

THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES

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JAN. 16, 1990



January 16.
Where is your
Christmas Tree?

page 11



Helen Link—Commonwealth Times

JAN. 19 • FRIDAY • THE JADE ELEPHANT
ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

DAY FOR NIGHT



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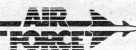
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(5725 Tivoli Circle, No. 106)

■ You also will need to attend one of the required Information Sessions scheduled between Jan. 29 and Feb. 1, 1990.

■ Turn in your application and recommendations by Thursday, Feb. 1, 1990.

Questions?

For more information, call 367-6505.

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NEWS

Alumni Activities Counseling Program

Northern VA Alumni Answer Prospective Students' Questions About VCU

By Paul Stankevich
Staff writer

Last semester, VCU applicants residing in Northern Virginia received personal telephone calls from VCU alumni, as part of the Alumni Activities Counseling Program.

This program gives Northern Virginian alumni volunteers names of applicants from the Northern Virginia area. The alumni telephone the applicants, answer questions and describe VCU the way they knew it as students.

"The students are able to get first-hand information from someone who has actually gone to school here," said Diane Stout, assistant director of alumni activities. "It personalizes the admissions process. It shows that VCU really cares about them."

Kristina Shaw, a freshman contacted by the program, said she feels more applicants may enroll at VCU because of the effort VCU puts into the program.

"Because of (the call), it turned me off at the other schools because they didn't call," Shaw said. "If they don't take the time with me, why should I take the time with them?"

Stout said applicants were most concerned with the amount of crime on campus, the conditions in the dorms, Richmond social life, the availability of sports and recreation and the size of the classes. They also asked questions about the variety of off-campus housing, health examinations, campus visitation and safety, as well as financial aid and the honors program.

Kim Sykes, a 1983 graduate who participated in the 1989 program, stressed the importance of personal contact when answering an

applicant's questions.

"A lot (of the applicants) had questions about the crime in Richmond," she said. "'Were you really in danger when you went there?' Hearing someone who went (to VCU) helped calm their fears."

Cynthia Harrell, a 1978 graduate, said the alumni perspective concerning Richmond is as important as their perspective of VCU.

"It is important to actually

speak with people who had been in Richmond as a city," Harrell said. "Everyone has a different idea of what campus should be like."

The Alumni Activities Office focused on the Northern Virginia area because of its high concentration of alumni. For the Fall 1990 semester, alumni from Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads areas will join in contacting applicants from both regions.

"It is important to actually speak to people who had been in Richmond as a city. Everyone has a different idea of what campus should be like." — Cynthia Harrell, Class of 1978

SIGIPlus Allows Students, Alumni to Explore Career Options

By Jan Hatchette
Staff writer

VCU students and alumni seeking in-depth career guidance may be interested in SIGIPlus (System of Interactive Guidance and Information...Plus lots more), a computer program offered through the Career Planning and Placement Office.

Jean Yerian, director of Career Planning and Placement, said a variety of people use SIGIPlus.

"Current students use SIGI the most as an exploration device and also for information," Yerian said.

Alumni use SIGIPlus for career changes and exploration to new areas, she said, while prospective students use it to find a major that interests them.

SIGIPlus, created by the Educational Testing Service, has eight sections which are updated annually. Each section is said to be an important step in the career decision-making process.

The first section, Self Assessment, allows users to find out more about their values, interests and activities.

From the information gathered in Self Assessment, the second section, Search, makes a list of occupations for the user to explore.

The third section, Information, gives facts about the selected occupations.

The fourth and fifth sections, Skills and Preparing, provide more details including the skills and preparatory requirements for each occupation.

The last three sections in SIGIPlus are Coping, Deciding, and Next Steps. Yerian said these are not recommended and are not used as frequently as the other sections.

Deirdre M. Parker, a senior psychology major, said "I found Self Assessment, Search, and Information the most helpful because they linked your personality with jobs that would suit you best."

Yerian said, "People usually

find the first three sections the most helpful because they have self assessment and they can learn a little bit more about what they're after."

Parker said the program took about two hours to complete but that she learned a great deal about her career options.

"I learned what kind of college and work experience was needed plus what kind of income I could expect," she said.

People using SIGIPlus can print out the information they obtain. The computer also can keep a private record of this information for the individual's future use.

SIGIPlus costs over \$1,000 a year to lease but, Yerian said, "It's worth it because it is such a good source of information."

King Lecture

Dr. Samuel Proctor, former dean and president of Virginia Union University, will be the guest speaker for the VCU School of Social Work's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The free lecture is open to the public and will be held at 4 p.m., Jan. 18, in the VCU Performing Arts Center at 922 Park Ave.

Dr. Proctor is the pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York City and held the King Memorial Chair in the graduate school of education at Rutgers University from 1969 to 1984. On his retirement from Rutgers, Dr. Proctor was named Martin Luther King Professor Emeritus and was awarded the Rutgers Medal for Distinguished Service.

The author of "The Young Negro in America 1960-80" and "Sermons from the Balck Pulpit," Dr. Proctor has also held administrative positions with the Peace Corps in Nigeria and Washington, D.C.

U.S. Census Bureau Job Openings

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting for temporary employees in the Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield and Hanover area. The positions available include clerks, data transcribers, enumerators and crew leaders.

These jobs usually last from 6 weeks to 6 months and pay \$6 to \$7.50 an hour, depending on positions. Access to dependable transportation is necessary and auto mileage will be reimbursed at a rate of 24 cents per mile. Applicants will be given a short written test, and those hired must take an oath of confidentiality.

Persons interested in applying for these jobs should call (804) 342-9800 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. for an appointment for testing in their area.

Weekend Nursing B.S. Program To Begin

In 1990, Virginia will need at least 18,000 nurses with bachelor's degrees, but will probably have less than 11,000. In the year 2000, projections call for more than 20,000 degreed nurses, but less than 13,000

will be available, according to a report from the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

With partial funding of \$202,000 over the next three years coming from the Nursing Division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the VCU School of Nursing will begin a weekend program for registered nurses to earn bachelor of science degrees in nursing.

"The acuity of the conditions of patients in hospitals today calls for more highly trained nurses," said Dr. Betsy A. Bampton, interim director of the school's undergraduate program.

The program, which will begin next fall, can be completed in as little as three semesters.

"The program is designed for the special learning need of experienced, self-directed registered nurses," said Dr. Bampton. "We want to make this as flexible and accessible as possible for the adult student who already is a professional."

The Health and Human Services Grant will fund approximately half of the program, which is expected to draw registered nurses throughout the state. The program will include once-a-month weekend visits to VCU's MCV campus.

While transcripts will be evaluated individually, general admission requirements to the program will include the completion of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of prerequisite course work.

For more information, write to Dr. Bampton at the VCU School of Nursing or call (804) 786-0724.

MCV Anesthesia Study Attracts International Attention

Anesthesiologists around the world are looking at research conducted at the Medical College of Virginia to improve safety standards in surgery, and ultimately save lives.

Dr. Richard L. Keenan, chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at MCV, recently returned from Europe and Japan where he shared his research about a device that has virtually eliminated problems stemming from low oxygen levels in patients undergoing surgery.

The device, called a pulse oximeter, resembles an adhesive bandage when placed around the finger of the patient. Emitting a beam of light through the finger, it monitors the level of oxygen in blood cells and can alert the anesthesiologist when oxygen levels are low.

"The Medical College of Virginia has played a primary role in establishing the United States as a leader in anesthesia safety standards by researching, testing and validating the performance of the pulse oximeter," Keenan said.

In 1969 Dr. C. Paul Boyan, former chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, and Keenan began investigating the causes behind the deaths of patients undergoing surgery at MCV Hospitals. Over a 15-year period, nearly all the deaths were linked to the illness or injury that brought about the operation.

However, 27 deaths could not be explained for reasons related to illness or injury. Further examination of the unexplained cases revealed that a majority of the patients had somehow experienced a lack of oxygen.

Identifying the pulse oximeter as a solution to correct breathing problems during surgery, Keenan initiated the use of the device in 1984. Although the technology had been available for more than 30 years, advances in microchip engineering made the device feasible for use in operating rooms that year.

In 1985 Keenan published his research in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He then started investigating unexplained operating room deaths back to the time of World War II and discovered a common underlying element: a stoppage of the flow of oxygen to the patient.

"I was astounded by the results of the findings," he said. "The pattern was definitely there, but no one had noticed it."

Hospitals in Massachusetts began using pulse oximeters in mid-1987. During the 12 months prior to using the device, 28 operating room deaths due to lack of oxygen occurred. Since the introduction of the device in that state, the problem has disappeared.

According to Keenan, use of the pulse oximeter has spread rapidly

throughout the United States and the device has been recommended by the American Society of Anesthesiologists as necessary safety equipment. Anesthesiologists in Belgium and Japan are considering requiring the device as a safety precaution, because of Keenan's research.

"By honestly studying its own experiences, MCV has become a leader in the field of anesthesia safety standards that lead to saving lives," Keenan said.

VCU To Study Drug Abuse Treatments For Pregnant Women

Investigating treatments for pregnant women with drug addictions will be the focus of a five-year study to be conducted by a team of doctors and researchers at VCU.

Funded through a \$9 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the research team will also examine the physiological effects of drugs and the withdrawal process on the mother and the development of her unborn child.

According to NIDA, only 10 percent of the people with drug addiction problems undergo treatment. The VCU study will look into reasons why drug abusers reject treatment and, based on the findings, design programs to meet individual patient needs.

The study will also weigh the advantages of the different methods of treatment. One of the questions the study will attempt to answer is, what kind of patients do better in self-paced programs versus programs with set time limits? Also, do patients progress more rapidly in a live-in setting as opposed to an outpatient setting?

While exploring the physiological effects of drugs and the withdrawal process on the mother, investigators will closely monitor the development of the fetus.

To conduct the study, the VCU research team needs volunteers. Free and confidential treatment for drug addiction problems will be offered to pregnant women and new mothers, with children less than six months old, who volunteer for the study. For further information, call (804) 786-BABE.

School of Business Reorganizes Major System

By Diana Flett
Staff writer

In an attempt to "keep in step with the times," the VCU School of Business is reorganizing its majors for the 1990-91 academic year.

Iris Johnson, associate dean of undergraduate studies at the School of Business, said no new majors were being added, but the existing majors were just being repackaged; some areas that are now tracks under a major will become majors themselves.

For example, under the current system, the business administration and management major consists of three options with a total of six tracks. Students may choose the business administration option; the finance, insurance and real estate option, consisting of the finance, insurance and real estate tracks; or the management option, which consists of the owner-managed business, personnel and production tracks.

Under the new system, finance will become a new major, with tracks in finance and insurance. Real estate and urban land development will also become a major.

In addition, management will become a separate major, with tracks in owner-managed business and general management. Human resources/industrial relations and production/operation management also are to become majors.

The accounting, economics, information systems, marketing and office automation management majors will stay the same.

The school, Johnson said, hopes the new system will be more precise about what a student is studying. For example, instead of receiving a degree in business administration under the finance track, a student will receive a degree in finance.

"The title (of majors) is really all that is changing," she said.

Though the names of the majors will change, the curriculum will not. A student would take the same courses for a finance major he or she took under a business administration major.

"No new courses are being added," Johnson said.

She said the changes, long overdue, have been in the works ever since the reorganization of the School of Business about three years ago.

The proposal for these changes was reviewed last fall by the undergraduate curriculum committee of the School of Business, which is composed of Johnson, the school's department heads, and two students in the school.

Once approved, the proposal was submitted to the University curriculum committee. The University committee, comprised of representatives from all the schools and colleges at the university, approved the proposal in time for the changes to appear in the 1990-91 VCU Bulletin.

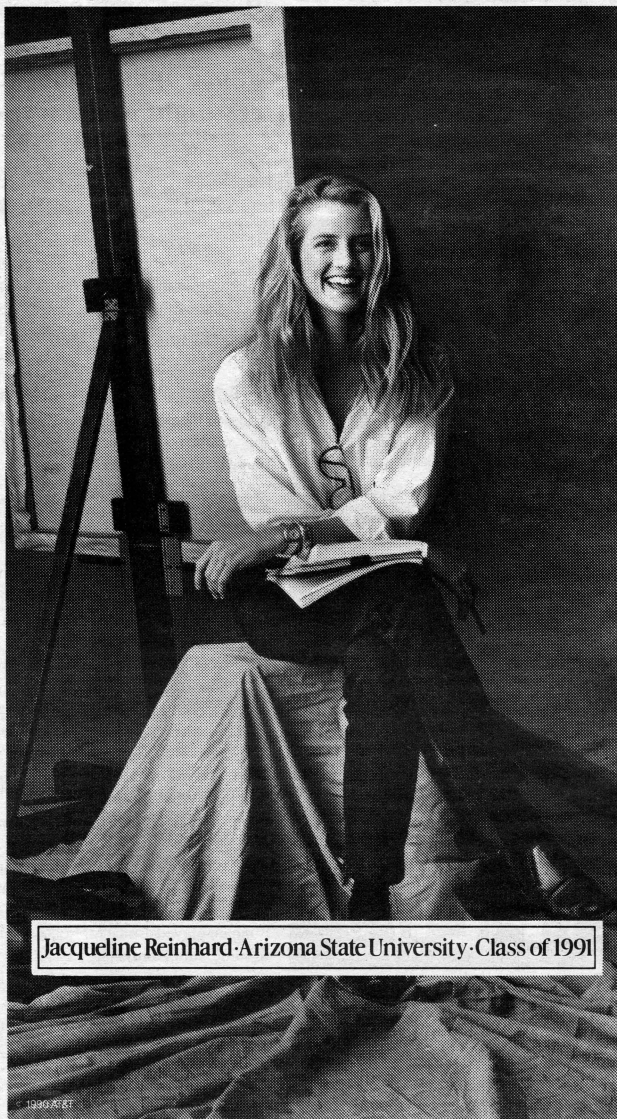
THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES

We're now hiring Staff for Spring, Summer and Fall, 1990. If you are motivated, have an interest in business or media and can take initiative, contact the Managing Editor at 367-1058.

(We also need someone to fix coffee and clean up after us on weekends)

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Jacqueline Reinhard · Arizona State University · Class of 1991

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Metro Reopens After License Extension

by Elizabeth Ward
Folio Writer

A bleak gloomy winter has mirrored Richmond's rock scene the past few months. With the reopening of the Metro, the city will see a slight change in its entertainment forecast.

Metro manager Mark Thomasson said the club will continue offerings patrons are accustomed to like Dance Night and underground bands from around the country. However, he said, the club will try to appeal more to the enormous student population with low cover charges and nightly specials.

"We just want to give the people one more choice," he said. The Metro will start competing with places traditionally thought of as hangouts like the Village and the Library Tavern. Thomasson believes students will be attracted to the Metro because of the

spacious two floor set up that includes live music, pool tables and dance music almost every night of the week.

Unfortunately, Thomasson does not plan to book many national acts in the next couple of months. In order to keep prices down, local bands will provide the live music. Tentative dates with Camper Van Beethoven and the Pete Buck/Kevin Kenney combo have been made, but he said the calendar is mostly filled with Richmond acts.

The Metro, located at the corner of Laurel and Broad, closed its doors only a few months after the management reorganized the ill-fated Rockitz. Operating with a restricted liquor license that allowed the club to serve beer only until midnight proved to be unprofitable.

Hoping to finally get their day in court, the management decided the Metro would not open again until it had unrestricted

The Metro will start competing with places traditionally thought of as hangouts like the Village and the Library Tavern. Thomasson believes students will be attracted to the Metro because of the spacious two floor set up that includes live music, pool tables and dance music almost every night of the week.

liquor licensing. With the support of the Mid-Town Merchants Association and the unrelenting opposition of the Fan District Association, the management of the Metro went to court on December 15th.

While 53 people attended the hearing in support of an unrestricted license, no one, not even Peter Boisseau, president of the Fan District Association attended to oppose.

The Metro was granted the unrestricted license and is now able to serve beer until 2 a.m.

The club has already had a number of shows since reopening, including the Good Guys two weeks ago.

RICHMOND MUSIC



Day For Night has released their new CD, available at Plan 9 Records, and will hold a record-release party Friday, January 19, at the Jade Elephant.

The year looks promising for local music in the months ahead, starting with the reopening of the Metro. One of the first big music happenings will be the Day For Night album release show on the 19th at the Jade Elephant.

The cassette features seven songs (each recorded once on each side of the tape). A few of the power-house cuts include "The Job", "That is It", and a fine rendition of Pink Floyd's "Fearless."

The Floodzone is starting to increase the number of shows they offer. On the 20th The Good Guys, Egypt, and Boy oh Boy will play an 8 p.m. show. Then on Feb. 2, the Del Fuegos will be in town with Nuclear Valdez. Tickets, respectively, for the two shows are \$8 and \$9. All proceeds from both events benefit the Blue Flamingo Theatre.

On Friday, Feb. 9 the Floodzone offers Leon Russell for the fifth year in a row.

Cellar Door Productions is sponsoring The Cult on February 11 at the Richmond Coliseum. The Cult started out on college radio, scoring an early hit with "She Sells Sanctuary" but has moved to more mainstream sound with their latest release, Sonic Temple.

Opening for the Cult will be Bonham, featuring the late John Bonham's son, Jason, and Dangerous Toys from Texas. Jason Bonham played drums for Led Zepplin at the Atlantic 40th Anniversary Celebration.

Speaking of anniversaries, IRS recently turned 10 years old. They have graced us with exciting new music while the other companies seemed to be rehashing the same old sounds.

The company came out with a compilation of some of the bigger band's it orig-

inally signed called, These People Must Be Nuts. A few of the bands on the 22 song CD include The Police, Go Go's, Oingo Boingo, English Beat, Wall of Voodoo, and Concrete Blonde.

The Waxing Poetics are starting to play Richmond more often than Love Tractor. The band took advantage of the Floodzone's recording facilities to capture some live material to perhaps be used as a B-side at a later date.

They played a show to a crowd of about 200 at the Floodzone last Saturday night. Their music is as tight as its always been but their sets seem to get shorter with every outing.

The opening act, Looks Like Bamboo, more than made up for the brief Poetics set. Playing for over an hour and a half, the band has shown marked improvement over the past six months. The band was at ease with their music and the set flowed well. The mix was superb and their musicianship was outstanding. They definitely stole the show from the Poetics on this occasion.

And finally, in the national scene, it's time for yet another music awards show. This one is the "American Music Awards" on ABC on Jan. 22. Some interesting notes: New Kids on the Block were only nominated twice (thank god) The Travelling Wilburys are up for Favorite New Artist (They could just be the next Beatles) and Hank Williams Jr.'s "Greatest Hits III" is up for Favorite Album.

by Luke Funk, Folio Editor

compiled by Luke Funk
chief foliologer

One-person exhibitions by two Richmond artists, **Christopher Silliman** and **David Det Hompson**, will be on view Jan. 30-March 11 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Almost featureless head, rigid shoulders, and massive trunks give Silliman's monumental sculptures an imposing presence. In contrast to the cool anonymity of the forms themselves, their surfaces are a ground on which he paints and incises imagery. In this collection of Hampson's newest paintings, he retains the motivations of previous works, in which he created images and situations with words in book form, gallery installation or performance in a shallow space within a brief moment, directly before the viewer.

The Virginia Stage Company's new offbeat comedy **T BONE N WEASEL** by Jon Klein runs at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk until January 20th.

The play relates the misadventures of T Bone and Weasel, two paroled convicts traveling the backroads of rural South Carolina — any way they can.

For tickets call 1-627-1234.

Nature springs to life in the dead of winter as the **Virginia Living Museum** presents its Wildlife arts festival January 20 and 21. The Festival features a select group of 46 artisans who display, demonstrate and sell their works of wildlife in the cozy warmth of the Hellenic Community Center in Newport News.

For more information call 1-595-1900.

Olympic Gold Medalist Scott Hamilton headlines a cast of has-been skaters to perform at the Coliseum on January 20th. Others cashing in on their 15 minutes in the spotlight include Kitty and Peter Carruthers.

The reserve seat tickets (\$12 and \$15) are on sale through TicketCenter.

Facing History: **The Black Image in American Art 1710-1940** is now on display at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in our nation's capital (Washington, District of Columbia).

The exhibit features works by over seventy artists, including Joshua Johnston

and Winslow Homer.

Incorporating paintings, sculptures and drawings, 'Facing History' will demonstrate how social and cultural attitudes, as well as the historical events of the times, affected artists' representations of black society.



"In the Interregnum," 1989, is a Christopher Silliman sculpture soon to be on display at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

A powerful new drama, **"Stand-up Tragedy"** starts the year for the Arena Stage in Washington D.C. It's already open and runs through February 18.

The play viscerally dramatizes the pressures of the social climate affecting today's youth as manifested in the problems of the urban education system.

For ticket information call (202) 484-0247.

Peruvian-born painter Javier Tapia has his first Virginia exhibit running at 1708 E. Main until January 25.

Tapia's early work and imagery dealt with Peruvian socio-political events often violent. More recently the artist has developed more symbolic images, personal icons such as flies, fruit, plungers and the recurring image of the sea, to draw metaphors concerning his questions about religious dogma, death, the frailty of the human mind.

If you've already paid your Christ-

mas bills you'll be able to purchase your tickets for the **Richmond Ballet winter repertory production "Illuminations,"** now. Tickets for the February 16 and 17 Carpenter Center event are already on sale.

Student tickets start at \$3. Don't spend that Christmas money all in one place.

Virginia Opera starts the year with a ghost story as it presents the scary **The Turn of the Screw**, live at the Carpenter Center on January 31 and a repeat on Feb. 2.

Tickets are available at the Carpenter Center and students can receive a discount. That's a better deal than the Times-Dispatch Tournament.

The 18th is the last day to vie Art a la Carte at **Saint Catherine's School**. The exhibition of 22 posters showing how various contemporary artists have approached food as a still-life subject.

Call 644-2104 for public hours.

It's time to start thinking about pro-

fessional wrestling again. **WWF's main event** featuring Hulk "I use steroids" Hogan vs. "Mr. Perfect" will excite the fans who pay up to \$15 to cheer their heroes, whether they win, lose or draw.

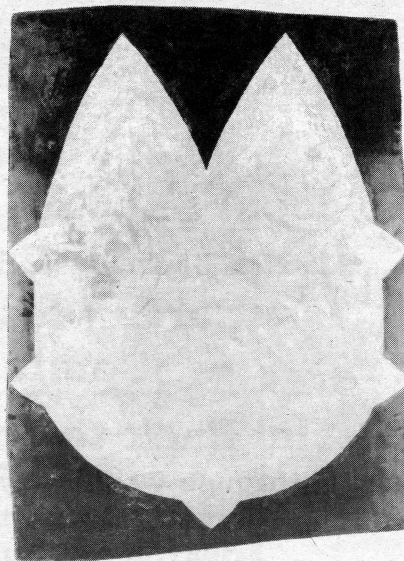
"Blues and Roots," the next program in the Virginia Museum's World Music Series, will focus on Piedmont-blues guitar music and its African roots, with a set by kora-player Djimo Kouyate and another by "Bowling Gree" John Cephas and "Harmonica" Phil Wiggins on Thursday night at 7 p.m.

The Richmond Area Bicycling Association is having their January club meeting on Wed. the 17th at 7:30 at the Science Museum on Broad St.

On the 20th the club will sponsor "Gum Spring to Columbia" — a ride from historic Gum Spring Commuter Parking lot on a challenging ride through the hills of Goochland County. Call Scott Lyon (266-3683) for details.

American composer Eric Ross will perform new multimedia works in a special presentation at 1708 E. Main St. Gallery on January 19-20. Ross will present works for live music with processed video imagery made by his wife Mary, a photographic, video and computer artist.

Working in an avant-garde idiom, the Rosses have performed throughout the USA and Europe receiving consistently high acclaim for the richness and vitality of their artistic work.



"M", 1989, is among 11 works by David Det Hompson to be exhibited at the Virginia Museum January 30-March 11.

Eleventh Dream Day Takes Old Ideas And Reworks Them

Luke Funk
Folio Editor

One of Atlantic's best new bands recently released their major label debut "Beet". A cross between progressive and psychedelic, the band's dual guitar work provides a solid foundation for the music to expand upon.

The band formed in Chicago in 1983 and by 1986 the band was starting to get a name around the Mid-West. A debut album was released in 1988 by the independent

Amoeba label. All the songs were recorded in one night. "Prairie School Freakout" received critical praise, but did not sell well.

The band didn't take much longer in recording "Beet". The album took less than a month and was recorded live.

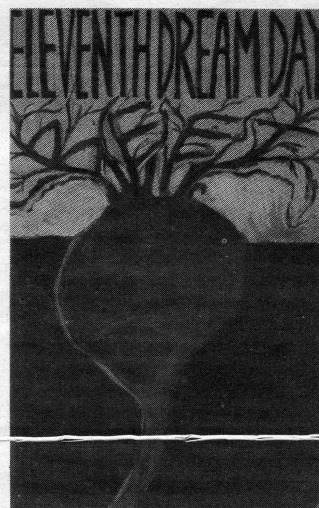
The band has what appears to be a strong Neil Young influence that is especially evident on "Bagdad's Last Ride".

Lyricaly, the band deals with people and their feelings and actions, not obscure ideology. The song "Love to Hate to Love" is a good example: "She was breathing be-

neath her breath/ And words somewhere beneath that/ Beneath the words were lies/ Beneath the lies were memories/ There were memories/ Memories of the beach and the sand/ that stuck to the back of her thighs."

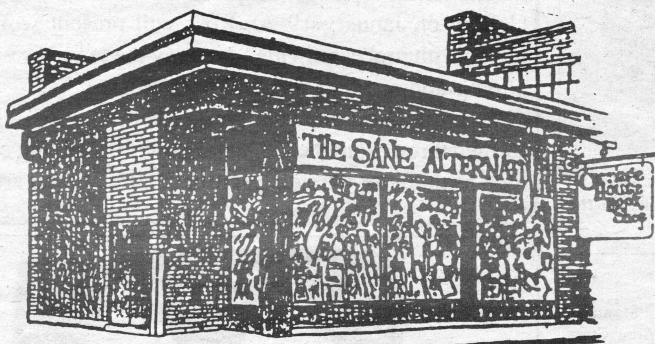
Guitarists Baird Figi and Rick Rizzo are unrelentless with their playing, not leaving a moment of silence in the songs. The rest of the musicians are not memorable but are adequate with their playing.

The energy captured on the recording is amazing. After listening to "Beet" I find that it's definately a worthwhile effort.



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Flexing Muzzles

By Nat Hentoff

Part one of two of a feature re-printed by permission from Playboy magazine.

The ever-smiling Jerry Falwell, in closing down the Moral Majority, explained that its work had been accomplished - its values had become part of the American mainstream. He was right, in one respect. For years, the Moral Majority worked zealously to banish "bad speech," targeting "offensive" books in school libraries, as well as "socially harmful" magazines on newsstands.

Now, on American college campuses, there is a new, rapidly growing legion of decency that is also devoted to punishing bad speech. Its list of indefensible words is different from Falwell's. Expressions of racism, sexism, homophobia, anti-Semitism and prejudice against the handicapped are to be outlawed. But the basic principle is precisely that of Falwell: A decent society requires limits to free expression, and if that means diminishing the First Amendment, the will of the majority must rule.

Accordingly, on a number of prestigious campuses, a majority of students and faculty have concluded that censorship must be integral to higher education. As Canetta Ivy, one of the heads of student government at Stanford University says, "We don't put as many restrictions of freedom of speech as we should."

A quarter of a century after the free-speech movement began at the University of California at Berkeley, helping fuel the anti-war and civil rights campaigns, some of the brightest of today's students are marching in the other direction.

The neoconservatism among liberals and radicals, blacks and feminists, and even a number of law professors, has its roots in the very real racism that does exist on a number of campuses. At Brown, for instance, fliers were distributed reading: "Things have been going downhill since the kitchen help moved into the classroom." At Smith, four black women received vicious racist letters. At Yale, the Afro-American Cultural Center's building was emblazoned with a White Power sign and a swastika.

In reaction, black students and many white students have joined to insist on the creation of codes not only of student conduct but also of student speech. Administrators, often enthusiastically, have yielded to those demands.

There are now various codes of forbidden speech at Emory University, the University of Wisconsin, the University of California, the University of Buffalo Law School and New York University Law School, among others.

The codes that have been adopted are not limited to epithets. On most campuses, a student can be disciplined or even expelled for words that create an intimidating, hostile or demeaning environment for educational pursuits.

Or a student may be put on trial for "racist or discriminatory comments...or other expressive behavior directed at an individual" if the speaker "intentionally" set out to "demean the race, sex or religion" of the

aggrieved complainant (University of Wisconsin).

These thou-shalt-not-speak codes are so vague and broad that just a disagreement on such issues as affirmative action or an independent Palestinian state can lead to a verdict that a particularly vehement student is guilty of discriminatory harassment against blacks or Jews.

Who will judge the defendants? Administrators will, or a panel of administrators and students. And if they are ideologues and find the controversial political views of the defendant repellent, the student can miss a semester or more for being under the illusion that the university is a place of free inquiry.

While the presidents of the universities of Michigan and Wisconsin, among others, have hailed these codes of prohibited speech, Donald Kennedy, president of Stanford, is resisting the notion that students are best taught to think for themselves by being

told what they can't say. When you tell people what they can't say, Kennedy has emphasized, they will begin to suppress what they think.

Already, in classrooms at some American colleges where language is monitored as it is at Czechoslovakian and Chinese colleges there are students afraid to explore certain lines of thought lest they be considered racist or sexist. At New York University Law School, for example, where heresy hunters abound in the student body, the atmosphere in some classes is like that of the old-time House Un-American Activities Committee. One student describes "a host of watchdog committees and a generally hostile classroom reception regarding any student comment right of center."

At Stanford, the student organizations insistently demanding a code of forbidden language include the Asian Law Students Association, the Black Law Students Association, the Jewish Law Students Association

and the Asian-American Students Association. From these groups and from NYU Law School will come some of the judges of the next decades, and maybe even a Supreme Court Justice or two.

The First Amendment is always fragile - witness the frenzy to amend the Bill of Rights after the Supreme Court ruled in June that the First Amendment protected flag burning. But with students at prestigious colleges now intent on limiting speech for a greater social good, the First Amendment will become even more vulnerable to attack in the years ahead.

But shouldn't there be some punishment of especially hurtful, insulting, infuriating words? When he was mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington was asked to punish those responsible for inflammatory language that had gone out over a city radio station. According to his former press secretary, he refused, saying, "If I scratch one word, where do I stop?"

IT TAKES MORE THAN A QUILL PEN AND INDIA INK TO MAKE A GOOD WRITER. A LITTLE EFFORT ALWAYS HELPS.

Poetry, Short Fiction and Related Words are currently being accepted for the 1990 literary supplement to the Commonwealth Times. Students, Professors, Administrators and the General Public are encouraged to submit their work by Thursday, February 15 for consideration. Submit as many pieces as you want, but please include your name and phone number on a separate sheet of paper.

Drop your work off (in envelopes, please) at 916 West Franklin Street, Second Floor, or in Box 34 in Student Activities, University Commons.

**THE 1990 COMMONWEALTH TIMES' LITERARY SUPPLEMENT.
FEBRUARY 27, 1990**

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THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES

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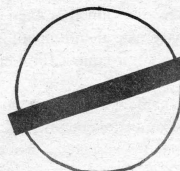
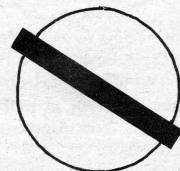
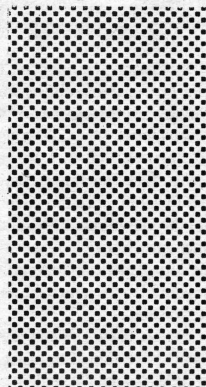
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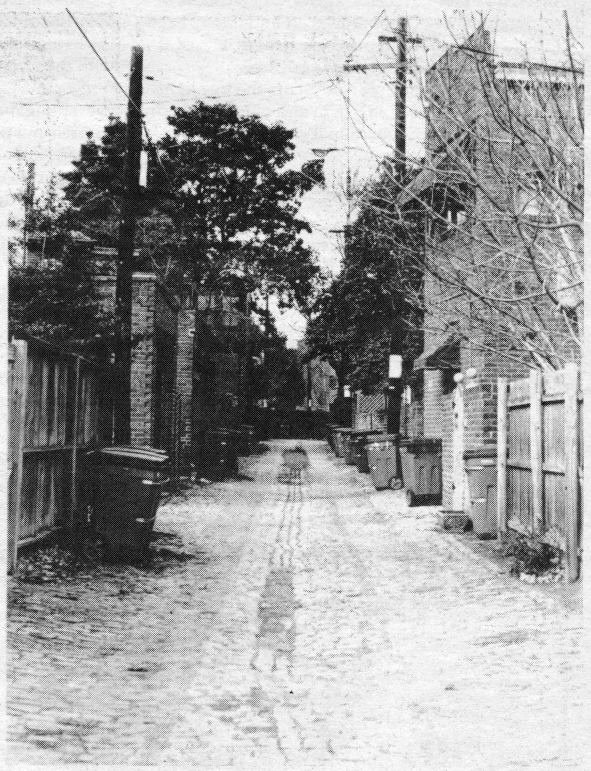
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Off to the lot, into the living room, down to the alley. . . burn or recycle?

Death of a Christmas Tree



Richmond Alleys: Clear and awaiting your tree.



Dec. 16. You look around your apartment recalling the subtle memory of last year's Christmas season. . . Where is that Christmas box? Don't I have a stocking with my name on it and some other stuff? And yes, yes, I think I'll buy a tree.

Out to the lots. The tree markets have been set up since early December and "all trees are now \$20." That one's too big, this one not full enough. . . There it is, this is the tree for us. "I'll take it."

"Sir? Did you want a fresh cut on the end?"

"Sure. . . Hey! Careful the way you lay that down, don't bruise my tree!" This is not just any tree. In no time you have an evergreen in the living room and you're ready for trimming.

Dec. 18. After a two-day struggle with a cord of lights and an endless search to rid yourself of the "blinker" bulb, you've admitted defeat and are off to Woolworth's for new lights.

Hey, what's that? CHRISTMAS JUST FOR YOU. I've never seen that store before. . . hmmm . . . Think we'll stop in. You look over at you're roommate and he knows what you're thinking. He nods in agreement. Window snow! And how about a Dove of Peace (for the top of the tree?), little Santas for the mantle, and we are not through until we have MORE LIGHTS (we'll try all white this year).

By the 19th of December our tree is complete: An endless ornament rearrangement has begun, and presents slowly appear. We turn on the tree, light some candles, and feel the Christmas spirit.

Dec. 26. By now you've given presents, opened yours and thoroughly enjoyed the smell of blue



BY MIKE CAROSI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY HELEN LINK

spruce. You don't have to be at work for a couple of days, the pressure of shopping is off and it may even be time to contemplate returns, exchanges, etc., still sitting under the gentle glow of your tree.

Soon however, your pace picks up, the tree lights are on less and less as you run in and out from work and parties and all of a sudden it's New Year's Eve. Ah, another break at last.

For a few days you rekindle the Christmas spirit of last week, and of course, there stands your tree. You feel sorry that you haven't watered it since, since, umm. . . So you water it, failing to avoid the vicious stabs of a prickly tree, turn the lights on, vacuum the few hundred brown needles around your living room and rejoice.

But the New Year is here, back to work, the bank; the basic chores of living have returned. Now your tree lies as wilted as the plants you left on your porch that nice day in October. Needles are on your feet, in the sink, and sleep with you. "We'll have to

take the tree down soon."

Another week passes, that object of spirit you once identified as your tree takes up a good part of the living room. But where's that Christmas box, with the ornament containers? God, it's going to take forever . . . I'll do it tomorrow. It was worth it and everything, I mean, I really enjoyed the season and the tree, but now. . .

Jan. 10th. THAT TREE HAS GOT TO GO. Where is that box?

Soon it's stripped; lights removed, bulbs packed neatly until next year and that tree's fate lies in the alley.

Poor tree — once carefully sought and picked, brought home without a bruise, perfectly trimmed, watered, decorated — is now going to the dump.

How many people in Richmond, how many in the country, how many in the world are going to throw their trees into the garbage during these first two weeks of January?

The trash guys must hate Christmas.

Drive through the alleys.

They're everywhere. Some in trash cans, some in plastic bags, some with lights, some with wreaths.

Weeks go by, and the trash guys put it off as long as they can. But the day comes when the city starts to receive thousands of complaints from residents who experience the difficulties of dumping their trash around *their* tree. So memos go out to departments and soon those guys in green are out in the white trucks removing the Christmas spirit from the alleys. Where's the Christmas Bonus Program for the trash guys?

Ah, but there is a solution - Recycle. The usual program, not uncommon to city and county governments, involves shredding the trees into mulch and distributing them to the parks and recreational areas. Or, if you live in bigger cities, you probably buy your shredded tree in a bag of mulch, ready for spring gardening. But our city officials have found a more innovative plan. Richmond is not making mulch.

In cooperation with the James River Park System, the Clean City Committee, under Executive Co-

ordinator Larry Pemberton, placed flyers around the city, asking the community to donate their trees for erosion control and fish habitats.

At Mount Calvary Cemetery, the land is eroding into the James River Park. Pemberton and Ralph White, the James River Park Naturalist, decided to use the trees for bank erosion control. By laying the trees out along the hillside, they hope to construct a

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The remaining trees are destined for Shields Lake in Byrd Park, where the Eagle Scouts will cut them down to four feet and sink them in the lake for fish habitats.

There are many options for tree disposal. Recently a friend told me that the year her brother was born, her family bought a live tree. After the holidays, they planted it in the front yard, so the two may grow together.



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For those of you (including myself) who let their trees fall in to the "It's Got To Go And I Don't Care Where" category, a less romantic fate awaits. It's not a cherished memory in somebody's yard, it's not helping your vegetable garden, or holding back erosion at a cemetery - your tree is sitting at the city dump among thousands of others, awaiting 10-15 gallons of gasoline and a match lit by gleeful trash guys.

Perhaps this ritual is the trash man's Christmas bonus. One day next week — after they're sure they've collected all the trees — the employees at City Refuse and Collection will gather ceremoniously, warming themselves on a bonfire kindled by your tree. Sipping eggnog and eating cookies provided by the Refuse and Collection officials, this joyous bunch will momentarily forget the cold fact that Christmas is only a year away.



Above: Trees lined along the southern hill at Mount Calvary Cemetery. **Right:** Larry Pemberton, Executive Coordinator for Richmond Clean City Committee. **Below:** Trees at Shields Lake await the Eagle Scouts.



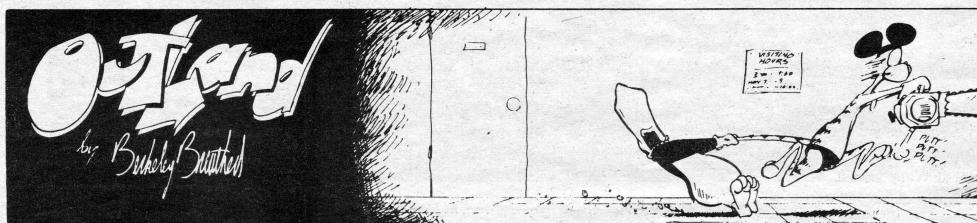
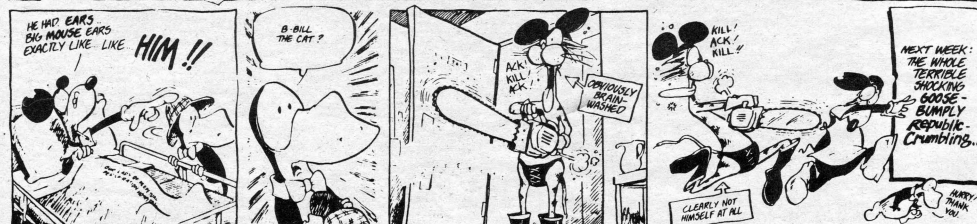
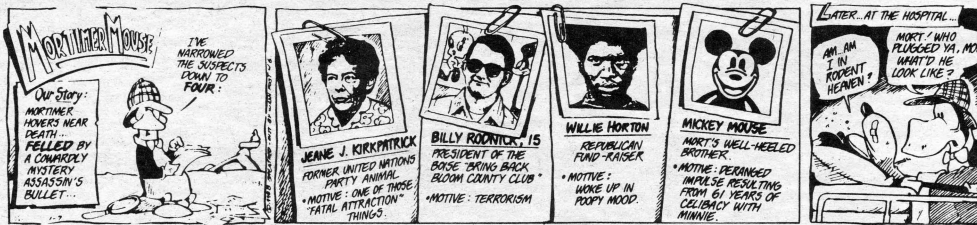
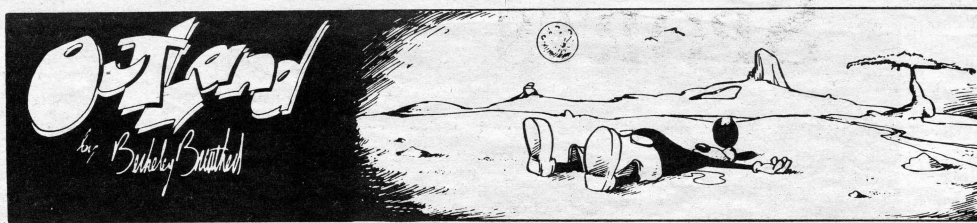
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We need volunteers ! If you are interested in helping manage the recycling site or would like to know more about the cooperative and how you can help, please contact Anne Fletcher 353-2989, or Leigh Moiola 644-4835.

SPORTS

Women's Basketball Around the Sun Belt Conference

compiled by Rob Crosby
Sports Editor

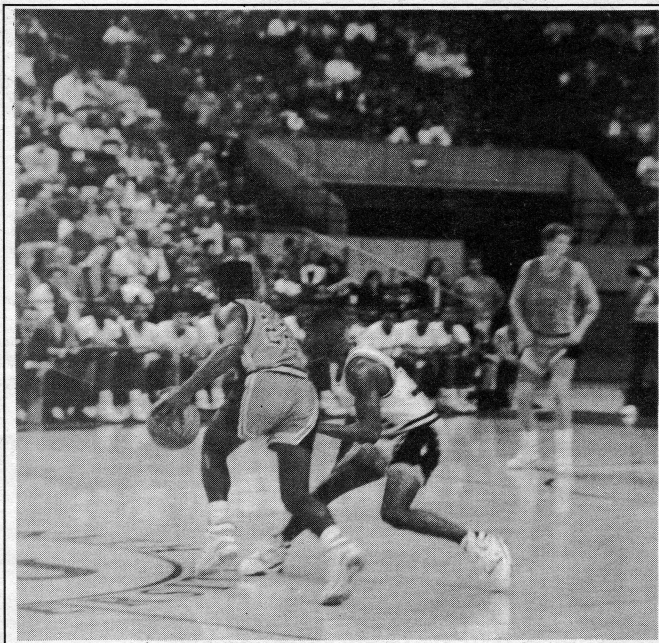
* University of South Alabama forward **Adrian Vickers** was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week Jan. 8 for her tremendous two-game performance against Southeastern Conference opponents Auburn and Mississippi State. Vickers, a 6-1 senior, scored 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds against No. 15 Auburn, shooting 10 for 15 from the charity line. Against Mississippi State, she shot 11 for 15 from the floor and made 9 for 9 in free throws to score 31 points, leading USA to a 86-68 win. She is currently second in the all-time SBC record book in rebounds (1,167) and third in scoring (1,867 career points).

* Old Dominion is currently the only SBC team represented in the Associated

Press Women's Basketball poll. The Monarchs (0-0, 9-4) are ranked No. 21.

* ODU senior forward **Kelly Lyons** was named the Sports Illustrated Player of the Week Jan. 8. The 6-2 senior has scored 20 or more points in 13 games this season and has scored in double figures for 45 straight games. Last week she scored 32 points and grabbed 11 rebounds against Southern California and recorded 21 points and 8 rebounds against Tennessee. She is also shooting better from the floor (150-211, .711) than from the free throw line (62-90, .689).

* VCU opens its SBC season Jan. 20 at Western Kentucky. The Rams have played in three tournaments so far, winning the Vess Cola Holiday Classic in December, and splitting games in the Lady Herd Classic at Marshall and the Lady Deacon Invitational at Wake Forest.



The Rams seem to be finding their pace, and the season is just beginning to heat up with upcoming games sending the team throughout the Sun Belt.

photo by Helen Link-Commonwealth Times

1989-90 SUN BELT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

STANDINGS

(through games Jan. 8)

Team	SBC	Pct.	Overall	Pct.	Home	Away	Streak	Last 5
UNCC	0-0	.000	7-2	.778	3-0	4-2	W3	4-1
UAB	0-0	.000	10-4	.714	5-0	5-4	W1	4-1
ODU	0-0	.000	9-4	.692	3-2	6-2	L1	4-1
USA	0-0	.000	8-6	.571	4-1	4-5	W1	2-3
USF	0-0	.000	7-6	.538	5-2	2-4	L4	1-4
VCU	0-0	.000	5-7	.417	3-2	2-5	L2	2-3
WKU	0-0	.000	4-7	.363	3-1	1-6	L1	2-3

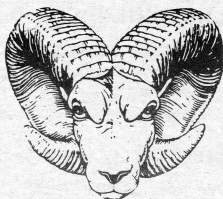
SPORTS BRIEFS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sophomore forward **Heather Burik** was named VCU's final Athlete of the Week of the 1989 fall season Dec. 18. Burik's 56 points and 16 rebounds in three games last month earned her the award. The 6-foot-0 Pitcairn, Pa. native had 14 points against Richmond and earned all-tournament honors at the Lady Herd Classic, netting 42 points in games against Marshall and Vanderbilt. It was the second time in three weeks that Burik was named for the Athlete of the Week award.

SWIMMING

Coach Ron Tsuchiya's squad resumes its season Jan. 19 in a home meet against James Madison.



VCU RAMS

VCU vs. JMU

Rams Open Decade With Big Win

By Michael Litos
Associate Sports Editor

On Wednesday night Jan. 3, the VCU men's basketball team took the court against the James Madison Dukes coming off a disappointing showing in the Richmond Times-Dispatch Invitational in December. The Rams, who were 4-5 before travelling to Harrisonburg, struggled in the last month of the 80s and perhaps felt they were at their lowest ebb in the season.

And while President Bush announced the capture of ousted Panamanian dictator Gen. Manuel Noriega, the Rams fell quickly behind the Dukes 21-12, and the offensive woes that have plagued the team were fully intact.

Then came DeWayne Garner.

A 6-2 junior college transfer, Garner drained two straight 3-pointers to lead the Rams back from the dead. Freshman Chris Brower also added a deuce of treys, and the rejuvenated attack gave VCU a 37-35 halftime lead.

"I think our bench gave us 14 points," beamed coach Sonny Smith of the first half play of his rarely praised group.

VCU went on to win the game 67-66.

Smith had decided earlier in the week that his "run and gun" style of play had to go

the way of the dinosaurs, saying, "You can't be a running team with a bunch of slow people."

Coach Smith has shown a lot of basketball knowledge and strength of character lately, overcoming several personal problems and changing the makeup of the team to pull out a big victory.

The new patient attack brought better shots, and with what Smith termed as "much better" shot selection, the Rams bottomed 58 percent of their shots (5-8 three-point accuracy).

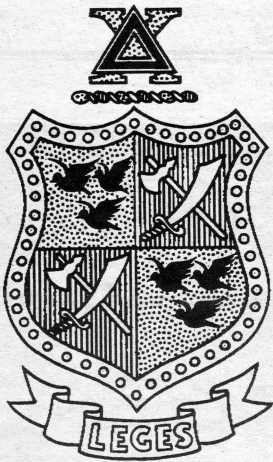
Junior Elander Lewis continued to be the most consistent performer, nailing 6 of 9 shots and grabbing a team-high 7 rebounds.

After a Lewis 15-footer that gave the Rams a 65-63 lead with about a minute to play, junior Carl Weldon made the play of the game.

JMU guard Troy Bostic, who played sparingly, was stripped of the ball by a hustling Weldon, and the resulting basket gave VCU an insurmountable 65-61 edge.

A zone defense frustrated the Dukes all evening, culminated in an eight-minute stretch in which they made only two free throws.

"Defense and the bench did it for us," remarked Smith, pleased with his team's performance.



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This is not real. This is an advertisement. Do not be deceived. These students are trying to add classes at the Mosque. This is only an advertisement.



A crowd of VCU students gathers outside of the offices of the Commonwealth Times to submit their applications for writing. Hundreds of students have passed through the doors of the Milhiser House in recent years, tucking a bit of practical experience in their back pocket, along with a diploma. The Times accepts applications Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

IN THE FEBRUARY 27 ISSUE OF THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES YOU CAN SEE
JUST HOW WELL JOHNNY WRITES.

THE COMMONWEALTH TIMES' LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Rams Lose Sun Belt Opener, Back to Square One

By Rob Crosby
Sports Editor

The VCU men's basketball team opened their Sun Belt Conference season last Thursday night against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers—a team predicted for the league cellar—coming off an impressive road win against James Madison and an encouraging overtime loss at Virginia Tech.

So impressive of their play in the nineties, the oddsmakers rated Western Kentucky 10-point underdogs against the Rams at the Coliseum.

But the offensive woes that plagued VCU in December returned, and WKU used a 1-3-1 zone (the same defense VCU coach Sonny Smith has implemented to spur an effective half-court game) that befuddled the Rams into losing 57-44.

It was an ugly game for scoring.

"Western Kentucky used the same kind of defense and did a better job," Smith said. "And you don't win shooting 29 percent."

VCU's cold-shooting came back even though the tempo was slowed down and the Rams were taking good shots. They just wouldn't go in.

"It surprises me we did this here (at the Coliseum)," Smith said.

Western Kentucky was not much better. Except for guard Ron Shelton (21 points) and forward Jerry Anderson (12 points), the Hilltoppers were nearly as inept at field goals as the Rams, shooting 46 percent for the game.

VCU led at halftime 24-23, powered by Elander Lewis' four points and center Martin Henlan's 2 for 2 from the floor. But senior guard Lionel Bacon, coming off an illness, went 1 for 6 and top shooting re-

serves DeWayne Garner and Chris Brower were silenced.

Although the Rams went 7 for 8 at the charity stripe (Lewis, Bacon and junior Bobby Reddish combined for 6 of 6) in the first half, they shot only 8 for 23 from the floor.

And for VCU, the shooting got only worse.

Western Kentucky came out strong in the second half, canning their first four buckets while forward Craig Uhle contributed a 10-footer for the Rams. When Garner hit a 3-pointer with 14:01 left in the contest, it was the last Ram field goal until junior Derek Thompkins hit a 15-footer at 4:40.

Thompkins, who only played in the final six-and-one-half minutes, generated the only VCU scoring punch, netting a team-high 10 points.

"Thompkins played awfully well," Smith said. "He was the only bright spot."

But he couldn't save the sinking ship alone and got no help from the starters.

Western Kentucky took advantage of VCU's miscues, and played a solid zone defense that didn't allow the Rams to make a comeback.

"You know, earlier I said I'd never had a team that shot under 40 percent," said a frustrated Smith. "Now I'll have to get used to saying under 25 percent."

Smith said its back to square one when the team resumes practice at Franklin Street. And if the Rams continue to play this dimly, it will be a long Sun Belt season.

VCU returns to the Coliseum Thursday Jan. 18 against the University of Alabama-Birmingham in another SBC contest. The time is now for a Ram resurgence if they expect a shot at the conference title.

Tech Nips VCU in Overtime

By Michael Litos
Associate Sports Editor

BLACKSBURG — In perhaps their most well-played game of the season Jan. 8, the VCU Rams were simply in the wrong castle.

That is, Cassell — as in Virginia Tech's Cassell Coliseum. The home court of the Hurryin' Hokies (my choice as worst nickname in the country) has long been known as a very tough place to travel.

In a game in which this reporter was wholly unimpressed and highly disappointed in senior Tech star Bimbo Coles, the Hokies seemed to have everything but statistics on their side.

Case #1: Junior Craig Uhle went up for a dunk and was fouled by Techster David Herbster, who reached up through the hoop to knock the ball away. Even sitting three rows from the top, the Tech fans and I called goaltending.

Too bad we were not wearing striped shirts because Uhle was given two shots and promptly missed them both.

Case #2: Tech entered a man in the game who's jersey number didn't match the number in the scorebook — a penalty that warrants a technical foul. Result — no technical.

Case #3: The Scott Davis factor. A rarely used junior, Davis nailed a bonus jumper from what seemed to be the pastures in overtime, giving Tech a huge advantage.

Overtime — reminds me to report on the game.

Tech took an early lead, despite the wild shooting of Coles. But the Rams out-shot and out-rebounded the hosts, however, and trailed 36-31 at halftime.

The Tech lead was a mere six (49-43) when the game became exciting. Elander Lewis scored 10 points and suddenly the Rams led 60-57, the crowd silent except for three in the nosebleed seats.

A Coles layup sliced the lead to one (60-59), and then Uhle went up for THE dunk...

The game seasawed from that point, and a Coles brick sent the game into overtime. And when Davis' missile was on target, the Rams were doomed, losing 71-68.

Free throws were the difference in this game. Tech made a respectable 15 of their 23 attempts while VCU made a ludicrous 1 of 8.

"We haven't shot free throws all year," Smith said.

However, this was a loss you could come away with a smile. The steady Carl Weldon dished out 14 assists while committing only two turnovers. Uhle and senior center Martin "Moose" Henlan played tremendous post defense, with Henlan grabbing a dozen rebounds and blocking six shots. Elander Lewis scored 24 points and hauled in 10 rebounds.

Overall, the Rams played well and were beaten by the intangibles—a couple of missed calls and a decisive Tech home-court advantage. But VCU should look forward to upcoming Sun Belt schedule.

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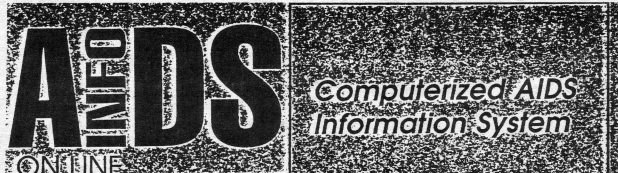
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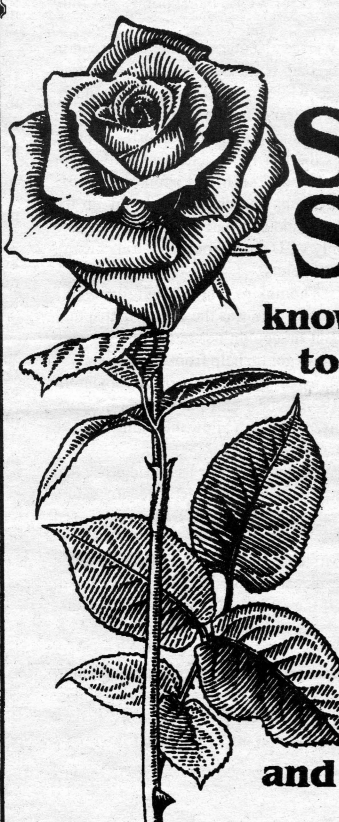
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EDITORIAL

The Joys of Newswriting

by Jay Hawkshead
Associate Editorial Editor

If you're a Mass Communications student in the Upper Division, and in the news-editorial track, you could be overworked and underpaid. No, it's not a matter of getting only two credits per writing course, and it's not that you don't learn anything for your efforts—you do learn some things that are valuable for life after graduation—but after a while the whole thing just stops being fun, and unfortunately that shows in students' work. They're putting out a lot of effort and only getting mediocre grades for it, possibly because the subject matter does not interest them enough.

A few days ago I was looking through some old papers of mine and ran across the first Mass Comm term project I ever did. It was for my newswriting class, which I took when classes were still held in the Franklin Street Gym and students pounded out stories on IBM Selectrics, using paper just one or two grades up from the hand towels found in any men's room.

My instructor for that course was the long since departed Norma Pierce. She allowed us to write our papers on whatever we wanted, and that was the last term proj-

ect I ever got an A on (and I've done three since). It's no coincidence that I also enjoyed working on that project, despite the primitive facilities. To do it I had to go to a Grateful Dead concert.

Enjoyment of class work fades quickly once a student enters the Upper Division. Once there students' expectations are lowered and they often end up doing no better than C work. Furthermore, many become satisfied with just getting through the courses with C's so they can move on to the next course and be that much closer to graduation.

A major culprit is the work load thrust upon the students. In the writing classes there is a story due virtually every week. They only have to be two or three pages long, depending on the course, but background research and interviews are necessary for their completion. When you factor in the time needed to find a suitable story in the first place, that doesn't leave much time for the actual research and writing, much less keeping up with other classes that have special demands of their own, and jobs outside of school.

It gets worse as the semester progresses. Even as the due date for an ever-looming project inexorably creeps up, the smaller stories are still cropping up once a week. As a result, the last two weeks of the semester

become a nightmare of legwork, last-minute interviews, missed parties and black coffee. I've known people to deliberately avoid the

It was for my newswriting class, which I took when classes were still held in the Franklin Street Gym and students pounded out stories on IBM Selectrics, using paper just one or two grades up from the hand towels found in any men's room.

New Academic Building's hallways for fear of being confronted with a progress report when there has been little or no progress made.

I'm not saying the program should be undemanding—journalism is a tough job and Mass Comm majors have to be prepared for the real world when they graduate. But maybe the program should be more geared to stu-

dents' interests. Basic courses like Newswriting and General Assignment Reporting are necessary to teach the fundamentals, but after that there should be more choice available. What if someone doesn't frankly give a damn about the Richmond School Board or the General Assembly? What if he or she is more interested in areas like entertainment or sports? Even though these are given a good deal of attention in the real world of journalism they are virtually ignored by the School of Mass Communications. I remember writing a movie review in General Assignment Reporting and a sports story in Specialized Reporting; aside from these, end of story. These are valid journalistic pursuits and should be treated as such in the future. There are other cities besides Richmond and papers other than the Times-Dispatch.

Good journalists enjoy what they do and it shows in the work they produce. Sam Donaldson likes to annoy presidents and Mike Wallace likes to make people want to knock his teeth out. Is it any wonder wonder they're two of the top journalists in the business? Letting students follow their own interests a little more would help them learn more about the field and become better reporters in the process.

ASL Merges Hearing and NonHearing Worlds

by Jodi Viar
Associate Folio Editor

American Sign Language (ASL) is probably the most important part of a hearing impaired person's life. It bridges the gap between their world and that of the hearing population. If not for ASL, deaf people would be in the dark concerning many things that go on in our world. ASL is important to deaf and hearing alike because it generates a channel of communication that is understood by members of both worlds, and it merges these two, separate worlds into one.

Therefore, it would seem that colleges would accept ASL as a language requirement. Indeed, many have, including Harvard, Brown, Georgetown, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Texas. Each of these schools, some ranking among the most prestigious in America, accepts ASL as a language, and the completion of a graduate-level language requirement is accepted for those who can sign fluently. Now, if Harvard allows this, how can VCU not allow it?

This is a question Ellen Trimble, a VCU social work student and a professional interpreter for twelve years, has been trying

to get an answer to. She has been the force behind a request to the College of Humanities and Sciences at VCU for ASL courses to become recognized as an equivalent of foreign language courses. She has been trying for more than a year, following all of the proper channels, to implement ASL as a language requirement, and still has made no headway.

Trimble's latest rejection came from an associate dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences, Dr. John Borgard. In a letter to Trimble, Borgard stated, "...our faculty still feels that American Sign Language does not fulfill the intent of foreign languages or humanities as we understand it...the reason that a foreign language is required and taught at VCU is to expose students to a 'foreign' or unknown system of communication which has developed naturally and organically over a long period of time in a country and among a people other than our own."

How many students at VCU know anything about ASL? Probably a very small percentage. Most people think that ASL can express only general information. Not so. ASL is a complete language with a complete vocabulary. There are signs for the alphabet and signs for complete words, similar to any language which has as its basis an alphabet.

Although ASL is mostly used in the United States and Canada, it is distinctly "foreign" to the majority of the hearing population. Sure, when a television show airs with this little tiny person in the corner of the screen moving their hands, most people recognize the motions as being sign language; however, few are able to turn the volume off to see if the interpreter is making mistakes. Most people simply ignore the interpreter. His actions do not concern them; they are not deaf.

Perhaps an underlying reason for the College of Humanities and Sciences not to accept ASL as a foreign language is that it is not important to them. The majority of America can hear, so who cares about the few that cannot. That attitude is selfish and immature, and it will get a University nowhere. Several years ago people did not care about learning a foreign language. It was not important because most would never leave the United States. Yet today America is full of Spanish speaking people and the knowledge of a foreign language is important. Through cries of injustice from those Spanish speaking people came awareness of the importance of Spanish.

If Ellen Trimble were to wait maybe American Sign Language would become the

Spanish of tomorrow. Trimble does not want to wait, and by not allowing ASL to have its place in the College of Humanities and Sciences, VCU can only add fuel to the fire. Soon an explosion will occur and finally a minority, deaf individuals, will get some consideration and a small victory.

Quotes of the Week

Topic: Europe

"I like Europe. It's a lot like Epcot Center."

-Jonathan Soloman, Comedian

More on Responsible Choices

One of the many appeals in "Making Morally Responsible Choices," (Brenda Terry, Dec. 15-Jan. 15, 1989) was for intellectual honesty. On that note I recognize that Ms. Terry's assertions about the morality of abortion and the status of the fetus are irrefutable provided one also subscribes to the premises underlying her position, which she implicitly states as "facts." She rightly calls for moral responsibility in creating another human being. With that, I wholly concur.

I, however, take issue with a number of implications and assertions in the letter; the least of which is not an implied indictment and mistrust of women. The rhetoric is replete with the fundamental denial of women as full moral agents that underlies so much of the anti-choice propaganda. From a spring board of moral arrogance and religious intolerance the supposed "pro-life" position purports to have a monopoly on truth and morality, whereas, much of the grounding of the "pro-life" position comes from religious wells of thought and understanding of the world. Basically, as I indicated above, I feel that

moral responsibility is called for in the creation of another human being. I also have faith that women on the whole and those facing the abortion decision will act morally and in accordance with their religious beliefs. It is after all one's religious framework that provides answers and direction with the timeless questions of existence and the meaning of existence. Such philosophical issues are not definitely resolved by any one religion, nor can they be mandated. Women facing the abortion decision do not act capriciously nor are women who choose abortion acting immorally, rather, they are acting within their moral and religious framework.

Vital to any society is the recognition that its members are ends in and of themselves, not the means to an end. With specific reference to the letter it must be noted that women are full moral agents, not walking wombs or potential "tombs" where a fetus just happens to take "residence."

My intent in writing this letter is not to denigrate the convictions expressed by Ms. Terry, nor do I think that what she writes is ridiculous. However, I am not bound to her religious convictions and as a full moral agent will not be exploited by a movement which in many regards serves to undermine my full actuality and suggests that I am not morally equipped to weigh and make important decisions deciding my life course.

Alex Ruffin
Graduate Student, Sociology

VCU Expansion

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to the recent publication of letters from concerned residents of Church Hill (sic) and its surrounding area. I am appalled at the way the citizens of Richmond regard a University that wants to expand and grow for the well-being of its students.

I was even more surprised to find that a VCU alumnus wrote criticizing the expansion of the facilities at VCU. If I were a graduate of VCU, I would be very proud of the fact that the school would like to offer more to its students and to the people of the city of Richmond. Most of the property, including those residential areas surrounding the University, needs to be changed due to the environmental circumstances surrounding each area.

I think this expansion will make downtown Richmond a safer and more enjoyable place, not just to live, but also to become educated.

Cynthia L. Charlton
Student, Education

"Except for the fact that they all speak English pretty well, they're indistinguishable from Americans."

**P.J.
O'Rourke, on
West Germans**

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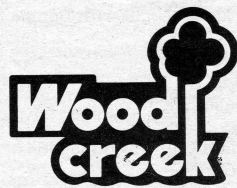
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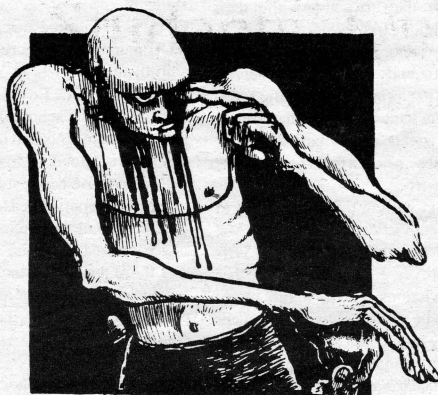
Sunday

Business Building "Elevator to the Gallows" (Louis Malle, 1958, France) at 6 p.m. "Let's Get Lost" (Bruce Weber, 1989, USA) at 8 p.m.

Broad Street Cinemas "Tango and Cash" and "Ski Patrol," call 285-3621 for times.

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NOISE

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Mosque Pattie Labelle

Jade Elephant Brian and the Nightmares

Wednesday

Mosque Patti Labelle

Jade Elephant DJ Night

Twisters Dollar Dance Night "Stefan's Birthday Party"

Thursday

Jade Elephant Solar Circuit

Shockoe Slip Cafe Charlie Pastorfield and the Believers

Twisters The Flood

Friday

Library The Willies

Shockoe Slip Cafe Big City

Jade Elephant Day for Night

Flood Zone Voltage Brothers

Twisters Provocative Dance Night with Donnie DJ

Saturday

Library Waxing Poetics

Shockoe Slip Cafe Boneshakers

Flood Zone Good Guys

Jade Elephant Southern Culture on the Skids

Twisters The Prevaricators

Sunday

Twisters D.T. and the Shakes

Monday

Twisters Purple Martian Thunderfunk

Games

Saturday

Western Kentucky VCU Women's Basketball vs. Western Kentucky
ODU VCU Men's Basketball vs. ODU at 8p.m.
Shepherd VCU Swimming vs. Shepherd at 2:30p.m.

Monday

South Alabama VCU Men's Basketball vs. South Alabama



EXHIBITS

Through January 31 UR Marsh Gallery Greg Kwiatek: Paintings and Drawings

Through January 27 1708 E. Main Javier Tapia: Recent Paintings and Drawings

Through January 28 Anderson Gallery MFA Thesis Exhibitions

Through March 25 Anderson Gallery Abstraction in Contemporary Photographs

COMEDY FARE

Wednesday

Carpenter Center George Carlin

January 14-17 Richmond Comedy Club
 Mike Veneman

January 17-20 Richmond Comedy Club
 Jim Carey

P E R F O R M A N C E

Wednesday

Virginia Stage Company "T Bone 'N Weasel" by Jon Klein

Thursday

Virginia Museum from the World Music and Performance Series comes "Blues and Roots: Djimo Kouyate and 'Bowling Green' John Cephas" at 7p.m., tickets \$4-8.

Friday

Barksdale Theatre "Nonsense" by Dan Goggin, tickets \$40-60.
1708 E. Main American Composer Eric Ross' multi-media works through the 20th.

Saturday

Richmond Coliseum "Stars on Ice" with Scott Hamilton and other Olympic skaters at 7:30p.m., tickets \$12.50-25.

Through February 3 Theatre Virginia "Tartuffe" by Moliere, tickets \$55-100.

AND IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL...

Through February 11 Corcoran Gallery Studio theatre West Memphis Mojo by Martin Jones, tickets \$12.50-18.50

Through February 18 Arena Stage "Stand-up Tragedy", for ticket information, call (202)488-3300.

Through March 25 Corcoran Gallery "Facing History: The Black Image in American Art 1710 to 1940"

Through March 25 Corcoran Gallery "Black Photographers Bear Witness: 100 Years of Social Protest"

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Look one, look all at these wonderful Calendar pages. Send dates, times, places, and graphics, along with the name and number of a contact person to:

The Calendar Editor
 916 West Franklin Street
 Richmond, Va 23284-2010

OR

drop the information off at the Student Activities Desk, located on the Second Floor of the Student Commons. Just tell them Box #34.

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