

parking

President Windsor, on November 29, granted final approval for a new 400 car parking lot. Construction has already begun, and completion is expected within 90 days.

The E. W. Muller Construction Company submitted the low bid of \$188,740 for the new parking facility. There will be 100 new faculty-staff spaces constructed behind the library, and 300 student slots beside Wingfield Hall, worked into the existing trees. An access road through the campus and permanent visitors parking is also planned.

Funds for the new facilities were not available at the beginning of the year, however. President Windsor requested Forest Coile and Associates to begin surveying the new lots three weeks before monies were made available. It is expected that the new facilities will alleviate the present parking problems.

tax rule

(CPS)--A new Internal Revenue Service (IRS) ruling states that student newspapers which receive financial aid from a university can endorse political candidates without endangering the school's tax-exempt status.

An IRS spokesperson said that the ruling (IRS Rev. Ru. 72-513) also applies to financially independent college newspapers.

The IRS notified the "Columbia Spectator" in September 1970 that its tax-exempt status would be revoked if the newspaper continued to endorse political candidates and take strong stands on political issues. It then dropped the charge without explanation in May 1971. When questioned by the "Spectator", an IRS spokesperson said that the new ruling didn't arise from any specific case, but from "something that should have been clarified."

The old ruling states that tax-exempt organizations may not devote any "substantial part of (their) activities" to legislative or political purposes.

The revised ruling reads, "the process of gathering news, doing research, analyzing data, writing, and editing material for the newspaper on any subject (including political and legislative matters) furthers the education of students on the newspaper by improving their knowledge and skills."

The Captain's Log

Christopher Newport College College of William & Mary

4 die in Louisiana

Baton Rouge, Louisiana (CPS)--Conflict flared once again between Louisiana's Southern University students and police, resulting in the deaths of two students and charges by student leaders of an administrative "plot" to set up students for a mass slaughter."

November 16, a group of 15 black students entered the administration building of Southern University in Baton Rouge. Official reports from the school indicated that students planned to seize control of the building, demanding the release of four fellow students arrested earlier in the day in connection with the disruption of classes.

Student sources, however, deny any plan to take over the administration building. Students involved in the conflict explained that they were admitted after

showing student identification to a security guard, and welcomed by Leon Netterville, president of Southern University.

Armed police surrounded the building, and the 2,000 students grouped outside, demanding that they disband. After five minutes, police officers shot tear gas and smoke grenades into the crowd of 400-500 students who were left. Sometime during the melee, two students died.

The coroner determined that the two men died of buckshot wounds in the head, and eyewitnesses reported seeing state police firing shotguns into the crowd.

Student eyewitnesses report the possibility of a third death, that of a black woman. Students claim seeing the woman fall to the ground after hearing gunfire. They report that state officials have refused to release information concerning the alleged third victim.

Sensible Sex

ABORTION SEMINAR

The Newman Club of CNC held their final lecture in the Sensible Sex Series on Wednesday, November 29. Speakers representing the Catholic Home Bureau and the Newman Club discussed alternatives to abortion. Placing children for adoption and into foster homes was stressed.

Father Vance, the Newman Chaplain, said that there was a need for young women to realize that there were alternatives to abortion so they would not terminate their pregnancies simply because they were unaware of the choices open to them. Sr. Shawn, director of the Catholic Home Bureau, outlined the services provided by her organization in the area of adoption, foster homes, and care of unwed mothers.

The Catholic Home Bureau is a private organization that attempts to help unwed mothers regardless of race or religion. In some cases, they are able to provide

services without charge. Sr. Shawn said her agency tries to be personal and caring as opposed to the cold, impersonal services of the public agencies. The Home Bureau does not, she said, put pressure on the mother to give up her child, but allows her to make her own choice.

Father Vance, speaking second, said that young girls are very often forced into abortions without regard for their psychological problems or their desires. He said there was a need for young adoptable infants, and that most children could be placed in suitable homes.

During a brief question and answer period, Fr. Vance said that the emphasis should be on the cause of pregnancy rather than what to do afterwards. The young girls should consider the consequences of pre-marital sex and if she does engage in sexual activity she should take the proper safeguards against unwanted pregnancy.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Can a college suffer from an identity crisis? Only insofar as the individuals who comprise its academic community behave in contradiction to their stated goals. When individuals experience dissonance between their real and ideal selves the result is frequently an atmosphere of apathy, mistrust and undifferentiated tension. The humanist refers to this syndrome as existential anxiety. The behaviorist prefers to talk in terms of cause and effect, the anxiety resulting from the realization that values or goals are out of phase with observable behavior.

Christopher Newport College is defined as an urban institution in contrast to a residential institution such as William and Mary. Implied in the distinction between these two concepts is a different focus of education.

The residential campus exists as a self contained unit in which the student acquires knowledge and applies what he has learned. In contrast, the urban campus provides a student the opportunity to learn in a challenging intellectual setting but acts as a liaison between the classroom and the community in which it is expected the student will apply his knowledge. Primarily due to financial considerations and student demand for "relevancy" the urban concept of education is becoming increasingly popular. The cost of educating a student is lower if an institution can eliminate dining, dormitory and related services and the pay off to the public is higher if students apply their knowledge and skills in the community while still enrolled in college.

Although the popularity of the urban campus is increasing the residential concept of higher education remains as the stereotype held by most high school students. How many times does one hear the lament that CNC lacks student involvement in clubs and organizations, diverse social outlets, athletic competition and publication staffs? All of these outlets are characteristic of the residential campus and yet no one has taken the effort to debate the present status of CNC's identity, not to mention communicating the consistent identity to its students.

Perhaps the college community is being

too self critical. If the students and faculty are involved in meaningful classroom experiences and are involved in applying their knowledge in the community, why should one necessarily expect enthusiastic support for Octoberfests, May Day Weekends and Saturday night horror flicks. It is impossible for the Psychology and Sociology clubs to compete with such community based projects as learning disability classrooms and OEO tutorials.

Several alternative definitions of the urban campus may be argued effectively. The one presented here serves only as a stimulus for further discussion. As long as the college community continues to function without a clear definition of its role, individuals involved in the educational process will continue to focus on the few areas of inconsistency at the expense of acknowledging and building on the many areas of excellence which this institution has already achieved.

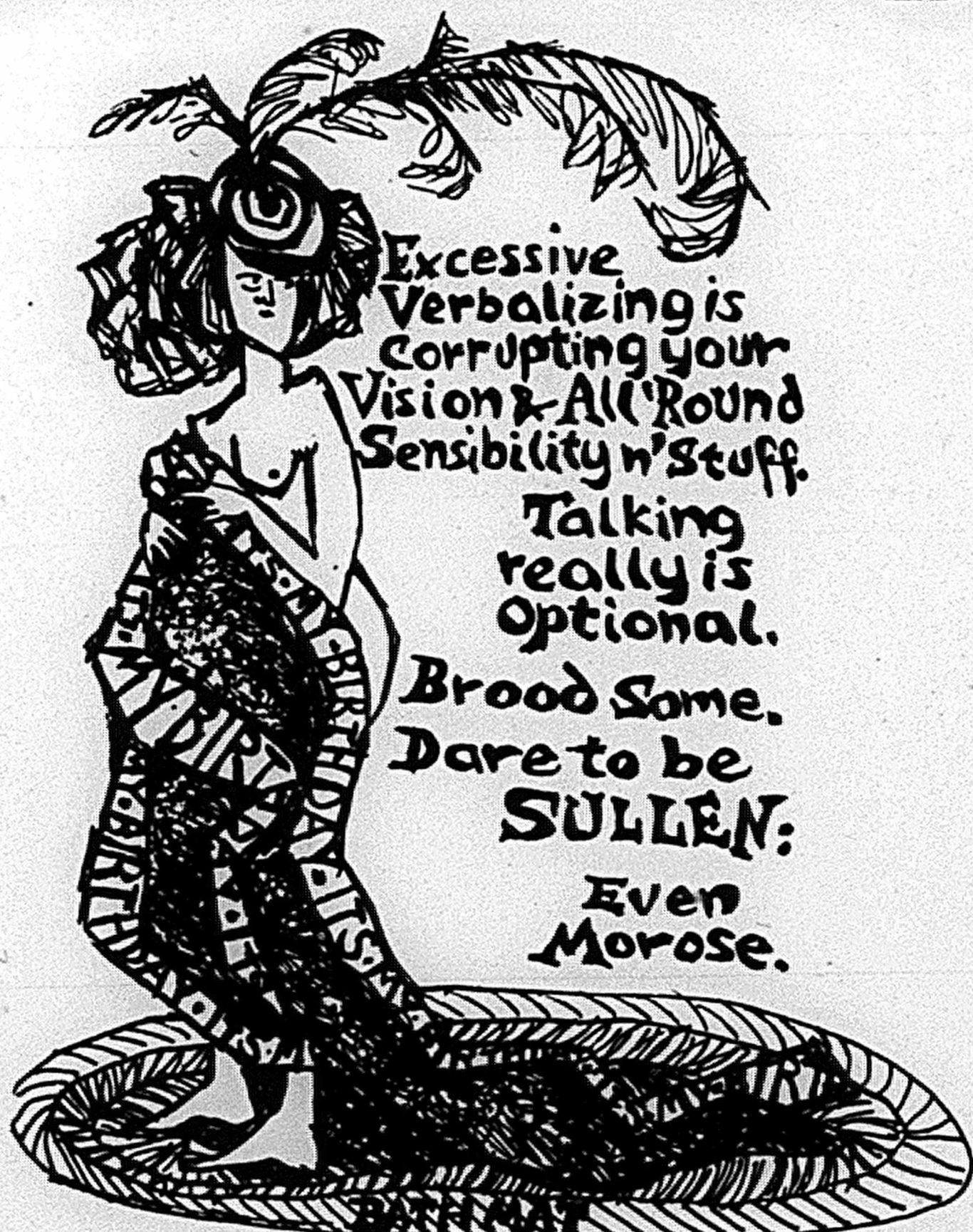
Lee Doerries

FACTS OF THE DAY

CPS

- An official Pentagon spokesperson set the number of American military personnel stationed at the eight United States bases in Thailand as approximately 45,000. There is no provision in the Vietnam settlement for bringing them home.
- The Gettysburg National Cemetery opened its last grave site, thus joining scores of other military burial places which have been forced to turn away applicants because of lack of space.
- The 1973 military budget is almost \$78 billion, 4 billion more than last year.
- The Defense Department budget for the year 1973 asked for \$11.8 million for each of three 747 airplanes so that in case of nuclear war, the president and his airborne command can direct the war from a safe altitude. Congress approved the request.

THIS WEEK'S VIBES



GET A JOB, STAY IN SCHOOL - MOM



To the editor:

Those cynics who storm your office and scream that the paper is becoming a "propoganda sheet" have no room to complain. If they feel the paper is a waste of school funds, of student's time, and of their own time, they merely have to lay the paper aside and never read it again. Or better yet, they should go to the offices and say, "This paper isn't what it should be. Let me write a series of articles for you."

"Elton Rocks On" by Rich Ogle starts off with an interesting topic and goes down-hill from there. If the purpose of the article was to enlighten those who didn't attend the concert to the beauty, power, and strength of Elton's music, the article failed miserably. If I had to depend on such an article for information, I would have found myself helplessly

lost in his sketchy, insubstantial, uninspired, and cliched writings. But the real clincher was his asinine expression about the "twenty minute jam that had the audience wetting their pants." If Rich was trying to say that the music was so good that it caused the audience to go berserk with emotion, fine; music should inspire and lift one's mind. But his using the infantile expression of "wetting pants" is insulting to the reader, as well as to the band itself. Frankly, almost any other expression would have been vastly superior to that cheap expression he used.

If Rich's prose doesn't improve, I'd rather not see his work in the paper. His pathetic writing is what the college paper is trying to break away from, not indulge in. Let's see such material ferretted out permanently.

The "Deep Purple Bombs" article was an improvement over the Elton John article,

but it didn't inspire me at all. After wading through the first paragraph, crippled beyond belief, he says he won't "waste any more space discussing Deep Purple." It would have been far better to not discuss the group at all, if he himself can't give a better performance.

Although the longest article, well written and interesting to read, was not produced by a CNC student, I found it to be of much more quality than the two "articles" on the rock bands. This completeness and thoroughness in writing is what I would like to see. Break away from the cheap articles that remind us of the high school newspaper!

Why not use newsprint stock? It conveys the feeling of a real newspaper and also is less expensive than your regular 20 pound offset stock. One large sheet of newsprint could be folded in half once, and it would afford a more versatile layout, as well as enhance the appearance.

Unsigned

Dear Unsigned,

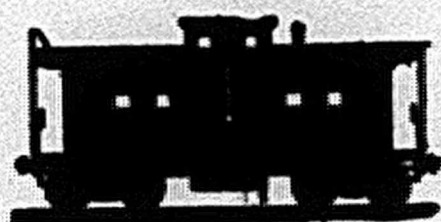
It is our policy not to publish unsigned letters. This is the last unsigned letter we will publish. I have an idea you simply forgot to sign your name.

Thank you for your interest and criticism. I only wish you would follow your own advice—"They should go to the offices and say 'This paper isn't what it should be. Let me write a series of articles for you.'"

As for your last suggestion; we checked last September on the price of printing with news print stock and found that the paper itself is cheaper but the process used to print on it is much more expensive.

Anyway, please get in touch with us. We could use your help.

Matt Stowell
editor



Open Letter

"Support Your Local Police"

This is nice rhetoric, but what does it mean? Obviously, it means very little to the Mayor of Newport News and Newport News City Council.

It seems that our local police have been seeking a pay raise and other benefits including medical coverage, uniform allowance, longevity raises, and retirement benefits. The salaries of Newport News Policemen are the lowest in the area, starting at \$6,741. A new pay scale was supposed to have been worked up by September. September has come and gone, so have October and November. There is no new pay program.

The Fraternal Order of Police is understandably tired of the city's bureaucratic run-around; and along with their attorney, they told Newport News City Council that they expect some action by the first council meeting in January.

The Mayor criticized the action of the F. O. P. He said neat things like, "It seems to be a little bit of an implied threat in January," and "We're very sympathetic with the needs, at least I think we are." He went on to say that positive steps had been taken and that time limits could be placed. His real winner was "I don't accept the defensive position you have placed us in."

People gripe about the quality of local police, and they have some justification. After all, we get what we pay for.

Tom Johnson

Editor
The Captain's Log

Sir:

On page 6 of your recent issue we are told that heterosexuality and homosexuality "as well as bi-sexuality and asexuality, can co-exist without harm if everyone's head is in the right place." My question is, what is the right place for the head?

Sincerely,
John Hoaglund
Philosophy Dept.

(editor) Oh, ain't he a caution!



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Personal Notice--Important. Urgent. Jody Fenderbender, the Captain's Log needs you. Please get in touch with Matt. Your secret is safe with us.

Needed: Copy-reader for Captain's Log. No pay. No benefits. Apply at G-203 anytime. Urgent !!

VIEW I

"Clothes make the man," or woman. If this is true, then some of us are well-dressed and "in-step"; some of us are never quite "with" the current fashions; and the remainder of us are quite comfortable to be in either category, or both, or neither. Who, or what, is a fashion pace-setter? Do faded jeans, old flannel shirts, and combat boots make some people fashion leaders? Perhaps it is the ski sweaters, "layered look" clothes, and forty dollar shoes that really make people attractive. The individuals who are comfortable no matter what category (must there be categories?) they slide into, must really groove on those people who believe that theirs is the best possible mode of dress and grooming. When those clothes are on the rack in your closet at night, you're more naked than nude; are you any less "you" when bare than when dressed in the trappings of your personal attitudes? Does the well-groomed man leave his hair on

the barbershop floor and his money in the barber's hand? Does the foxy lady have to wear dresses from La Vogue? Crap, pure and simple. We are all fashion-setters in our own, truly unique ways. If a man's pants are seedy and rumpled, is he unworthy of our conversational time? I. B. M. or Nachmans might say yes; I say no. If a young lady discards make-up and nylons for jeans and baggy sweaters should her mind and personality be ignored automatically? The logical answer, again, is no. Unfortunately, logical answers seem relatively powerless to effect major change in the attitudes of contemporary "adult" society regarding personal appearance; that is a generalization, but, I feel, an accurate one.

If the all-American, buttoned-down thing continues to be the first-impression standard used to interpret personal worth, then the stereotypes of the commie-hippie-effete snob will continue to be perpetuated, tragically and pathetically.

Short of body odor and crawling things in a person's hair, I find it difficult to understand a society whose aesthetic sense

is offended and threatened by bare feet, long hair, a man in sandals, or by a woman who doesn't put on her face from a jar.

I am confused. We go to college to learn and to become objective; we try to be as comfortable as possible with ourselves and with others; we graduate; and then, some of us must use our objectivity to deal with weird, subjective logic wherein the personal appearance of an individual is supposed to be the projection of his potential and capability.

That is fine for those of us who are comfortably in line with society's concept of what constitutes propriety; what of those persons who do not, cannot, or would not alter their appearances to conform to that basically unyielding idea? If change is a gradual process and if we who might, by our example, effect change in society's attitudes continue to be rejected consistently, then the chances are good that nothing new in this area may happen in our lifetimes.

Ray Barnes

VIEW II

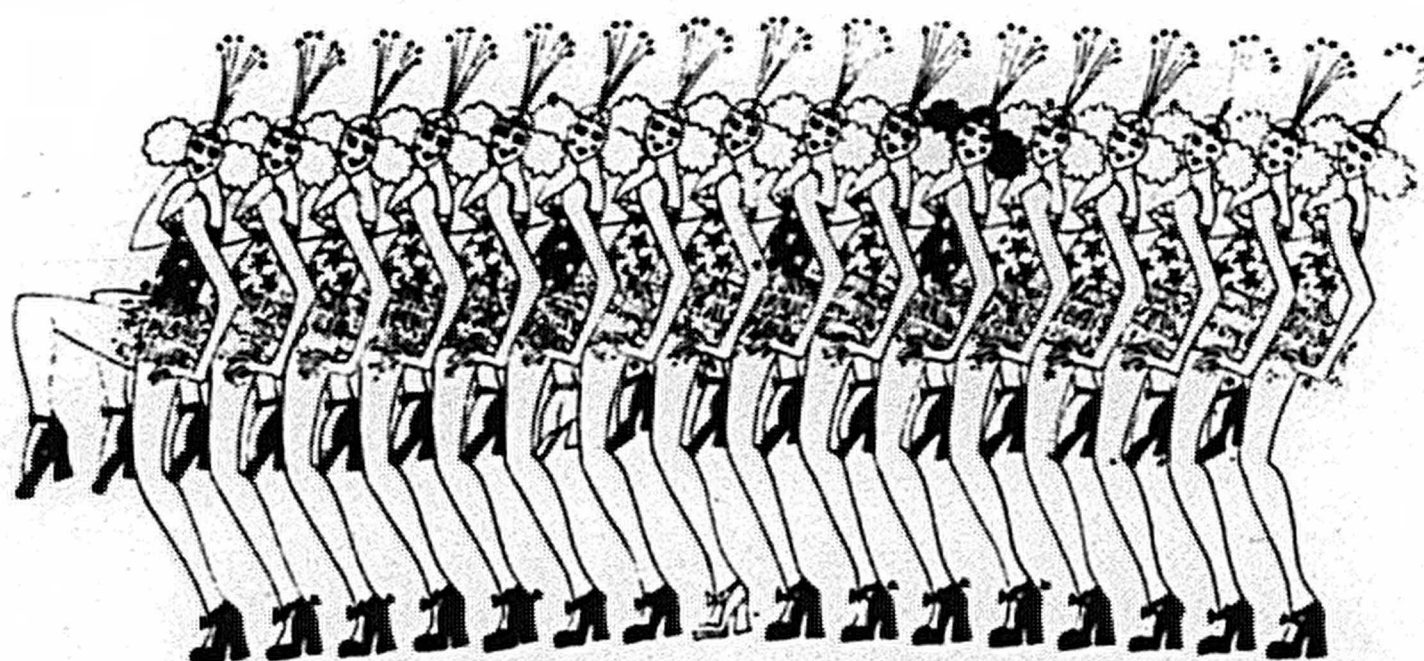
Greg Semos

What's in the way a person looks? Personal appearance provides you with a nice easy way to classify people. Long hair, blue-jeans, tee-shirt - a liberal hippy. Open-neck sport shirt, slacks, brown shoes - a liberal liberal. Spuit, tie, black shoes, crew cut - a conservative. Bovain droppings! Just as all types come in all sizes, colors, and sexes, so they come in all costumes.

If one needs proof observe the 1972 elections. The under 25 vote went to Richard (believe it, or not) Nixon, who - in case you are unaware - is a conservative. Need I say more? I'm going to anyway.

I can't see all the hassle over the way someone looks. Does someone with long hair make a less desirable person than someone with short hair? Of course not, yet I have been refused a job, not allowed to eat a meal, and been expelled from a country on the basis of the length of my hair. The type of clothes one wears works exactly the same way.

My clothes, my hair, represent the way I feel about myself - not my political or ethnical views. I am comfortable in the clothes I wear. I think long hair is attractive, so what? Believe it or not, you don't have to smoke dope to wear long hair.

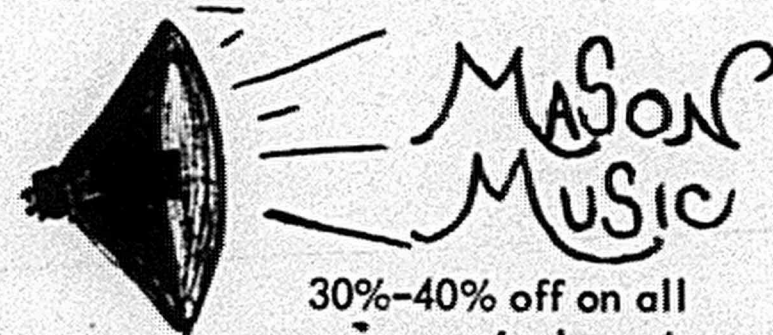


On a more personal level, let's for a minute, consider the more interesting - and touchy - area of personal hygiene. You may, for example, find what is commonly called "body odor" to be unpleasant. Have you ever considered that someone might find the smell of your deoderent equally unpleasant? I find deoderants, after-shaves, and the million sweet, lemony, or flowery stinks that Americans douse themselves with to be suffocating. I'm not wild about body odor, mind you, but I prefer it to Right Guard anyway.

Advertising and Gillette have convinced the public that the human body stinks. Americans are ashamed of the way they smell. The people (or more properly, corporations) who have convinced the public of their "offensive" smells also sells millions of dollars worth of stinks to cover the stinks. A little soap and an occasional shower, however, is far more effective in controlling the unpleasant body odors

then all the deoderants in the Kingdom of Stink put together.

The point here is simple. Its time that you and I stopped casting people on the basis of their appearance. Its time to go a little deeper into a person than the length of hair. We owe it to ourselves, and we owe it to each other.



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the SGA

To assist in the "growing trend toward student involvement," this column contains everything you always wanted to know about the SGA, but were afraid to ask. This column is restricted to Executive Council and Assembly matters and functions. Of the two governing bodies of the SGA, the most power is concentrated in the Executive Council, whose members this year are: Pat O'Brien, Ted Mazzei, Charles Robinson, Jack Hundley, Dale Hargrave, Cliff Jackson, Debbie Mangrum, Henry Jones, Kevin Hicks, and Kay Forrest. It meets twice a week and determines Student Government policy. This means that the Council has the power to veto Assembly amendments, start the ball rolling and originate legislation for Assembly approval, recommend amendments for Assembly approval, and advise the President. All this boils down to the fact that the Executive Council is a very influential force in the student government. Its decisions can only be overridden by a 3/4 vote in the Assembly, which is quite hard to get since only about 1/3 of the members ever show. As it stands now, the Council has the power-of-the-purse-strings (which the Assembly is steadfastly trying to change).

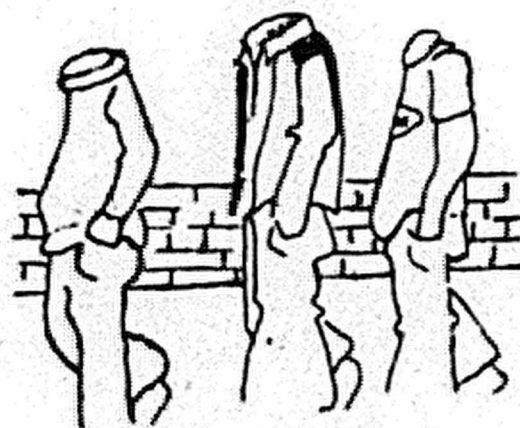
The Assembly is the Senate of the SGA. Assemblymen are elected (when candidates exceed the quota) by their respective classes. This year some members had to be drafted as the quota was not met by any class. The Assembly meets the first and third Thursdays of each month. Students are welcome to come and listen, except during closed executive sessions. The Assembly can initiate legislation, vote on proposed amendments, and, as mentioned above, override a Council decision by a 2/3 vote. Not much can be done with 10 or 12 members showing for meetings, but this is changing as a purging of the "deadweight" in the rollbook is to come about shortly. The Assembly recently approved a budget amendment (which the Council has floored) by a 2/3 vote, but, doubtless, will be disapproved when brought before the Council for reconsideration next week. Two amendments (all SGA officers must be full-time students, and part-time students will have Assembly representation) have been passed by the Council and will come before the Assembly next week. This is the sum total of these two bodies this semester.

The SGA has not quite lived up to its own expectations for this semester. Financially, miscellaneous bombs have

depleted the treasury of \$2,651.58. The Octoberfest alone, which was attended by about 500 people, cost \$1,347. Approximately \$1,000 was spent for new office and lounge furniture and picnic tables. The four classes were given \$1,100 to use for their various activities. Correspondence, mailing fees, and a two-week salary for a scarcely-used typist shrank the treasury by a little over \$185.00. The treasury now has about \$3,926.00.

Next semester plans have not been finalized and the SGA is always open to suggestions, but as the picture appears now, several festivals and dances have been scheduled. A May Day festival, comparable to the Octoberfest, is being considered, as well as four dances and two beerblasts. The Freshman class will sponsor the Homecoming weekend which will consist of two basketball games and a dance. In more recent news, the Juniors (with SGA funds) will sponsor a winter formal to celebrate the end of exams and school (at least for the holidays). About \$7,000 is spent each year for SGA expenditures which usually consist of social functions, such as festivals and dances).

Editorial



The SGA

Signed,
Matt Stowell

NAUMAN HAS NEW BOOK OUT

Dr. St. Elmo Nauman, Jr. Associate Professor and Chairman of the Philosophy Department of Christopher Newport College has just published his second book. The volume is titled the Dictionary of American Philosophy.

The lives and works of America's greatest thinkers are contained within this book. The book's entries include philosophical terms as well as the authors themselves. Major and minor philosophers are covered here.

Much of the material was gleaned from

activities fees

After paying a two dollar comprehensive activity fee for every semester hour taken, many students are frustratingly wondering just where are the activities they paid for. President Windsor readily gives full account of the funds and their distribution; he is open to suggestions for further distribution if students show a desire for more numerous and diversified activities.

Of the twenty dollars paid for each semester hour taken, eighteen dollars goes for general tuition and the two remaining dollars are for a comprehensive activities fee. This two dollar fee is broken down into two categories: \$1.25 for the construction of the campus; and \$.75 for student activities. The distribution of this \$.75 consists of 70% for sports and athletic activities, and 30% for all other activities. Therefore, 22 cents of the \$20 semester hour fee goes to student activities, other than sports related programs.

The total annual amount allotted for extra-curricular, non-athletic activities is approximately \$32,000. For organizations to be granted this money, they must submit a budget to the Student Activities Committee which consists of six faculty members and six students. This committee decides where the money goes and how many dollars are to be released.

The students presently dissatisfied with the types and frequency of offered activities need only go before the Activities Committee and set forth their ideas. The distribution program is flexible enough to allow for changes; therefore, students wanting more diversified, entertaining, and cultural activities should contact the SGA with their ideas.

Melissa Coleman

the rare book collections of the large Eastern libraries, available heretofore only to the specialist.

Dr. Nauman, was educated at the University of Chicago, Berkeley, and Boston University. He taught in the Philosophy Department at Rutgers University for three years. He also serves Christopher Newport College as Director of Research and Development. His first publication was titled The New Dictionary of Existentialism.



cnc players present two by Tennessee Williams

Rita Hubbard

With competent acting and adequate set design, the CNC Players scored again when they presented two one-act plays by Tennessee Williams on December 1 and 2 in N 110.

The actors thrust themselves into sensitive portrayals of the confused, self-deceiving characters of Williams' "I Can't Imagine Tomorrow" and "Auto-Da-Fe." Both plays anticipated with murky characterization and violence the author's later studies in decadence.

Directors Ronald Stewart and Richard Osborne deserve much credit for eliciting credible performances from the actors.

Audrey Newman in "I Can't Imagine Tomorrow" gave a sympathetic study of the deteriorating Southern belle, delicate, repressed, and exhibiting love/hate responses to her male counterpart. Matt Stowell, as the nearly inarticulate "middle aged baby," drew within himself and evoked the pity and fury one reserves for the helpless.

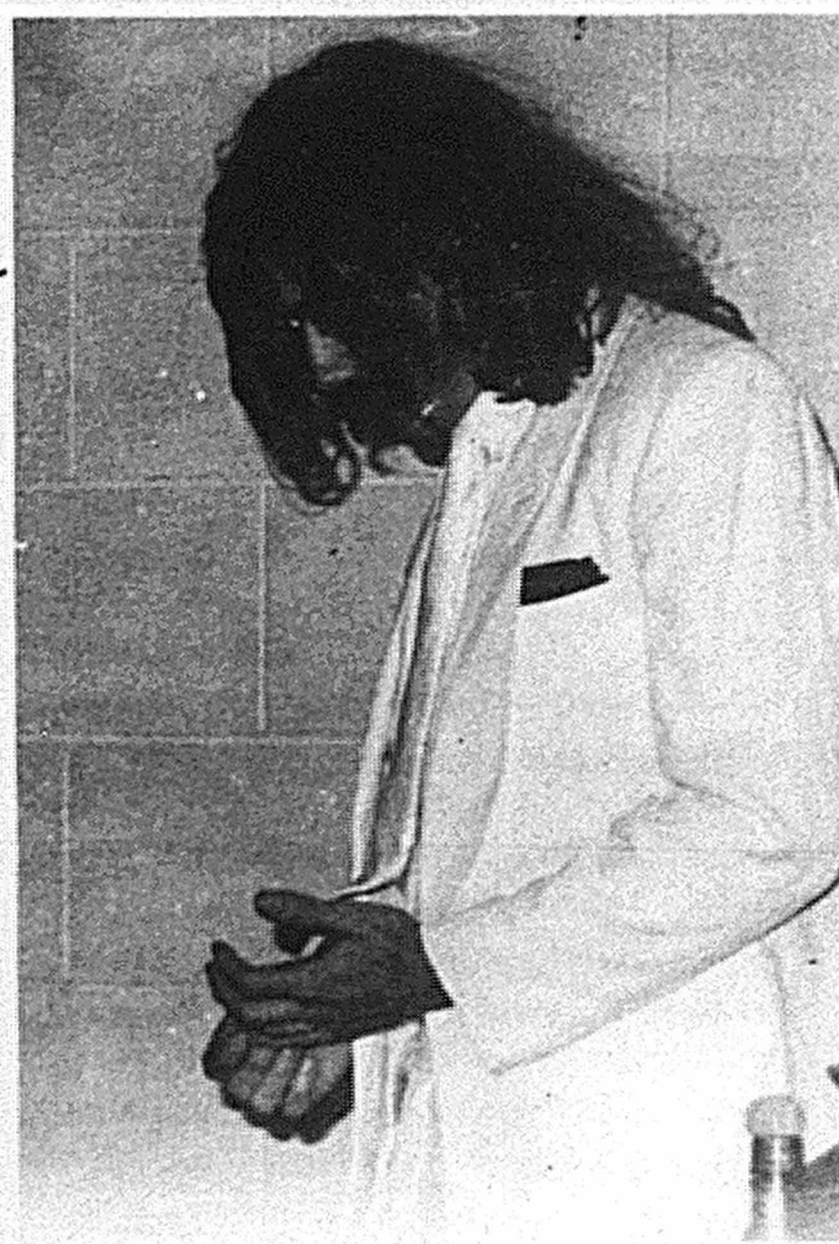
The play itself dragged, however, in spite of the actors' game attempts to vitalize it. Perhaps it would take a Maggie Smith to deliver a two-page Williams' monologue with verve and variety.

Susan Imbert as the mother in "Auto-Da-Fe" played her part with subtle humor and turned the maternal screw often enough to make her son Eloi, played by Steve Cupp, seem understandably driven to frenzy. Cupp voiced the sick thoughts

of mamma's boy as he turned his pyromaniac fantasies into the mission of cleansing with fire both the corrupt Vieux Carre' district and the corrupt self. Sinking deeply into method acting, he became overwhelmed by the conscience of all guilty dirty-minded men. Problems arose from his immersion in the part, however, when he abandoned clear diction. Some very important lines were mouthed a la Brando and became lost to the listeners.

Audiences for all three performances were disappointingly small. Perhaps this was the result of play choices. All college and high school groups have similar problems when they forget the need for variety. Gloom and boredom result from too heavy a concentration on the deep and world-weary utterances of characters well beyond the natural ages of the young actors. Youth is a time of hope and love and laughter. It may be that young audiences shy away from unrelieved decadence and melancholy.

The Players will do well to add balance to their next program with a sprinkling of theatre fun, one of the very necessary ingredients for audience delight and response.





by
GREG
SEMOS

As the Christmas season rapidly approaches, it seems fitting that we review several albums this week, so that you might consider them for your Christmas gift shopping list. We have tried to pick recordings from several areas which should cover the majority of musical tastes.

Carney, Leon Russell's most recent effect should delight those devotees of "Acid-Folk-Rock." Musically, there's not a great deal to rave about; it's significant that the musicians are credited on the liner only by their first names. I'd want to remain anonymous myself on this album. Every so often there is a spark of musical life, but it's short lived, and often founded in Russell's keyboard.

The lyrics are another matter. "Magic Mirror," the last cut, is a hard-phrased, well-put analysis of the battering of a "new generation" thinker faces everyday. Groupies, rip-offs, and free-loaders are double-barrelled in "If the Shoe Fits," and "flipped-out" listeners will enjoy "Acid Annapolis," even if no one else will. All in all, this is a fine production that overcomes its weak spots with so excellent insights. Written and produced, incidently, by Leon.

Graham Nash David Crosby, their first album together since the old C, S, N, & Y days, represents a modified "Folk-Rock" that sounds a great deal like the offspring of that group and Bob Dylan. The lyrics (conveniently printed on the jacket) are not great, but they are interesting. The instrumentation is quite good, particularly Danny Kootch's lead guitar, and a nice little French horn duet in "Strange Room." This is the kind of album you listen to, rather than dance, groove, or finger pop to. A pleasing sound.

The surprise (happy) of the month is Stephen Stills' two record album Manassas. Most two record sets tent to become a little monotonous about half way through the second disc, but Stills has wisely spread his talent around, performing just about every style he is capable of from hard-rock to some down home Bluegrass. He wrote it all himself, and the results are really first rate.

Instrumentation on this one is quite good, if you like a lot of electronics. The vocals are pleasing, although they are over-tracked and, on occasion, second-hand to the music. There's even a little fiddle and some Moog Synthesizer thrown in here

and there for contrast. There's a lot more to this album than WOW! passes off on you.

One that's been around for quite a while is Julian Bream's Classic Guitar. If you hate classical music, try this one anyway. The classical guitar is a dimension of music that you owe to yourself. You'll be amazed at the sound that can be achieved on that solo instrument.

Bream is not the best, or even second but he is very good, and in several pieces he out does his own talent. Diabelli's "Sonata in A (Andante sostenuto)" is movingly portrayed, as is Mozart's "Larghetto and Allegro K. Ank. 229." Try this, you'll like it--and its lovely seduction music.

For those who search for the unusual, try Britten--Songs From the Chinese; Dodgson--Four Poems of John Clare; Elizabethan Songs; Dowland--Pieces for Solo Guitar (which may be one of the longest record titles of history). You will find this one of the most obscure recordings around. There's no way to describe it all, so I suggest that if you're interested in this sort of thing you can see me and I'll arrange for you to preview this fine recording.

Hope these short reviews have been of some help in solving your gift problems. These albums are all worthy productions, and should excite the more discriminating listener!

FILM

A Seperate Peace, A Film By Larry Peerce

Reviewed by Tom Brom / AFS

A Seperate Peace, John Knowles' thin little novel of the 1960's, was what book reviewers call a "small masterpiece"--an original treatment of a slight subject, only a few pages longer than a short story.

Knowles explored the complexities of a relationship between two upper class boys at Phillips Exeter prep school, each healthy, energetic and popular. His theme was the dark side of "the friends of my youth," the best friend anyone will ever have. But the inherent competition and incipient homosexual love in that relationship ended in murder, and lifelong remorse for the survivor.

From Larry Peerce's lush, indulgent and finally pretentious film no one would ever guess the original nut was that small. And Knowles' small masterpiece simply can't bear the weight of all the excess baggage.

The first "curve" Peerce throws is to emphasize time and place at Devon (Phillips Exeter), using rich color and the

wide screen to evoke as much nostalgic mileage as possible from the pre-World War II setting. That aspect of the film is a virtual remake of the Summer of '42, however nicely contrived the scenes, and is irrelevant to the central relationship.

By far the strongest element of the film is John Heyl's performance as Phinny, the immensely likeable "leader of the band." He can rally his classmates with a shout, and leads the more intellectual Gene (Parker Stevenson) like a pup through campus romps and school athletics.

Phinny and Gene play engaging enough characters, but must operate in the shadow of a large tree from which Gene causes Phinny to fall. Peerce makes that poor poplar gigantic, literally and symbolically. Shot from low camera angles, it fills the screen and is repeatedly inserted through flashbacks. The tree steals the show, hung with God-knows-what meaning to represent Original Sin, or World War II, or a huge phallus, or an uncaring universe.

The relationship between the two boys is shown mostly in horseplay, batting each other around, running and tumbling through a dozen sports, daring everyone in sight to jump out of that tree. They are beautiful to watch, like exuberant young animals totally occupied with the serious business of playing. But the character development goes nowhere, and despite Peerce's mean foreshadowing that something awful is going to happen in the tree, it comes as something of a shock when Gene dumps his buddy out.

Ignoring Gene's anguished confession, the crippled Phinny becomes Gene's personal athletic coach. Only after a mock trial to determine the cause of the fall, and an accidental second tumble, will Phinny understand.

It's a long film, describing much more than it needs to, and not nearly enough of what it should. The cameras roam all over Devon, into the classrooms and dormitories and across the football and lacrosse fields, but never crack the essential mystery of the boys' relationship. Certainly that is much more difficult to explore. But Larry Peerce loses the trees for the forest from the start, making a Big Picture from a small tragedy. A Seperate Peace is crushed under its weight.



The Captain's Log is published every two weeks. (except over the holidays) The next issue should be out by the end of January. All contributions from students and faculty are welcome. Deadlines are the Mondays one week before the Monday of publication. Letters to the editor can be left in either the Dean of Students office or our office in G-203.

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what's happening

- December 11 - 31 "Humbug and Holly," Tidewater Dinner Theater
- December 12 "A Festival of Dance," Ogden Hall, Hampton Institute
- December 12 - 14 William and Mary Choir and Chorus, Phi Beta Kappa Hall
- December 13 L'Alliance Francais film, "Ruy Blas," CNC, Room W-110, 8 p.m.
- December 13 Newport News Film Series, "The Spanish Riding School," and "The Family of Man," Council Chambers
- December 15 Colonial Williamsburg's "Grand Illumination," Market Square, 5:30 p.m.
- December 16 "The Chi-Lites," Scope, 8:30 p.m.
- December 17 Uriah Heep, Hampton Rhodes Coliseum, 8:30 p.m.
- December 21 - 30 "Candlelight Concerts," Colonial Williamsburg, Governor's Palace, 8 and 9:30 p.m.
- December 22 Film Classics Series, "The Fixer," 8 p.m. Hampton City Council
- January 17 - 21 Moscow Circus, Hampton Rhodes Coliseum

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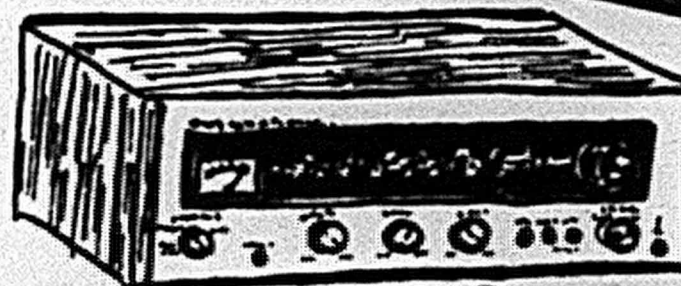
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