
Commonwealth TIMES MARKS 25 YEARS ...



Barry C Fitzgerald/Commonwealth Times

... WITH NEWS EVENTS OF DAYS GONE BY ...

Editor's note: Twenty-five years ago — before most of the current Commonwealth Times staff was born — this newspaper was first published. Back then there was the Vietnam War. Today there is the Bosnian conflict. Back then we had Batman and Robin. Today we have Beavis and Butthead. Back then there were hippies. Today there are yuppies. Back then we had Nixon. Today we have Clinton.

Back then it was parking. And today, well ... some things just don't change.

In any event, we've been through a lot. And in our vigorous attempts to satisfy our readers' never-ending quest for information, our editors have worked day and night sorting through the CT archives.

So put on your lovebeads, shine your penny loafers and enjoy. All stories and headlines are reprinted as originally published.

Sign of the 'Times' adopted by Proscript

Reprinted from *Commonwealth Times*, Vol. 1—SPCIAL, Sept. 10, 1969.

The *Commonwealth Times* is the new name of the newspaper of Virginia Commonwealth University.

The newspaper was formerly called "Proscript," and was the main communications medium of the Academic Center (Richmond Professional Institute).

However, so that unity may be enhanced between the two divisions of VCU (the Academic and Medical Centers), the newspaper managing board voted to change the paper's name.

The decision was made last year, but this orientation edition is the first issue under the new title.

Although the *Proscript* was a weekly, due to an increased staff *The Times* will appear more frequently this year.

Today's nameplate is temporary. A permanent one is being designed by Carl E. Larsen, cartoonist for the *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

All students interested in working for *The Times* should contact either Christy Cooke or Jean Talley, co-editors-in-chief, in *The Times* office, third floor of the Administration Building of the Academic Center.

Ginsberg readings applauded by 1500

This article originally ran in the *CT* on Oct. 14, 1970.

An audience of 1,500 listened as Allen Ginsberg, sponsored by *Spectrum* magazine, read anti-establishment poems and sang Hindu songs Monday night in the gymnasium.

Many joined with him as he chanted and sang. During "Har-Krishna," more than half the students beat on the floor and swayed to the beat.

There seemed to be a deep appreciation for Ginsberg, although many students scoffed at his performance and hurriedly walked out of the gymnasium.

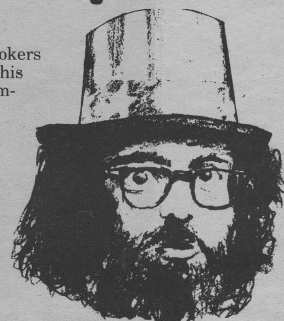
Students packed the gymnasium, and many more were waiting in the halls for lack of room inside. Ginsberg received a standing ovation when he first appeared on stage.

Shrouded in a thick cloud of cigaret smoke, Ginsberg started with the musical Hindu chant "Om." In his poems, some short, others long, Ginsberg mocked American ideology. Occasionally using profanity, Ginsberg attacked the Pentagon and striped-tied

businessmen. He sang to the god of "grass smokers and revolution." He evoked emotion from his audience through the use of pornographic imagery and picturesque symbolism.

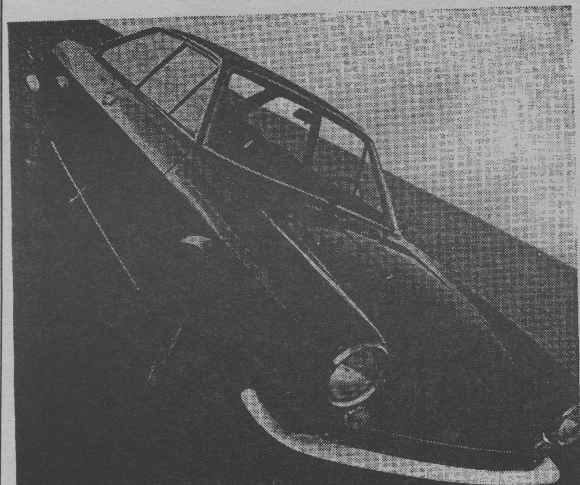
Ginsberg, poet and mystic, received the Guggenheim Poetry Fellowship in 1965, and is the author of numerous magazine articles and several books.

Later Monday night, Ginsberg attracted an audience of about 300 young people in Monroe Park. He and his listeners sat squat-legged in a large circle and chanted for more than an hour.



Allen Ginsberg

This ad ran in the *Commonwealth Times* on Friday, Oct. 18, 1968.



Match this: Fiat 124 Sport Coupe

Dual overhead cams...4-wheel disc brakes...4-speed synchromesh stick shift...2 + 2 seating...radial tires.

MOOERS
MOTOR CAR CO., INC.

1114 N. BOULEVARD

\$2995.00
delivered

EL 5-2873

IKE & TINA TURNER



with **STEEL MILL**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th 7:30 P.M.

TICKETS: \$4.50, \$5.00, and \$5.50

ON SALE: THALIMERS, DOWNTOWN
GARY'S, WILLOW LAWN
MUSIC CITY, SOUTHSIDE PLAZA

V.C.U. FAN DISTRICT
STRING FACTORY
BACK DOOR

DON'T MISS IT.

This ad ran in the
Commonwealth Times Friday,
Sept. 25, 1970.

Frisbee playing is limited due to danger to students

Reprint from *Commonwealth Times* Vol. 1 — No. 1; Oct. 1, 1969

By Ray Smith

TIMES ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

An order forbidding Frisbee playing on Shafer Street Court until 4:30 p.m. on weekdays was issued Monday from the office of the director of student activities, Brydon DeWitt.

"A growing concern of Dean [Charles M.] Renneisen, Dean Richard E. MacDougall and myself is that there are so many people using Shafer Court that playing Frisbee [there] makes it hazardous to their health, prompt; the action DeWitt said.

Several students donned armbands which read "Free Frisbee" and stood and squatted alongside Shafer Court to protest the limitation.

Others began a frisbee game to test the strictness of the ban. There was no effort to stop them.

Reports of injury to students caused by flying Frisbees and complaints of the inconvenience caused students by the players led administrators to take this action, DeWitt said.

The order restricts Frisbee playing to the hours of 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and from 7:30

p.m. on during the week. No restrictions were placed on week end playing.

"I realize that the Frisbee players have a right to engage in this activity, but I have to be concerned about the rights of others also," DeWitt said. The action was taken "for the protection of students [who] use Shafer Court and for no other reason," he explained.

Other places with hard surfaces required for Frisbee playing, have been sought but no suitable locations are available, DeWitt reported. Until the new gymnasium is finished, there is little chance that the present gym can be used and the court yard in front of Rhoads Hall is obstructed by wrought iron lampposts. With the exception of Monroe Park, which is crisscrossed by paved streets, there appears to be no other place on the Academic Center's Shafer Court to play Frisbee, DeWitt said.

"I am open to suggestions about other places to play and also a change in the restricted hours," DeWitt said.

Randy Eley, Student Government Association president said he supported the administration's position.

The matter was to come before the House of Representatives Monday night, but, for the second week in a row, there was not quorum present for the meeting.

The protest activities seemed to have no specific leader. They began with the burning of a sign announcing the limitation.

Later a sign reading "Free Frisbee" was hung in place of the burned sign above Shafer Court.

The illegal game continued until darkness forced the players to quit.

By that time, nearly all the curious onlookers had left, and so had many of the protesters. At 7:20 p.m., it was all over, 10

minutes before the curfew was to have ended.

Someone suggested using fireworks to continue the protest, and a short time later, a lone sparkler arced high over Shafer Court. Someone cheered. And that was the extent of the display.

The failure by the administration to enforce the ban caused some protesters to wonder aloud if they had won. There were no immediate answers.

'Puppy burn' slated by student organization

The following article was published Oct. 18, 1968, in Proscript, the predecessor to the Commonwealth Times. Though it predates the existence of VCU's current student newspaper, the piece represents in a way how much the times as well as the student press have changed.

A "puppy burn," the newest way to protest against the Vietnam war, has been scheduled for next Tuesday in a happening entitled "Time Out" by the Students for Liberal Government (SLG).

At the SLG meeting Monday afternoon, Jeffrey Kelso, Ed3 Fairfax, the organization's student government representative, asserted that a live dog will be sacrificed at VCU on a wooden funeral pyre to "protest the horrors of the war in Vietnam."

He said the burning of a dog would be analogous to the killing of U.S. soldiers in Vietnam.

Although Kelso hinted that the animal probably will not be burned at the last minute (which he said would be an effective "punch line"), he stated that the mere attempt to sacrifice the puppy would leave a "strong Psychological impact on the people."

President Not In Favor

Joe Yancey, SS3 King George, SLG president, interjected that he is not in favor of sponsoring the "Time Out" happening. He reasoned that such activities would only be adhering to what he called

the "military industrial complex" plan to appease students by allowing them to protest.

As the organizer of "Time Out" and the puppy burning, Kelso also outlined other activities which will be on the October 29, SLG agenda. Several planned are: a "pipeline" Tele-lecture with either Sen. Eugene McCarthy or Rep. Mark Hatfield, protest movies entitled the "Guerilla Theater," sessions on racism and drugs (the latter he would not expound upon), and a "bitch-in."

Kelso explained that the "bitch-in" will give students an opportunity to question deans of the school on any topic at an outdoor session. Dr. Charles M. Renneisen, dean of students, had approved this, according to Kelso.

Dean Not Approached

Dr. Renneisen said, however, that he had not been contacted by Kelso to accept an invitation to appear at the "bitch-in," and he would not consider appearing to answer any questions unless he receives a formal invitation.

Also discussed at the meeting was the organization of SLG members for a block election to the new House of Representatives. The new House of Representatives is to be reorganized today according to departments and schools. As of Monday, 13 members were instructed by Kelso and Yancey to obtain petitions to run for office. Kelso said, however, that SLG students will not be running on a separate ballot or under a specific heading.

Tales from the Archives

Decks proposed for parking

(Oct. 17, 1969)

Two free parking decks areas available to VCU students

(Oct. 23, 1969)

Nixon's Vietnam War policy draws support from faculty

(Nov. 7, 1969)

Dr. Spock to speak Tuesday at first Convocation

(Sept. 24, 1970)

Student arrested on Marijuana charge

(Oct. 15, 1971)

Dog wardens foiled by angered students

(Oct. 27, 1971)

Fan parking places to be marked, leased

(Sept. 28, 1972)

McGovern troupe calls for November victory

(Oct. 19, 1972)

Mayor Bliley asks picketing be stopped

This article originally ran in the CT on Nov. 20 1970

Richmond's Mayor Thomas Bliley has advised the Collegians in Alliance for Racial Equality (CARE) to stop picketing the Lyric barbershop on Broad Street and pursue the shop's policy on serving customers through legal channels, a CARE spokesman said yesterday.

The organization has accused the shop of having a Jim Crow policy.

Picketing by the group began Nov. 12 and continued until recently.

Marq Ruben, spokesman for the group, said the picketing has sufficiently brought the problems to the "public's eye." However, he said that if the organization is unsuccessful with legal means it would picket again.

During this week the group will contact

city councilmen and begin lobbying for an ordinance to alleviate the situation.

A proposed ordinance drawn up by CARE states that "any business that advertises, including written signs or symbols on the store itself, to attract the attention of the public must serve the general public excepting those persons who are disorderly because of possible damage to the business' property."

Ruben said that CARE will back any ordinance to give the Human Relations Commission enforcement power to handle a situation of this nature.

Ruben said the group had picketed the shop "because we feel that likes attract likes; therefore, bigots attract bigots."

Ruben said he talked to Gov. Linwood Holton's assistant, Gary Treadway, and was told the effort had the governor's "moral and spiritual backing."

American Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences presented its 40th annual "Oscar" awards. The winners:



Reprinted from Embassy Home Entertainment

BEFORE "TOOTSIE" — "The Graduate," starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft as the seductive Mrs. Robinson, won the "Oscar" for Best Direction. Its musical score, written by Simon and Garfunkel, won three Grammy Awards. Hoffman also won the 1967 Golden Globe Award for "Most Promising Newcomer, Male."

Best Film — "In the Heat of the Night"

Actor — Rod Steiger, "In the Heat of the Night"

Actress — Katharine Hepburn, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"

Supporting Actor — George Kennedy, "Cool Hand Luke"

Supporting Actress — Estelle Parsons, "Bonnie and Clyde"

Director — Mike Nichols, "The Graduate"

Screenplay (original) — William Rose, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"



Reprinted from Columbia Pictures

KNOCK KNOCK - Winner of Best Screenplay, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" examined mixed marriages and racial intolerance in the 1960s. Katharine Hepburn won Best Actress for her performance.

JACKIE AND WHO? - Jacqueline Kennedy's marriage to tycoon Aristotle Socrates Onassis shocked her public.



Stanley Einzig/Reprinted from "The Sixties: A Decade in VOGUE," The Conde Nast Publications Limited.

CALENDAR

Jan. 6 "Magical Mystery Tour" ties Request" top the charts

Jan. 8 Debut of "The Undersea V

Jan. 22 "Laugh-In" becomes a r

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Feb. 12 Publication of "Sou

Feb. 17 Chambers Brothers "The Time Has Come"

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June 1 Helen Adams Keller, 87, d

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June 15 Steve Miller's "Children charts

July 2 Bill Cosby hosts "Of Black

July 20 "In-aa-Gadda-Da-Vida" I

Aug. 10 "Wheels of Fire" reaches "Music from Big Pink" enters the

Sept. 24 Sixty Minutes debuts

Sept. 28 "Hey Jude" tops the sin

Oct. 8 Zeffirelli's "Romeo and Ju mieres

Oct. 12 "Cheap Thrills" tops the

Oct. 20 Jackie Kennedy marries Onassis

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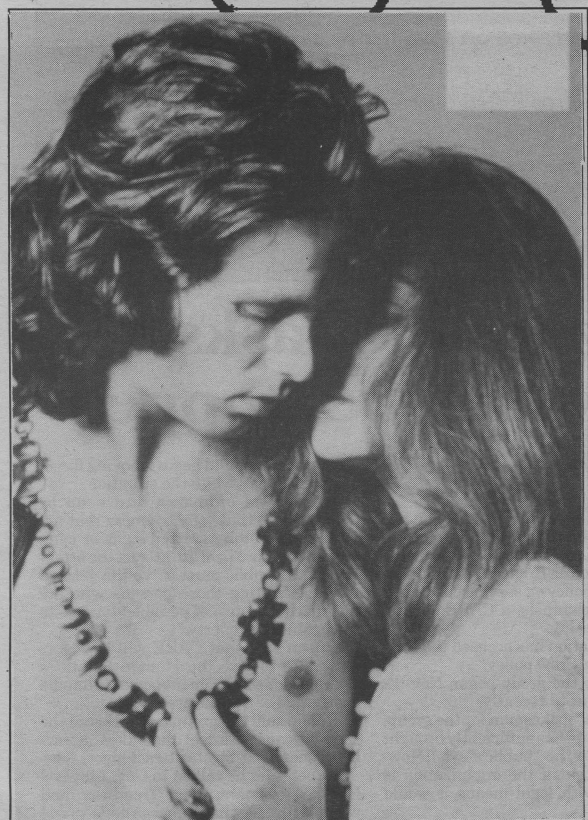
Nov. 16 "Electric Ladyland" capt spot

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Nov. 29 "Astral Weeks" released

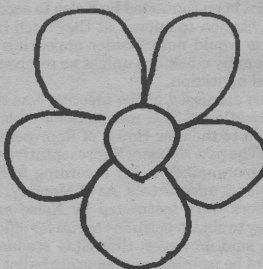
Dec. 25 Apollo VIII crew sees far

Dec. 28 The Beatles' "White Albu chart, "Beggars Banquet" begins



Alvin Wadock/Reprinted from "The Sixties: A Decade in VOGUE," The Conde Nast Publications Limited

TRANS CENDING POET—Jim Morrison, lead singer and song writer for the Doors. His music influenced generations.



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Jan. 6 "Magical Mystery Tour" and "Their Satanic Majesties Request" top the charts

Jan. 8 Debut of "The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau"

Jan. 22 "Laugh-In" becomes a regular television show

Jan. 23 Release of "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"

Feb. 12 Publication of "Soul on Ice"

Feb. 17 Chambers Brothers enter the charts with "The Time Has Come"

March 16 "The Dock of the Bay" hits No. 1

April 3 Film release of "2001: A Space Odyssey"

April 27 Traffic enters the charts with "Mr. Fantasy"

May 4 "Days of Future Passed" hits charts

May 6 Mailer's "The Armies of the Night" is published

June 1 Helen Adams Keller, 87, dies after a mild stroke

June 12 Film release of "Rosemary's Baby"

June 15 Steve Miller's "Children of the Future" hits the charts

July 2 Bill Cosby hosts "Of Black America" series

July 20 "In-aa-Gadda-Da-Vida" hits the charts

Aug. 10 "Wheels of Fire" reaches the top, and the Band's "Music from Big Pink" enters the charts

Sept. 24 Sixty Minutes debuts

Sept. 28 "Hey Jude" tops the singles charts

Oct. 8 Zeffirelli's "Romeo and Juliet" premieres

Oct. 12 "Cheap Thrills" tops the LP chart

Oct. 20 Jackie Kennedy marries Aristotle Onassis

Nov. 13 "Yellow Submarine" premieres

Nov. 16 "Electric Ladyland" captures top LP spot

Nov. 17 "Heidi" interrupts football telecast as Raiders come from behind to win

Nov. 29 "Astral Weeks" released

Dec. 25 Apollo VIII crew sees far side of moon

Dec. 28 The Beatles' "White Album" leads LP chart, "Beggars Banquet" begins to climb

THE LOOK OF THE '60s—Twiggy's image set the trend for years.



Ron Traegar/ Reprinted from "The Sixties: A Decade in VOGUE," The Conde Nast Publications Limited

Jack Robinson/Reprinted from "The Sixties: A Decade in VOGUE," The Conde Nast Publications Limited

This week in Entertainment History:

On Broadway:

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"
"Funny Girl"

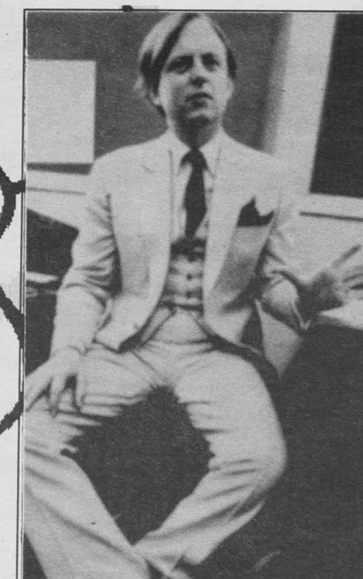
In Books:

Fiction

1. "Airport," Hailey
2. "Couples," Updike
3. "True Grit," Portis
4. "Testimony of Two Men," Caldwell
5. "Topaz," Uris
6. "Red Sky at Morning," Bradford
7. "Heaven Help Us," Tarr
8. "Myra Breckinridge," Vidal
9. "The Senator," Pearson
10. "The Queen's Confession," Holt

Nonfiction

1. "The Rich and the Super-Rich," Lundberg
2. "The Money Game," Adam Smith
3. "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test," Wolfe
4. "The American Challenge," Servan-Schreiber
5. "Iberia," Michener
6. "Between Parent and Child," Ginott
7. "Soul on Ice," Cleaver
8. "The Doctor's Quick Weight Loss Diet," Stillman and Baker
9. "The Right People," Birmingham
10. "The Naked Ape," Morris

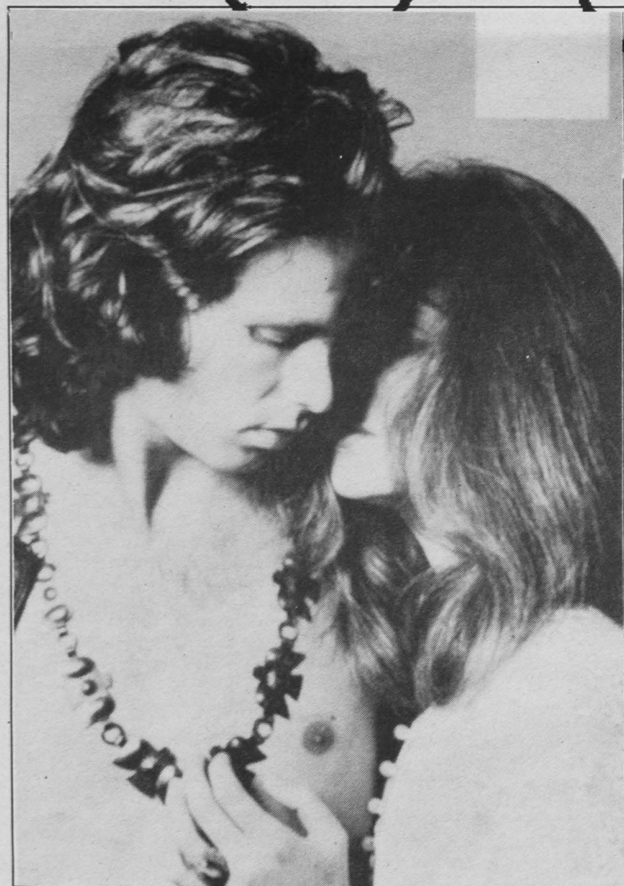


LSD HEYDAY - Tom Wolfe. His "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test" was climbing the best-seller chart in '68 as Americans followed the trails of Ken Kesey and his psychedelic sidekicks.



Reprinted from MGM/UA Home Video Presentation

LIGHT YEARS AHEAD - "2001: A Space Odyssey," captured America's imagination with its spectacular special effects.



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Diet," Stillman and Baker
9. "The Right People," Birmingham
10. "The Naked Ape," Morris



Starting KIRK DOUGLAS • GARY LOCKWOOD
Screenplay by STANLEY KUBRICK and ARTHUR C. CLARKE
Directed and Produced by STANLEY KUBRICK
Also available on videocassette 2001: THE YEAR WE MAKE CONTACT



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EDITORIAL

Parking Congestion is an Unwanted Tradition at VCU

Editor's note: The following article appeared as an unsigned editorial in the Sept. 28, 1972, issue of the Commonwealth Times.

In the Broadway play and recent film "Butterflies are Free," Jill Tanner is a delightfully spaced-out character who hasn't been able to put the pieces of her life together. When asked by a concerned matron if she ever considered college, she quips, "I was planning to go to UCLA but I couldn't find a parking space!"

Audiences across the country have howled at the line, but VCU commuters know better. To those who drive to the academic campus each day, the greatest obstacle to an education is neither intellect, prejudice or finances. Finding a place to leave the automobile is the greatest daily hassle.

The Richmond city fathers are now considering a proposal, which, if put into effect, would severely reduce the number of on-street parking spaces in the Fan. Curbside lanes on residential streets would be marked off and leased to local residents for private parking.

A first reaction is that such a move is unconstitutional on the grounds that public thoroughfares are maintained by all taxpayers. But this objection is offset by the action of the Virginia Legislature's last session making such a system legal at the discretion of the locality.

Fan residents are rallying behind their sometimes effective political organization, the Fan District Association, to establish the parking plan where they could be assured of having space for their exclusive use.

Why, Fan residents ask, should they pay exorbitant property taxes, boost the economic and aesthetic aspects of the inner city through restoration of their homes and suffer from the influx of commuters who drive into the area in the morning and leave by mid-afternoon, contributing nothing but inconvenience and polluted air? There have also been complaints that students who eat lunch in their cars leave behind a trail of litter.

Institute community relations

The problem in community relations is not unlike Cambridge, Mass., where elitist Harvard University does little to span the gap with the almost exclusively blue-collar citizenry.

In New York City's Morningside Heights, local people were embittered by the prospect of a massive Columbia University gymnasium complex backing up to their neighborhood. The only architectural concession in the initial design of the side facing Harlem had been a fire exit. Community outcry coupled with student support was a major cause of the massive political protests that erupted at Columbia University in 1968.

Satisfy student demands

The critical parking shortage at Virginia Commonwealth University is likewise a politically sensitive issue. Last December, students here overwhelmingly defeated a proposed hike in student activities fees to finance a student union building. A major factor in the disapproval was the belief of many that parking facilities were more needed than pool tables and bowling alleys.

Although the methods of financing parking facilities and student unions are different, the importance students placed on better parking before expanded activity facilities came through repeatedly.

The administration did absolutely nothing to interpret the massive defeat of the union idea. If they had examined the vote,

it would have been evident that misjudged priorities were a contributor to the defeat of the union referendum. Students want and need parking.

Combine resources

The university must combine its resources with representatives from state and municipal governments, area residents and neighboring businessmen to begin an immediate study of the feasibility of a multilevel parking facility.

The VCU master plan slated the 800 block of Grace Street for a major parking facility. Most of the block is already taken up with parking lots. Perhaps this area is the most obvious place for such a structure.

Administrators have shied away from expanded parking facilities with the notion that students would not pay a daily or monthly fee that would eventually cover the bond. This is not the case.

The city-run Mosque parking lots on Main Street are filled to their capacity. The charge there is 50 cents a day. Private parking lots at the corners of Shafer and Grace streets and Laurel and Grace streets also do brisk business.

Automobiles couldn't be squeezed any tighter than they are in the lot just south of the School of Business. But the free parking afforded there and on the Richmond Expressway tract three blocks south will be lost to new construction.

To compensate for lost spaces due to the new educational structure and eventual freeway, the university must act now.

There are indications that the proposed regulation allowing individual leasing of street parking will breeze through City Council when the measure is considered behind closed doors Oct. 11.

Parking spaces probably will be marked and numbered with owners displaying parking stickers on their cars. The fees charged for space rental probably will barely cover the cost of administration.

City police officers who now ticket roughly 35 cars daily in the VCU area and campus patrolmen who issue about 40 tickets weekly for illegal parking will have quite a job on their hands if the proposition for private marked parking spaces is going to be very enticing to a student motorist late for class and with nowhere to park.

Fan homeowners are to be praised for their commitment toward rejuvenating this section of the city for suburban areas. But they have no more claim to public streets than anyone else. Many residents already have off-street parking facilities and those who don't are hardened enough to city life to know that parking is a premium. In-town living is a choice they have made.

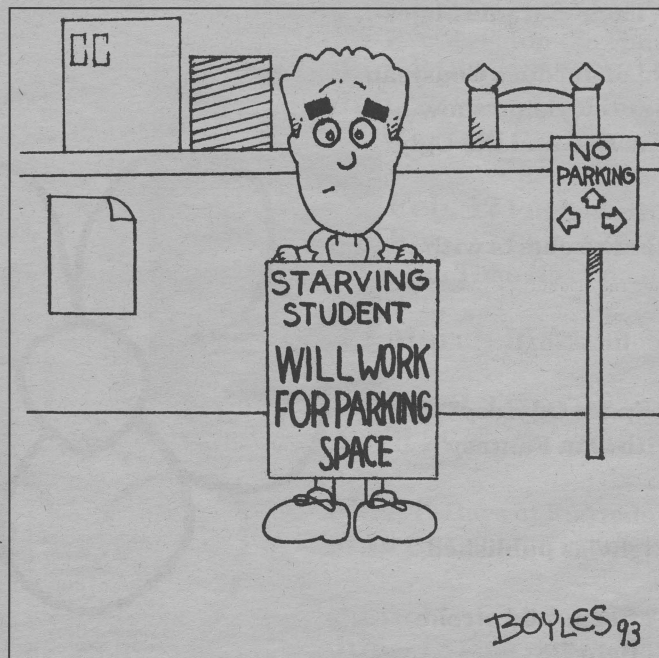
But VCU should no longer allow the increasing flow of automobiles to add to university-community problems.

The university must attack the parking situation it has created with a sense of determined urgency.

Acheive solutions

Neighboring residents have indicated that they will no longer be victims of poor planning by an institution that claims to be very much attuned to community needs. If Fan residents prevail Oct. 11, VCU commuters will face fantastic difficulties in finding parking. Students, who live in the Fan and have cars but cannot afford or are denied parking spaces, will also have problems.

The university office for planning and operations must realize the urgency of the parking crisis and move with all expediency toward achieving real parking solutions. Until that time, VCU had better keep its mouth shut about "urban commitment."



Dead Letter Office

Ban on-street parking downtown

Sometime all of us at VCU are going to have to accept the fact that an urban university cannot be a parking lot. Some cities are beginning to realize that it is impossible to move thousands of people everyday into the central areas along with their cars, too.

There just isn't space, and our air supply will not forever tolerate the accumulation of hydrocarbons from automobile exhausts.

Eventually we will have to be satisfied to leave our cars at some outlying area and to proceed into central area of foot, on a bicycle, or on some form of mass transit vehicle.

I would suggest the immediate prohibition of on-street parking in the downtown area, including VCU. This would discourage quite a few motorists, who would then seek other ways of getting to their destinations, via city bus, car pool, etc. I am sure that downtown businessmen would soon find other satisfactory ways of accommodating shoppers by streamlining their delivery services and encouraging city authorities to develop comfortable and efficient rapid transit systems from outlying sections.

E. Allen Ross
October 15, 1969

Another election, another schmuck in office

Am I supposed to jump for joy that a bigot has won the honor of sitting at the top of my native land? Am I supposed to be proud that a schmuck like Nixon has proof that 60 percent of America is behind him and he thinks he's the next best thing since hamburgers? I feel disgust when I think of Nixon, but when I think of his "landslide" victory, and the next four years and how right at this moment he is smug in knowing that most of America is behind him and endorses his inhumane propositions, part of me wants to lie down and die. So okay, everyone knew Nixon would win—but by a landslide? Am I supposed to rejoice because 60 percent

of my fellow citizens have lost any ability they may ever have had for intelligent and moral reasoning? That 60 percent endorse an administration that couldn't care less about them (unless it's in Nixon's best interests). Incredible! All I can say is we're all going to get what 60 percent deserve and I, for one, am not looking forward to the next four years when the maniac that this country has elected will continue his power hungry schemes that make a mockery of words like peace, justice and equality.

LaBeth McArthur
November 9, 1972

Women's b-ball has mystery origin

Leanne Anama
CT SPORTS EDITOR

Back in 1968, Richmond Professional Institute became what's known today as Virginia Commonwealth University. With this change, the Lady Green Devils of RPI became the Lady Rams of VCU for the 1968-69 season.

Not much is known about the program's early years. Digging through the archived papers has come up with very little and sometimes sporadic information. Going to VCU's Sports Information Department was a little bit better. They had all the season statistics since 1975, which was a tremendous help. But there's a 7-year gap unaccounted for.

It can be understood since women's basketball didn't become a NCAA sport until 1981. So athletic departments didn't keep very good records. In fact it was probably harder for them in the days before the age of electronics.

In a compilation of the history that can be found of VCU's women's basketball program, I can offer tidbits of information. For instance, the nickname has changed at various times back and forth from the Lady Ramettes to the Lady Ramettes over the years to the present Lady Rams.

In the past 18 years, the Lady Rams have had six winning seasons, none of them consecutive except for the last two seasons. The rest of those years aren't all losing years; there were three .500 seasons, including the 1975 season.

Also, over the past 18 years, the Lady Rams have had seven different coaches, with no one coach staying longer than four years. That's not to say that present head coach Susan Walvius will have only this year to do what she can for the program and then move on. In fact Walvius said she's not going anywhere.

"I'm happy here," Walvius said. "The athletic department and everyone at VCU are totally committed to women's basketball, which shows how much the sport has grown since the old days."

In the old days, women's basketball had six players and was a non-funded collegiate sport. Now it's fully funded, with five players on the court, and has grown to where the women's Final Four is sold out eight months in advance.

But looking back, VCU's own team can show some of the sport's history too. In 1976, VCU participated in the Virginia Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women state tournament. This is a branch of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, which was the first national organization for women's basketball before the NCAA. In 1982, a year after the NCAA took over women's basketball, VCU joined the Sunbelt Conference. And just two years ago, the Lady Rams took their act to the Metro Conference.

Now women's basketball has undergone a successful metamorphosis from the old days to be as popular as the men's programs. Even VCU has survived change very well. When Walvius arrived four years ago, the program was 7-19 the previous year, and then the team went 12-16. Walvius' last two years have been winning seasons.

No one knows what the future might hold for women's basketball, but it can't get any worse than some of its history.

Year end totals since 1975 to present

1975-76 (11-11, .500)
1976-77 (5-14, .263)
1977-78 (2-16, .111)
1978-79 (6-12, .333)
1979-80 (19-11, .633)
1980-81 (13-13, .500)
1981-82 (13-11, .542)
1982-83 (5-15, .250)
1983-84 (6-21, .222)
1984-85 (8-19, .296)
1985-86 (14-14, .500)
1986-87 (21-8, .724)
1987-88 (13-15, .464)
1988-89 (19-10, .655)
1989-90 (7-20, .259)
1990-91 (12-16, .316)
1991-92 (17-12, .586)
1992-93 (15-12, .555)
Overall totals since 1975: 206 wins 250 losses, .452

The beginning of men's basketball

Brian J. French
CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Nov. 27, 1968.

On a cool evening in Augusta, Ga., back in the day when revolution was more than a song title, the basketball team underwent a revolution of its own.

Goodbye, RPI Green Devils.

Hello, VCU Rams.

With the merger of Richmond Professional Institute and Medical College of Virginia came a new school: Virginia Commonwealth University.

With it also came a new athletic program.

And on that late November night, the first VCU Ram basketball team took to the floor against Augusta College.

The problem was the school from a town best known for doglegs and the green jacket spoiled the Rams' coming out party, winning 89-71.

An inauspicious way to begin the program.

Of course, an NCAA title was not in the future for the fledgling program. It didn't even belong to the NCAA until 1972.

But there they were, the inaugural VCU Rams.

A new program like VCU's had to endure a long hard year of playing nobodies and losing to nobodies.

They lost their first four games against the likes of Augusta, Georgia Southern (105-88) and Hampden-Sydney (83-79).

Now, they did have their first home game to look forward to against Washington & Lee on Dec. 6 over at Franklin Street Gym. A win, right?

No. W & L 83, VCU 70.

The Rams finally won a game on Dec. 9, beating Newport News Apprentice 78-69.

VCU beat teams of the ilk of Southeastern (D.C.), Pembroke State (N.C.), West Liberty State, Denison, West Virginia State, Bridgewater, as well as avenging the loss to Hampden-Sydney, to finish with a mark of 12-11.

They even played a home-and-home series with Virginia Union. The Rams won at VUU, 96-74, while the Panthers won at Franklin Street Gym, 89-82.

One of VCU's brights spots was Charles "Jabo" Wilkins. During the second year of play, he averaged 27 points and 17 rebounds a game as the center/power forward.

The Rams did not send anyone to the pros that season. Their first draft pick was Jesse Dark, who was the second round pick of the New York Knicks in 1974. Bernard Harris was drafted in the fourth round by Buffalo (now the L.A. Clippers).

The program grew. In 1978, the Rams made their first appearance in the National Invitation Tournament. In the 1979-80 season, they began playing in the Sun Belt Conference, promptly winning the conference tournament and making their grand debut in the NCAA tournament.

During the 1984-85 season, VCU went 26-6, won the Sun Belt Tournament for the third time, was ranked No. 11 in both the AP and UPI polls, and was seeded No. 2 in the West Region, where they advanced to the second round.

Now the Rams play in the well-known Metro Conference, rubbing elbows with Louisville and Tulane as opposed to Randolph-Macon and Atlantic Christian, and are seen on ESPN and Prime Network on a semi-regular basis.

A long, long way from Augusta, Ga. on a cool late November evening, the birthplace of VCU basketball.

VCU BASKETBALL YEAR-BY-YEAR

YEAR	RECORD
Coach— Benny Dees (VCU record 25-21)	
1968-69:	12-11
1969-70:	13-10

Coach— Chuck Noe (95-42)	
1970-71:	15-9
1971-72:	15-4
1972-73:	15-5
1973-74:	17-7
1974-75:	17-8
1975-76:	16-9

Coach— Dana Kirk (57-23)	
1976-77:	13-13
1977-78:	24-5 *
1978-79:	20-5

Coach— J.D. Barnett (132-48)	
1979-80:	18-12 %
1980-81:	24-5 %
1981-82:	17-11
1982-83:	24-7 %
1983-84:	23-7 %
1984-85:	26-6 %

Coach— Mike Polio (65-57)	
1985-86:	12-16
1986-87:	17-14
1987-88:	23-12 *
1988-89:	13-15

Coach— Sonny Smith (59-59)	
1989-90:	11-17
1990-91:	14-17
1991-92:	14-15
1992-93:	20-10 *

\$—won Sun Belt Tournament
*—advanced to NIT
%—advanced to NCAA

DID YOU KNOW ...

1st game in VCU history: Augusta (Ga.) 89, VCU 71, Nov. 27, 1968

1st home game: Washington & Lee 83, VCU 70, Dec. 6, 1968

1st win: VCU 78, Newport News Apprentice 69, Dec. 9, 1968

1st road win: VCU 86, Pembroke State (N.C.) 77, Dec. 14, 1968

1st game at Richmond Coliseum: VCU 84, East Tennessee State 71, Dec. 20, 1971

Last regular season game at Franklin St. Gym: VCU 85, Baltimore 48, Jan. 31, 1979

Most points scored in a game: 142 (vs. Charleston, S.C.), Nov. 29, 1969

Fewest points scored in a game: 41 (vs. William & Mary), Dec. 6, 1983

Most points given up in a game: 141 (at Oklahoma), December 8, 1990

Fewest points given up in a game: 37 (at New Hampshire), Feb. 11, 1991

- VCU won their last 39 regular season games at Franklin Street Gym
- VCU played a home game at Richmond's Robins Center on Feb. 6, 1988. They beat Jacksonville 86-64.
- The team played most often in VCU's history is Old Dominion (ODU leads the series 23-21).
- VCU had three rivalries with CIAA schools, with a 7-2 record against Virginia Union, a 4-0 record against Virginia State, and a 2-1 record against Norfolk State.

VCU football: Once a reality, now a dream

Brian J. French
CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Football at VCU. Sounds funny, doesn't it?

Well, back in the late 60's and early 70's, VCU football was more than an oxymoron. It was a club sport.

During this time, the club actually became rather competitive in the latter stages of the team's short lifespan.

Of course, there were some down moments (read: years) in the club's existence.

The first game for the new club took place at home against the Catholic University Cardinals. VCU lost, 12-5. It gets worse.

On Oct. 10, 1971, the Rams were defeated by something called District of Columbia Teachers College, 8-6.

In another game, they were routed by Newport News Apprentice, 43-6. NNA is a school that teaches people how to build ships at the adjacent Newport News Shipyard. The program had never been particularly strong, but compared to VCU, the Builders were as tough as the Miami Hurricanes.

The 1970 VCU program finished a dismal 1-7 for the year.

A tough way to start a program, to say the least.

As the team matured, however, wins became more and more commonplace.

A 21-6 win over Gallaudet. A 31-12 defeat of D.C. Teacher's College. A 43-0 pounding of Duke's club squad.

In fact, the team actually got national ranking for club football, ascending to No. 4 in the land after a 28-13 spanking of American University.

There, however, is where it all comes to a screeching halt. The football team was unable to draw well, and the job itself was too much of a strain for the coach to handle without being paid.

A Commonwealth Times sports editorial in the Nov. 9, 1972 edition asked that the program be kept afloat.

However, after looking into all possible options, the VCU Football Club folded after the American game.

Since then, despite the explosion of popularity that has lifted college football to new heights, no serious talk of resurrecting the club, or tackle football at any level, has begun.

Therefore, unless a major change of heart is experienced by the powers that be, VCU football will remain just a distant piece of history, a memory to those who played the sport, and a linescore on old, yellowing copies of the Commonwealth Times.

Dream of a crew team capsized on the James

Molly K. Hampker
CT STAFF WRITER

From the beginning, the VCU crew team was plagued with difficulties. What could go wrong, did go wrong. Crew team, you ask? Yep. From 1966 to 1972 Virginia Commonwealth University had a rowing team.

VCU was the only school in the area to have one, so there were a few minor problems with scheduling. As a result, the team had one or two home meets and participated in a few invitational.

Prior to 1969, the team had so little support that they were using borrowed oars, which were in very bad condition. The crew team was also supposed to get a new shell in 1969, but shipping got mixed up, so that was delayed.

Besides the fact that their equipment was poor, their performance in meets was even poorer. During one meet in April, 1969, the team was disqualified for finishing in the wrong lane.

And in May 1969, the VCU crew team finished last because they hit the sandbar.

In the hope of redeeming themselves, they participated in the largest East Coast rowing competition for the year of 1969. They didn't even make it through the first round. They did win

a few meets during this season, so that kept the crew team going. But by the end of the season, one varsity member said that the team's chances for the following season were poor due to the fact that they were losing four varsity members.

To make matters worse, the coach resigned in October of 1969. The team couldn't find another coach, so a Richmond businessman said that he would temporarily coach the team.

In the fall of 1970, the boathouse was flooded when the James River rose unexpectedly. Two of their boats were destroyed and they had to clean up the boathouse by themselves. There wasn't much financial help, so the members paid for new oars and repairs out of their own pockets.

During the 1971 season, the crew team had to get a junior rower to coach the team because of lack of interest, lack of funds and lack of a coach. They didn't even bother compiling a schedule for the 1971-72 season.

In one last feeble attempt to revive the program, they compiled a fall 1972 schedule. Again, the James River dashed their hopes by flooding out the boathouse again, forcing them to cancel their schedule and the program forever.

*Happy 25th Anniversary,
Commonwealth Times!*

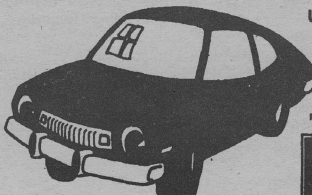
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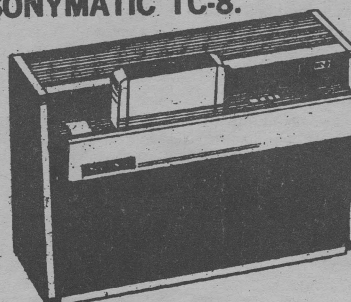
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