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COMONWEAKTM


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The Commonwealth Times, a newsmaga zine serving the Virginia Commonwealth University community, is published every Tuesday-except during vacation and examination periods-by students at VCU.

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## From One Newspaper Lover to Another

As a concerned student here at VCU I have grown sensitive to the needs of this university. Lately, I have been appalled at the Commonwealth Times and how it expends student activity funds.
The paper utilizes student activity fees and in turn that makes it responsible to the student body. I resent the way we are represented through our paper; especially since it reaches about ten thousand people weekly. As the editor you must seriously consider how you represent the students of this university, especially since we cannot fully exercise our approval or disapproval through your sales record. I am certain that if you had to sell this publication you would be more discreet.
Your representation at this point is such that many students are unable to take your paper seriously. You have driven punk rock so far into the ground that now your paper is indicative of its obnoxious creativity.
The first issue of the year (CT September 12-18, 1978); had the opinion page title written in what appeared to be blood. This would not have been so bad if I had seen the Summer Issue '78, where you had an article on "...rubbers to condoms to head gaskets, the prophylactic is regaining popularity." In the same issue you displayed a picture of the nude beach movement. Let us not forget your cartoon of a dog cleaning up his waste with a vacuum.
It is a known fact that your paper is in an over $\$ 10,000$ debt as a result of the 1977-78 year. It is also known that you are in the process of going before the Appropriations Board to ask for more money so you may continue to print through the spring semester of 1979.
Why should students have to give money to a medium that misrepresents them by printing uninteresting articles? What has happened to hard-core newspaper reporting?

It is obvious that you need to cut the sex and keep the punk rock on a low profile. By doing so, you will find more students appreciating
your attempt at achieving professionalism in your paper.

Jesse Vaughan, Jr.
Junior
Mass Communications
For a more comprehensive look at our financial situation, contact business manager Mike Fuller and/or attend the upcoming Appropriations Board meeting, September 21, 901 Floyd Ave. $3: 30 \mathrm{pm}$.
-Ed.

## What About the Water Fountain?

We're at the start of another year, and the start of a new series of challenges-some challenges left over from last year and some fresh ones. We have a food service in need of improvements, we see crowding in our housing, we see an underpaid staff, and a library which closes too early. At the same time we see a basketball team which is winning us recognition, the near completion of a new dormitory, and most importantly of all of these challenges, the development of an Elected Student Government.

And how do all of these fit together? The Students for an Elected Student Government feel it is time for the citizens of VCU-students, faculty, and staff-to share the responsibility in

developing this into the best university possible. With more input from university members, namely students, we can meet the challenges. With our voice we can change library hours, improve the food service, get a yearbook, rally behind our basketball team, update our curriculum, and express the needs of students.

The Students for an Elected Student Government is just starting to plan for its semester's activities. We need you to help us plan, implement, and motivate so we can hold elections in the spring. We're so close to being where we need to be, all we ask is for a little help from our friends. Come on friend; I'm inviting you to our Mass Meeting Monday, September 25 at 6:30 pm in 901 Floyd Avenue. We'll be planning our semester. Be there to make the elections for Spring of ' 79 worth your time. For more information, watch the Ask-It Booth or contact Barb Gorski at 353-1893.

Students for an Elected Student Government

## FAS not A-OK

VCU, the ever expanding urban university of Virginia, seems unable to get its fill of red tape. The latest example is VCU's new Financial Accounting System. As reported by the Commonwealth Times [September 12-18, 1978], the system "is designed to combine technological advances with updated accounting practices...." This advanced technology allows student organizations to pay their bills after only six to eight weeks (compared to two weeks under the old system). I guess we should all be pleased with this advanced set-back and hope the university does not intend to improve its scheduling procedures.

Christopher Miller
Business Manager, WVCW

## About Lefters

All letters must be signed and should be typed and double spaced. Submissions should include phone number, year, and major, if applicable. Letters may be edited for grammar, clarity, or space.


## Put Your Wheels Where They Belong

Student commuters leaving their wheels on Fan streets better be a little more careful of parking regulations, according to Captain J. Hunter Parker of Richmond's Public Information Office

Captain Parker said vehicles towed from Richmond streets number "about 40 or 50 daily. There was one day last week, however, when we towed away 69 cars, . . .the bulk of these being in the Fan District." Most of the "Towing Enforced" zones in this area are located on the major arterials (Franklin, Grace, and Main streets, as well as Park Avenue) and are in effect during rush hours.

Parker said he wished students would pay a bit more attention to signs to avoid paying fines. "We don't make money on them, since there is a certain administrative cost involved," he said.
"And it gives the police a bad image.
City fines range from a $\$ 4$ ticket for parking in a loading zone to $\$ 24$ for towing a car with locked steering.
-Jeff Comer

## West Campus Picked <br> As Program Pilot

V
CU's west campus has been selected as the pilot agency of the annual United Way fund drive, according to Dr. Ronald Beller, provost for administration and chairman of the two-part

VCU-MCV campaign. VCU was selected as the pilot agency because its past record indicated it would serve as an incentive to MCV, which has fallen short of expectations by 10 percent every year.
The VCU campaign, which began Sept. 8, will run for four weeks. Beller hopes to reach his goal of $\$ 25$ thousand after the first week. The academic campus exceeded this figure by 19 percent in 76-77 and by 17 percent in 77-78, Beller said. "The faculty and staff here have been remarkable," he said.
VCU gifts will contribute to the combined MCV-VCU goal of $\$ 62$ thousand. The campaign is aimed at faculty, administration and other university employees now, but students are encouraged to contribute. Beller is considering placing a booth in Shafer Court.

Beller will launch the four-week MCV campaign with a Sept. 25 luncheon at which Gov. John N. Dalton is expected to speak.
Funds collected by the Richmond chapter will be allocated to 42 area organizations, including the american Red Cross, YMCA, YWCA Salvation Army, and Boy and Girl Scouts. The total campaign goal for Greater Richmond is $\$ 5,791$, 671.
"VCU is very important to the city," Beller said. "We've been interested in improving both the quality of life in the city and relations between VCU and Richmond. We hope this will help to enhance the relationship."
-Craig Schmidt

## Students Score

T wo business students have been awarded $\$ 500$ scholarships from Philip G. McKown a

VCU Alumnus and President of Custom Mailers/ Currie Press of Richmond
Mary R. Buckle, a Marketing major, won the Daniel C. Brandmahl Scholarship and Carolyn S. Doyle, an Accounting major won the Marvin L. Ingram Scholarship.

The Brandmahl Scholarship is named for the late Daniel C. Brandmahl former vice-president of Custom Mailers. The Ingram Scholarship is in honor of a former VCU Economics professor.

Professors Al Welzel, Robert Sheffield and Russell A. Johnston served on the McKown Scholarship Committee.

## Fair Follies

The State Fair will run from Sept. 21 through Oct 1. Go out and have a good time.

## Toe to Thumb Transplant

An eight-year-old girl successfully came through a 14 -hour operation at Duke University Medical Center that transplanted the second toe of her left foot to make a thumb.

Trudy Howle was born with a congenital birth defect known as annular bands. Scientists believe it results when the sac surrounding an unborn baby shreds slightly sometime during pregnancy. The affection had failed to allow her thumb to develop normally.


## In Case You Need Them. . .

vCU provides a variety of services to students who know where to find them
The Placement Office, in the Ritter-Hickok House at 821 West Franklin Street, helps graduate students find professional jobs. The office can help all students find part time and summer employment.

Need a little money until you can get to the bank? The Resident Hall Association in Rhoads Hall will cash checks for ten dollars or less with a twenty-five cents service charge. The bank is open 6 pm to 8 pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; 6 pm to 9 pm Fridays and Saturdays and 12 pm to 2 pm Sundays.

Students who need remedial or enrichment instruction in areas such as mathematics, history, or literature can apply to the Academic Campus Learning Center, located on the corner of Floyd Avenue and Brunswick Street. Drug and sex information is also obtainable there. Applications can be picked up at the Learning Center.
VCU also provides two counseling centers. The Counseling Center at 913 West Franklin Street provides confidential help to students who have personal, academic, or social problems. The Psychological Services Center counsels anyone with marital, emotional or family problems.

Students interested in taking a trip home or anywhere else can contact Julie Walter. She is the campus representative for Amtrak and can be reached at $353-0775$ or 256-7288.
VCU is also equipped with a University Postal Service at 918 Park Avenue. Money orders, certified mail, parcel post and stamps can all be handled there.
The Printing Shop, at 901 West Franklin Street will print nonpolitical material for nonprofit enterprises. Facilities include an IBM copier and an offset press.
For more information on these and other services available, visit the ASK-IT booth in Shafer Court
-Denise Wilson

## Money Granted to Study Dental, Muscular Diseases

Two separate groups of scientists on the east campus have been given grants, one of $\$ 1.5$ million, to study periodontal disease, the other, of $\$ 127,500$, to study multiple sclerosis.
Periodontal disease, which will be studied by the School of Dentistry, destroys gums and bones
that support teeth. It can result in tooth loss.
Research at the school will be directed toward inflammation that causes this gum destruction, the bacteria involved, and those types of people who are most affected by the disease

The other grant, given by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, went to doctors George H . DeVries and Vincent P. Calabrese. DeVries has devised a procedure for isolating surface membranes of nerve fibers.

Multiple sclerosis is a disintegration of myelin, the material which forms a sheath around nerve fibers and conducts nerve impulses. Loss of myelin results in a breakdown in the flow of nerve impulses and causes nerves to stop functioning.

Myelin attaches itself to the cell by a surface membrane called axolemma. In DeVries' procedure, both axolemma and myelin are isolated, and changes in the chemical composition of axolemma in multiple sclerosis are studied.

The sclerosis grant is the second one given to DeVries and Calabrese by the association.

## Help for the Tongue Tied

Students having difficulties with foreign languages can now seek tutorial services at 107 N. Morris St. by turning in an application to Faye Jones. The free service will begin on Sept. 24. Miss Jones can be reached at 257-1173 until 3 pm on weekdays
A free language clinic is also available to help foreign language students improve their skills particularly conversational ability. The clinic is located in the language department on the third floor of the Administration Building. A sign-up sheet is located at the language department.

## VMT Issues Appeal for Ushers

T he Virginia Museum Theatre needs 300 persons to serve as ushers for the 1978-79 drama and film series.

As payment, VMT ushers get to see drama and film society performances free of charge, according to VMT Administrative Director Baylor Landrum. "This is one of the few ways remaining to get tickets to the film society season, since the series is sold out," Landrum said.

Ushers are asked to work at least one night for each of the season's four drama productions, Landrum said.

Those interested in volunteering are asked to call the VMT House Manager weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon at 257-0751

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Sept. 19

## Wednesday Sept. 20

Thursday Sept. 21

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## Richmond Septemberfest Delights Neophyte

Last Friday was supposed to be my chance to relax and recover from the week's classes. Needless to say, I was none too enthusiastic about a trip to the Richmond Arena to attend the annual Boys Club International Food Festival. I'm glad that I allowed myself to be talked into going, however, because it was one of the more impressive evenings l've spent since coming back to school.

I went expecting one of those grade school quality carnivals, and was pleasantly surprised to find out that people really take this event seriously. My friend and I walked by booths supporting everything from creative anachronisms to Polish Sausages. Since he was paying, I took the liberty of eating one of just about everything there. Anything for the Boys' Club.
Definitely the best food there was found at the Greek booth. The Baklava was perfect. With the flaky pastry and the finely chopped nuts all drenched in honey, I was in fat heaven.

We got there early so there weren't too many people, but it got crowded around 7:30. Despite the slight inconvenience of lines at some booths I managed to get my teeth into egg rolls, churros, shrimp chips, shortbread, brownies, , crepe suzettes, Lebanese potato salad, and a candied apple. The food was expensive but worth it. VCU Professor Cecile Noble proved just how French she really is by whipping out orders of escargots at the French booth.

Most of the people working at the annual Boys Club International Food Festival wore their native dress as did some of the people who just came to eat, look and be entertainea

Photo by Don Sigety

The atmosphere itself was festive, which is probably why they call it a festival. Most of the people working there wore their native dress as did some of the people who just came to eat, look and be entertained.

Anyone who came solely for the entertainment offered at the festival still got a steal for the $\$ 1.50$ admission they paid ( $\$ 1.00$ in advance). There was Filipino stick dancing, and VCU was represented by a dance troupe. The troupe does folkloric dances of many kinds, with a preference for those of French origin.
All in all, the International Food Festival was an evening well spent. I don't know who organized it but he or she should be proud of the way it turned out. Even if the Boys Club didn't reach the moneymaking goal it set, they're responsible for exposing people to the customs and food of countries all over the world. -Barb Goodwin

## First Reports

## Too Much For VCU

The last of the beer was downed and people were herded from the 806 dormitory onto the sidewalks. Thus the real party began.

After moving outside, rather than disperse, the crowd congregated on the corner of Franklin and Laurel. Just what exactly happened is not clear. Richmond police refused to give any information and authorities at the VCU police station were unavailable for comment. However, here is a brief account of Friday night's incident as told by two 806 residents.

At 12:45 am, the dormitory stopped selling beer tickets. At 1:00 no more beer was sold, however some was given away. By $1: 30$ the party was over and a VCU policeman, on duty to guard against beer being taken off the premises, was dismissed. The party then moved out of the 806 dormitory and onto the sidewalk, where it then spilled into the street. VCU police came to
break up the mob, but with little luck. Bottles were thrown and an antenna was broken from one police car. More VCU police arrived. Since the party had flowed into the street, the Richmond police showed up with a police dog to try to take control of the situation. A student began to tease the dog which in turn lunged at the student. According to one account the policeman then let the dog go causing the crowd to scatter. All of this occurred as the residents of the 806 dormitory looked on from their porch in amazement. In all, one 806 resident was arrested along with two other students.
The incident was probably a result of the cumulation of events occuring over the evening: The early evening party in Shafer Court, the 806 party and the excitement of the Ali-Spinks boxing match.
-David Keller


# "To ensure an adequate supply of energy tomorrow, requires sufficient capital today." 

-Stanley Ragone

By Jeffrey Ruggles

As if the cost of living in 1978 weren't bad enough, it'll be going higher still. Electric rates are going up. The State Corporation Commission will soon announce how much of VEPCO's proposed $\$ 246$ million rate increase request the company will receive

Part of the $\$ 246$ million is already in our bills. An $\$ 82$ million emergency rate increase was granted last spring to cover initial operating expenses at the North Anna nuclear generator. In all likelihood that emergency increase will be made permanent. How much of the other $\$ 162$ million is granted remains to be seen.

Hearings were held by the SCC in Tidewater, Northern Virginia, and Richmond to hear public comments, which ranged from attacks on VEPCO's advertising campaign as "misrepresentation," to assaults on liberals who "took the U.S. off the gold
standard," to assertions that environmentalists are controlled by British intelligence. At the SCC offices in downtown, Richmond proponents and opponents of the rate increase got down to hardball, as they tried to cope with thousands of pages of testimony and reports.

Stanley Ragone, President of VEP-
customers," said Ragone. He also noted "Everything that this company does right you don't get credit for, and everything which isn't right you get slapped for.

Opponents of the rate hike had varied arguments. Some had problems with VEPCO's accounting methods. Many raised the issue of


CO, stated the basic argument for the rate increase when he said "To ensure an adequate supply of energy tomorrow, requires sufficient capital today." VEPCO also seeks funds so it can pay its stockholders a higher dividend. "If the utility's return is not high enough to attract investors, there will be a negative effect on the
mismanagement, pointing to costs being passed on to customers which ought to be absorbed by the company. Mentioned were costs associated with the scrubbing of two nuclear reactors at Surry, and with an uranium venture in Wyoming called Virginia Nuclear. Others pressed for rate relief for low income users, and
presented objections to VEPCO's rate structure, which gives the largest energy consumer, the lowest rate per kilowatt hour.
VEPCO's nuclear program was a particular focus for discussion. Numerous speakers were opposed to nuclear power altogether, including representatives from the North Anna Environmental Coalition and the Richmond Alternative Energy Committee, which held a rally at Capitol Square before the hearings. Other comments touched on engineering mistakes. A defective steam generator will have to be replaced at the Surry plant, at a cost of $\$ 21$ million, and the pump house at the North Anna plant has sunk into the ground close to the maximum amount permitted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A former auditor at the North Anna plant said construction waste there may have been as much as $\$ 50$ million.
As one speaker said, "One wonders if the company ought to suffer a little along with the rest of us." $\begin{gathered}\text { \& } \\ \text { な }\end{gathered}$





## By Donna Wigginton

We've all heard of Saturday night fever, disco fever, cat scratch fever, and various other fevers infiltrating the country. But there is one fever that originates in Richmond, and at VCU in particular. It is called Ram Fever. How can y'su recognize its victims? They're the ones who skip

tests to cheer at soccer games, who have bought their season basketball tickets five years in advance, and who have wallpapered their dorm rooms with VCU penants

Students who are reluctant to give up their comfortably apathetic state may find it difficult to avoid catching Ram Fever. It is being spread by billboards, pamphlets, T-shirts, pens, and bumper stickers. Students are powerless to avoid exposure.
How did this dreaded disease come to the once calm and collectedly apathetic VCU campus? After all VCU students have a reputation for lacking in school spirit. But the VCU athletic department has decided to save VCU students from themselves by spreading Ram Fever

The purpose of Ram Fever is to gain more support for the VCU athletic program, and in turn, for VCU itself. VCU Athletics are, according to Coach Lewis Mills, more visible to the outside community than anything else on the campus. Although VCU art shows
and other exhibitions from various departments may be very visible VCU Athletics are a year-round event.
The idea of Ram Fever was born during the summer when Mills and Assistant Athletic Director Steve Harvey were attending a convention of college athletic directors. Accord ing to Mills, "We figured we had more to sell than they did." So, they began trying to think of a way to "market VCU Athletics" and Ram Fever was the idea they liked most The phrase was catchy and easy to remember. Mills says that although many schools have a theme, such as Ram Fever, this is the first year that VCU has had such a theme

The purpose of Ram Fever is no only to promote the already promi nent basketball team, but also to promote the ten other intercollegiate sports that VCU offers. VCU Athlet ics have about 300 students involved with the actual teams, but Mills says that he wants ' 18,000 students' temperatures to go up"; in other
vords, Mills wants the entire school o support the Athletic Department.
Besides generating larger audiences at sports events, the Ram Fever theme is hoped to generate more revenue for the athletic department Alumni are a good source of contributions, and 41,000 Ram Fever pamphlets have been sent to every alumnus VCU has ever had, excepting those in foreign countries according to. Harvey.
But Ram Fever's students' main purpose is to cure the perenially apathetic VCU student. A Ram's Club is even being organized to provide students with transportation to VCU athletic events and to create a greater interest in these events.
So, when VCU students find themselves getting their kicks from soccer balls rather than their usual means and feeling an irresistable attraction for the not-so-attractive VCU gym, it isn't a case of being over the hill. It's Ram Fever - and the only cure is a life-long basketball ticket.

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to lead to an arrest. A stiff fine. A jail sentence and criminal record.

The irony is, they still have to pay for all the calls they made.

So if you know people who are doing this, please ask them to stop. Or if you're one of them, please stop yourself.

Because paying for your call now is a whole lot easier than paying for it later.


## THE SHAFER COURT REVIVAL

Despite the constant threat of rain, over 70 of the 135 registered clubs participated in the annual Student Organization Fair. The fair, which was held in Shafer Court Wednesday, Sept. 15, was sponsored by the Student Activities Office.

Social groups, fraternal organizations and political clubs distributed pamphlets and answered questions at their various booths while music was provided by WVCW. There was also visual entertainment provided by the VCUDANCECO.





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## By Larry Schonberger

If you hurry over to the Anderson Gallery at 907 W. Franklin St. you can see the original works of Lasswell, Caniff, Young and a host of others. Their work has been viewed by millions and if you are unfamiliar with it, then just turn to the comics page of any newspaper to refresh your memory.

They are all part of "The American Comic Strip," an exhibit arranged by Dr. M. Thomas Inge, chairman of the English department at VCU and a nationally recognized authority on comics. The exhibit, which is scheduled to travel the state of Virginia for the next two years, opened at the Anderson Gallery on September 12 and will remain there until September 26.

There are 32 different artists to be seen in the
exhibit and all of the pieces shown are from the Richmond area. Many of the pieces loaned are from Dr. Inge's personal collection and from the collection of Dr. David Manning White, a member of VCU's Department of Mass Communications.
The exhibit, according to Dr. Inge, "traces the history and development of the comic strip from its origin in the 1890s to the present day. Each piece in the gallery has a written explanation of its origin and development and offers some insight as to the creation of a comic strip character." Dr. Inge will also tour the state with the exhibit and lecture on the comic strip as a narrative art form. The exhibit offers something for everyone. There is the political satire of Walt Kelly's 'Pogo," the philosophy of Charles Schulz's "Peanuts," the gallantry of Harold Foster's
'Prince Valiant,". and the domestic humor of Chic Young's "Blondie.
Also represented is the underground comic character - which deals with controversial topics in a radical manner. Featured are "Trots and Bonnie" by Shary Flenniken and "Dirty Duck" by Bobby London. Both artists have received most of their national exposure through the humor magazine National Lampoon, rather than through the newspapers. Dr. Inge chose to include the underground comic character in the exhibit because" They are representitive of today's comic culture. They are an uncensored art form.
'The American Comic Strip" may be seen at the Anderson Gallery between the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

## By Mark Plymale

John Prine's new album, Bruised Orange, is simply one of the warmest, most sincere albums in recent memory. Simple, honest and engaging, Prine's songs forego melodrama for truth, pomposity for the strength of quiet assurance. It's like the difference between a "Welcome" mat bought at a store and a mat that's made from hand, where the conviction is made plain through arduous effort.
After his brilliant initial album, Prine went into a skid, due in part to Kris Kristofferson's over-enthusiastic liner notes and sometimes trifling material. Here, all that is gone. Prine cuts loose with the amiable production supervision of friend Steve Coodman, with material every bit as
powerful as on the first album, with even better musical support.

Prine's view of life is totally without pretense. His songs are slices of life, not abstract portraits shrouded in ambiguities and euphemisms. The simplest thing here, "If You Don't Want My Love," conveys a sentiment everyone in the world has probably experienced, yet finds hard to express in a coherent way. To feel the hurt that is inherent in any unreciprocated love affair is devastating, but Prine says there are alternatives - a mature and wizened attitude that says, "If you don't want my love / I know who l'll give it to." This simplicity may be too much (too little?) for some, but therein lies the song's worth - the economy of words belies the wealth of meaning Two other songs highlight the fulfilling album.
"That's the Way the World Goes Round" is a picture of the frailty of the human condition; the inadequacy of a work like "love" where people are concerned. He beats her with a rubber hose / Then takes her to dinner / Buys her some new clothes. John Prine knows the real world and lets us in on it through his songs.
'Bruised Orange (Chain of Sorrow)' finds the singer imparting still more wisdom to us - a little melancholy, but ultimately beautifully rewarding to the listener. The sum and total of the album may be found within this title song. Here, Prine is doing much more than just singing and playing a song. He is sharing, reaching out, and taking a chance. The man, like the title, has taken his Jumps, but is still undamaged inside.

# Not just andher puetty face 

By John Ismay

The loss of Star Trek has sent sci-fi fans in search of new material, and they seem to have found it in The Rocky Horror Picture Show. But with all its pretense as a grade B throw-away, Rocky Horror flings great satire in the face of science fiction.

The film is firmly based on the NosferatuFrankenstein legend of man finding the key to life. Dr. Frank N. Furter, an off-beat scientist played commandingly by Tim Curry, blows life into his creation, Rocky Horror, then chains him in a remote section of the obligatory castle. The creation escapes when taunted with fire by the scientist's aide. Like Frankenstein's monster, Rocky is entranced during his escape by a young girl who shows him unsolicited affection. He responds in a sinfully playful way, for which he is condemned. As a result, he is deemed. a conceptual failure, even though he has only displayed typically human, loving characteristics.
The plot goes awry from Frankenstein when Dr. Furter is slain. But The Rocky Horror Picture Show is not the morose, stark film that James Whale's Frankenstein was. Playwright-composeractor Richard O'Brien has dealt the classic several satirical blows. Most obviously, he has turned the adventure into a rock opera, complete with dance and strikingly rich music. More significantly, the script intertwines the Frankenstein legend with a tale of alien invaders, satirizing a plot overused in recent cinematic science fiction. His opening theme clues us in:

## But something went wrong

For Fay Wray and King Kong.
They got caught in a celluloid jam.
Then at a deadly pace,
It came from outer space,
And this is how the message ran:
Science fiction/double feature.
O'Brien has outfitted the plot not only with Frankenstein imagery but also with the elements of the traditional alien invader tale. There are the aliens of indeterminate gender, a young man who stumbles onto the aliens, and his fiancee, who seems to be present only to adorn the set and demonstrate her boyfriend's dominance over her.
But bespectacled Brad Majors (Barry Bostwick) is not the male-ideal/amateur-scientist of films gone by. He doesn't inform the world of the alien invaders, nor does he even recognize their true foreign nature. He does tell his fiancee what to do, gets mad at the aliens, and even frequently utters
the cosmic phrase "damn it." But no one pays attention. Dr. Furter manipulates him into giving up his clothes and even his thin body to science. This blunder undermines Brad's role as protagonist, and shatters the myth of the dominant hero of all science fiction from. Frankenstein to Star Wars.
-The loyal fiancee of alien invader films is typically a pretty coquette, a loving temptress who is also sexually child-pure. She has her wedding to look forward to, and can have nothing to do with anyone, including the milkman or the aliens, until then. Janet Weiss (Susan Sarandon) corresponds to such roles, but with satiric license gives no submissive attention to Brad's directions. She goes out in the rain against his orders, and with typical independence breaks into song with the aliens. Initially tricked by the satanic Frank N. Furter in a Brad Majors disquise, she makes love to the alien. As if under a spell, she proclaims her sexual liberation, sleeping next with the monster,

and fantasizing of the odd collection of freaks the doctor keeps about.
Who is the real freak, the true monster of the film? Not Rocky - he has none of the foreboding looks of Frankenstein's monster, little of the garish dress of Dracula. In fact, he has a deep tan, blonde hair, and a face that might need a double take to distinguish it from Robert Redford's. He is rather a muscle-bound Flash Gordon in golden underwear. No, the freak of this picture is the creator, Dr. Furter, sardonic in his black sequin tights and dark eye make up, with his blend of alien androgeny and uninhibited impulses.

Having grasped the secret to life, he supplies excess libidinal ingredients to his living masterpiece, Rocky. His castle is overwrought with sexual imagery and brim-full of burnt-out hedon-
ists in search of the cheapest thrill. Overriden with sexual tension, Brad and Janet fall under Frankie's erotic spell. He bewitches them with song:

Turn yourself over to absolute pleasure. Swim the warm waters of sins of the flesh. Erotic madness beyond any measure, Can't you just see it?
Don't dream it! Be it!
Although his words reveal sinful desires, Frank's showmanship overwhelms everyone, including the audience. Frank N. Furter is diety to all. He is the master of ceremonies, the mythical scientist, the creator of life. The story emanates from him, and yet is about him. Tim Curry as Furter bolts the eyes of audience to the screen. A master of dramatic movement from the tap of his high heel in the descending elevator to the snap of his surgeon's gloves, he plays a strutting, rock star in drag. He belts out rock lyrics like Tom Jones, yet retains enough delicacy for ear-appealing recitation. Frank is obsessed, like the characters of Stanley Kubrick's films. Like Humbert Humbert, Nabokov's child lover, who Kubrick has manifested on screen, Furter may be condemned for playing miser with the emotions of the characters, but he is ultimately forgivable for his creativity. In the climactic scene, his fellow aliens, who have been disguised as the doctor's butler and maid, suddenly appear in their futuristic native costume. They must now return to their home planet, as Dr. Furter's mission to create the perfect human has proved a failure. His selfish desire to create a personal sexual playmate, rather than the perfect human, has doomed the project. Frank breaks down, revealing his all-too-human emotion. He weeps at the thought of leaving the blue skies of earth, where he has been accepted and appreciated. His unspeakable hopes having been dashed by his fated sexual fantasies, he must return home.

The aliens say no, he will not return to his mother planet, but rather die on Earth. He is destroyed, grade B sci-fi style, with a laser gun. Frank's loyal creation carries him to the top of a stage tower in a vision directly from King Kong. Both Rocky and Frank catapult to death as the tower collapses. The tragic death of Furter, just as he achieves his wish to play a fluttering Fay Wray at the hands of his own creation, smacks of the empty emotion of predictable happy endings of
traditional science fiction. Frank has not played the typica! sci-fi alien who attacks earthlings without explanation, or is beyond earthly intelligence and escapes quickly to avoid unreasonable human attack. He is multi-faceted, facing an earthly dilemma with overloaded extraneous desires. Frank may be evil, but Richard O'Brien and Tim Curry, with avant-garde artistry, have manipulated everyone into loving his character of dubious intent. He may be a sex-crazed transvestite, but he has great flair, and carries out his diabolical acts with audience-ingratiating asides.
The story is an advance for science fiction, as all of the characters are so human. No longer are there men who might as well be super-heroes, or women who are pasteurization-pure. The Rocky Horror Picture Show, then, peers beyond the science fiction of past decades. It picks up where other stories left off, taking futuristic tales out of the past and placing them clearly in the present.
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[Editor's note: Rocky Horror Picture Show is currently being shown at the Biograph Theatre every Friday and Saturday at midnight.]

## Blame It On the Films

IN the 30s, Hollywood influenced the world in fashion, lifestyle, and politics. Then came the creation of television and Hollywood was silenced. Oh, there were the usual little-believed films of giant sharks and overly-inflammable airplanes, but the film industry lacked the control it had once enjoyed over human actions and mannerisms.

But, in the midst of the otherwise boring 70s, two films were released. These films, National Lampoon's Animal House, and Rocky Horror Picture Show, took different approaches but achieved the same effect. Animal House, which stars John Belushi, displayed college fraternities with such reality that one New York critic admitted that it was worth enduring four years of college to really appreciate the film. The plot revolves around a fraternity which has caused so much chaos that the college president puts the members on double secret probation in hopes of ridding the campus of the chronic class-skipping, booze-guzzling, girl smuggling politicians of the future.

The president suffers immense embarrassment, though, when his wife allows herself to be seduced by the fraternity president. For good measure, another fraternity member gets the mayor's daughter drunk and delivers her at a toga party in a stolen grocery cart.

When the college administration empounds all of the alcohol and most of the furniture, the fraternity decides to take to the road. The most charming member takes a few friends to a nearby all-female campus and convinces one of the co-eds that he was the fiance of her recently killed roommate. This action results in the fraternity being banned from the traditional homecoming parade

So the fraternity which otherwise could care less about homecoming builds a death mobile and destroys the parade and part of the town. So much for plot.

Rocky Horror's plot is less original but the music and political significance is abundant (see related story).

The main attraction of both films, in fact, is the political overtones. Animal House ends with an explanation of who or what the characters
will be when they grow up. The frat leader becomes a well-paid lawyer while the president of a rival fraternity sinks in the Watergate scandal.

Rocky Horror at least seeks a more human rights optimism by letting the suppressed butler and maid become the executionist leaders.

Both films had even more of a cultural attraction. Toga parties are being thrown across the nation and the Rocky Horror fashions and hairstyles have even infiltrated conservative Richmond. The cult which attends Rocky Horror spend hours collecting their rice, newspapers, cards, water, toast and candles. They can be heard in cafeterias and classrooms mumbling such unforgetable phrases as "Come up to the lab and see what's on the slab" and 'Third floor, ladies lingere. Ladies first, assholes second, groupies and transvestites last.

So, for a while at least, the youth of America can find their release by throwing either toast or toga parties. They can be modernistic, futuristic, or traditional college, and they can blame it all on the Hollywood celluloid.

- Bobbie Harrell
doesn't like, but I won't say which one it is.

Evidently no one pays any attention to what hour it is-except mayby Peter, as he notices something else that needs to be done before 7 am .

The Rolling Stones are still going on, and I call Biff upstairs. He says they'll keep doing it all night.

Kwami Fabu is back in the paste-up room looking over the flats. He says he tied one on at Mad King's before coming on tonight. Pat is trying to find a nickle for her college game-but we college journalists don't have that kind of money!

Kwami starts reading one of the letters on the letters page, and breaks out laughing. It doesn't do much for those of us who've seen it since Wednesday afternoon. The girls in the newsroom are smoking cigarettes, while Bobbie types up some paragraphs for some page or another. The expectant page editor stands by trying to figure out how many hours she's been here.

A trip to Richmond Arts is a very relaxing break after all the heat and noise and confusion below. Bob Beaman is putting in an all-nighter too. But he's aǹ art student, so we can all understand. He keeps the room at about 60 degrees, it seems. ArtAttack comes up. We joke about how much work still has to be done.

Marty Croll is working the headline machine, trying to fix some page; there's a call for Pat on line one.

ArtAttack is doing something with magic lettering, and he asks me to call upstairs and request some Patti Smith. It's great to have a radio station that plays whatever you want.
Maryann from the radio is down here, reading the stories, helping to think up headlines. I notice how tired I am, and Peter tells me things don't look so good. "But I've been here since 11 this morning."

A lot of people don't even like the newspaper, but there are always the die-hards left on Sunday nights, without whom there wouldn't even be a paper. After a couple of years working here, we don't even think about that.
-Stan Whimpley

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## SPORTS

## By Larry Schonberger

It's true, soccer has arrived and is now VCU's new major fall sport. The team began its season last Friday against Hampden-Sydney college, and even though they lost $2-0$ in double overtime, their coach, Ben Satterfield, was quite satisfied.
"We played well," states Satterfield.
"We played 95 minutes of soccer before giving up a goal. Our offense was the best it's been, but we still have a long way to go." VCU's offense took 39 shots on goal while the VCU defense only allowed 17 shots on goal.
According to Satterfield, defense is the team's strong point. 'I think we have a pretty solid defense for a first-year team," he says. "Our weak point is experience on offense. It's going to take us a while to get our offense in gear, and it will be a couple more games yet before we're putting shots in the goal.'
The team will play a 14-game


## Soccer Comes to VCU

schedule, which will include every Division One team in the state except University of Virginia. "We have a tough schedule," states Satterfield. "It will be like David and Goliath."
"If we can just play even with them (other teams) we will have done well. We may not beat them, but we'll give them a good run for their money. The team has a roster of 19 men, most of whom started playing in high school. The exceptions are goalie Carl Bolle and fullback Chris Brown, who
both grew up with the game. Bolle gained his experience in Germany, while Brown learned the game in Jamaica. The co-captains are halfback Billy Letien and fullback John Struder. According to assistant coach Riad Mahayni, Struder was "instrumental in holding together a club team last year so that we could have an NCAA Division One team this year." It is from last year's club team that most of this year's talent comes from.
The reason VCU has a Division One
soccer team this year might be attributed to the basketball team too. "I'd like to think we have a team because soccer is an up and coming sport," states Satterfield. "But I'm also realistic enough to realize that you need 10 Division One sports in order to make sure that your basketball remains Division One, and I think that had something to do with it.
"Whatever the reason, I'm just glad that we have a team. We are going to be exciting and fun to watch.'
Both Satterfield and Mahayni have high expectations of this first-year soccer team." They don't know if they will have a winning season but they do know they will have a good season. "We're going to impress a lot of people," states Maheyni, '"and they're going to pay attention to us the next time we come around.'
"We have a lot of good ballplayers,'s adds Satterfield, "and I think it's going to be a season where we show a lot of people that we're not just any first-year ball club."


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#### Abstract

Approximately 35 enthusiastic, eager and zippy men and women gathered at the gym last week to attend a cheerleading clinic, that hopefully will turn them into enthusiastic and zippy cheerleaders. During the three day clinic, the gym was full of people with erect postures and prim ponytails. Nancy Blout who helps in the organization and coordination of the cheerleading program at VCU, attributes the increase of interest to the athletic department's growing reputation. "As the athletic department gains recognition nationally, there's more interest to participate," said Blout.

The bubbly hopefuls were coached by cheerleaders selected last spring, in gymnastic and cheerleading abilities which include: a cartwheel, a cartwheel into a whole split, whole and half splits, and a forward and backward roll. The candidates will also be expected to perform a cheer with a group, make up a cheer, plus do a series of difficult jumps.

A panel will judge the aspiring cheerers on individual and group skills, poise, dress, and enthusiasm. Approximately 10 people will be added to the squad during tryouts September 18 and 19. Few men attended the practice sessions, because of the stigma involved in being a male cheerleader. They may be thought to be effeminate, although the men who did show at the clinics were anything out effeminate. Most were very athletic, and exhibited gymnastic abilities. Male cheerleaders generally perform the more rigorous cheerleading acts, such as lifting the ladies to triumphant heights. The men do no organized cheers among themselves, but they do add enthusiasm by clapping along with the cheers. By observing the phrenetic and gesticulating crowd which turned out for the learning and practice sessions, it is clear that Rah-Rah, and Sis-Boom-Bah has come to stay at VCU.


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## TUESDAY

"What is it like to be old?" will be featured on channel 23 at 7:30 pm.

Beginners Hebrew course begins tonight at Masada-Hillel, 1103 W. Franklin St. To register, call 353-6477. A \$10 dollar registration fee is charged for the eight week course.
"Variations on an Italian Theme," is the Tuesday noon film at the Richmond Public Library on Franklin St. at 12:20 pm in the main auditorium. Admission is free.

Hard Times, 1100 W. Cary's live entertainment tonight is the Richmond Jazz Quartet. Cover charge $\$ 1$.

Sign up for the interviews for the Temple University School of Law today in the Office of Placement services, 821 W. Franklin St. There will be group sessions for students interested in Law School.

Seek the truth and you will find it. The truth will cause you to become free! Scripture research every Tuesday at 9 pm in room 722 of Johnson Hall. For more info., contact Pat Langley at 353-1987.
Beer and chips party at Theta Delta Chi house on Franklin St.


Until Nov. 15, Maymount Foundation's nature Center features a house plant exhibit and gives information for your handling of plants. The exhibit is open Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 pm .

Concert Izquierda, at 8 pm at 1717 E . Main St. Admission \$3. For child care information call 355-2001.

## wEDNESDAY

Wednesday worship at the Baptist Student Union, 1000 Floyd Ave., at 8 am.

Film, Play it Again Sam, in the Business Building Auditorium at 8:30 and 11:30 pm . Admission \$1, students and \$2 public.

Club registration for fall at 901 Floyd Ave., at the student Activities Office.

Hot dog and beer sale in Shafer court from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm.


VCU vs William and Mary in men's soccer in City Stadium, 3201 Maplewood Ave., at 7:30 pm.

Gay Alliance of Students meetings Wednesdays at $9: 30 \mathrm{pm}$, in the McCabe House, 901 Floyd Ave., first floor. All are welcomed.

Hard Times features Crystal Wood, no cover charge.

## THURSDAY

Baptist Student Union luncheon at noon and 1 pm at the Baptist Student Union, 1000 Floyd Ave. $\$ 1$ donation for lunch.

The exhibition of seven American Naive Artists continues at the Anderson Gallery, 912 W. Franklin St.

Oconee tonight at Hard Times, cover charge $\$ 2$.

Continuous show of a collection of works by Henry Moore, a renowned British sculptor. Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Independence Ave., Wash., D.C. Open to the public every day from $10 \mathrm{am}-5 \mathrm{pm}$.

## fRIDAY

Film, Play It Again Sam, in the Business Building Auditorium at $8: 30$ and 11:30 pm. Admission \$1 students and $\$ 2$ public.

Concert featuring Page Wilson in Shafer Court from noon to 1 pm .


Alpha Phi Alpha Dance in Rhoads Hall Multipurpose room 9 pm to 1 am .

Womens volleyball in gym at 7 pm .
Seminar: Design and You: "The Question of Style" at 9:30 am - 1 pm in the auditorium of the main Richmond Public Library, 101 E. Franklin St.

Rush Party, 1630 Monument \#14, BYOB, Sigma Chi Omega Sorority.

Trigger Happy at Hard Times, $\$ 2$ cover.

Master class in guitar at 7:30 pm in the Music Center, 1015 Grove Ave.

Last day to buy a ring, and be eligible to win a 10 speed bicycle. Sales in the library and Business Building.

Last day for all degree candidates to submit graduation applications to their advisors for December degrees.

Deadline for special day students to submit required admission documents to recieve credit.

## SATURDAY

House plant exhibit at Maymount Foundation nature center. The exhibit is open Tuesday through Sunday 12-5 pm .

Master class at 3 pm with Jesus Silvá on the guitar, at the Music Center, 1015 Grove Ave.

Awareness workshop features Assert Yourself Positively Workshop I along with Backcountry Experience in Community Building. For more info., contact Stephen Lenton at 257-1378.

Trigger Happy at Hard Times, 1100 W. Cary, $\$ 2$ cover.

## SUNDAY

Current Middle Ages Society meeting, room 1118 Business Building, from 10 am -3 pm .

Awareness Workshop features Backcountry Experience in Community Building. For more info., contact Stephen Lenton at 257-1378.

Laurel's Honor Society meeting from $6-8 \mathrm{pm}$ in roon 1133 of the Business Building.


Electronic Music VCU in at 3 pm in the Music Center Auditorium.

WGOE At Hard Times, $\$ 1$ cover.

## MONDAY

Mens one-on-one basketball entries open. For more info., contact Dr. Barney Groves at 257-1284.

Leather Britches entertains at Hard Times tonight, cover .50 cents.

Mass meeting for elected student government at 901 Floyd Ave. 6:30 pm. For more info., contact Barb Gorski at 353-1893.

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