

# alice

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Vol II, No II

July 1, 1968

Blackburg, Fair, Va.

## A MODEST <sup>proposal</sup>

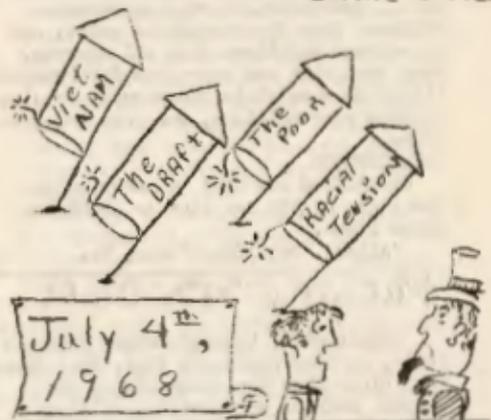
by Martha Mattus

V.P.I. has managed to progress from an agriculture and engineering college with a compulsory military system to a growing coeducational university. The number of women students is being increased each year, and there will hopefully be no more than a 3-1 ratio when sufficient dormitory space is available. This pattern reflects the attitude of the V.P.I. administration that the coeducational system is a valuable part of preparing a student for later life. Through joint participation in classes, clubs, and student government the young men and women at V.P.I. learn to work with and appreciate each other as human beings.

Contact in classes and other structured activities is helpful, but there is a need for more group contact in a relaxed atmosphere. There could be more informal visiting if the students lived in closer proximity. The administration obviously feels the need for this type of arrangement and is planning to help the situation by housing women students on the upper quad in the near future. But this is only a half-way measure. The most efficient and reasonable way to provide for a better community situation is a coed dormitory. Many universities have experimented with living units of this nature. One very successful example is Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. A model unit has been in existence there for the last two years. The organization of this dorm is being used as a pattern for additional units at Cornell and could serve to suggest a system to be tried at V.P.I.

The dormitory was a small unit housing eighty students and having its own dining hall. Boys lived on one floor, girls on another. Coed visiting was permitted throughout the building until curfew. After curfew it was restricted to the public areas—the lobby, lounges, and study areas. There was one counselor for each corridor, several faculty members and graduate students who functioned as general counselors and advisors, and a head resident who supervised all aspects of dorm life. In addition to the usual rules of the university there were three specific governing principles for life in the coed dorm—1. No coed visiting in halls or rooms after curfew, 2. No alcoholic beverages in the building, and 3. No sexual intercourse in the building. Any student violating any

Actually, there ARE no more fireworks than usual.... they're just all lit at the same time.



# HELP!

The Christiansburg Community Center is a joint federal and local action at community service and community organization level. The local share of expenditures is forced to rely heavily on volunteer labor (called in-kind contribution).

Volunteers are needed in several special activities:

1. Landscaping (raking, planting, and mowing) for a playground. Work crews would be organized from 7:00 on Saturday afternoons 1-5 o'clock.
2. Teenage recreation (dancing and play activities) from 7-9 p.m. Friday nites for ages 6-13. Help is needed for planning and chaperoning activities.
3. Drama groups of ages 6-9 and 10-13 are meeting on Tuesday (2 p.m.), Wednesday (2 p.m.) and Thursday nite (7 p.m.). Help is needed to supervise and participate in the activities.
4. Black History course is being conducted on Monday and Thursday nites at 7 p.m. Anyone is free to enroll as long as the college participation does not exceed the local teenagers.

All of these programs are new and experimental. Time and patience are of the essence. Transportation is needed from Blacksburg to Christiansburg at the above times.

All volunteers are welcome to a visit before a commitment or a regular basis is required.

If interested in any of these programs contact Mark Crowley 382-9445 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

If the American Army keeps on taking Saigon, I'll begin to believe that we're winning the war.

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"Alice" is published weekly by a non-profit organization that wishes to make a free press service available to the V.P.I. community. We rely on contributions from the readers to print, and we welcome donations from all sources. Send what will and your name for recognition (or else state anonymous). We also welcome your opinions, comments and articles.

#### CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line or \$1.00 per three lines.

"Alice", Box 104, B'burg, Va.

## McCarthy and the Draft

Presidential hopeful Eugene McCarthy feels, as many Americans feel, that there is a clear need for re-examining our current methods of providing military personnel. The Senator has spoken out on the draft, clearly stating his position. First of all, strong consideration should be given to reducing reliance on the draft by making military service more nearly competitive with civilian occupations. In situations such as Vietnam, it makes little sense to rely on masses of men — recruits — who will have, at the time they leave the service, just begun to learn what they need to know. As the draft continues, however, legal options must be provided for those who may be morally opposed to a particular war. The Senator believes that the prerogative to make war lies with the government, but that the individual is still responsible for his own moral judgement on matters of public policy. This basic truth must be recognized by our draft laws. McCarthy has worked in the past and continues to work for legislation to help men of conscience live within the law by establishing legal channels for alternative service on an individual moral judgement basis. Senator McCarthy strongly feels that the draft must not be used as an instrument of punishment. He feels that the reclassification and indictment of war protesters is inexcusable and probably unconstitutional. "These actions," says the Senator, "amount to nothing less than an attempt to stifle democratic debate. Neither the Selective Service System nor the Justice Department has the right to use the draft laws to punish or intimidate citizens from questioning the policies of any administration." Finally, concerning the present director of the S.S.S., McCarthy says, "General Hershhey, who does not seem to understand the First Amendment, ought to be retired."

James A. Sprinkle

# EDITORIAL

We stand but three days away from July 4, an annual celebration of our independence which Americans remember as a day of family visits, a day for picnic lunches and happy outings, a day of spectacular fireworks. This is a day of celebration and happiness in which we remember our revolutionary heritage. Britain held the world and we were going to break her back or break ours, but we would be damned if we didn't end up free.

May I appeal to the American consciences. Far away in this same world those fireworks are real, and they come from two armies that are battling for a land. However, these bring fear, destruction, and death to the people of that country. We, the holders of the status quo, have decreed South Vietnam to be a part of our economic sphere of influence, and we are pouring our men and firepower into a revolutionary war in order to quell the forces that would disrupt our corporate conquests. No, we do not rule by ownership, but rather we make the world free—free that is, for United Fruit, American Can, Douglas Aircraft, and thousand a of others to profit from the undeveloped resources of the "Third World". The free world is wherever American business can have a free hand to exploit. Ask those businessmen that deal with the dictatorships in Haiti or Portugal. And then, what of our business dealings with South Africa? Apartheid may be morally repugnant to the American business man, but what the hell, it's all money. And so let us face the stark reality of our Vietnam commitment and admit that our logic will allow death and atrocities for a twenty per cent profit margin.

We seem to be spectators to a vast drama that fills our newspapers and televisions with death, violence and fear. But America, you are not a spectator. The blood is on your hands as well, and your sons are dying with the Vietnamese nation. Our gross miscalculation is being measured in tens of thousands of lives and the great moral division of our country. The Vietnamese have paid too high a penalty for their freedom from the West. America has paid too high a penalty for her blindness, and her tremendous power has multiplied the folly. She has paid with death in Vietnam and on the streets of her cities. She pays with her disillusioned youth and her men in prison—some of the best educated and most sensitive of her citizens. Americans will not be free until they realize the political and moral consequences of their actions as a nation and allow the "Third World" to progress without tutelage and profit.

On this July 4 let us remember the dead and dying, and those yet to die; moreover let us remember the Vietnamese as a people. Let us proclaim a national day of mourning—and let us act now.

Thomas J. Saunders

... a man's failures imply judgement, not of circumstances but of himself.

## Africans & Americans

Hydraulic engineer, 29 degree  
from a French school

Dr. D.O. Chambers, Senior Associate Professor of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, has worked extensively abroad. In Francophone Africa he worked as an independent contractor in the VPI English program and in the establishment of national English language programs. Last summer while doing fieldwork in African languages he revisited some of the places he and his family had lived. He recalls some reactions of his students and associates, reactions to Americans and American ways, reactions to white attitudes toward Negroes.

"Before the arrival of the Americans I could not imagine that one of them might do anything for a Negro, or a 'nigger', as they call us when we run into each other in France. The opening of the Embassy didn't change my opinion much. Even when the English program opened I still believed that if the US was doing anything for us it was with some ulterior motive. Well, we have seen one or two programs function here without our being looked down upon; but we know that those programs have functioned in spite of, not because of, the policies of the Embassy. The Americans expected to be able to run our affairs or at the least to be able to meddle in them at will, just for the simple reason that they were, as one of your boys at the Embassy put it, 'dealing with a bunch of niggers just out of the trees'. Our present administration is one of the most pro-American in Africa, ...and we know that your government is doing its best to overthrow it. Why? Because it is one of the mainstays of the Entente! Because it is one of the pillars of the Pan-African movement! We have done as much as any country, more considering our size, for the African-Malagasy Union. We build something up and you disrupt it. All these things are forces for peace in the world. And you say you liberated us from the French? The French have a very good working arrangement here. The last thing we want is for the French to leave. You could never and would never replace the technical, editorial, and professional cadre that the French have maintained here since their arrival. Some of them have spent their lives here; their children were; we know that they are on our side and that they are going to stay on and help develop the country. We see no evidence of effective American aid; the American presence here has been disruptive... largely unproductive. The arrogance with which disruptive activities are carried on reveals the contempt Americans have for us."

The revolutionary character is the one who is identified with humanity and therefore transcends the narrow limits of his own society, and who is able, because of this, to criticize his or any other society from the standpoint of reason and humanity.

Erich Fromm

## Science Fiction

Once upon a time there was a meek little accountant who typified all that was good and respected in his society. He was a good worker, he was kind to children and animals, and he loved his country very much. But, in spite of these qualities, no one liked the accountant because he was a dreamer. He would spend hours telling his friends of his ideas on peace and brotherhood and love. And occasionally, he would tell his friends of his dreams of flying. High over the treetops he would soar, looking down over the peaceful world below where everything was good and happy.

But his friends would not listen to his dreams and would say to him, "These things are but fancies. If man was content to live like that then the world would be different. But there's no room in this world for brotherhood and love. It's dog eat dog, and you had better shape or ship out!" And so, after listening to what his friends had to say, he saw that they were right. So he flew away.

Moral: Dreamers of the world unite!  
You have nothing to lose but  
your sleepless nights!  
D. P. S.

## Tilbury Town

VPI's University Players will present Tilbury Town selections on Friday, July 5, at 8:00 P.M. in the Wesley Foundation Auditorium. General admission will be \$5. There will be no reserve tickets. Reading, in the program of poems by Edwin Arlington Robinson, will Vallie Collossi, Emma Leu Schwichterberg, Barbara Wright, and Michael Marlowe, aliof Blacksburg. Also reading will be Alfred Reiser and Don Paul Smith, who are VPI students. Lighting for the program will be designed by Russell K. Lengel, and the settings will be designed and constructed by Thomas Saunders. The show will be directed by Dave Murphy.

The VPI University Players Readers' Theatre Project is open to anyone who is interested in oral reading. More information may be obtained by contacting Dave Murphy at 552-8402

The Spanish verb 'negar' means 'to deny'.

OMNIBUS CRIME BILL  
PASSED BY HOUSE JUNE 6, 1968

SEC. 1502. Whoever threatens within the District of Columbia ... to injure the person of another or physically damage the property of another person or any person, in whole or in part, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years or both.

(L.N.S.)

## Ode for Mr. Charley

I know a man  
who has his world arrayed  
in columns on a chart  
so he can have each part  
weighed  
and displayed  
to move about in the fine art  
of empire-building, undiswayed  
by any call of heart.

Lift the torches high.  
See the flames against the sky.  
Fire the charts and watch them burn.  
Mister Charley, it's your turn.

I know a man  
who owns a house.  
On either side his neighbors greet  
him as he walks along his street  
and in return he nicely bows;  
politely he allows  
that he will treat  
all men the same—beat  
swords into plows—  
he has the right, he will repeat,  
to pick the man who buys his house.

Lift the torches high.  
See the flames against the sky.  
Fire the houses. Watch them burn.  
Mr. Charley, it's your turn.

I know a man  
who touches school  
and carefully boys his rule  
to mind his business—teaching school.  
He's always stern  
to keep his subject pure.  
Keep cool,  
avoid the lure  
of passion; use the tool  
of logic and objective truth will yet  
endure.

Lift the torches high.  
See the flames against the sky.  
Fire the schools and watch them burn.  
Mister Charley, it's your turn.

I know a man  
who minds a store  
and says he only gets his share—  
and after all it costs him more  
each time that he unlocks the door.  
And who's to say that it's not fair  
that he should get his share?  
And who's to say that he gets more?

Lift the torches high.  
See the flames against the sky.  
Fire the stores and watch them burn.  
Mister Charley, it's your turn.

I know a man  
who counsels wait.  
Patience has its reward.  
And if you find that every gate  
is not open, wait.  
And if you find that waiting's hard,  
let your hate  
abate.  
We'll see that you get your reward  
before it is too late.  
Wait.

Lift the torches high.  
See the flames against the sky.  
Fire the country. Watch it burn.  
Mister Charley, it's your turn.

## A MODEST PROPOSAL

one of these rules was forced to leave  
the dormitory in addition to normal pen-  
alties for infraction of rules. To date,  
no student has been punished for such a  
violation.

This type of system would be used in  
almost any dormitory. However, the ideal  
building for use at V.P.I. would be Hill  
crest. It is large enough to serve as a  
realistic experiment for a multi-level  
dormitory yet small enough to permit the  
type of close community that a coed dorm  
seeks to foster. It also has its own dis-  
ing facilities and an adequate amount of  
public areas separated from the rooms.  
The arrangement would lend itself well to  
a coed residence.

Students who have lived in the coed  
dorm at Cornell have high praise for such  
a system. It aided communication between  
the students and gave an excellent oppor-  
tunity for a variety of discussions. It  
also served to foster a number of strong  
friendships and a more considerate and  
helpful attitude among all the residents.  
The few restrictions gave the students a  
greater sense of responsibility to both  
themselves as individuals and the group  
as a whole. A coed dormitory at V.P.I.  
could accomplish the same things in mak-  
ing college life more meaningful for many  
students and in better preparing them to  
become contributing adult citizens in  
later life.

## Silence

Though this is not an official state-  
ment of "Alice", we wish to present this  
means of registering a protest to all  
those who are opposed to the war. The  
names of those who register are perman-  
ently recorded at the U.N. as American  
citizens who felt it their duty to serve  
notice to the world and their nation that  
they will not condone injustice. Inquire  
for petitions from: Individuals Against  
the Crime of Silence, P.O. Box 69960, Los  
Angeles, Calif. 90069.

A DECLARATION TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS  
OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE PEOPLES OF  
THE WORLD, AND TO FUTURE GENERATIONS:

- 1) We are appalled and angered by the  
conduct of our country in Vietnam.
- 2) In the name of liberty we have unleas-  
hed the awesome arsenal of the greatest  
military power in the world upon a small  
agricultural nation, killing, burning,  
and mutilating its people. In the name of  
peace, we are creating a desert. In the  
name of security, we are inviting world  
conflagration.
- 3) We, the signers of this declaration,  
believe this war to be immoral. We be-  
lieve it to be illegal. We must oppose it.
- 4) At Nuremberg, after World War II, we  
tried and convicted men for the crime of  
OBEYING their government, when that gov-  
ernment demanded of them crimes against  
humanity. Millions more, who were not  
tried, were guilty of the CRIME OF  
SILENCE.
- 5) We have a commitment.... And our own  
deep democratic traditions and our ded-  
ication to the ideal of human decency  
among men demand that we speak out.

"WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN  
ORDER TO... ESTABLISH JUSTICE, INSURE  
DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY..."  
(from the preamble to the Constitution  
of the United States.)

**DEMONSTRATION ON JULY 8 AT NATIONAL BUSINESS COLLEGE IN ROANOKE, VA.**

A fully qualified 20-year-old girl who was repeatedly denied her right to attend National Business College because of her race, will attempt to register again on July 8, 1968. She is black.

There will be entertainment from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Teen Lounge (east side of Addison High School on Staunton ave., Roanoke.)

Show your support by being present at the Teen Lounge at 12 noon, from where a march will begin towards National Business College. (8 Franklin Rd., S.W., Roanoke, Va.)

**BLACKSBURG:**

Meet at Wesley Foundation on July 8, 1968.

First group leaves at 9:00 a.m.  
Second group leaves at 12:30 p.m.

**RADFORD:**

Meet at the city parking lot, in the corner of Tyler and Norwood.

First group leaves at 9:00 a.m.  
Second group leaves at 12:30 p.m.

Bring cars if possible, if not, transportation will be arranged.