

WEATHER



MONDAY — Partly sunny with highs in the mid-50s. Lows in the low 40s.



TUESDAY — Cloudy and windy with a 100 percent chance of rain. Highs in the low 50s. Lows in the low 40s.

Commonwealth TIMES

INSIDE

• They're not just for kids anymore. Comic books grow up. See story, page 6.



MONDAY, November 13, 1995

The Student Press of Virginia Commonwealth University

Vol. 27, No. 32

World trade dominates Richmond Forum opener

James McMahon
CT News Editor

Free trade and open markets took center stage Saturday night at the University of Richmond's Robins Center as the Richmond Forum opened with its first of five programs this year.

Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney entertained the crowd with his anecdotes and insights into trade, U.S. and Canadian relations and the North American Free Trade Alliance.

Ambassador Carla Hills, the United States trade representative from 1989 to 1993, also was on hand to provide insight into the future of U.S. trade in the Western Hemisphere.

Canada and the United States, Mulroney said, are the biggest trading partners in the world, conducting more than \$380 billion in two-way trade a year. This large partnership is a direct result, he said, of the free-trade agreement he signed while prime minister, though at the time it was unpopular with many Canadians.

"When I signed that agreement my support was down even with members of my own family," Mulroney joked. "I knew it was bad when I called my mom, and she put me on hold."

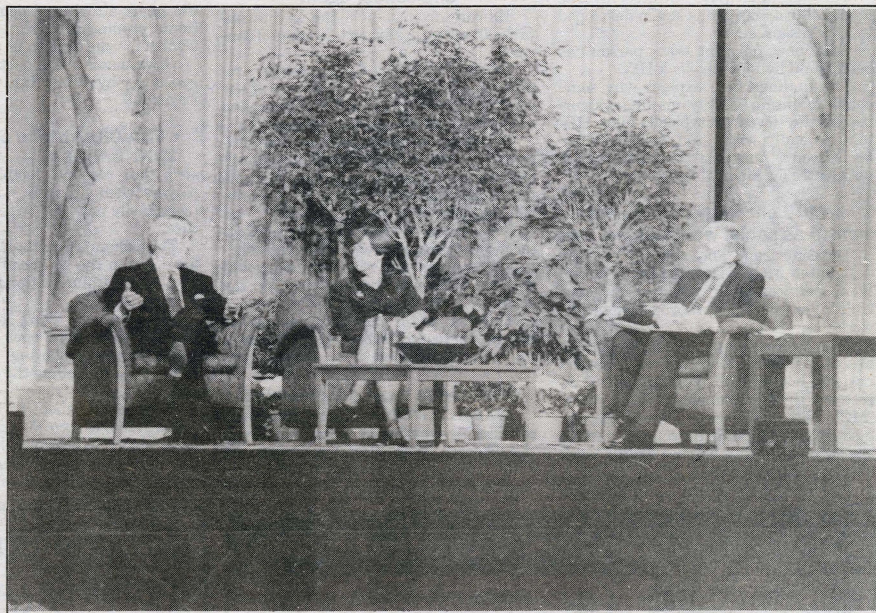
Canada, Mulroney said, suffered from the same fear that has plagued other countries when discussing free trade, the fear that jobs will be lost to other countries. Mulroney contends, however, that trade-related jobs are the most stable and better-paying ones around.

In addition to its lofty trading with the United States, the prime minister said, Canada does a good deal of business with Virginia.

"In 1994 Canadian trade with Virginia accounted for \$2.5 billion worth of goods," he said. "Eighteen thousand Virginians are employed directly by Canadian-owned businesses."

In addition to these numbers, Mulroney said, Canadi-

FORUM continued to page 4 ➤



Corey Fyke/Commonwealth Times

OPEN YOUR MARKETS — Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Ambassador Carla Hills and former Virginia Gov. Gerald L. Baliles discuss trade issues and open markets during Saturday night's Richmond Forum at the Robins Center on the University of Richmond campus.

Registration headed on-line

New program to make information more accessible

Jenny Swiger
CT STAFF WRITER

If you've ever registered for a class only to realize the room number changed from the one listed in the course schedule, you soon may be one of those students who can avoid this frustration.

By the spring 1996 semester, for instance, if you want to find out the latest information concerning your degree requirements or course schedules for an upcoming semester, you can find this information on-line with a computer.

"It will make modifications easier and immediate," said James M. Alessio, executive director of University Enrollment Services.

Because the information will be more accessible, students can correct such things as their addresses via computer instead of waiting in line at an office for an employee to make the correction.

"It will make the registration office more efficient, simple changes will be easier (for the students) and more convenient," said Sherri Hill, an art education major.

Students now can change their schedules and check their grades through a similar service by telephone. But this doesn't allow detailed changes that become possible through a computer keyboard.

University officials, enrolled students and some prospective students can access the on-line services if they have a computer with a modem.

"We're trying to be flexible," Alessio said. "We want students to apply (to the university) how they feel comfortable."

Since the College of Humanities and Sciences changed the general education requirements for incoming freshman, some of these will be listed only through the on-line service.

"More interdisciplinary courses (are being required)," said Scott Keeter, professor and chairman of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. "The schools are now developing these courses and (some) will not be able to meet the print catalog deadline."

ON-LINE continued to page 4 ➤

Visibility ad campaign's goal

Peter Van Vleet
CT STAFF WRITER

The School of Business has joined hands with Barber Martin & Associates in an advertising campaign to help the community become more aware of the school, its events and its students.

"We want to improve the image of the school," said Jack Sims, director of capital support for the university advancement office. "We don't think the community as a whole knows what we offer."

To do this, the school will use television commercials, direct mail, telemarketing,

receptions and newsletters to convey its message.

Barber Martin & Associates has invested thousands of dollars in the campaign and produced a print advertisement that has been circulated to local businesses for use in their own publications.

Charles Gallagher, associate dean of external affairs for the school, said this campaign is a way for the school to tell its story.

"(It's) to show that we are a resource to the community," he said.

CAMPAIGN continued to page 4 ➤

What could default mean to you?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Worries of a U.S. default aroused by the budget brawl in Washington have been felt mostly in the financial markets, where investors see a small but growing possibility of a tainted government credit record.

But a default could tap the wallets of average Americans in ways that aren't so obvious, raising borrowing costs on every-

thing from mortgages to sewage systems.

Some questions and answers about what could happen: Q: What is this debt ceiling business all about?

A: The government borrows money to supplement cash from taxes and other sources to pay bills. The limits of that borrowing are set by Congress. If the limits are reached, the ceiling on borrowing must be raised. On Friday Congress proposed measures to let the government continue

NATIONAL FOCUS

DEFAULT continued to page 4 ➤

Health

NOTES

News from the medical community



• Weak HIV strain may bring vaccine closer

An Australian blood donor who has a strain of the AIDS virus that is genetically weaker than others may hold the key to a live vaccine, said an Australian scientists' report in the journal Science.

The Australian's HIV strain seems to be identical to a man-made strain developed by U.S. researchers.

Until now, only one other person has been found living with weak HIV.

The findings help explain why some people maintain healthy immune systems beyond the 10 years it typically takes HIV to turn deadly, wrote study author Nicholas Deacon of Australia's Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research.

• MCV oncology department named as social work training site

The American Cancer Society recently designated MCV's Department of Social Work Services as an advanced practice training site for students of oncology social work.

"The highly competitive nature of this award makes the designation a distinct national honor," said William Spitzer, director of the Department of Social Work. "MCV will now become one of only 18 medical institutions in the country to make specialized master's level social work oncology training available."

Trainees in the grant-based program

receive both classroom and internship preparation in the care of oncology patients and their families. Students will also assist in the American Cancer Society's community-based services.

• Sea creature may offer anti-cancer agent

Marine life may hold the key to improved treatments for certain types of cancer.

At MCV's Massey Cancer Center, researchers are studying the effects of the chemical bryostatin, found in a one-celled sea animal, on the immune system.

Bryostatin has shown promising anti-cancer activity in earlier studies by simultaneously stimulating the growth of normal human bone marrow cells while inhibiting the growth of leukemia cells.

Researchers at the Massey Cancer Center encourage patients with advanced, solid-tumor cancers for whom conventional therapy holds little hope to enroll in the study.

The goal is to learn more about the effects of bryostatin on both white blood cell functions and cancer.

• NIH urges heart drug warnings

WASHINGTON — The government is considering whether certain heart drugs should carry urgent warnings for patients with high blood pressure, alerting them to the possibly increased risk of heart attacks

or death.

The drugs are known as calcium channel blockers. They are used to treat chest pains known as angina, when the heart fails to get enough oxygen and also are widely used for high blood pressure.

One of the drugs, short-acting nifedipine, has been shown in several studies to raise the heart attack and death rates of patients, prompting the National Institute of Health to urge caution in prescribing it.

Nifedipine is sold under the brand names Procardia by Pfizer Inc. and Adalat by Bayer AG.

• FDA OKs strip to cure snoring

MINNEAPOLIS — A bandage-like strip that runners, football and hockey players wear on their noses to breathe more easily now will be sold as a snoring cure.

The makers of Breathe Right nasal strips have gotten the go-ahead from the Food and Drug Administration to market them to snorers.

Sleepers who don't get enough air through their nose open their mouths, which promotes snoring. Breathe Right strips work by pulling the nasal passages open.

They sell for about \$5 for a box of 10, about \$12 for a box of 30. Each strip is good for a night. "We have believed for some time that snorers represented one of the largest markets for the Breathe Right strip,"

said Dan Cohen, chairman and chief executive of CNS Inc. of Minneapolis.

• FDA gives nod to AIDS drug

SILVER SPRING, Md. — AIDS patients taking the drug d4T got reassurance Wednesday that it could slightly improve their survival time.

The Food and Drug Administration conditionally approved d4T in June 1994 because it increased advanced patients' immune cells.


But under federal law, manufacturer Bristol-Myers Squibb still had to prove that translated into a real benefit — either a longer life or more time until the disease progressed — or the drug could be withdrawn from the market.

Wednesday, an FDA advisory committee voted 4-3 that d4T works, albeit slightly. The vote makes d4T, sold under the brand name Zerit, the first conditional AIDS drug to qualify for full FDA approval.

Bristol-Myers studied 822 HIV patients for 32 months, comparing those who took AZT, the standard therapy, with those who took d4T once the effects of their AZT treatment began to wane.

Although there was no statistically significant difference in mortality, 67 of the d4T patients died during the study, compared with 79 of the AZT patients.

— Compiled from news sources.



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FYI

for your information

•
What a dive

Registration opens Nov. 13 for a Dec. 2 caving trip. Fees range from \$16 to \$24. Sponsored by the Outdoor Adventure Program.

For more information, call 828-6004.

•
'If I was a rich man...'

Theodore Bikel stars as Tyne in the Broadway Under the Stars production of "Fiddler on the Roof." Joseph Stein's hit play based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, at 8 p.m. Nov. 14 at Richmond's Landmark Theater. Performances last through Nov. 19. Tickets cost \$25 to \$42.50.

•
Biz on the net

Four 30-minute programs on "Commerce on the Internet," will be shown Nov. 15 on closed-circuit television by the Information Systems Research Institute.

Standard fees \$375, for ALSS/TBC Associates \$275. For more information, call Jeanette Hurd, 828-7036.

•
Classroom computing

Robert Godwin-Jones, chairman of the foreign language department, will show highlights from his German 201 class, which uses the World Wide Web for content delivery, testing and communication with students at noon Nov. 16 in the commons' Forum Room.

Tevent is sponsored by the Information Technology, Multimedia Development Center.

•
Relax and learn

An Academic Success workshop, "Progressive Relaxation Techniques," will be presented at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in the commons' Forum Room. For more information, call Joy Bressler, University Counseling Services, 828-6200.

•
One woman's story

The lecture, "From Hanoi to Hollywood: One Woman's Triumph," by Kieu Chinh, will be given at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in commons' Commonwealth Ballroom. Sponsored by APB/Lecture Committee.

•
Scopin' the stars

Explore scientific explanations for the famous Star of Bethlehem and cultures where people honor the winter solstice and praise the arrival of longer days and shorter nights in the Season of Light starting Nov. 18 at Ethyl Universe Planetarium and Space Theater at the Science Museum of Virginia.

Mulroney discusses secession referendum

James McMahon
CT NEWS EDITOR

Amidst an evening dedicated to a discussion of trade, former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney addressed the recent referendum calling for the secession of Quebec.

The referendum fell short — by only 1 percent — of approving the secession of the French-speaking province from Canada.

"We nearly escaped what would have been a real calamity," Mulroney said.

Despite the narrow victory, Mulroney contends the referendum was not about not wanting to be a part of Canada but about French-speaking Quebecers wanting to have their own French-speaking nation.

"Quebec, which is 87 percent French speaking, is the only province in Canada with a French-speaking majority," he said. "It is viewed, therefore, as the homeland for Canada's French-speakers."

This problem, Mulroney said, is not a new one. In fact, as early as 1840 the problem was noticed by the English.

"The stream of French consciousness and the desire to create a state in North America that would ensure the survival of the French language and culture — this battle has been going on for decades," he said.

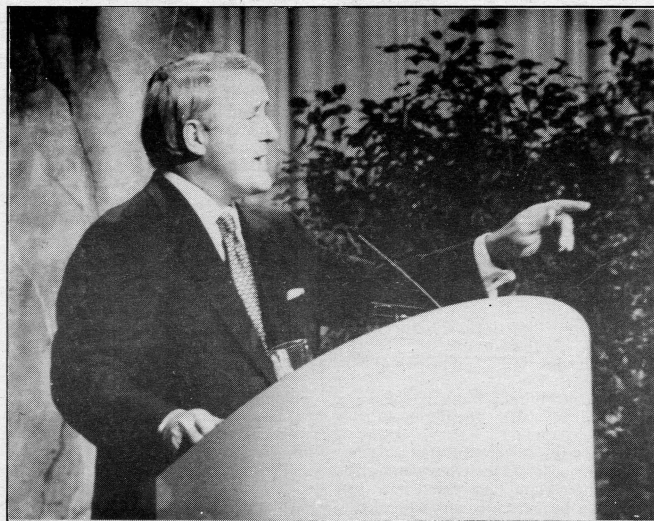
In 1980, Mulroney said, the first referendum on sovereignty in Quebec was held, which Canada won by a 60 percent to 40 percent margin. Mulroney attributes the much closer margin the second time around to broken promises made to Quebec and a strong campaign by the separatists.

"I thought by and large they ran a good campaign — unfair in many ways, inaccurate in many ways — but they ran technically a good campaign," he said.

The Canadian side, Mulroney said, did not do a very good job of campaigning.

"Our side didn't do as well," he said. "I'm not blaming any specific individual or event for the result, it's been evolving in many ways for decades."

More than 30 percent of those who voted for an independent Quebec, Mulroney said, did so thinking they would remain part of Canada.



Corey Fyke/Commonwealth Times

CALAMITY AVOIDED — Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney details the recent Quebec referendum for secession narrowly voted down last week.

"In fact the separatists ran on the following slogan: 'Vote for separation, we'll create our own country, but we're gonna keep the Canadian passport, we're gonna keep the Canadian currency, we're gonna keep the Canadian economic union, we're gonna keep the Canadian dollar,' and one night the leader said 'we're gonna keep the Queen,'" he said.

"I said, hell, why not just keep me, it's cheaper."

What 73 percent of the Quebecers were saying, Mulroney said, is they wanted a renewed federalism, a better place for Quebec inside Canada.

"Now what is required is a package of constitutional amendments, administrative changes and vigorous defense and promotion of Canadian values," Mulroney said.

Canada, he said, will be free of the

referendum question for the next few years due to a clause in the constitution that does not allow a referendum to be introduced twice in the life of the same parliament.

"The referendum could not be introduced for the next three or four years unless they were to change the constitution — that would not be perceived very well," he said. "The people now want the government to get down to the business of governing and get out of the business of referendums."

In addition, Mulroney questioned why someone would want to leave a country like Canada where the standard of living is so good. In fact, he said, Canada was voted as the No. 1 country in which to live among all 187 nations in the United Nations.

"I can understand if you rank 67 or 113, but when you're No. 1 I find it hard to understand why you would want to break from the country," he said.

Myers uses his books to communicate

Sharon M. Fields
CT STAFF WRITER

Because Donald W. Myers, professor of human resources management in VCU's School of Business, thought he had something a little different to say, he decided to write his own textbooks.

"The first was written about 10 years ago when books needed to be more applied. At the time textbooks weren't applicant-oriented," Myers said.

The books titled "Human Resources Management: Principles and Practice" and "Compensation Management" are used by several U.S. universities and colleges, including VCU.

Another book, "Stop Violence in the Workplace!" recently was released by Commerce Clearing House.

Myers, who teaches Principles of Human Resources and Compensation Management, said students speak favorably of the books.



Unsung Hero

Howard P. Tuckman, dean of the business school, said textbooks have to be good. "It's a valuable contribution to the field," he said, "when written on a level where students find it reasonable and accessible."

Wallace Johnston, associate professor of management, called Myers a good example of a team player. He described the human resources professor as forthright and direct, saying he is a significant contributor to the VCU community.

Johnston, who has worked with Myers on school and university committees, said the two collaborated on an article published in the SAM Advanced Management Journal in summer 1991.

A Nebraska native, Myers grew up in California, where he was influenced by his mother and his brother who both are teachers.

Now the professor said he enjoys helping and watching his students mature and achieve in school and in their careers.

Nevertheless, he would like to see more scholarships for his students plus more honor programs and more outside support from the community and businesses.

"It's an excellent school and the students deserve it," he said. "There is a tre-

mendous body of knowledge in this field."

In speaking highly of Myers' knowledge of the field, Tuckman identified Myers' concern for students and the respect of his colleagues while referring to the teachers' awards: the School of Business Distinguished Teacher and its Award of Excellence.

The dean said it's a great honor to be selected "from more than 100 faculty members by you," peers.

"This summer he helped re-organize the secretarial staff — it's now known as the 'Faculty Support Center,'" Tuckman said, acknowledging that Myers has employed students through grants he's brought to the school.

Myers earned his doctorate of business administration at Georgia State University in 1972 and came to VCU in 1982.

"Students were and are hard working," Myers said in comparing today's student with his first ones here.

Yet, he expressed concern about VCU's scarcity of resources, higher tuition and the fact that 90 percent of his students work to pay their expenses.

FORUM

continued from page 1

ans account for the largest group of tourists in Virginia with about 800,000 traveling to the state every year.

For Mulroney, this is what NAFTA is all about — creating jobs and opportunities. He attacked the notion that a free-trade agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States would cost Americans and Canadians jobs.

"That argument is just goofy stuff," he said. "In 10 years you won't find one person who will argue against NAFTA — that's how successful it's been."

Recent problems in Mexico, Hills said, aren't a result of failure with NAFTA, but a result of political instability within the country.

"They've had a terrible political year down there," she said.

"But having NAFTA in place will help Mexico recover."

The idea, Mulroney said, that business would all run to Mexico for the cheap labor doesn't hold ground.

"If labor costs were the only consideration for businesses then they would all be heading for Haiti," he said. "Haiti then should be the major economic power in the world instead of the poorest country in the world."

The speakers then turned their attention to trade inequalities between the United States and Japan. Hills argued that while Japan has closed its markets to many U.S. goods the pair still ranks second in terms of trading partners. Japan's current 4-year recession, Hills added, is a direct result of the government's unwillingness to open its market.

"We may be able to blame the length of this recession in Japan on the government's unwillingness to cut the regulatory net that surrounds the country," she said.

Both Mulroney and Hills contend, however, that the way to open up the Japanese markets is not through tough rhetoric and angry news bites.

"We need to sit down and find a way to open up each others markets," Hills said. "You cannot offend the sensitivities of the nation you are trying to do business with."

Mulroney agreed, adding that there were times when he and President Reagan disagreed, but he took the high road and tried to work things out diplomatically.

"I never stood at the west steps of the

White House and threatened to send our three tanks across the boarder," Mulroney said.

He attributed communication breakdowns between the two countries to a lack of understanding.

"Sometimes with the Japanese you just have to smile and say you missed something in the translation, then move on," he said.

China, both speakers agreed, is going to be a land of great trade opportunity in the future.

From 1990 to 2010 the population of China will increase by the size of the total population of the United States," Mulroney said.

Thirty years from tonight, he added, the Chinese economy will be the largest standing economy in the world.

"They are going to need a lot of help building their economy," he said. "They will need 15 Santa Monica Freeways built every day, and they are going to need your investments, your skills and your trade."

Turning their attention to domestic issues, Mulroney stressed the need for investing in education as a means to move ahead in the international community.

"Education, education and education are the three most important investments you can make," Mulroney said. "Productivity growth comes from having the most intelligent workers and managers, and education is the way to achieve that."

Leadership that is willing to do whatever it takes to continue to grow no matter the cost, Hills said, is the key to economic growth.

"You need a leader that is willing to stand up and speak the truth so we can be able to move ahead on the cutting edge of the international economy," she said.

Whatever happens in the future, Mulroney stressed the importance of America remaining a leader in the international community.

"I think America, despite its problems, is admired around the world," he said. "The fact is that its strength is vital to world peace — without it there would be no peace in Bosnia or in the Middle East."

"The idea of 'come home America' is dangerous because only America has the strength to help bring peace all over the world."

MYERS

continued from page 1

His love of teaching, though, doesn't stop at VCU. Myers is training his Llewelyn, "Polly," a field-trial hunting dog that needs considerable affection and discipline.

Recently the professor started skeet-shooting.

"It's a great sport and it doesn't take much time," he said.

But he shares the profession of teaching with his wife, Phyllis S. Myers, an associate professor of finance and insurance in the business school.

It's nice, he said, being a teaching team, because she understands the time he spends in research as she's usually doing the same. To Tuckman, Donald and Phyllis are "a very good combination for the school."

DEFAULT

continued from page 1

borrowing money through Dec. 12, but the bills include budget cuts and spending limits unacceptable to President Clinton. Without an extension, government coffers could run dry.

Q: So what?

A: Many government services would be curtailed.

But the Treasury's immediate problem would be how to pay \$24.8 billion in interest due next Wednesday. Without the money to pay, stock and bond prices here and abroad could drop as investors lose some confidence in the U.S. government.

Q: That doesn't sound good, but what impact would that have on me?

A: Consumers getting ready to sign papers for a new mortgage could see the cost of borrowing go up. Mortgage rates are tied to Treasury yields. A default could lead investors to believe that government bonds are riskier than they thought, so they could demand a higher yield, perhaps a quarter to three-eighths percentage points more than they get now. Analysts call this the "risk premium." Undecided home buyers could "lock in a mortgage now ahead of that risk premium, or wait until Congress gets its act together and the whole thing blows over," said David A. Lereah, chief economist at the Mortgage Bankers Association, a Washington trade group.

Q: How would communities and businesses be affected?

A: Municipal bond rates also are tied to Treasury yields. Bankers say some towns could decide to scrap bond offerings scheduled for early next week, delaying public works projects for road building, schools, sewers. "We might have to postpone the sale," said Eric Pershon, second vice president at Zions Bank, financial advisers to Salt Lake County, Utah, which plans a \$107 million bond sale Wednesday to build a jail. "It depends on how the market reacts." Standard & Poor's Corp., a credit rating service, warned on Friday that a default would raise borrowing costs for businesses that hold Treasuries in their investment portfolios. These businesses also could suffer a cash shortage, because they wouldn't be able to sell Treasuries to raise money. "A disruption in U.S. government debt payments would have major implications for the liquidity of various financial institutions, money-market funds and government bond funds," S&P said.

Q: Whoa! What about MY investments? What if my pension fund or mutual fund holds Treasury notes and bonds?

A: Most portfolio managers believe the government will make the interest payments. The Treasury Department could sell securities in various trust funds to raise money and employ other accounting tricks. Even if it missed a payment, managers say investors wouldn't lose money. The government would simply pay the past-due amount on the next due date, with interest, said John J. Terril, chief executive officer at a St. Louis money management firm that bears his name.

Still, some money managers are taking precautions.

Barry Evans, manager of two John Hancock mutual funds with 70 percent of \$1.2 billion in assets in U.S. Treasury

CAMPAIGN

continued from page 1

Robert Martin, president of Barber Martin & Associates, said his company wanted to forge a partnership with the school and the business community.

"The school has a unique opportunity to be connected with the business community," he said.

Howard P. Tuckman, dean of the school, confirmed that the advertising campaign is targeted to the business community.

"There is no major city," Tuckman said, "that does not have a major business school. There is not a enough recognition of the quality of service the school has to offer."

The campaign also focuses on recruitment.

"Seventy-five alumni members have volunteered to visit local high schools to speak on the benefits of a business degree," Sims said.

The campaign, he said, also will give students opportunities to meet with local business leaders to develop the necessary ties it takes to succeed in the business community.

One example is the yearly CEO class. For 15 weeks different CEOs visit the school so that their particular companies can be analyzed by the students. Once there, the CEO helps the students learn how their company operates and gives them guidance on becoming a leader in the business community.

But the campaign didn't just begin — it has been evolving since July.

"This is a time-released campaign," Sims explained, saying it will continue throughout the 1995-'96 academic year.

One product, a 10-minute commercial, will be aired on local and cable television starting in January.

"It's a momentum-building process," Sims said. "The other elements will be released over the next year."

Though some immediate results can be seen, the main goal of changing the school's image will take some time.

"I'll be very surprised if I see any results in less than three years," Tuckman said.

If the campaign succeeds, those results will be a better recognition of the business school and the university as a major venue for the business community, greater reliance on the school for post-formal education, greater use of the students as interns and mentors and more willingness to give students scholarships.

"The major purpose is to bring in focus for the community what our strengths are," Tuckman said.

securities, said he sold up to \$15 million worth of securities that mature next week and replaced them with maturities that come due later. Fund managers fear that if the government doesn't pay, they will lack the proceeds to reinvest in other securities and be stuck with non-income producing investments, Evans said.

Q: What about long-term effects?

A: Investors could see the value of their bonds diminish because of the risk premium. The most damaging consequence could be erosion of foreign investor confidence. About one-quarter of all government bonds are held by overseas investors. If they decide to sell, bond prices would fall.

ON-LINE

continued from page 1

Nevertheless, prospective students who don't have access to the on-line service may apply on paper.

Though on-line applications resemble the paper applications, window screens replace several blanks appearing on the paper version.

Still, the on-line multiple-choice format, Alessio said, eliminates the possibility that a student can write an answer not offered by the school.

For example, with only the major disciplines listed on-line, a student cannot apply for another one. In contrast, this mistake can occur on a paper application — something, Alessio said, prolongs the application process.

*Tell us about your Unsung Hero.
Call James or Jill at 828-1058 for more information.*

William T. Beverly

Congressional Social Reforms Irrational

It is difficult to "critical think," to intelligently analyze a subject or policy through a regimen of disciplined thought, free of values and ideologies. In fact, it may be impossible to leave one's ideals and morals aside.

Nonetheless, this is the very definition of rational decision making. And this is the goal striven for when trying to separate the virtues from the pitfalls of policy ideas.

At present, the U.S. Congress is wrapping up months of hyper-passionate work toward reregulating America's welfare (AFDC), Medicare, Medicaid, Legal Aid, AmeriCorps, college-loan, corrections and Social Security systems.

Our representatives have been hard at work.

Unfortunately for us *all*, their decisions have been based more on ideology than logic.

All too often, people have a tendency to get so caught up in *what ought to be*, that they become totally blind to *what is*.

By many reliable accounts, Gingrich, Dole, Graham, Bliley and other conservative politicians have satisfied many a radical ideology in lieu of critical thinking. Apparently, a different set of realities exists for these stoic reformers.

Too many of our poor, including the working poor, cannot escape the bitter realities of America's unforgiving system. It's a system reformers are about to make even meaner.

Yes, even advocates for the poor have their values and ideologies. But a minister volunteering at a homeless shelter food-line is a far cry from a fat-cat televangelist sitting in a smoke-filled Senator's chamber. What will it take before America's Judeo-Christian mainstreamers can see the awful difference between these two?

While the minister to the poor selflessly beckons in the name of humanity for Con-

gress to take care of the needy, the televangelist tells Congress to cut off the needy because this underclass and their benefactors are "sinners."

And today the "representatives" of our democracy gladly accept influential re-election campaign contributions from these televangelists. All the while, the ministers to the poor are forced to attend to a continuously increasing clientele of disenfranchised citizens.

America's representatives in Washington recently have presented legislation that may bring concern, anxiety and fear into the lives of many. Who will be affected? Anyone who depends on a monthly Social Security check (such as retirees, orphans and the disabled). Anyone who uses Medicare or Medicaid (especially as their only means of insuring the availability of necessary medical treatment).

Anyone who has an immediate need for an attorney but cannot afford to pay the expensive fees (battered women and other victims often are included in such circumstances). Also, anyone who has committed a crime and depends on America's "correctional system" for constructive rehabilitation.

And this legislation will affect anyone who needs loans or other supplemental income to make it through college.

Sweeping changes proposed by the current Republican-run Congress will essentially obliterate, dismantle, weaken or disempower such necessary programs.

These reforms seem to be based on values and ideology, rather than on sound logical thought.

And we think to ourselves, "No one is that stupid." There must be a catch. Some one must be benefiting from this deal. But who? The immediate suspects are Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and the Christian Coalition, who now may get a chance

to see their Draconian principles applied to the masses.

But that just doesn't make sense in this land of constitutionally guaranteed religious freedom. Surely Congress never would pander to such ideological hypocrisy.

However, there has been some talk lately about just how the wealthy will benefit from the money saved by drastic cuts in social programs.

Take Richmond Rep. Bliley's abrupt cancellation of all tobacco industry investigations. There must be a rationale for such an action, besides that his family is deeply vested in the funeral home industry.

Perhaps it has something to do with all that lobbying money passed around by one of Virginia's largest Republican campaign contributors — the tobacco industry.

While conspiracy is not exactly the word, this is the stuff that the French Revolution was made of. Like our current leaders, leaders then seemed so out of touch that their followers finally had to say "off with their heads."

And what about those televangelists?

It is possible that these zealots were just used to help convince their fans and other unsuspecting Christians that such reforms are in the name of social justice — and are therefore "logical."

But here the term "justice" may be more of a moral concept than a rational one. After all, blaming the victim is common among Western religions and ideologies.

Also involved is the ideology of capitalism. Many Americans seem to have bought the idea that there is no other way. Not only is this false, it also is irrational.

But the American political system has been run by ultra-successful capitalists for so long that, even as recently as the 1950s McCarthy era, believing in anything else was practically illegal.

Nonetheless, it may be that, while capitalism is not the only form of economic systems, it is the most suited to a democratic state.

But why do so many of today's "moral" conservatives preach that oppression of the poor and needy is a "necessary evil" of capitalism?

Therefore it becomes OK for many Americans to be homeless, starving, undereducated, imprisoned and going without necessary health-care services.

However, a failure to adequately address such OK social issues could be, in the near future, economically and socially disastrous.

Like Reaganomics, the current reforms seem irrational to many but perfectly logical to those who plan to benefit. Herein lies an unfortunate, and seemingly immoral, disregard for humanity.

There are two ideologies forming the foundation of the current Republican rape of America's social programs system. With the religious rightist ideology, Republicans can hide from their consciences under the pretense that America's disparaged and less fortunate actually deserve a deprived lot in life.

And through blindly ideological interpretations of capitalism, Republicans can justify a plan of social irresponsibility in the name of immediate financial gain for the wealthy.

In the meantime, continued neglect of the nation's needs feeds resentment, physical and infrastructural ills and the notion of America as a bitterly divided, classist state.

Perhaps the most unfortunate thing about irrational and ideologically driven revolutions such as McCarthy's and Gingrich's is that they tend to end in disaster anyway but only after harming too many innocent people.

Ben Ragsdale

How Not To Conduct An Election

The aggressive effort by Gov. George Allen and Virginia Republicans to gain first-time-since-Reconstruction control of the General Assembly and a determined effort by Virginia Democrats to hold on to their power made the 1995 state legislative elections worth watching.

In the end, the Democrats retained control of the legislature. And we, the people, survived another political season. But few of us were ennobled by it all.

This year's campaign, like the 1994 U.S. Senate campaign between Chuck Robb and Ollie North, was filled with excess: too much vitriolic rhetoric, too much special-interest money (including more than \$800,000 in out-of-state PAC money), too many negative ads, too many professional political consultants.

The harshness of Virginia's 1995 campaign mirrors the conduct of national political leaders. While serious problems beset our country, politicians Clinton, Gingrich, Dole, etc., continue to talk past one another, taking cheap shots at their opposition instead of being straightforward with the American public.

Political campaigns at all levels have become a desultory mix of false assertions and name calling. Mean-spirited political commentary and lazy, unimaginative journalism frequently fuel the situation.

The leaders of our two major political parties seem hellbent on presenting to the public a choice between, on one side, those who would mug the middle class and, on the other side, those who would steal from

the elderly and the poor.

Neither stereotype is accurate. By reducing political dialogue to slanderous accusations, religious litmus tests, guilt-by-association and a search for scapegoats, candidates insult our intelligence and undermine our democratic processes.

What's really going on? The decisions of elected officials have a huge impact on our daily lives. We can't walk away from politics. More of us should be involved in it. And — as citizens — we should demand the calm and rational discussion of real problems and possible solutions.

Both Republicans and Democrats bring some sound ideas to public discourse.

One party tends to emphasize the benefits of good and necessary government programs; the other more often stresses the need for government efficiency and holding down taxes. The public interest (or at least a consensus on what can be lived with) usually is somewhere in the middle.

Most in each party at least give lip service to the other party's major goals. They differ mainly on strategies to achieve these goals.

We deserve better.

To make intelligent choices, voters deserve opportunities to hear candidates talk about the details and nuances of issues that separate them. In the present climate, this opportunity rarely exists.

Politics always will be a rough-and-tumble process. But if we don't make some changes, inane and ignoble politics might run this nation right into the ground.

Letters TO THE EDITOR



Send yours to Stacy Reed,
eng3slr@cabell or P.O. Box 842010,
Richmond, Va. 23824-2010.

Commonwealth TIMES

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Coming of age

Valarie Thorpe
CT STAFF WRITER

Author Scott McCloud calls comics the invisible art in his book, "Understanding Comics." From the time we are very young, we understand, almost inherently, what a comic is and how to read it.

But why?

There is nothing to explain why a five-year-old can grasp the concept of panel-to-panel motion, that time passes between the panels, or that icons represent individuals. But we don't need an explanation for any of that any more than that five-year-old does. Because, plain and simple, comics are just meant to be fun ... aren't they?

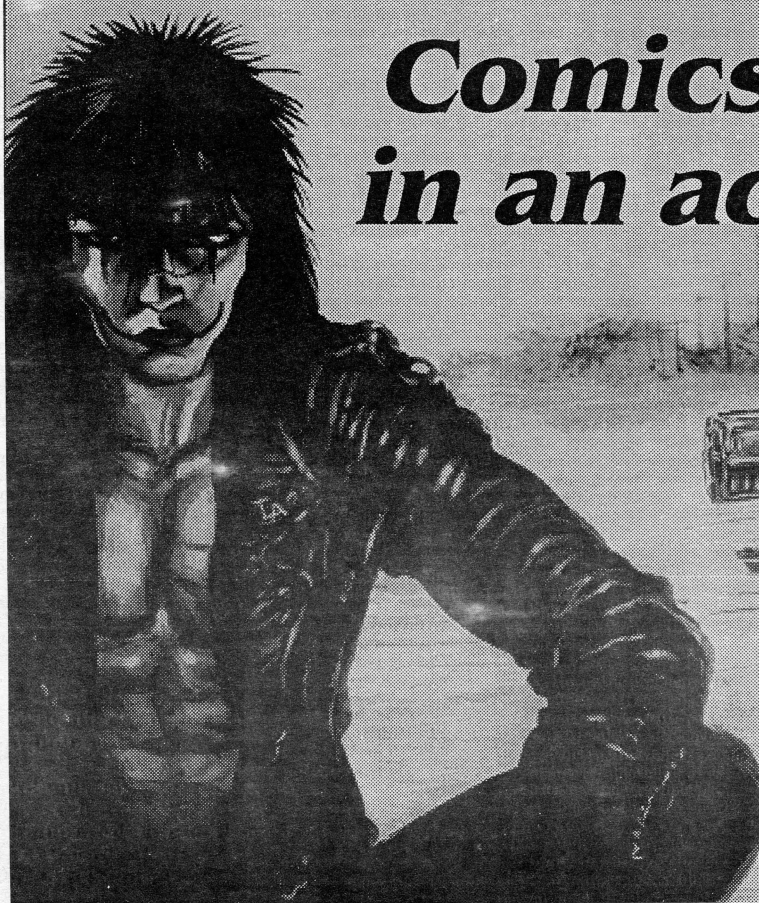
Comics have come a long way in the century they have been around. This year marks comics' 100th birthday, and artists are taking them into new arenas every day. What was once considered semiliterate kid stuff has evolved into a medium best described as an invisible art, because many people are unaware of what kind of work is actually taking place in this field.

Tom DeHaven, who teaches ENG 391, "Topics in Literature: Graphic Novel," at VCU, said most mark the origin of comics with a Sunday strip called "The Yellow Kid." This was the first time a strip involved a regular cast of characters, as opposed to previously published cartoon drawings containing no continuity.

As the popularity of Sunday comics grew, publishers began to compile the strips in small books. Eureka! The comic book was born.

Soon artists and writers realized comic books could be made with original stories and art. They didn't have to just republish Sunday strip material. Thus began the long and varied history of original comic books.

John Campbell, who works at Dave's Comics in Richmond, believes that much like radio, television or novels, comic books depend on popular genre material to sell their work. As in any other field, these genres are fairly predictable — horror, science fiction, mystery, comedy, romance, western and detective. These are the seven apostles of comic book creation. Also



THE CROW — James O'Barra's cathartic means to deal with his fiancée. The Crow serves as an angel, a character also known as the Crow. He and his fiancée, Jane, were killed in a fire, and one year later, the Crow returns to exact his revenge on the people who took this character to life in a comic book. He has lost his own will.

similar to any other field, they can be reworked only so many times before they become worn out.

This is what happened to comic books in the 1940s and 1950s. Comic work was all rehash, except for one bright spot in the comic book realm — EC Comics.

William Gaines, publisher of EC Comics, not only pushed the envelope with his line of comics. Campbell said Gaines knocked the envelope clear off the table as far as many people were concerned.

EC Comics published comics with names like *Weird Tales*, *Weird Science Fiction*, and probably the most notorious title of all — *Tales from the Crypt*.

Now here's where the story gets a little problematic.

Campbell said there are two versions of what happened to William Gaines and EC Comics. The first — that parents and politicians were threatening to censor comic books if

something wasn't done about the perceived violence in these horror comics. So to prevent an across-the-board censorship of comics, the comic book industry decided to regulate themselves. Much like the movie rating system of today, comics rated themselves. If the book was found acceptable, it received the holy seal of approval — the Comics Code Authority.

If a comic book didn't receive this, it pretty much was dead. That publisher — and Gaines

couldn't get the CCA to pass his comics.

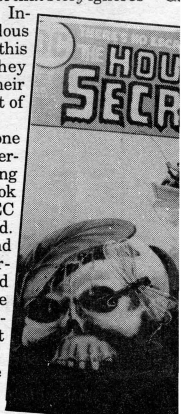
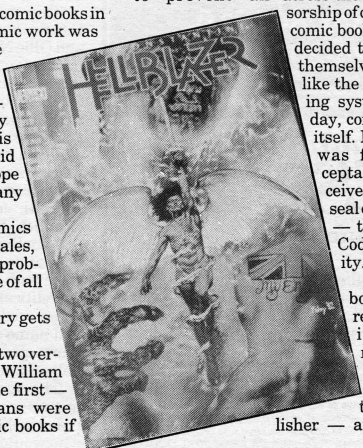
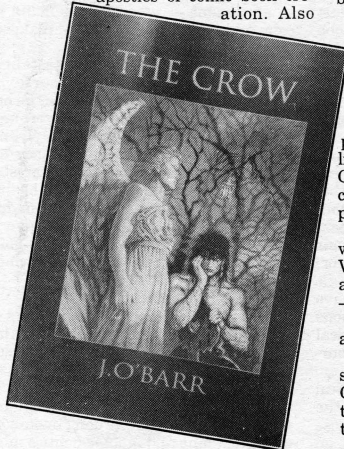
"He went out of business soon thereafter, and the comic world lost one of its first truly imaginative creators," Campbell said.

The second version of that story ignores

the censorship issue. Instead, it contends jealous publishers pushed for this self-regulation so they could put EC Comics, their biggest competitor, out of business.

Campbell says no one knows for sure which version is right, but one thing most in the comic book industry agree on is EC Comics never really died. Like all the zombies and monsters they portrayed, EC Comics lived on after death to become one of the most frequently republished sets of comic works ever.

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"The Comics Code Authority is still in ex-

istence today, but it doesn't have any of the clout it once had," Campbell said.

Artists and writers break the rules every day. They write and draw about things that Gaines may never have imagined.

Today's comic selection is endless and original ... some are garbage, but many times it is original garbage. And that's OK too. No longer do the seven comic book apostle genres dictate the creation of comic books.

Now writers and artists tackle such topics as child abuse, the holocaust, gay and lesbian issues, politics, domestic violence, drug abuse, homelessness ... creators add to the never-ending list all the time. In a graphic novel format, they can tell stories with every bit of the impact of traditional novels.

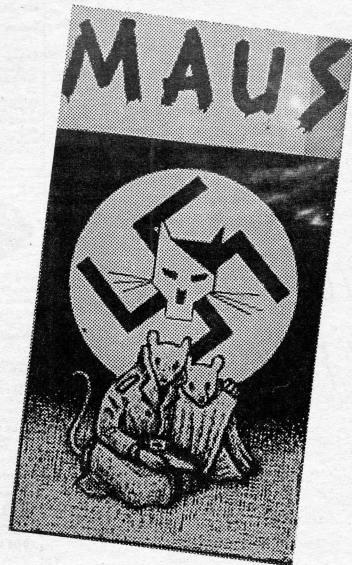
Maybe more.



Comics grow up in an adult world



THE CROW — James O'Barr wrote "The Crow" as a cathartic means to deal with the murder of his fiancée. The Crow serves as O'Barr's avenging angel, a character also in love and planning to marry. He and his fiancée were murdered on Halloween, and one year later he is reborn as the Crow to exact his revenge. Brandon Lee brought this character to life in a film version, but tragically lost his own while shooting a stunt scene.



Silver Surfer stands alone as planetary philosopher

Valarie Thorpe
CT STAFF WRITER

"...and where soars the Silver Surfer, there he must soar alone."

This was Philosophy 101 as far as I was concerned. It was 1978 and I was 12 years old and reading comics was my love. I considered it literary time well spent if it involved my monthly dose of the Silver Surfer comic book.

Surfer was the sentinel of the skyways, surfer of the cosmos, and I was his biggest fan. I knew someday I would surf just like him — well, maybe not through the galaxies, but you get the idea. I also knew that someday he'd get the girl.

You see, Surfer was in love, and at one time his girl was very much in love with him. Before becoming the Silver Surfer he had been a regular dude, or at least as regular as you can be when you live on the planet Zenn-la.

Back then his name was Norrin Radd, and his every thought and reason for existence was to be with his girlfriend, Shalla-bal.

Enter the villain. Galactus is a giant bad guy. Not a giant in regular layman's terms. I mean a giant who has to eat planets in order to sustain himself ... and the meal du jour was going to be Zenn-la.

Our hero told Galactus that if he would spare the planet Zenn-la — he was kind of looking out for his girlfriend here — that he would help Galactus find all his future dinners. Working as Galactus' herald, he would help him find bigger, better and tastier planets to eat. The bad guy bought this deal, and the Silver Surfer was born.

Here's the problem — to become the sky-surfing dude that he is, it was necessary for Galactus to turn Surfer's body silver, which made him look a little like a mutant.

This is, to say the least, not conducive to a successful love life. He's also on the road a lot looking for edible planets, and doesn't get back to that part of the solar system very often.

And for almost 30 years he has been trying to win back the love of Shalla-bal.

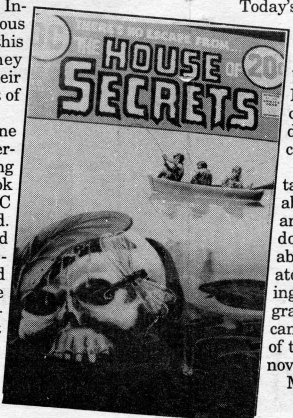
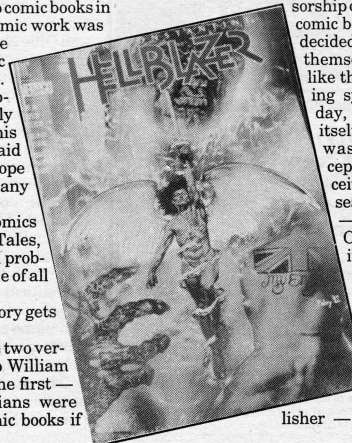
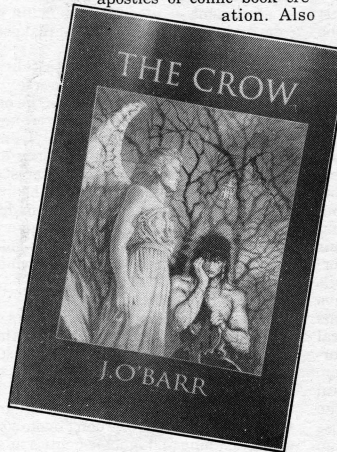
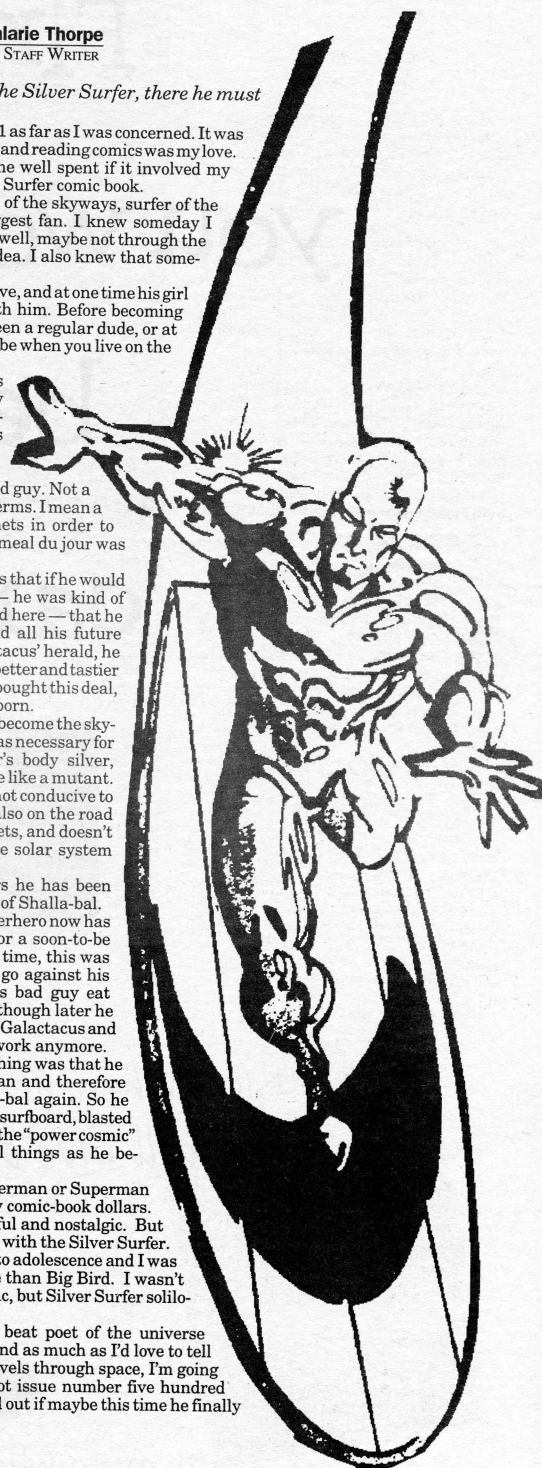
Needless to say, this superhero now has an angst problem — and for a soon-to-be teenager like myself at the time, this was very appealing. He had to go against his moral code by helping this bad guy eat other people's planets — although later he managed to break free from Galactus and didn't have to do his dirty work anymore.

But the absolute worst thing was that he no longer was a normal man and therefore never could be with Shalla-bal again. So he cruised the spaceways on his surfboard, blasted the hell out of bad guys with the "power cosmic" and said cool philosophical things as he bemoaned his fate.

Up against that, no Spiderman or Superman was any competition for my comic-book dollars.

This all may sound wistful and nostalgic. But those were the good ol' days with the Silver Surfer. I was just about to break into adolescence and I was looking for something more than Big Bird. I wasn't quite ready for Jack Kerouac, but Silver Surfer soliloquies I could handle.

To me, Surfer was the beat poet of the universe instead of "On the Road." And as much as I'd love to tell you more about his lone travels through space, I'm going to be a little busy. I just got issue number five hundred gazillion, and I've got to find out if maybe this time he finally wins back Shalla-bal.



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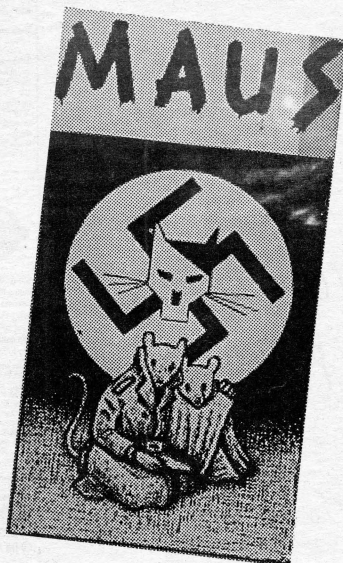
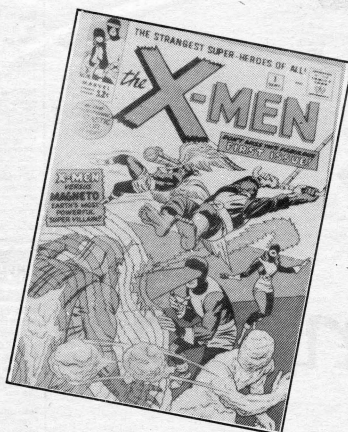
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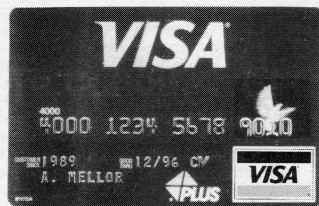
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Theatre VCU blends poetry, plot, jazz

David Henschel
CT STAFF WRITER

Walk or Charleston your way to the Shafer Street Playhouse this week for a visit to the Roaring '20s. You actually will experience the culture of prerevolutionary France at the same time.

"The Misanthrope" is the classic play by Molière, first performed in Paris in 1666. Theatre VCU has preserved the dialogue and French character names like Celimene and Philinte while transferring everything to a "salon" in New York where "the most cultivated and discriminating Americans meet to talk of sports, elegance, comfort of the life of the home and life in the open air — and to find the modern formula for happiness," as Vogue magazine wrote many years ago. The Theatre VCU program reprints this quote along with excerpts from other literature that orients the playgoer.

The timelessness of the play depends on the ambiguous protagonist: Alceste (the misanthrope). He likes to sound off about other people's flaws. The opening scene finds him bursting into his girlfriend's apartment, venting his fury at an aspiring poet and critic named O'Ronte, whom the audience has not seen yet. Philinte unsuccessfully urges him to lighten up.

The plot takes off as Alceste complains about the flirtatious behavior of Celimene, his beautiful and intelligent girlfriend who likes to dance the "Black Bottom," a dance undertaken by many a flapper that originated in Harlem during the Roaring '20s.

The audience sees no evidence that dancing or a sense of humor have led Celimene to cheating on her man, nor does Alceste have any details to go on.

Our protagonist begins to accuse pals of stealing her away while they stand right there in the beautiful art deco room.

Earlier I used the word "ambiguous" to describe Alceste because director Kenneth Campbell tells us in the program: "One age sees (in him) the beknighted comic hero, another a wise and virtuous man adrift in a sea of deceit roaring at the perverse elements, another a man guilty of the profoundly punishable failing depicted in Western literature from its origins of knowing himself but slenderly."

These interpretations that audience members of different backgrounds or historical periods can make are all plausible because of the excellent acting by Josh Thoenke. Building on his triumph in the VCU production of "Red Noses" seven months ago, his attitude is strong but broad enough that people can revile or cheer him. Hero? Bad guy? Party pooper?

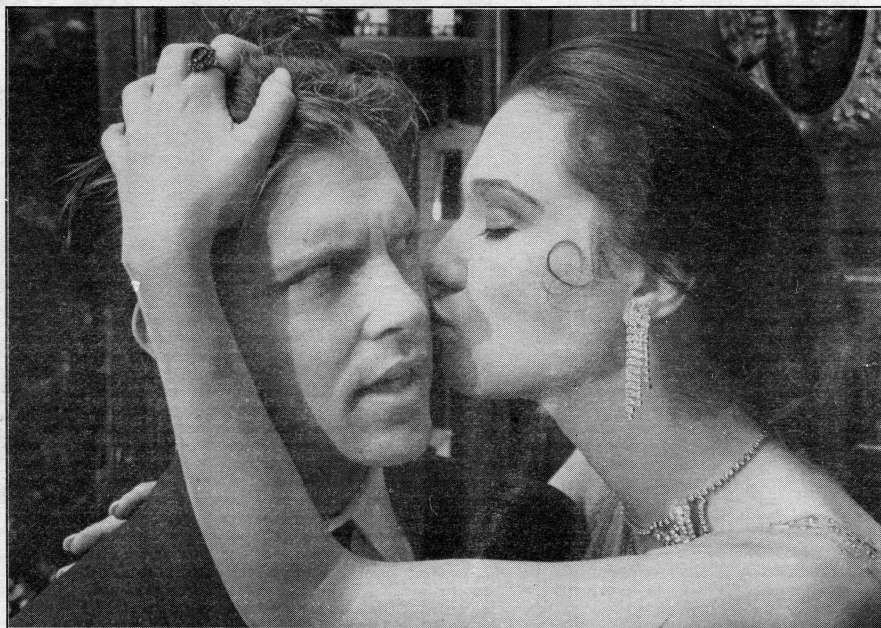


Photo courtesy of University News Services

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN — Josh Thoenke and Martha Baker bring Molière's comedy "The Misanthrope" to life in Roaring '20s fashion at Shafer Street Playhouse.

If you see him as the latter, consider that the party he's destroying is one several generations of Americans have dreamed of crashing. The beauty of the costumes, furniture and music cannot be underestimated. You can see how our great-grandparents viewed the scenery as the threshold to a new world.

This finery is manifested perfectly by the performance of Martha Baker as Celimene. She shows us one of the most laid-back and accessible characters ever to grace the VCU stage.

Oops! Did I forget the dialogue? The program doesn't

specify who translated it from the French and caused it to rhyme in English. But it does rhyme, and I'm sure someone did this many decades ago. He or she added the dimension of poetry to "The Misanthrope." Audience members experience an actual poem. This further justifies VCU transferring the action to the era of Langston Hughes and Edna St. Vincent Millay.

The French might call the Shafer Street production an anachronism, but for our students it is a fascinating blend of luxury, gregarious-yet-confident characters, jazz and poetry.

Film portrays trials of finding a true love

Ryder stars in 'How to Make an American Quilt'

Sara Kukorio

CT ASSOCIATE SPECTRUM EDITOR

Love through the patterns of life.

In a lifetime, most people experience

different types of love.

Not everyone finds the love of a son or daughter, the love of a talent or hobby or the love of a soul mate.

Some lucky people find all three and then some.

"How To Make An American Quilt" is the beautiful story of a young girl (Finn), played by Winona Ryder, who, after accepting a marriage proposal from her boyfriend (Dermot Mulroney), decides to stay

at her grandmother and great aunt's house in a rural part of California.

Her intention for the retreat is to complete her master's thesis and get her head together before she takes the marital plunge.

After attempting and abandoning a few other theses, Finn decides on the theme of women's expressions through arts and crafts.

Ironically, her grandmother and great aunt are part of a tight-knit group of women who are putting together a love quilt for Finn's marriage.

Each of the women creates the quilt with individual memories of their lives of love but not just love of a soul mate.

The women share their life experiences with Finn. By doing so, they relive and remember the loves of their lives.

Resolutions about love surface.

They are able to put old tensions aside and forgive. They can come to terms with the heartache felt through betrayal and death.

Bitter Sophia's one true love was platform diving. More than anything, she loved to dive. Once married, she stopped diving and raised a family — alone.

Her husband left her and their children, never to return.

Anna (Maya Angelou), the woman in charge of making sure the quilt is created just right, came to the home of Finn's grandmother and great aunt when the three were young girls.

Anna was pregnant and alone, so she was sent to their home to help with house chores and mending.

She took with her a story quilt that had been in her family for years and added to it her own tales.

She raised her daughter alone and came to realize that she was never meant to have the love of a man but rather she had the love of her life — her daughter.

Anna's daughter (Alfre Woodward), refusing to ever let herself become attached to a man, remained unmarried but always thinking of the man she considered her soul mate — an anonymous (married) man whom she met briefly in a Parisian cafe.

Attractive Emma's husband painted lovely (nude) portraits of her, but unfortunately, he couldn't keep his hands off the "students" he painted in the buff. Emma remains with him because he makes her feel interesting, and her love for him and

their memories do not allow her to leave.

Finn's grandmother and aunt painfully share with her their own personal stories of hurt and betrayal. While her grandfather lay dying in a hospital, his wife had a one-time fling with her sister's husband. Through the death, they were able to forgive.

Finn has grown up with the idea that marriage means nothing. Her ideas on the subject are planted in her thoughts by her mother (Kate Capshaw), who married Finn's father when they were both young. Finn grows up believing her dad is a dead beat.

It comes as no surprise that, when her mother visits over the summer with the news of their remarriage, Finn is less than happy.

However, what Finn has learned through the stories of these women who were an important part of her childhood is love and forgiveness, hurt and healing. Her parents were able to put aside their differences and renew their love.

The film teaches us that through all of life's ups and downs, love prevails. After all is said and done, memories of love remain, never to be erased.



Spectrum needs you.

The Commonwealth Times now is accepting applications for Spectrum editor for the spring semester.

Applicants must have written for the CT for at least one semester or the equivalent and must have earned at least a C in MAC 203 and one upper-division MAC class.

The deadline for applications is Nov. 22

For more information, call 828-1058.

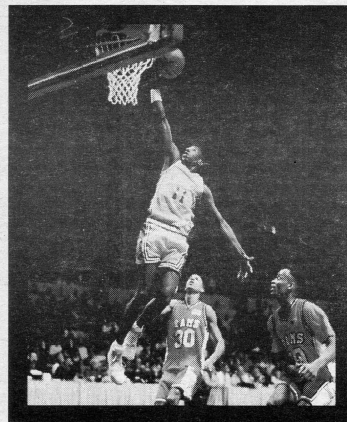
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INSTEAD OF THE MOVIE OF THE WEEK, MAY WE SUGGEST THE MOVIE OF THE YEAR?



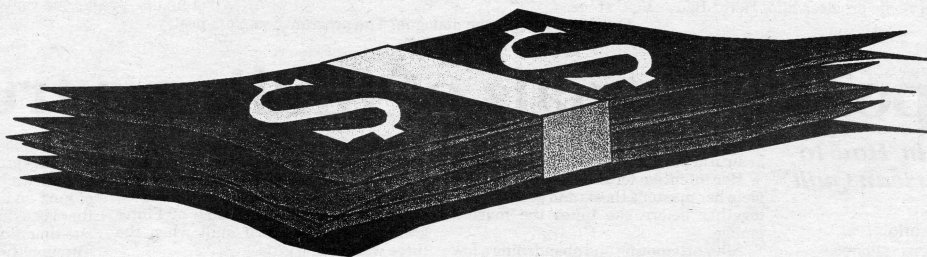
HOOP DREAMS, THE TV PREMIERE. The Oscars missed it. Don't make the same mistake. **Airing Wednesday, Nov. 15.** On your PBS station. **IF PBS DOESN'T DO IT, WHO WILL?**



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• Q: Who is the NFL's all-time leading rusher?

A: Walter Payton

• A preview of the VCU women's basketball team's game against Duke University.

MONDAY, November 13, 1995

Commonwealth TIMES

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Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

CONCENTRATION — Rams forward Marlow Talley helped power VCU to a 95-74 win against Prievdza-Slovakia Saturday night.

Newcomers lead Lady Rams

Terry Scanlon

CT ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Exhibition games usually are a gauge of a team's talent and, in college basketball at least, a can't miss win. Sunday at Franklin Street Gym the Lady Rams had some new faces light up the scoreboard, but a lack of cohesion on the defensive side of the ball almost cost them the sure thing. The Lady Rams held on to defeat Latvia TTT 78-68 in overtime.

Freshman Krista Miller led all scorers with 19 points, including connecting on five of 10 three pointers — two of those in overtime. Yet Miller was not completely satisfied.

"I shot the ball well today," she said. "I could have played a little better on defense."

Head coach Peggy Sells was impressed with her.

"Krista Miller came in and played extremely well off the bench," Sells said.

She stressed defense as the area in need of greatest improvement as the team prepares for Duke. The Lady Rams open the regular season Wednesday in Durham, N.C. in the first round of the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

"I was a little bit disappointed with the defensive intensity," she said. "There's no time to have first game jitters when we're going against Duke."

Sells attributed some of the lapses to the start of the season.

Another newcomer, sophomore Maria Albertsson, proved she has the ability to rack up a lot of points. She scored all of her 11 points in the first 10 minutes of the game. Part of the reason for her second-

CT PLAYER OF THE GAME

KRISTA MILLER
FRESHMAN, GUARD

- Posted a game-high 19 points. Was 5 of 10 from three-point land, including two in OT.
- "Krista Miller came in and played extremely well off the bench."

— Peggy Sells, women's head coach

half drought was her time on the bench. Sells attributed that to poor defense.

"If they don't do what we're asking of them defensively," she said, "they're going to spend more time on the bench than they'd like to."

Albertsson said they needed to be more of a team defensively. Miller was more specific.

"We have to talk more and yell 'help,'" she said.

Starting for the Lady Rams were returning sophomores, Adrienne Beard, Vendela Thelander and Gabrielle Khylstedt as well as Swedes Albertsson and 6-5 Mona Karlsson.

Karlsson had a game-high nine rebounds and notched 18 points. Sells has been looking for Karlsson and her other post players to get tough.

"Overall I thought she played that role tonight," Sells said.

Sophomore Monifa Coleman, who was used sparingly last season by former head coach Susan Walvius, apparently is a benefactor of the new aggressive style of defense. Coleman is not considered to be an offensive threat but uses her size to her advantage on defense. She isn't complaining about the increase in playing time.

"I love it," she said with a smile crept

Off guard still a question

Brian J. French
CT STAFF WRITER

Given the already tenuous nature of the shooting guard situation, VCU coach Sonny Smith was hoping to have a starter settled by the end of Saturday night's exhibition with Prievdza-Slovakia.

Actually, it got even more complicated.

During the course of the Rams' 95-74 win against the Slovaks, Marcus Reed started but "took a step backwards," Pea body scored seven

points, Patrick Lee "was the strongest to the basket" and Tryrian Ridges improved his position the most in Sonny Smith's eyes.

As for the game itself, the Slovaks jumped to an early 12-4 lead and led by as much as nine (33-24) before the Rams pieced together a 30-9 run in the late stages of the first and early parts of the second halves to put the Slovaks away.

George Byrd led the Rams with 17 points and eight rebounds. Chappell and John Smith added 13, and Ridges scored nine.

Julius Michalik and Oleg Melescenko from the Slovakian team led all scorers with 22 points apiece.

"(This game) allowed us to play together

VCU 95
SLOVAKIA 74

CT PLAYER OF THE GAME

GEORGE BYRD
VCU CENTER

- Scored 17 points and had eight rebounds on seven-for-10 shooting in the Rams' 95-74 victory.

■ **QUOTE OF NOTE** — "Bird gave the most solid performance for us tonight. He was the best player out there."

— Sonny Smith, VCU coach

with a number of different combinations," said point guard Sherman Hamilton (nine points, eight assists).

Also having a sub-par game according to Sonny Smith: John Smith and Marlow Talley, despite combining for 19 points and six rebounds.

"They did some good things, but overall I was disappointed," said Sonny Smith.

Disappointed or not, the coach said he will have to come up with a set starting five for the Rams next exhibition, Saturday against Court Authority.

"If we keep switching players like we did tonight, we'll be in trouble," conceded Sonny Smith.



Bill Buckman/Commonwealth Times

RUNNING THE SHOW — VCU point guard Vendela Thelander led the way in the Lady Rams' win against Latvia TTT.

across her face, "I'm here. I'll do whatever I have to do."

"It's not how much you play," she said, "it's what you do when you do play."

Beard played only nine minutes before leaving with an injury to her right ankle. Sells said Beard would be ready to go Wednesday.