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Oct. 31, 1989

Former Supreme Court justice speaks at honor assembly

By Ken Bravmann
Staff Writer

On Monday, October 23, the Honorable Lewis F. Powell Jr., the most recent retiree from the U.S. Supreme Court, spoke about John Marshall, "the great chief justice," at an honor assembly held at the Performing Arts Center. The assembly was sponsored by the University Honors Program and Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society.

After the opening remarks were made, Justice Powell began his discussion of Chief Justice Marshall, who served on the Supreme Court at the beginning of the 19th century. He pointed out the undesirable status of the court at the time; Justice Marshall took over after Justice John Jay refused reappointment to the position. Justice Jay gave as his reasons feelings of powerlessness and intolerability of treatment. After Justice Marshall's struggle for respectability in the Supreme Court, Justice Powell said, landmark cases such as *Marbury vs. Madison* became conven-

tional standards for Constitutional interpretation.

Justice Powell also mentioned several anecdotes from his days in the Supreme Court, including one particularly fond memory that occurred early in his tenure as associate justice, when former President Richard Nixon was under investigation. The Supreme Court had just ordered the release of key evidence for review, and when asked what the next step would be if Nixon refused, Justice Powell said that he would march the 100 or so court police down to the White House, where Nixon would have his 53rd Infantry at his side. Luckily, the evidence was submitted and Justice Powell's scenario was avoided.

Justice Powell was offered the Supreme Court opening by Nixon, after having served as president of the Richmond Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He refused, citing a number of prohibitive factors, including his age. Nixon then personally urged him to accept the request. He reluctantly accepted



Hunter Sessom—Commonwealth Times

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell speaks about "the great chief justice," John Marshall.

the appointment and went on to cast the decisive vote in several cases, including *Roe vs. Wade*.

Currently, Justice Powell belongs to

four professional law organizations and sits on several commissions, including the National Advisory Committee on Legal Services to the Poor.

Media, basketball coaching staff engage in some 'fun and games' at Media Day

By Jeff Amernick
Sports Writer

New head coach Sonny Smith and the sports information office invited members of the local media to VCU's Basketball Media Day last Wednesday night.

About 50 sportswriters, radio and TV journalists showed up at the Franklin Street Gym to meet with the coaching staff and engage in some fun and games.

Local journalists were asked to take off their jackets and loosen their ties for a free-throw and 3-point shooting contest. Paul Woody, a sportswriter for the Richmond News Leader, won the free-throw contest while Steve Melewski, sports director for the Virginia News Network, won the 3-point contest. Both were awarded a pair of Converse basketball shoes for their efforts.

Then everyone went over to the VCU Meeting Center for dinner and drinks.

Coach Smith said that Media Day isn't supposed to be work for anyone who attends.

"It's a chance for us to meet everybody and have a little fun in the process," he said, sipping on a Jim Beam and Diet Pepsi.

As everyone loosened up, a joke-telling contest was held and Coach Smith won, with a hilarious story about Bubba and Earl, friends of his from his hometown, Roan Mountain, Tennessee.

Several members of the media did various impersonations of college basketball coaches. Bill Millsaps of the Richmond Times-Dispatch was exceptional in his impersonation of Sonny Smith.

Smith got into the act with his impersonation of Dean Smith from the University of North Carolina.

VCU assistant coaches Eddie Webb, Frank Ford, Lawrence Johnson, Mike Ellis and former VCU standout Vince Wilson were introduced as well.

Although little serious work was accomplished during Media Day, it helped in getting everyone excited about the upcoming basketball season.



James Smith - Commonwealth Times

Chris Maxwell attempts to educate a student on the plight of the rain forests.

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The VCU Rampages



NEWS

Student dies in fall from building

By Meade Daffron & Scott Loving
Staff Writers

A VCU freshman fell to her death from the rooftop of the Chesterfield Apartments building at 900 W. Franklin St. last Friday night.

Nina Rachael Pearson, 17, was trying to climb down the fire escape from the roof of the building at about 10:40 p.m. when she slipped and fell seven stories to the alley below. She died instantly.

It was the second time in less than two years that a VCU student has died in an accidental fall from an area apartment. In February 1988, a 23-year-old business major fell from the 12th floor of Monroe Park Towers apartment building at 520 W. Franklin St.

Pearson, who graduated from Monacan High School this past spring, lived with her parents in Chesterfield County. She would have been 18 this Thursday.

She was still recovering from an automobile accident that occurred last year and was taking classes here part time, according to a story in The Richmond News Leader. Her father was quoted as saying she had suffered a broken foot along with leg and back injuries and was still having some trouble walking.

Police said Pearson was with seven other people having a party on the roof, approximately 100 feet above the street. Some of those who were with her told police they had been drinking but denied being drunk, according to a story in the Richmond

Times-Dispatch.

In order to obtain access to the roof, Pearson had to climb an extension of the fire escape that stretches several feet out and away from the building, then pull herself around the overhanging rooftop.

A friend of Pearson's said he had come to one of the apartments for a party and found a note on the door saying the others were on the roof. He was climbing the ladder when he heard her scream for help. Looking up, he said, he saw her hanging on to the ladder, but before he could reach her she slipped and fell past him.

He ran down the seven flights of stairs to her, but was restrained by a Richmond police officer already on the scene. Police already had been called by the building's security guard to investigate a disturbance on the roof.

Two students, Duncan Haberly and Oliver Phillips, were about to enter an apartment on the seventh floor when Haberly said he noticed "two guys and a girl piling in through the window."

"One of the guys was saying, 'I can't deal with this right now, I just can't deal with this.'" Haberly, who lives on the same floor, told him that the police had been called and asked what was going on.

"He said, 'Oh my God, what are we gonna do, what are we gonna do?' She fell, she fell." I said, "Who fell?" He just kept saying, "She fell, she fell. I just can't deal with this right now."

"They were in shock," Phillips said. The day before, a group of people had

been chased from the roof, and one officer speculated there would again be people on the roof the day after Pearson's death.

Austin Stockman, maintenance supervisor at the Chesterfield, said the management had been having problems with people climbing on the roof. He said there was a group of "skinheads" who were throwing glass off the roof in the spring, and that an unknown person on the roof shot out a window across the street with a BB gun the night before Pearson's death.

Stockman said there are 75 apartments in the Chesterfield, which has a capacity of 150 residents. Of these, he said, about 90 percent are VCU students.

"It's incredible," Stockman said. "You talk to these people until you're blue in the face. I catch them doing all kinds of crazy stuff [such as] shooting off the fire extinguisher ... It just escalates, and you try to tell them the severity of what they're doing, little pranks and crazy stuff. They're kids; it's just that type of thing."

Stockman said a door leading to the roof is accessible only by going through the attic, which is located at the top of the main staircase. He added that this door remains locked at all times.

The only other way to gain access to the roof is to climb one of the fire escapes, located on the back and one side of the building. He said they did not originally connect to the roof, but were extended at the request of the fire department.

Stockman said a photocopied sticker is posted on each window by the fire escapes

stating that the stairways are to be used only in an emergency.

At the time of the accident, three males said they were in the university parking lot across from the building when they heard a woman's scream, then a second later heard something strike the pavement.

They said they ran across Shafer Street into the alley where they found her body. Looking up, they could see a number of figures descending the fire escape.

In the cobblestone alley, students overcome with grief screamed or cried at the sight of their friend. Some appeared disoriented, pacing rapidly away from and back toward the spot where she lay.

The person who had seen Pearson fall tried to embrace the body but was restrained by an officer who told him to leave the area. He walked away but returned a few minutes later and argued in distraught tones with police.

Apparently no one was aware at that point that he was a witness.

After he yelled and walked away the second time, a reporter ran after him to make sure he was all right.

"No, I'm not OK," he replied. "I watched this girl fall. I was on this thing and I watched her fall from above me. And she was screaming 'help' and I couldn't even grab her, man."

At that point, one of the officers realized he was a witness to the accident, and

See **Pearson**, page 7

Student Government Teams with Ackell to Address Issues

By Meade Daffron
Associate News Editor

In a meeting Monday, October 23, members of the Student Government Association's Executive Committee reported that they and VCU President Edmund F. Ackell are currently considering the topics of child care for students, placing a stoplight at Franklin and Shafer streets, building an official VCU rugby field, VCU and MCV sharing facilities, and getting important information to students more effectively.

The following organizations were successful in obtaining university funding: International Business and Economic Students; the Greek Council; the American Society of Interior Designers; fencing; and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Services Committee, which appointed four new members, was denied funding because they had not exhausted funds received earlier.

After looking into the matter, Committee members said that Park Place is already above the necessary requirements for smoking and non-smoking areas. The Services Committee had been researching this issue.

Also, the Activities Programming Board reported that the lecture with Kane Hodder of "Friday the 13th" was a great success, and that the Shafer Court concerts went well despite the weather.

Members of the Publicity Committee said they are planning dormitory meetings during the first full week of November. They said they will try to have one member from each SGA subcommittee at each meeting.

The Publicity Committee also suggested a one-day celebration and reception to mark the SGA's 10th anniversary this year.

Ye-Vetta Wilson was elected to assemble the committee-sponsored Vote America Campaign, which is expected to encour-

age more college students to get involved in voting this fall.

The University Committee announced it was seeking a November date for the first race relations forum, which will include a film and guest speaker followed by

The Senate also announced plans to look into the areas of parking, book cost and financial aid.

an open-panel discussion. Participants may speak openly in the forum or submit their comments in writing if they prefer.

In new business, it was announced that all new student organizations will meet with the Senate on October 30, with the goal of getting information about the

SGA to students.

Also, Associate Dean of Student Affairs Kurt Keppler will be offering a spring class on organizational leadership on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. It will be a three-credit course available to sophomores and above.

The Senate also announced plans to look into the areas of parking, book cost and financial aid in future meetings.

The following officers, representatives and senators were in attendance at the Monday Senate meeting: Jose Juan Hernandez, Paul Adams, Reggie Davenport, Mark Langenderfer, Ye-Vetta Wilson, Gwen Eatherton, Michelle Moss, Andy Malik, Paul Pritchett, Steve Taylor, Scott Holbrook and Keith Bell.

Also in attendance were Paul Painter, Richard Puckett, Andres McIntyre, Candace Greco, Gaye Jones, Lisa Simpson, Bob Greene, James Glasgow, Darryl Putnam, Emmanuel Pimentel and Thomas House.

How A Local University Became A Respected Power Without Ever Fielding A Football Team.



In a day and age when a school's prestige is usually ranked along with its football team, we're proud to celebrate a different kind of excellence. Virginia Commonwealth University's Founders' Day 1989 celebrates recognition for achievements that reach well beyond the gridiron. Education is our field. Our goal is to offer one of the best in the country. And that's remained the same since our inception as the Medical College of Virginia, all those years ago.

Health care, culture, and community. Fans of higher learning cheer us for our accomplishments in these arenas. And we've accomplished a lot. MCV Hospitals is rated among the best health care institutions in the country. It's also the country's fourth largest university teaching hospital.

This excellence continues onto our academic campus. Our nationally recognized School of the Arts offers more than just a fine education. It gives us resources we can share with everyone from our children (The Community School For The Performing Arts) to our Senior Citizens (The Free University). And our Schools of Education, Business,

and Social Work all make significant contributions to our city. By educating our teachers, our corporate work force, and by helping us to better care for each other.

As Richmond's second largest employer, we also contribute in excess of \$500 million annually to the local community. But more than money, we contribute our people. There are some 30,000 VCU alumni who call the Richmond area home. And that's part of what makes this all so thrilling. We're sharing it with the city that's been our home for the better part of two centuries.

Working together, we've managed to catch people's attention, without catching a single touchdown pass. On November 3, when we celebrate Founders' Day, that's one of the many things we'll be proud of. The best we can hope for is a future half as successful as our past.

And, for our basketball team to have one heck of a season.



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News Briefs

VCU Co-Hosts Conference on Constitution

A conference on Virginia's role in Constitutional development will be held this Nov. 2 and 3 at the Richmond Hyatt, located at West Broad Street and I-64.

The conference will feature historians and law professors from a number of universities, including Harvard, William & Mary and the University of Virginia, as well as VCU. At least two professional journalists are also slated to speak.

The program is built around celebrated Virginia cases that have shaped law throughout the United States. Among the cases to be discussed are *Richmond vs. J.A. Croson Co.*, *Richmond Newspapers vs. Virginia* and *Hustler Magazine vs. Falwell*.

Speakers will include A.E. Dick Howard of the University of Virginia, Randall Kennedy of Harvard, Lyle Denniston of the Baltimore Sun and syndicated columnist Edwin M. Yoder.

Co-sponsored by VCU, the Virginia Bicentennial Commission and the state Department of Education, the conference is presented in conjunction with the annual Meeting of Social Studies Teachers. It is free and open to the public. A luncheon will be offered Thursday at a cost of \$15.

For more information or to make reservations for the luncheon, contact Dr. Melvin I. Urofsky in the VCU Department of History and Geography at 367-1635.

VCU holds second annual Founders' Day Gala

VCU will hold its second annual Founders' Day Gala Nov. 3 at 9 p.m. at the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 S. 12th St.

Entertainment at the semi-formal event will be provided by the New York City Swing Band beginning at 9 p.m. and the Richmond-based Good Guys beginning at 11:30 p.m. During the evening, VCU will honor alumni from its 13 colleges and schools in a special presentation entitled "The Stars of VCU."

Coinciding with the Founders' Day celebration will be a sculpture exhibit sponsored by the VCU Sculpture Department and a silent auction sponsored by the Department of Painting and Printmaking.

Proceeds from the auction will go toward a general scholarship fund in the School of the Arts. Both the exhibit and the auction will be held the night of the gala at the Omni. The silent auction will continue Nov. 4 at the VCU Student Commons.

Tickets for the Founders' Day Gala are \$15 per person, \$28 per couple and \$8 per student. For tickets and information, call the VCU Office of Alumni Activities at 367-0968.

Allied Health Professions Conference

With a focus on recruiting students,

the American Society of Allied Health Professionals will hold its 22nd annual meeting Nov. 8-11 in Richmond.

The conference is designed for those who deal with the challenges of marketing educational programs in the allied health professions, such as health care management, physical and occupational therapy and medical technology.

Speakers will include Sandra C. Holley, Ph.D., past president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Harold L. Hodgkinson, Ph.D., senior fellow and director of the Center for Demographic Policy at the Institute for Educational Leadership; and J. Jarrett Clinton, M.D., and Clay E. Simpson, Ph.D., both of the U.S. Bureau of Health Professions.

Powder Puff football

Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority held its first annual Powder Puff football game on Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Cary Street field. ASA challenged Phi Mu to the match; Sigma Phi Epsilon and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternities coached the teams.

ASA's Lisa Pannell and Carey Oliff coordinated the event in hopes of strengthening Greek relations on campus.

Phi Mu defeated Alpha Sigma Alpha 14-0. However, despite defeat, the teams and their coaches celebrated later that evening at a party held for the four organizations.

Kings Dominion records second best year ever

Despite the wettest season in Kings Dominion's 15-year history, the theme park posted its second best season ever, with 2.192 million guests passing through the turnstiles in 1989. Kings Dominion fell just 3,000 guests short of equalling 1988's record-breaking season of 2.195 million.

"Even with the inclement weather, it was an excellent year for the park," said Kings Dominion's Vice President and General Manager Wilson H. Flohr Jr.

Due to rain on an almost daily basis, park attendance was down 13 percent in May, but by the time the park closed on Oct. 15, attendance was 99.9 percent of the previous year.

Friends of Red Cross to sponsor New Year's Eve gala

Friends of Red Cross will sponsor their first annual "Opening Night with the Stars" New Year's Eve Gala on Sunday, Dec. 31 at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad St., from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m.




Dr. Thomas O. Hall and Katie Sharrar welcome students to the Omicron Delta Kappa reception on Thursday, Oct. 19. ODK is a national leadership honor society.

The gala will serve as a fund-raising event in support of community work provided by the Virginia Capital Chapter of the American Red Cross. The event's "Opening Night" theme, which refers to a Hollywood movie premiere, will be carried through the evening's decorations and entertainment. The event is open to the public with advance tickets. Guests will include many community stars, several "star" acts and possibly some real live Hollywood stars.

For more information about the event, or for an invitation, please contact Linda Beers-Buie at 780-2282.

See **Briefs**, page 6




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gave the states more power to restrict abortions last summer.

Michigan Passes Parental Consent Bill

LANSING, Mich. - Anti abortion activists have been bolstered by the Michigan Senate, which recently approved a bill that would require parental consent before girls 17 or younger could obtain abortions.

The bill will go to the House for consideration, after senators passed it last Wednesday on a vote of 29 to 8.

If passed, it is uncertain whether the House would vote to override an expected veto by Democratic Gov. James J. Blanchard.

About 30 states have parental-consent laws on abortion, but most are tied up in court and not enforced. The Michigan legislation is being closely watched because it is one of the first anti-abortion bills acted upon since the Supreme Court

Minimum Wage May Increase

WASHINGTON - The House will vote this week on a bill to raise the federal minimum wage to \$4.25 over a two-year period. A similar bill was vetoed by President Bush earlier this year, but House Speaker Thomas S. Foley said the passage of the bill over a presidential veto is favorable.

Minimum wage is currently \$3.35 an hour.

Guitarist to perform at St. Paul's

Guitarist Michael Murphy will perform in the Midday Music program at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 E. Grace St., Capitol Square, on Wednesday, Nov.

8 at 12:30 p.m. in the Room. The program will consist of "Three Renaissance Lute Pieces: Vaghe Bellezze et Bionde; Seio M'accorgo; and Bianco Fiore" by Anon (circa 1550); "Sheebeg Agus Sheemore" by Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738); "Nocturne Op. 4, No. 2" by Johann Kaspar Mertz (1806-1856); and "Preludes #1, 3, 5 and Chorus #1" by Heitor Villa Lobos (1887-1959).

The public is invited free of charge. Lunch will not be available for purchase this season. Off-street parking is available.

Campaign Surpasses Goal

To an enthusiastic crowd, Charles G. Thalhimier and VCU President Dr. Edmund F. Ackell announced last week that the Campaign for VCU had surpassed its minimum goal of \$52 million in the first university-wide fund-raising campaign.

With eight months left in the campaign, Thalhimier announced it was "full steam ahead" with the campaign.

Approximately two-thirds of the money has been designated for use on the MCV campus of the university.

FCC Moves Against Indecency

WASHINGTON - The Federal Communications Commission last week fined four radio stations and began disciplinary action against four others for alleged "indecency." The FCC cited explicit conversations, songs and skits about sexual acts as indecent material.

The action could encourage many radio stations to curb their programming, some analysts stated.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., praised the move. Helms has been at the front of recent moves to regulate the airwaves and was also a prime mover in proposed legislation to discourage the use of federal funds for "indecent" art.

For years, the FCC defined indecency as "seven dirty words." Since 1987, however, the term has been redefined to encompass "language or material that, in context, depicts or describes, in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, sexual or excretory activities or organs."

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ized he was a witness to the accident, and tried to coax him back. The witness, who said he was going to be a student at VCU in the spring, appeared angry and scared. He agreed to talk to the detective but said he wanted the reporter, who was carrying a tape recorder, to go with him. Police refused and led him away.

Many of the people who had gathered in the alley remained there until the body was taken away, almost an hour after the accident.

John G. Corazzini, director of University Counseling Services, was out of town during the weekend, and when contacted Sunday said he was not aware of the tragedy.

Corazzini said the first action normally taken would be for the counselor on call to visit the scene and make contact with any students involved.

"Any kind of tragedy like this — an assault, a rape, a suicide attempt — police call and we make an appearance. I'm hoping that one of our people was on the scene and I hope we made contact. That's the way it's supposed to happen."

But while VCU police were almost immediately aware of the accident, a police spokesman said about 30 minutes elapsed before they made their first call to university personnel, and then it was to a media relations representative.

VCU Police Lt. David Welch said the department was following the "chain of command" when Stephanie Halloran, director of media relations, was called about 11:10 p.m. Welch said no one was

called sooner because the accident occurred off university property.

Welch said police called the counselor on duty about an hour after that.

Over the next several days or weeks, Corazzini indicated, a range of emotional responses can be expected, both from people who were close to the student and from others learning of the tragedy.

"Young people aren't supposed to die," he said. "Their peers aren't prepared for that."

In addition to helping survivors deal with their grief, Corazzini said, counselors also would be concerned about those who do not feel upset right away.

"Sometimes it's so upsetting, they don't have a reaction, and they can pay for it later down the road," he said.

Counseling Services, located at 913 W. Franklin St., is free to students. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During regular hours, the counseling staff can be reached at 367-1647. A counselor is on call nights and weekends and can be contacted through the VCU police at 367-1234.

Last week's tragedy was reminiscent of the one that took the life of William L. Webster Jr., a former VCU baseball star working on a degree in business management.

Richmond police said Webster had been drinking at a party on the 12th floor of the Monroe Park Towers when he climbed out onto a balcony. Friends talked him back into the room, but he climbed out

again later and fell.

Webster had climbed onto the balcony many times before, friends told police.

Pearson is survived by her parents, Harry and Phyllis Pearson; a brother, Nels Christian Pearson, who is a student at James Madison University; a half-brother, Nicholas Pearson of New York City; and a grandmother, Alice J. Pearson of Chesterfield.

A graveside service was scheduled for yesterday at Dale Memorial Park in Chesterfield. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Cousteau Society, 930 W. 21st St., Norfolk, Va., 23517.

Reporters Mike Davis and Jeff Smith contributed to this story.

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Design: Kathy Shady. Design Center VCU, 1989

Liposuction's Dangerous Side Effects

By Bruce Cahoon

It was a cool Saturday afternoon in late October when Pearl returned from the hospital. At the time we were sitting around the kitchen table blowing bubbles in milk that had been poured into a large serving bowl. We passed the bowl around, each submerging his or her face in the white liquid and blowing in such a way that it sounded as if we were violently drowning. Each of us would blow until we either had completely expelled the contents of our lungs or the next child in line would pull the bubbler out of the bowl with a quick jerk of the hair on the back of the head. We continued this until Al Jr. got a nosebleed during his turn to bubble. He had no idea what was happening until his head was wrenched from the bowl and he saw the red streaks of blood, which gave the child a strange marble appearance. Many of the kids, excluding myself, dragged him to the floor and stuffed tissues up his nose and began performing CPR. They didn't understand what the technique was for, only to use it if someone was in trouble. With the apparatus of our delight now ruined and Al Jr. lying on the floor in a state of semi-shock, we proceeded to welcome home our mother.

Rushing into the other room to see Pearl for the first time since we witnessed her mutilation by the angry rodeo bull, we stopped short of her and fell to the floor in disbelief of one of the biggest surprises of our life.

"Come on over here and give your mother a wraparound group hug like she's never had before!" yelled the strange woman standing in the doorway.

"Who are you?"

"I'm your mother Pearl!"

"But you don't look like our..."

At that moment Al entered the room carrying her suitcases and grinning like the Cheshire Cat, exclaiming, "Can you believe it!"

We shook our heads in disappointment as we tried to figure out what Al had done with Pearl and where he'd picked up this woman. It was bad enough he'd left our mother at the hospital much less told this stranger to act like she was Pearl. Did he think we were blind before the accident, too stupid to notice our mother was a large estrogenic woman and not the epitome of modern beauty standing before us? Or maybe he thought we didn't really care about Pearl and would rather have a mother who was nice to look at instead of a motherly mother.

With these thoughts we attacked Al as a group of unthinking ferocious beasts. Al III went for his feet, Alvin his midsection, and I went for his head as Alice and George grabbed his tuba off the wall with the intention of seriously hurting their father.

It was at that moment we heard the

stern voice of Pearl commanding us to stop that instant. We instinctively stopped out of terror. We knew of Pearl's wrath and considering the circumstances figured it would be twice as bad as having to deal with a parenticidal group of children and being replaced all in one day.

We stared at each other for a moment as we realized the words had flowed from the lips of the woman who had been standing in the room the entire time. We cautiously approached the well-dressed, slim, beautiful woman who we were beginning to believe might actually be our mother. Starting to doubt our sanity, we realized there had been no chance for explanations and one just might clear up the mess of the woman who sounded like Pearl but bore no resemblance of her.

We all sat down in the living room and since the tuba was already down Al decided to blow out "Misty Morning, Albert Bridge" and a medley from the opera "Carmen" before allowing Pearl to start the story we all anxiously awaited.

She hesitated slightly after the last notes of "Carmen" ended, creating a deafening silence in the house for a few long moments. "My appearance is very much a mistake and I apologize for the trouble and heartache it's recently caused," said Pearl as we sat giving her our full attention. "I didn't ask for this and if I had my way I'd be the same Pearl I was before. But as you can see I'm different now. My life is different. Your lives will also change."

At that time we had no clue of the full extent of the change that would occur. We just figured Pearl would stop feeding the

livestock so she could do her nails and primp.

"When I was taken to the hospital," she continued, "there just happened to be another woman, who fit my general description, waiting for liposuction and major cosmetic alterations. Her operation was to include a heightening of the cheek bone, surgically attached false eyelashes, and some strategically placed silicone. As you can guess she didn't get her operation. She was instead mistaken for another patient

age firm to become my manager and I'm going to enter the Mrs. America contest. Can't you see it now ... the glamour, the lights, the flashy gowns. Me playing 'Yankee Doodle Dandy' on Al's tuba."

Our jaws dropped. The thought of our mother demeaning herself in this manner was too much and several of us fell backwards and began to spasm involuntarily. But the news didn't end there.

"After the pageant we're moving to Paris so I can become an international

"Well kids," Pearl uttered, "now for the big news. I'm going to tell you why our lives are going to change so much . . ."

who was in for a kidney transplant from a twin sister. From what I've heard the surgeons are still trying to figure out why this lady has rejected the kidney of her twin, while the real twin is still waiting for a transplant from a sister who now only has one kidney.

"In the midst of all the confusion I had time to heal and be released. I assume the bill was sent to the lady who rejected the transplant because I've yet to see a trace of it."

We all laughed at Pearl's story. But not for long.

"Well kids," Pearl uttered, "now for the big news. I'm going to tell you why our lives are going to change so much. Your father and I have decided to exploit my recent man-made gifts to their full potential. Al's going to resign from the broker-

high-fashion model. By 'we' I mean Al and I. The orphanage in town said they'd take half of you. The other half will just have to earn your own living by working at the penitentiary and the nuclear power plant."

"We were relieved we wouldn't have to claim Pearl as our mother any more. It was a unanimous vote to leave the house right then and let Pearl and Al take their lives anywhere they wished without having to run the risk of embarrassing us. We've talked many times about that incident since then and considered it for the better that things turned out the way they did. We have contacted the surgeons and forced them into confessing to not only injecting silicone into her body but also injecting a large amount of air into her grey matter.

Visiting Writers Series

Jon Silkin

By Luke Funk
Folio Editor

"Victims have their suffering thrust on them, martyrs chose their fate."

With these words, Jon Silkin started his poetry reading to a gathering of about 80 people in the Business Building Auditorium last Thursday evening.

The words were an introduction to the selections he read from his book *Peaceable Kingdom*, one of nine volumes of poetry that Silkin has published since 1954.

Animals are the central figures in most of the poems in *Peaceable Kingdom*.

"Animals are innocent. I wanted to write a book about innocence," Silkin explained.

One of the more interesting poems from the book that he read was "A Death to Us." It deals with his relationship with flies. In the poem a fly dies and Silkin makes an interesting observation: "His death became an intrusion."

After serving two years in the army as a teacher, Silkin was discharged because he did not want to support killing fellow human beings. He then spent six years working as a laborer.

Silkin said that he wanted to learn about the working class and how they lived. He held a variety of jobs, including working as a grave filler. Silkin read poems that were reflections back to that period of his life, including "Urban Grasses."

The most moving part of the evening was Silkin's poem "Death of a Son Who

Died in a Mental Hospital at Age One." His introduction explained the circumstances. The child caught pneumonia while his parents waited to find out the fate of their child who was diagnosed as having brain damage. "I wrote this poem to celebrate his value," Silkin confidently spoke.

Silkin's introductions and poems were rich in Jewish religion and culture, as he is a Jew from what he calls a Christian culture. He was open with his opinions and observations, including criticism for his own country. Silkin said, "I fear human values in England are vanishing," an introduction into a poem voicing his hesitance about returning home to England.

The event was the first of the year for the visiting writers series.

In honor of Halloween, today, we feature poetry selections from two students. Both are in upper level creative writing classes. The accompanying photos were taken by associate photo editor Helen Link.

Grave Contemplation

By Jeff King

It is a wind
Chilling me as it blows
Making flags of my clothes
As I sit cross-legged on this stone.

The old woman comes out of the woods.

Oaks embrace in the wind
Letting their clothes drop piece by piece.
To the ground so ... it will not shiver.
The wind awakens this foliage and
It marches before me higher and higher
Until they grow tired and rest
On the grass.
Squirrels amuse themselves on top of the
Corpus family.
the children want to play again
But
The squirrels disappear.

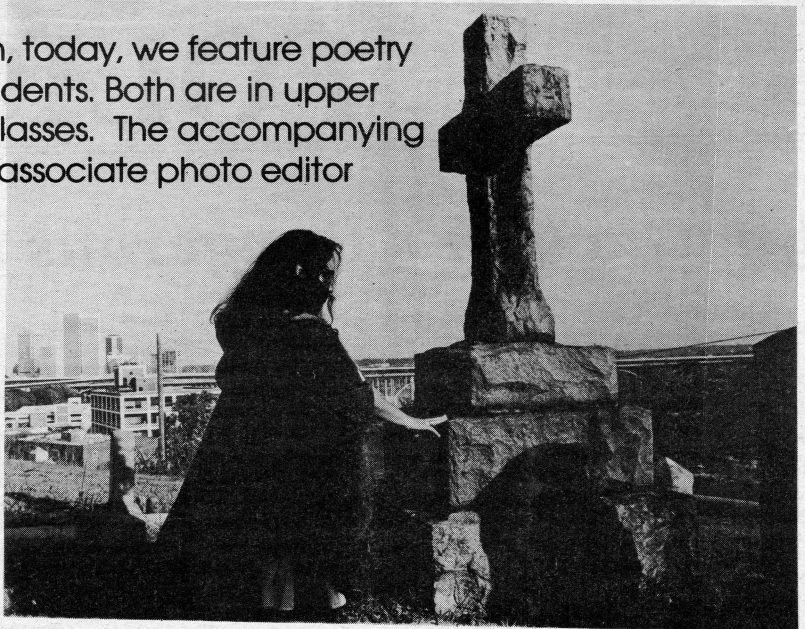
The old woman digs like mad.

I am a minority
They surround me.
I put my ear down
To the ground and listen
They murmur. And break
Through their coffins to
Join hands. A bacchanal!
No-
They just lie there. Arms crossed.
Waiting.

She begins to push her full cart away.

On my way home, I notice a
Broken branch on a grave.
I move it to see the name and
Discover the
Largest, fattest worm.
He feels the chill and retreats
To his ground.

The old woman disappeared:



Sacrifice

By Jeff King

He was here
With her.
He touches her lips-
Caressing them with his
Second finger.
Opening her mouth by force
He embraces them
Then speaks
"Yes, I Love You. I always have."
And touches her golden hair
Admiring every strand.
And then
One breast in each hand
He lay
On top of her.
The force of his kiss
Made her smile
Again, "I will return, soon.

And pushes her
Closes the door and
Reads the gold plaque
"Amy Mortem."
Smiling
He does a little jig
Whistling
"Work For the Night is Coming"
The echo fills the dim lit
Mausoleum
Like embalming fluid.

Ross

By Tom Gay

Slowly the sun slides
Down a maroon sky as Ross
and his dog cross bare
ground to the house. A full moon
combs shadow rows near
hollows glowing mud dark, where
frogs are stirring. Trees

pose like eerie folk lying
in wait, their limbs form
gates stretching out skinny, long
arms that make a fence
fit for crows, settling. Not far,
at pond's end, naked
cypress knees emerge from its

sheen in groups, peopling
it with dark, potato-eyed
faces without mouths. Then,
one crow's voice calls across still
water to wehre blind
Ross removes the sphere from its
bag, places it beside

the window before carving.
Noises lessen. Moon's gone and
later, when the fat pumpkin's
grin is lit, old Ross
shakes with laughter
and the dog
barks.

Bragg at the Metro

By Luke Funk
Folio Editor

A single man and a guitar doesn't sound impressive, until you see and hear Billy Bragg. He will be at the Metro on November 3.

His songs have two possible themes: love and politics. All his songs are laced with sarcasm and a real look at the world that most musicians fail to communicate to their audiences.

Bragg has had limited success in the United States as far as commercial air play goes but has captured a large audience in the "college music" crowd. His *Talking to*

the *Taxman About Poetry* received critical praise and was supported by the strength of the single "Save the Youth of America."

Bragg appeared in Richmond a couple of years ago and displayed his wit while on stage by lambasting other musicians in a humorous vein.

What is most striking about Bragg's music is his deep Cockney dialect and how it meshes with the sound of his guitar. Bragg rarely has any other instrument except for a guitar and occasional piano.

Even if you find his politics a little against your tastes, Bragg will still capture your interest. Just him and his guitar.

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THERE'S NO ONE in pop music today quite like Billy Bragg. He sings rousing political anthems and impassioned love songs in a proud cockney accent. He's got a rock-and-roll heart, a poet's soul and a folk singer's solitary mind.

Billy Bragg: Talking to the Taxman About Poetry (Elektra) How could one deny such a fine lad, especially with his harsh guitar and gratifying piano or trumpet reflecting his Clash-like lineage when one thinks about it? That depends on how much one resents having to think about it. The lyrics are another matter—they're made to be thought about. Only soon one realizes that the politics, his forte if not his raison d'être, are surprisingly clunky. And that when it comes to the cons and pros of getting married he never misses a trick.

Are you looking for a rock and roller who takes a healthy, passionate anger at the inequities of the Western World and actually works constructively to try and change things for the better? A guy who can write intelligent, inspirational political songs as well as clever, poignant love songs? Someone with a sharp wit and a willingness to laugh at himself that keeps it all from getting too heavy-handed? Look no further. Billy Bragg is your man.



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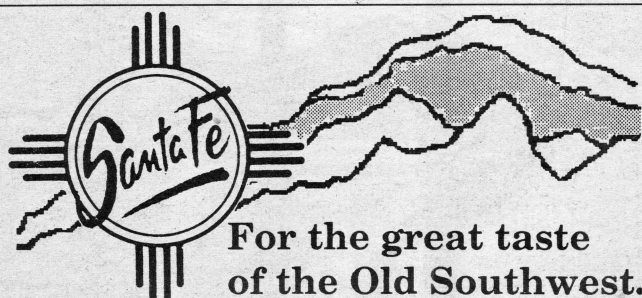
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Photography at Museum

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.

Etchings Still on Display

Twenty etchings and lithographs by

Parisian artist Marie Laurencin will be displayed at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts through Dec. 3.

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

"Tom Sawyer" returns to the Barter Theatre in Abingdon Oct. 24 to Nov. 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.

VCU Professor Performs at St. Paul's

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, 12:30 pm, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, pianist Sonia Vlahcevic will perform.

Dr. Vlahcevic is a professor of music at VCU. The programs include "Two Children's Songs" by Chick Corea and "Pastorale" by Beethoven.

The concert is free.

"The Knight of Olmedo" a Success

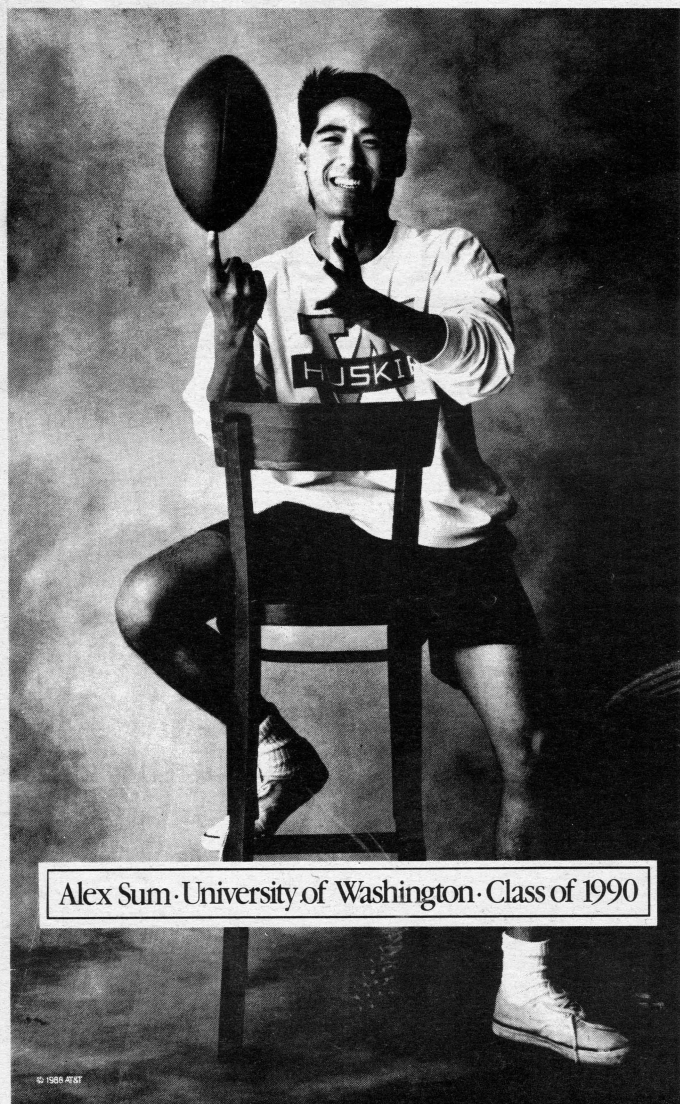
Last week Theatre VCU presented "The Knight of Olmedo" (also known as "El Caballero de Olmedo"). The play was written by Lope de Vega during the Spanish "Golden Age." This production of Spanish Classical Theatre was a premiere in Richmond and the response was positive, with a full house almost every run. It was translated by Dr. Kenneth Stackhouse of the VCU Foreign Language Department and directed by Nelson Lopez. The production has been invited to attend the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival, to be held at Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso in March of 1990. The festival celebrates Golden Age plays that have been recently translated into English.

That's Right, there's Something at the Museum

An exhibition of 24 small, delicate sculptures in ivory and bronze from the art deco period of the 1920s will be on view at the Virginia Museum through Nov. 26.

Among the artists represented are Demetre Chiparus and Johann Ferdinand Preiss, whose names are well known to connoisseurs of the art deco style.

"I wasn't rubbing it in—I just wanted Eddie to know the score of last night's game."



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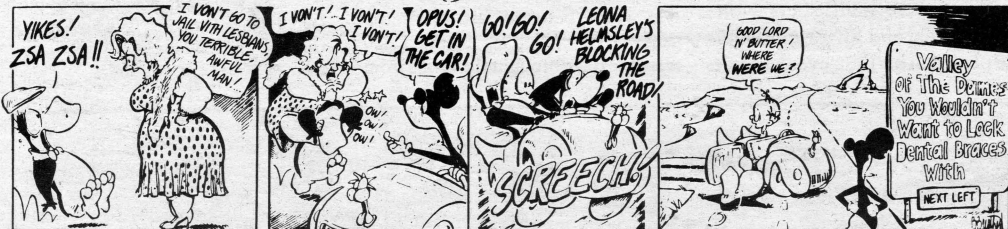
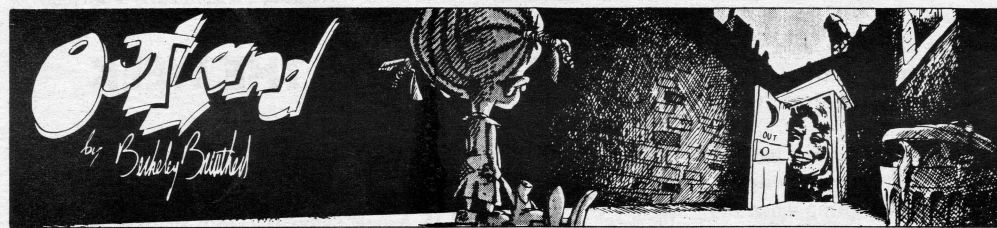
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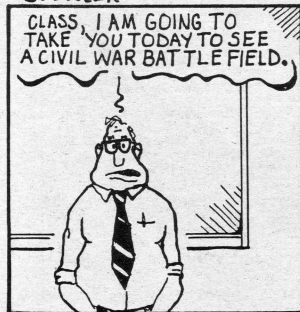
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SPORTS

VCU Lacrosse Finishes Fall Season

By Jeff Amernick
Sports Writer

The VCU men's lacrosse club finished up its fall season with an 8-3 loss to George Mason last Saturday.

The loss left the club 0-3 after

previous losses to the University of Richmond and the Richmond Lacrosse Club. Those games were much closer; the Rams lost each of them 10-9.

This fall marked a transition period for the team as 15 new members joined, some of whom had never played competitive lacrosse.

"Our players worked hard in practice and hopefully this will continue during the spring when the real season gets underway," said senior attack man Rob Bower.

Bower was formerly VCU's goalie but this fall decided to change positions for his last semester so the team could try out some new goalies.

The attack was led by Remi Thompson. Other high scorers for the Rams were midfielders Nolt Heomahathai and Shane Garland, who played in his first-ever lacrosse

game. Defensive duties were handled by Jon Snyder, Roger Hornberger and Dan Hargett. The team was hurt by defenseman Dave White's back injury.

Anyone interested in joining the men's lacrosse club should contact Dan Hargett at 358-4630. Practices will start again at the Cary Street Field in early February.

Cluff, Blem Pace Runners in Home Meet

by Karen Blem
Sports Writer

VCU's cross country teams brightened their season with victories at their home meet held at St. Joseph's Villa in Goochland County. The men's team handily defeated American University and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County by placing in the top four positions.

The women's defeated UM-BC but lost to American.

VCU runners led both races the whole way. Junior Larry Cluff won the men's five-mile race with a time of 26:20, while senior Karen Blem won the women's 5K race with a time of 19:48. Both times were course records.

Running second for the men with his best race of the season was Sean Killeen (27:07). Ferron Powell followed Killeen with a time of 27:20, regaining his earlier position on the team. Running fourth was John Moses (27:28).

Ricky Taylor (28:50) finished 10th overall, followed by his brother Morris Taylor (29:10), Matt Tessier (31:11) and Frank Maloba (35:53).

Lauren Brennan finished second for the women's team and sixth overall with a season's best of 20:25. Kelly Baumgarner (21:07) finished eighth overall, followed by Jody Crognale (21:20) and Shelly McAfee (22:09).

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Volleyball player Jonnie Stone's outstanding effort against Georgetown Oct. 3 earned her VCU's Athlete of the Week award for Oct. 9-15. A junior from Richmond, Stone had 10 aces, 16 kills, 9 digs and 7 solo blocks in the five-game match against the Hoyas.

Swimmer Nini Lam anchored winning relay teams in helping VCU to a second-place finish in the James Madison Relays and earned the weekly honor for Oct. 16-22. Lam, a freshman, swam in six events, turning in times in the 50 freestyle and 200 freestyle which bettered last year's top times. Her anchor leg in the 1,500 freestyle relay brought the Rams from

behind and gave VCU first in the event.

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

1989 ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Sept. 11 Denean Powelson, field hockey

Sept. 18 Phyllis Braxton, field hockey

Sept. 25 Chris Thomas, soccer

Oct. 2 Lacey Clews, women's cross country

Larry Cluff, men's cross country

Oct. 9 Paige Hawkins, field hockey

Oct. 16 Jonnie Stone, volleyball

Oct. 23 Nini Lam, swimming



Paige Hawkins and Sharon Heilig trap a defender in Thursday's loss to nationally ranked ODU.

Apathy and the World Series

By Michael Litos

Associate Sports Editor

Here we are, in October, and another Fall Classic is upon us. This is the time for ninth-inning heroics, unknowns making a name for themselves and get-togethers with plenty of beer. Those things may still happen, but let me ask you a question.

Does anybody care?

The 1989 World Series will always be remembered, but not for the competition. The Oakland Athletics have so thoroughly dominated this series; those who were even concerned at first are merely monitoring the futility of the punchless San Francisco Giants.

So, does anybody care?

Certainly no one this side of the Rockies cares. If only the Cubs were in it ...

You see, outside of Jose Canseco, Kevin Mitchell, Will Clark and late scores in the News Leader, who knows about guys like

Matt Williams and Tony Phillips? That is precisely my point. We have nobody to root for. This is a California matchup for sure.

Many of the A's and the Giants would not have been upset had the series been cancelled after the devastating earthquake that rocked the Bay area just as Candlestick Park was filling to capacity for Game 3.

But does anybody care?

I want to know what we will see from the players. Why the Athletics even went to Phoenix (their spring training site) to work out. Listen to Kevin Mitchell and you may begin to wonder yourself.

He complained in an interview that his body was used to being finished from playing this time of year. He went on to say that according to his body, the season should be over. Hey, if his body says that, what will his bat say when they play?

Again, does anybody care?

The day before the resumption of the Series, you would have sift to page six of the Richmond Times-Dispatch sports section, across from the lost pets section, to find word one about the national championship of our national pastime. It seems even the press, and certainly this humble baseball fan/reporter, believes this Series to be past time.

So why play? It is evident there are few that still are excited about the matchup. If you have an answer, write the Times and let me know. I can only think that they are playing because there was no one, not even the biggest and best bookies, that bet the A's to win in two games.

Ah, yes, it is the Battle of the Bay. What a novelty for the area of Northern California. Too bad it's not the battle of Chesapeake Bay.

That would be an entirely different situ-

ation altogether. The fan would then root as usual and the situation would be normal (assuming no earthquakes would disrupt play).

They may be excited over there, but the remainder of the American sports world is psyched for Sacramento Kings games on Home Team Sports.

The 1989 Bored Series has its place in history. The good that came out of this was that the hierarchy of baseball realized that what they govern is just a game. The ordeal of the Bay area was not overlooked and the priorities of life were kept straight. For this, I must applaud baseball.

Maybe Giants center fielder Brett Butler summed it up best when he said that 15 years from now this Series would be well-remembered, but not for who played in it.

I really don't care who wins.

Maybe they'll finish this thing before spring training.

Sports Commentary

Bring Hockey Back to the Coliseum

By Rob Crosby

Sports Editor

Last Tuesday night, the East Coast Hockey League showed two of its teams, the Hampton Roads Admirals and the Johnstown (Pa.) Chiefs, in a bruising exhibition match in front of 3,673 at the Richmond Coliseum. For avid Richmond hockey fans, it was a thrill even though it wasn't the National Hockey League.

Hampton's 3-2 decision over the Chiefs brought back memories of past Richmond teams, most notably the Robins and the Rifles. Those who can remember going to a Rifles game earlier in this decade wonder why hockey has failed in Richmond.

The Richmond Rifles, once the New York Rangers' top farm club, enjoyed a brief stay here but the franchise folded for various reasons, the most important being money. In the '70s, the Richmond Robins, the Philadelphia Flyers' top farm club at the time, also thrilled Richmond hockey fans but eventually went under primarily due to money problems. For a city as large as Richmond, minor league hockey wasn't profitable despite the enthusiastic crowds.

One wonders how this could be when attendance was equal to or better than that of cities around their leagues. One problem could be the Coliseum's rent.

Pat Kelly, the ECHL commissioner, hoped to land a franchise here but was discouraged by the Coliseum management.

"I had a couple of people interested in a franchise here," he said. "But the rent was too high." He went on to say that the rent was at least three times higher than any other facility in the ECHL.

The turnout for Tuesday night's game

was impressive, considering fans didn't know about either team or its players. It shows that professional hockey could work in Richmond.

So why would the Coliseum outprice themselves, making the future of a franchise here nearly impossible? Although no one from the Coliseum's management or its parent company, Spectacor, would

comment, one would guess they make more money on other events and VCU basketball, so pursuing a hockey franchise would not be necessary.

But what about the fans? In the world of sports business, the fans usually get the short end of the stick. If a company can make more money doing other things, they will, regardless of fan support. Un-

fortunately, professional sports are like any other business and the fans' sentiments are not a factor in a decision.

Nevertheless, bring hockey back to Richmond. If enough fans voice their opinion to the Coliseum's management, perhaps they might surprise us and act in the fans' interests. It's a pipe dream, for sure, but it at least it's worth a try.

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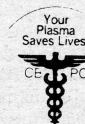
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Sports Briefs

FIELD HOCKEY:

Coach Pat Stauffer's comments on team after achieving No. 20 national ranking: "Gaining a national ranking has been one of my career goals. To follow that with a strong performance against UNC made for a good week." ... Rams faced the Tar Heels, ranked No. 1 in the CFHCA poll, without senior back Susan Johnson, who was out with a foot injury. She will go to the U.S. Olympic 'A' camp in December ... The 2-0 loss to UNC snapped a six-game winning streak for the Rams. Keeper Krista Varady's string of 388 minutes and 24 seconds without allowing a goal was also snapped ... The Old Dominion game Oct. 26 was the second consecutive ranked team VCU has played.

SOCCER:

The Rams registered consecutive shut-outs in the Sun Belt Mini-Tournament against UNC-Charlotte and Jacksonville. Coach Rosie Lundy commented, "We played very well in the tournament. I am pleased by the improvement we have shown. Now, with 10 days to get healthy, we will be prepared to finish the season on a strong note." ... Keeper Chris Thomas and midfielder Steve Amedio both had pulled quadriceps after the Jacksonville victory. Thomas also got a chance to rest a bruised shoulder ... Rumors about Coach Lundy's resignation are just that: rumors. There's no truth to the gossip, according to the Sports Information Office.

VOLLEYBALL:

Junior Jonnie Stone is on line to set a VCU record for kill average. Her current average is 3.05, topping the previous record of 2.86, held by Karen Crawley ... Coach Jacqueline McCreary on the Rams recent slump (losing last five out of six matches): "I'm disappointed in our play. We need to work hard and improve for our tournament." VCU hosts the VCU Invitational Nov. 3-4 at the Franklin Street Gym.

GOLF:

Despite placing fourth in the State tournament, Coach Jack Bell was displeased with the Rams' performance. "I think our team is capable of playing better," Bell said ... Junior Mike Grant from Roanoke led the team at the tournament with rounds of 77 and 74.

CROSS COUNTRY:

For the women's team, senior Karen Blem was the individual winner with a course record of 19:48 against American University. Lacey Clews, the Rams premier runner, sat out with back and hip pain. Blem has been nominated for the NCAA Top VI Award, given to the six top student-athletes in the country who participate in fall sports ... For the men, junior Larry Cluff also set a course record at the American meet, with a time of 26:20 for five miles.

SWIMMING:

The Rams' young team swam to a second-place finish at the James Madison Relays. Coach Ron Tsuchiya commented, "I was pleased and surprised. Pleased with our overall effort and surprised at where we did well. We swept the freestyle relays and our swimmers did very well in events other than their specialties. Also, our conditioning showed through since we did not get tired late in the meet." ... Four freshmen turned in times better than the fastest by a Ram last year in their event: Nini Lam, 1:57.86 in the 200 freestyle and 25.04 in the 50; Jill King, 1:03.78 in the 100 backstroke; Cara Paulson, 2:20.68 in the 200 backstroke; and Cindy Shepherd, 25.03 in the 50 freestyle.

VCU Rugby team places in state tournament

By Luke G. Funk

After a season filled with disappointments the rugby team put everything together in the last two weeks of the season.

Last Wednesday the A-side decimated the University of Richmond 34-3 to qualify for the Ed Lee Tournament in Norfolk this past weekend. The B-side beat Richmond 10-9 to end a winning season.

In Norfolk the team lost their first game 12-6 but were cheated out of a try late in the game when the referee did not see a VCU player fall on the ball in the try zone.

The pack dominated play most of the game but the team had trouble getting the ball into the try zone.

The second game of the day was a different story as the team scored three tries and two penalty kicks in handily defeating Longwood 24-6. The game featured some spectacular runs by VCU's outside centers.

In Sunday's game the squad crushed William & Mary 24-0 to avenge a loss earlier in the season. The team came out strong from the start offensively and defensively to gain their only shutout of the season.

The team is looking forward to a strong spring season based on the success the team has had this past season.



CALL FOR ENTRIES

1989-90 *Writers' Corner* is seeking original student work in poetry, short fiction and short non-fiction.

Look for rules and guidelines on campus.

DEADLINE - 5:00 pm Dec. 18, 1989

Address further questions to Cecelia Salisbury, Editor
Student Commons Organizational Area Mailbox #126

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EDITORIAL

By David Krasner
Guest Columnist

I love Michael L. Snapp. His guest column last week was so ludicrous as to be absurd. It is filled with such a myriad of distortions and falsifications that one doesn't know where to begin to pick it apart.

The actual conceptual formation of Republican conservatism was founded in part on the ideology of isolationism and the theory that government should stay out of the private affairs of its citizens. Warmongering and interference in decisions of abortion were, at one time, basically a Democratic platform. Basic conservative Republicanism would abhor interfering with individual rights and a woman's right to choose. And it was the Democrats, we must remember, who got us bogged down in the Korean and Vietnam wars, not the Republicans. The misuse of the words "conservative" and "liberal" has led to a plethora of confusion and ideological chaos.

Mr. Snapp seems to feel that his Weltanschauung, his brand of conservatism, has a "traditional right" to meddle into the affairs of a woman to decide whether or not she should become a parent. He accuses the "liberal feminists" of being "loud and obnoxious," and the conservative as "one who regards (abortion) as murder yet

Snapp Judgment

remains silent." I suppose the bombing of clinics is an act of "quiet protest."

Mr. Snapp wails away at the apparent liberalism of VCU. Yet a recent poll published in *The Commonwealth Times* reveals that amongst VCU students, Marshall Coleman wins a clear victory in the upcoming election over Douglas Wilder. This is hardly a "liberal campus."

Mr. Snapp says the liberals have the "ability to effectively organize and implement their agenda" and six lines later reveals the massive fragmentation of the left by citing the various and diverse liberal groups, who never seem to agree on anything. He lumps the anarchists with the Democrats (really?—not likely), categorizes anyone who is peaceful as a peace-lover (so was Jesus Christ), adds environmentalists (I thought George Bush himself campaigned as pro-environment), and finally says, "... of course, one for the blacks." Am I to assume that blacks can join their group, or are they just born that way? There are some real hints here of racial innuendoes, but I'll stay away from these implications; the article is bad enough.

What Mr. Snapp has touched upon is indeed a fundamental rift between the precepts of the liberal ideology of the Sixties with the neoconservatism of the Eighties. Those of the Sixties generation have now come of age to be professors and instructors, while the general student

Those of the Sixties generation have now come of age to be professors and instructors, while the general student population of VCU is, in greater degree, influenced by Reagan.

population of VCU is, in a greater degree, influenced by Reagan. So Mr. Snapp need

not moan much longer; his generation will grow up and soon run the world, and reshape and redefine the meaning of the word "conservative."

But in the meantime, does Mr. Snapp really think it is logical that we can live in a world where a poor girl raped by her father should not be helped or allowed an abortion, and anybody can go buy and sell semi-automatic Uzi and AK-47 weapons across the counter, just as long as they are American-made? Does this really have anything to do with liberalism or conservatism? Frankly, any logic that allows this to occur is neither left nor right; it is just plain stupid. And if his organization, FACT, espouses these insanities, then it is no wonder he is having a hard time recruiting members.

One can still hopefully call oneself a conservative and continue to believe in human rights of men and women, and the right to fear the awesome power of "legal" arms. It is Mr. Snapp who has frightened off intelligent conservatives with his beligerent arrogance and his claim on the monopoly of conservative thought. Not all conservatives love war, are condescending to blacks, insult the intelligence of women and think it is somehow OK for lunatics to own guns. There are those who believe in the true traditional values of individual rights, human rights and peace on Earth as an American tradition.

BOOK SMART IS JUST A START

By Gabe Corbett
Guest Columnist

Student X makes sure he doesn't miss a class, comes home and studies. Maybe a little dinner and exercise and then its back to the books or TV. He gets ahead in his classes and shuns those Thursday night gatherings. The weekend poses a threat to his integrity because he will no doubt have free time. So he gets a weekend job or studies the weekend away in preparation for next week's classes. He is under a considerable amount of stress to fight off all thoughts of changing his lifestyle. Discipline is Job One.

Sounds ideal, doesn't it? Is it? Anyone who tells you this is ideal has not put his life into perspective and does not know the full meaning of education. For those of you who answered "yes" to the opening question, you are missing social time here and there, but so what? You're wrapping yourself up on a paperback and holding next to you the notion that any deviance from this lifestyle can be detrimental. But this kind of lifestyle can be detrimental. It is

one of the most effective ways to burn yourself out sooner or later, and when it happens you'll feel so depressed that you'll wonder if you are worthy to be in college. Many of you feel as if it's the end of the world. I'm losing one of my closest friends to this lifestyle in the

"... any experience is good experience."

present tense.

Did you forget (or did no one tell you) that education is more than being book smart? Being "book smart" will get you through those 10-page exams with outstanding grades but have little or no yield in the real world because they don't teach the application, social skills or self-help needed to get you through hard times. So what teaches that? *Experience!* The same word that is in the second-interview question of many future employers. (The first is, "Are you a habitual smoker?")

The experience they are looking for is

any employment you had related to what they need. They are looking for ambition, too. Employers realize that high GPAs are nice but are not complete when it comes to the real world with real-life situations.

How to handle depression, failure, success and people are tough elements to learn from a 200-page book with a quiz next Tuesday. You must see more than Student X does to learn these elements effectively. Many people feel that a reason not to is "Any deviation can be detrimental." Get this notion out of your head, because it is wrong. At least put it in the back of your mind until finishing this article so you may keep an open mind. In fact, adopt the sentence with a small change in the syntax. "Some deviation from this lifestyle can be beneficial and advantageous." The only detrimental thing is to shun studying and attending class. Other than that, any experience is good experience.

To gain this experience, you cannot go out with the idea in mind that "I'm going out to gain experience." Preoccupation with finding experience will keep you from finding it. Go out for *fun*,

whether it's a concert, a hot date or, best of all, just going out with your closest friends.

It may seem like you are shunning what parents and teachers taught you in high school. "Study hard!" they said. But the deviation into having fun is not detrimental if you are staying afloat in your classes.

Going out for fun is just that in the present tense. It only turns into education when you draw conclusions and make decisions in the future. Remembering and retaining for the future are useful for learning to deal with the elements stated in paragraph five. Only then does this "going out" turn into experience.

This "going out" (concerts, dates, etc.) is an active ingredient in educating yourself in all aspects. Most of your worries and plans will come into perspective when you have balance. I remember a counselor telling a group of us in our freshman year, "Study hard and play hard, but do them equally." This sentence finally fit snug when I realized that there was more to education than reading books and taking tests.

Rape—The Real Horror

To the Editor:

When I heard about the two rapes that were publicized in last week's Commonwealth Times, I was shocked. I first became aware of them when I heard two males discussing them. Actually, one of the men said, "There's been another rape," then silence.

My jaw had dropped, and my heart was pounding in fear. The word "rape" terrorizes me. Ever since that day, I have been thinking about my reaction compared to the two men's reaction.

I think it is time to redefine rape, and the reactions to it. Rape defined by Webster's is, "The crime of having sexual intercourse with a woman forcibly and without her consent." This definition fails to acknowledge that rape is also the total violation of a woman's body, mind and soul. Rape shatters a woman's life, and men have no idea what it is like to worry about the possibility of that happening or what a woman feels like after it has been done to her.

Sure, men can say they are sympathetic toward a woman's feelings, but

what about rape? Do they really think they can feel what a woman does when her dignity is stripped from her by no cause of her own? I do not believe so. Only a woman can understand that horror.

Men need to realize just how horrible the word "rape" is. Men need to be sensitive toward its connotations. Perhaps if they were the ones being attacked, then their reaction would be the same as ours. Listen up, men, if you are going to discuss rape, feel it when you are saying it.

Jodi L. Viar

From the Anarchists' Corner

To the Editor:

Last week's editorial, "Conservatism, Anyone?" by Michael L. Snapp, expresses dismay at the fact that right-

wing campus organizations have failed to attract a larger number of dedicated activists. If this scenario is indeed correct, perhaps I could offer a few hints as to why this is so.

In his article, Mr. Snapp spends a great deal of time telling us what he is against: liberal professors, progressive student activists, homosexuals, pro-choicers, feminists, environmentalists, wimpy conservatives, Democrats, anarchists, peacelovers, etc., but at no point do we see what he supports other than a few vague references to "traditional morality" and "absolute truths."

I agree that one of the worst problems on the VCU campus (and throughout society as a whole) is a prevailing apathy and a lack of interest in the world around us. However, it would seem that most people who do choose to become politically active would do so because they want to make the world a better place. To do this we need to find ways of solving genuine problems which exist in our society—homelessness, environmental destruction, discrimination, mistreatment of workers, government corruption and so forth. And, quite frankly, it seems to most of us on the progressive end of the spectrum that the right wing in all its various forms ("classical conservatism," "neoconservatism," "libertarianism," "neofascism" and "the religious right") doesn't seem to have any practical solutions for, or even interest in, these problems.

The editorial by T.K. Slonaker III, "Self Reliance and Modern America," is an excellent case in point. I agree with Mr. Slonaker's contentions that "America's government is too big and too complex" and that liberal solutions to problems "are ineffective and self-defeating." Mr. Slonaker's solution, however, seems to be to simply grant capitalism free reign and hope that everything will take care of itself. He seems unaware of what has happened in societies, both past and present, that have adopted this approach: rampant exploitation and deprivation, massive ecological damage, lack of access to quality health care and education, monstrously hazardous working conditions, war and imperialism, and countless other ills.

Statists approaches to socialism are indeed a spent force. Karl Marx defined socialism as "an association, in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all." Leninists, however, seem to have adopted their ideological father's description of socialism as a "state capitalist monarchy" (G.P. Maximoff). Social democrats seem to equate socialism with the nationalization of the banks and the post office.

If true and lasting social change is to take place then new solutions to societal ills need to be developed. We must abandon the tired old rhetoric of both the traditional left and the traditional right and instead adopt new ways of organizing social life. Some basic starters might include workers' control (not nationalization) of industry, participatory democracy (not the "pick column A or

column B every four years" kind we have now) decentralization of power and community control, penal reform, the creation of alternative economic and educational institutions, and the abolition of government bureaucracy and the centralized state. A lack of fresh ideas is one of the worst problems on the political scene today. Let us try to rectify this situation.

Keith Preston
Anarchist Workshop

Oh, You Sexless Thing, You

To the Editor:

I feel the need to respond to the unreasonable editorial that Mandy Lee wrote denouncing the plans for a beauty contests at VCU. I think Ms. Lee has developed a serious case of the Molly Yards and should check herself into MCV for a complete examination before the condition becomes too advanced for treatment. What's wrong with being attractive and proud of it? I am male and if I had the body for it, I would wear speedos and perform posedowns all the time. Life's too short not to enjoy it. Ms. Lee needs to lighten up. She can burn her bra or something, maybe that will alleviate her pain. (For those who don't know, bra burning was a feminist ritual of the late 1960s that in some manner made the women feel liberated. Sadly, the movement didn't last; it polluted the air and failed due to sagging popular support.)

Along those same lines, it's a good thing our liberal friends can't have sexuality legislated. If they could, we would all be men. Or, more likely we would all be gender neutral. Oh, you sexless thing, you!

And another thing, why not open the contest to those 30 year old mothers on campus? Instead of Miss VCU, it should be Ms. VCU. Yeah, I like it. The feminist should approve of the title. Some of the, no, most of the mature women I see on campus are quite attractive and they look that way because they make the effort. Also, whether anyone wants to admit it or not, looks, good grooming and attention to personal appearance play a very important role in the real world. All other things being equal, those that make themselves attractive will have an edge in the job market over their plain-Jane counterparts, male or female.

So for the ladies that fix up, look good and know it, please keep up the good work. I thank you, because keeping America beautiful is everybody's business.

Terry K. Tucker
Junior, General Studies

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An End to Reinforced Apathy

To the Editor:

I am writing in reaction to Susan Huntley's impassioned plea for more activism. While I don't agree with *all* of her points, she has made an important statement that touches upon a trend away from activism among many young Americans, myself included. Her specific example, the October 7 "Housing, Now!" march on Washington, alerted me to a problem pervading VCU and many other campuses. This problem is that of reinforced apathy.

Reinforced apathy is my term for a situation in which active participation in a political or social group is not supported by peers or authorities. An individual in this scenario is consequently discouraged from any initiative and acquires a kind of social "learned helplessness." A few examples should convey the effects of reinforced apathy. Recently, a friend of mine mentioned her experiences with a student-awareness group which fell apart because of a lack of guidance and funding. Another friend told of an organization that became divided into factions and eventually dissolved. It seems that many political "happenings," such as the D.C. march, are poorly advertised — probably because of the cost and poor organization of such events.

The mission of the university must be more than a classroom education and plethora of research papers; the school should encourage, through faculty/administrative guidance and fiscal support, thoughtful discourse and action with regard to important issues. School newspapers, including The Commonwealth Times, must be the forum in which such topics are discussed. And, most of all, we, the students, must take possession of what is rightly ours: the freedom to make our voices heard.

Ken Bravmann

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

The Commonwealth Times welcomes letters from our readers. The Times reserves the right to edit for grammar, taste and available space. Submissions must be signed and include a phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Thursday to be considered for the next edition. Our offices are located at 916 W. Franklin St. Our mailing address is: Editorial Editor, Commonwealth Times, Box 2010, Richmond, Va. 23284-2010.



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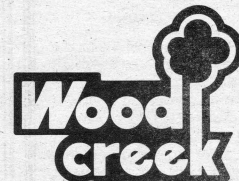
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CALENDAR

IMAGES

Friday

Commons Theater "Naked Gun" at 7 p.m. and "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka" at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday

Commons Theater "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka" at 7 p.m. and "Naked Gun" at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday

Business Building Auditorium "Torch Song Trilogy" (Paul Bogart, 1988, USA) at 6 p.m., co-sponsored by the VCU GLSA; "Virgin Machine" (Monika Treut, 1989, West Germany) at 8:30 p.m., also co-sponsored by the VCU GLSA
Boatwright Library at UR "Landscape after Battle" at 7:30 p.m.

Byrd Theatre "Gross Anatomy" (call 353-9911 for times)

Westhampton "Old Gringo" and "Sex, Lies and Videotape" (call 288-9007 for times)



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NOISE

Tuesday

Jade Elephant Mudd
 Helmut and the She-Males
Stonewall Cafe Secrets
Metro Dance Night
Twisters Snakehandlers,
 Griefbirds, Teenage Crime
 Lords, Village People and
 Dirtball

Wednesday

Jade Elephant Dance with
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Metro Butthole Surfers
 and Kal Kan

Thursday

Twisters Donnie's Pro-
 vocative Dance Night
Newgate Prison TDC
 College Night
Rick's Cafe Blues Guitar-
 ist Terry Garland
Common Ground Dance
 with a D.J.
Bird in Hand AAE
Whistlers Bedrock

Metro Teenage Crime Lords

Friday

Library Boneshakers
Metro Billy Bragg with Gregg
 Trooper
Whistlers The Voice

Saturday

Metro Toad the Wet
 Sprocket, FREE.
Library Eek-A-Mouse
Richmond Coliseum Jethro
 Tull and It Bites at 8 p.m.
Whistlers Eli King

Sunday

Metro Drivin' n Cryin'
Dukes Robbin Thompson

Monday

Jade Elephant Open Jam
 Night
Mosque B-52's and Love
 Tractor

WORDS

Tuesday

Commons Theater Halloween Horror Readings sponsored by the English Club at 10 p.m.

Wednesday

Jewish Community Center Author Ruth Harris will speak about her new novel "Modern Women" at 11:30 a.m.

UR Women's Resource Center "Still Life: Finding that Quiet Still Place Within" at noon in room 201 of the Tyler Haynes Commons Building

Sunday

Jewish Community Center Kitty Carlisle Hart speaks about her autobiography at 7 p.m.

PERFORMANCE

Tuesday

TheatreVa. "Sweeney Todd" a musical thriller by Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheller through Nov. 11.

VCU Performing Arts Center The Wind Soloists of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe conducted by Alexander Schneider

Stanley's Backstage "Sherlock's Last Case," a thriller by Charles Marowitz through Nov. 4.

Cannon Chapel The University of Richmond Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble at 8:15. FREE.

Wednesday

Carpenter Center Va. Opera presents "Il Trovatore," a classic set in medieval Spain, call 643-2847 for ticket information. There is also a performance on Friday.

Sunday

Women's Club Auditorium Theatre at Bolling Haxall Hall featuring "The Secretary Bird." 211 E. Franklin Street, 643-2847.

Monday

Va. Museum The Fast/Forward Series presents composer/vocalist Shelley Hirsch and composer/keyboardist David Weinstein at 8 p.m.

**And
Lest
We
Forget**

Thursday

Franklin Street Gym Women's Basketball Richmond AAU Team at 5:30 p.m. and Men's Basketball Black and Gold Game at 8 p.m.

Friday

Franklin Street Gym VCU Volleyball Invitational (thru Sat.)

Monday

Cary Street Field VCU Soccer vs. Richmond at 7 p.m.

MUSEUMS

Student Art Space "painting untitled," exhibition of paints by Bonner Hamaker and Juan Ogando through Nov. 4. "In Color and Black and White" by David Turner and Brent Lehmann, opening reception Nov. 8 at 8 p.m.

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

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

Henry Street Gallery Carved wood sculptures by Michael Farrer. 422 W. Broad St. Opening is Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

Anderson Gallery VCU School of the Arts Faculty Exhibiton through Nov. 12.

Va. Museum Fashion and Style: Small Sculptures of the Art Deco Period

Marsh Gallery "Into the Hills: Folk Art of Eastern Kentucky," an exhibition of sculpture, paintings, quilts and furniture by rural and self-taught Kentucky artists. Details: 289-8276.

Va. State Library Va. Photographs 1842-1900

Reynolds/Minor Gallery Paintings by Julien Binford. 1514 W. Main St.



"Il Trovatore" will be presented by the Virginia Opera on Wed. and Fri.

Wednesday

Commons Theater Fashion Show with the Black Awakening Choir at 8 p.m.

Friday

Richmond Omni Hotel VCU Founder's Day Gala at 9 p.m.

Saturday

Berkeley Plantation Va. Thanksgiving Festival, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Rt. 5, 272-3226.

Monday

Commons Plaza "Get Out the Pro-Choice Vote" Rally sponsored by the VCU Pro-Choice Caucus at noon.

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

