Maybe it is. Maybe it's also the most important tool to free enterprise. I'm convinced of the latter. If you're going to make it, you have to sell it. I don't know about you, but I'm not going to support businesses that exclusively offer unqualified sales representatives.

If a business doesn't think enough of me to provide me with a decent salesperson, I'm going to take my business elsewhere. That's the way it should be.

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Self-Reliance and Modern America

By T.K. Slonaker, III
Associate Editorial Editor

Self-reliance is not in vogue. Individual responsibility is no longer taken for granted; it is taken with a grain of salt. Socially, ethically, and financially speaking the catch phrase is "pass the buck but not the ammunition." From education to welfare the message is, "It's not your fault and it's certainly not your responsibility."

The legacy of this policy is everywhere: Massedrug addiction, poverty, high crime, moral degeneration and more. All of these problems previously existed but have been amplified by today's lackadaisical attitude, an attitude fostered by modern liberalism. This is not to say that liberals like or deliberately encourage these problems but that their methods of dealing with them are ineffective and self-defeating.

The key to recovery lies in independence. Independence from what? From government and bureaucratic interference, that's what. America's government is too big and too complex.

A prime example of this over-involvement is Governor Baliles' plan for at-risk 4-year-olds in the public schools. At-risk 4-year-olds? At risk of what? Losing their Lincoln Logs? Is there a real problem or is it an excuse for the state to further influence your child? In all seriousness I think there may well be a problem: Mothers who have to work and consequently can't spend enough time with their kids. My solution? Increase the tax write-off for children. It's a start. The root of the problem is still the

willingness of the government to take over the role of the parent/guardian. There is nothing in the Constitution mentioning the visiting rights of Uncle Sam.

Drug addiction is being touted as the modern problem. It is indeed quite frightening to see its effects on society. Liberal ideology stresses rehabilitation. Fine, but

A person is ultimately responsible to himself.

rehabilitation without punishment does nothing to discourage use; it merely provides a safety net for the extremely irresponsible.

And once again responsibility is the issue. A person is ultimately responsible to himself. No one can make you do drugs and no one can make you stop. The drug problem didn't gestate in South America it started right here. Supply means nothing without demand. That's simple capitalism. Of course capitalism is under fire too, and that's another problem.

Free-market economics have taken quite a beating in the last half of the twentieth century. Reaganomics aside, we have seen enormous growth in socialism. Simultaneously the Eastern Bloc has retreated from

the same system. Must we go to their extremes to see the inherent flaws of socialism? To quote Jeanne Kirkpatrick on the subject of a mixed economy during a debate at the University of Mississippi, "Why would you want to mix something that is good [capitalism] with something that is bad [socialism]?" Socialism takes responsibility out of the hands of the individual and gives it to the state. If you are productive then it takes money from you to give to the unproductive (ostensibly not as a reward for unproductivity). Social Security takes money that you could better invest yourself and gives it back to you later. Is there any point to that? Welfare can make it insensible to work. Is there a trend building or is it me?

Morality today is quite lax. The problem here is that if we don't police ourselves we won't pay the consequences until after death, assuming you believe in an afterlife. Aside from laws against violence there really isn't much that anyone can do. This is not a case of the government doing the job poorly, it's a case of the government being incapable of such action. So guess what? Don't worry about the legality, think about the morality.

It's often said that "If you want the job done well do it yourself." Trite and hackneyed as it is, I agree. Personal responsibility is the solution to the greater part of our problems. My philosophy is based on optimistic humanism and while some may consider it pie-in-the-sky idealism all I can say is that it's not what we should desire — it's what we should demand.

LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTE

Oh, joy! Ms. VCU!

To the Editor:

I haven't been spending much time in the Commons lately, but when I had a 10-minute break from my 8 a.m. class, I decided I needed coffee! When I went to the Commons to buy some this morning, I happened to look up at the banners hanging above my head just to see what's going on these days. And guess in what event VCU's female population will have the honor and pleasure of participating? A "Miss Virginia Commonwealth University Pageant!"

Oh, joy! Another opportunity for a woman to show her worth and value to the VCU community by displaying a "talent" (ranging anywhere from playing a piano concerto to whistling "Dixie"), wearing a glamorous gown while sharing her insight and vision on how to "make the world a better place," and by mere virtue of her 36-24-36 figure.

Proponents of this function, male and female, would argue that a woman has the right to do what she wants. Pageants have educational value and scholarship and "personality" play a large role in choosing the winner. Think about the last time you turned on the TV and saw a 200-pound summa cum laude Harvard graduate who volunteers for the Peace Corps crowned Miss America. Okay, this may be an extreme scenario but my point is clear: Pageants, or "exhibitions," as they are defined, are socially sanctioned means of assessing a woman's worth according to her appearance.

I would be very curious to know what the possible correlation is between looking great in a swim suit and being not only a capable and valued individual, but also a university student of merit and worth. I do not blame the Student Government Association for buying into society's standards. Also, I'm not that naive to believe that physical appearance does not shape one's identity. I do, however, find fault in the support of a program having not only no beneficial qualities whatsoever (with the exception, I'm quite sure, of the diamond tiara Miss VCU will receive), but also serious negative consequences. A pageant such as this reinforces a woman's belief that she does not have to develop her own capacities educationally as well as psychologically, or maximize her potential. It also encourages men to view females in much the same manner. She must merely "look good." And by whose standards is she judged? (JUDGED ... another good word.)

I challenge the women of VCU to want more for themselves. If you are a beautiful woman, be thankful but not satisfied. To employ a well-worn cliché, "Beauty is only skin-deep, but ugly goes straight to the bone."

Sonni Gittleman
Graduate Student

VCU, Pedestrian Deathtrap

To the Editor:

A recent series of articles on growth at VCU has noted that there are now 21,000 students here at VCU and many facility improvements are planned to accommodate this growth. Hopefully, these upgrades will include some improvements in traffic patterns and crosswalks that will allow students to move about on campus more safely than present conditions allow. Many student crossings are not marked or controlled. None give pedestrians the right of way, as is common on most university campuses. The sidewalk between the library and the Student Commons dumps people into the middle of Floyd Avenue without any crosswalk markings, crossing lights or even a pedestrian warning sign. Usually the path is obstructed by a parked car and students must squeeze between bumpers and step out into traffic. The crossing between the Commons and the New Academic Building and the crossing at West Franklin and Shafer Court should both be made into pedestrian right-of-ways or at least get a crossing light.

VCU is an urban university in an urban setting but our campus should be more than just a thoroughfare. Let's not wait for a truck to plow through a group of students before we take action to make our campus safer.

Kenneth S. Smith

CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds are offered at the cost of \$3 for the first 25 words and \$1 for every group of 10 thereafter. All classifieds must prepaid. Mailing Address:

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ATTENTION

ROOMMATE NEEDED: 2bedroom apt.; 1.5 miles from VCU; \$210/month plus 1/2 heat & water. Prefer responsible male student. Call Jeff, 329-3221.

THE ESPERANTO SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS AND VIRGINIA takes place: Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the VCU Music Center.

Wanted: a special baby to adopt. If you want your baby to have loving parents and a family life with stability, activities and opportunities, please call us. Shirley & George at 741-4632.

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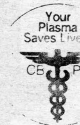
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CALF



NOISE

Tuesday

Jade Elephant Burning Bridges
Stonewall Cafe Secrets
Metro Dance Night

Wednesday

Twisters Charlie and the Nightcats with Major Booty
Jade Elephant Dance with NYC Bad Boy
Metro Primus from San Fransico and Hard Ons from Australia
Stonewall Cafe My Uncle's Old Army Buddies

Thursday

Whistlers Page 2
Jade Elephant Tom Tolman and Totem Poleman
Metro Swans, Brainflower and Mary My Hope
Twisters Donnie's Provacative Dance Night
Shockoe Slip Cafe Assassinsm
Bird in Hand Zydeco with Terrence Simien and the Mallet Playboys
Newgate Prison TDC College Night

Friday

Jade Elephant Crystal Sky

Library The Press

Floodzone Halloween Party featuring Big Posse
Twisters Vapor Rhinos and Rubber Weenie
Shockoe Slip Cafe Panic
Metro Alter Natives
Castle Thunder Cafe Halloween Party through the 31st at 1726 E. Main.
Showplace Annex Indecision and Left Exit

Saturday

Twisters Monster of F Tour featuring Flat Stanley, Fat Elvis, F-Word and Flannel
Electra Studio Halloween Bash featuring the Motorvators at 720 N. Harrison St. All proceeds benefit 1708 East Main
Shockoe Slip Cafe Circuit Breakers
Jade Elephant Elvis Hitler from Detroit

Sunday

Jade Elephant The Specials
Twisters Matinee featuring Four Walls Falling, Set Straight and Sweat Family

Monday

Jade Elephant Open Jam Night



Swans will be at the Metro Thursday October 26.



Rattle your bones with the "Monsters of F" Halloween tour, swinging through Richmond Saturday, at Twisters,

FILMS

Thursday

Va. Museum Nights for New Films with "I Do Not Know What It is I Am," directed by Bill Viola, at 8 p.m.

Friday

Commons Theater "Three Fugitives" at 7 p.m. and "Child's Play" at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday

Commons Theater "Child's Play" at 7 p.m. and "Three Fugitives" at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday

Business Building Auditorium "Maniac(1934)" (Dwain Esper, 1934, USA) at 6 p.m.; "Astro Zombies" (Ted V. Mikels, 1969, USA) at 7 p.m. and "2000 Maniacs" (Herschell Gordon Lewis, 1964, USA) at 9 p.m.
Boatwright Library at UR "Pirosmeni" (Georgi Shengelaya, Russia, 1971) at 7:30 p.m.

Byrd Theatre "Gross Anatomy" 353-9911 for showtimes

Westhampton "Dry White Season" and "Sex, Lies and Videotape" 288-9007 for showtimes

Westover "Do the Right Thing" call 233-2106 for showtimes

LECTURES

Wednesday : Richmond Public Library Richmond Poet, Jeannette Drake will lead a discussion on Gloria Naylor's third novel, Mama Day, at 6 p.m. 2901 North Avenue.

Thursday : Student Commons The NOAH Project will meet to plan its anti-fur campaign. A video, Exporting Cruelty, will be shown at 8 p.m. in room A.

Va. Museum Distinguished lecture series presents Beaumont Newhall in a talk on "The Birth of Photography" at 6 p.m.

Commons Theater Rain Forest Action Group with the topics "Emerald Forests and "Waste Management as if the Future Matters" FREE.

THE PERFORMING ARTS



Photo by Suzanne Grandie

Richmond Ballet Principal Dancer Maria Gisladdottir dances the role of Swanilda and Asst. Ballet Master dances the role of Dr. Coppelius in "Coppelia" Oct. 27 & 28 at the Carpenter Center.



Tuesday
VCU Performing Arts Center "Evening of Arias," with selections from Va. Opera "Il Trovatore"
TheatreVa. "Sweeney Todd" a musical thriller by Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler through Nov. 11.

Friday
Carpenter Center Richmond Ballet presents "Coppelia," in three performances Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. matinee at 2:30 p.m. and Sat. at 8 p.m.. Student tickets are half price.

Women's Club Auditorium Concert Ballet of Va. presents its Fall Gala
Va. Museum TheatreIV Family Playhouse presents "The Bremen Town Band" at 7 p.m. through the 31st.
Stanley's Backstage "Sherlock's Last Case," a thriller by Charles Marowitz through Nov. 4.

SPORTS



Tuesday : **Richmond Coliseum** East Coast Hockey League at 7:30 p.m. Hampton Roads Admirals vs Johnstown Chiefs

Wednesday : VCU Soccer at JMU

Thursday : VCU Field Hockey at 3:30 p.m. vs. Old Dominion (Cary Street Field)

Friday: **Richmond Coliseum** NWA Wrestling

Saturday : VCU Field Hockey at Loyola
VCU Cross Country at Sun Belt Conference (USA-Mobile)
VCU Soccer at Florida Tech Tournament

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Student Artspace "painting untitled," exhibition of paints by Bonner Hamaker and Juan Ogando through Nov.4.

Valentine Museum "Dressed for Work: Women in the Work Force, 1900-1989"

Va. Museum "Three in Technology: Cumming, Friedlander and Groover" Photographs documenting the technical revolution and the look and feel of post-industrial culture.

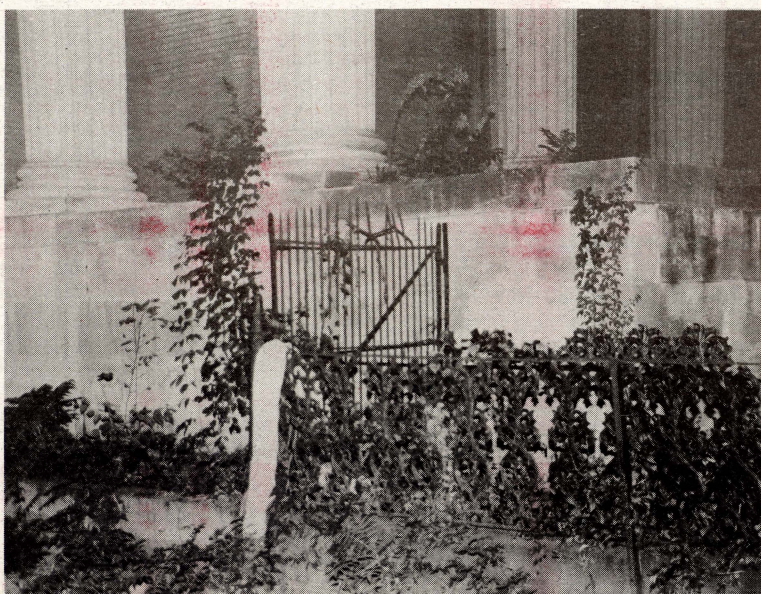
Va. Museum "Paul Outerbridge, A singular aesthetic: Photographs and drawings, 1921-1941"

Last Stop Gallery West African artist **Munir Deishinni Mohammed's** "Visions of Africa" through the 28th

1708 East Main Gallery Features monotype prints by Larry Mullins, David Kohan and Jim Nottingham

Hand Workshop Sixteen tapestries by Ane Shusta through Nov.18th

Gallery Mayo "Fall Exhibition" of recently acquired 19th and 20th century paintings



Helen Link-Commonwealth Times

Halloween is
Tuesday

OTHER LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Thursday
State Fairgrounds Fall Home Expo

Friday
Shafer Court Cashmere Jungle Lords and Mudd Helmut

Common Ground Halloween Party sponsored by the International Student Union at 8:30 p.m.

Floodzone Annual Halloween Party featuring Big Posse (costume theme: Cowboys and Cowgirls)

Saturday
Rockwood Park Jaycee Haunted Forest, Courthouse Road near Rt. 360, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

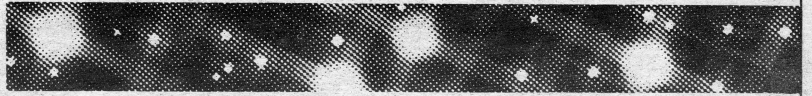
Sunday
Showplace Richmond Antiques Spectacular
Jewish Community Center Jewish Book Fair books, records, tapes and guest speakers

Monday
Commons Plaza Asian Week 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Founders' Day Gala '89

Light up the night
with VCU's stars
at the second annual **Founders' Day Gala**

N O V E M B E R 3



★ **T I M E**

9 pm–1 am

★ **P L A C E**

Omni Richmond Hotel
100 South Twelfth Street

★ **B A N D S**

The New York City Swing Band.
The Good Guys

★ **T I C K E T P R I C E S**

\$15 per person, \$28 per couple, and
\$8 per student ticket

★ **T I C K E T L O C A T I O N S**

★ *Student Commons*

Oct. 23–Oct. 26, Oct. 30–Nov. 2,
10:30 am–1:30 pm, 5:00–7:00 pm,
Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 10:30 am–1:30 pm

★ *Larrick Student Center*

October 23–Nov. 3, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

