

# Retrospect

Last spring erupted suddenly, as Coach Holland and Company captured the ACC title and the strip mining of University property was uncovered. The Media Board began to emerge as more than a concept. The decision was made to close the north doors of the Rotunda forever, and fees for Rotunda use were instituted. April brought no Easter's mud, but a bevy of Easter's problems: one girl was raped, people were assaulted, cars and fraternity houses were vandalized, and Police Chief Dek Bowen told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that the police force could no longer do anything to control or protect the crowds.

With September came a problem with the room assignments of black RA's, but the Resident Staff corrected the situation ably and swiftly. Society signs were found to be lacking paint, and Buildings and Grounds denied ever accepting responsibility for their upkeep. The Honor System appeared on the upswing after a relatively bad year, as the Committee found itself busy, and General Assembly Delegate Wyatt Durette heightened the "to fee or not to fee" controversy with the introduction of a bill against mandatory student fees. The Bob Elkins controversy exploded and Prof. William Harbaugh came forth with his "pluses and minuses" proposal. In October, 3,000 volumes were missing from Alderman Library, and Vice President for Student Affairs Ernest H. Em announced the demise of the Easter's Mad Bowl party. Vouching was discontinued at Contract Cafeterias, and Messers. Cohen and Lander announced their referendum proposals.

The cold weather that followed was accompanied by a widespread concern for women's safety on the Grounds, as three rapes of University women were reported. The famous one-dollar case was on everyone's mind, and in January the in-house difficulties of the Honor Committee rose to a climax. There were cries for a renewal of faith in the Honor System, and elections were rescheduled. An Honor Committee constitution was drafted, and it began to appear that at long last there was

some chance for the University's much-needed Undergraduate Readers' Library.

We are often too close to on-going events to accord them the proper significance. Nonetheless, in examining the year in retrospect, it seems apparent that several things stand out as especially noteworthy additions or changes to University life. An obvious one was the greater concern for women's safety. After three rapes, students and administrators were sparked to action; the results were increased lighting, more security patrols, a new escort van, and, perhaps most importantly, a University-wide awareness of the community's responsibility to deal with the problem.

Perhaps less obvious were the important improvements of the housing situation. Plans were drafted last fall to improve the lottery system for acquiring upperclass housing, with an eye to more accurately evaluating the demand for additional student housing.

A third major step of the past year was the abolishment of the Easter's Madison Bowl party. This, too, we applaud as a positive change. It had reached a point where University students could neither fully enjoy their own party due to the great influx of visitors, nor even attend without risking physical injury. Alternative arrangements should prove a safer experience without diminishing enjoyment.

Finally, the new Honor Committee Constitution must list among the year's most praiseworthy achievements. Conceived in the tempestuous infighting of a problem-plagued Committee, the new Constitution establishes a better mechanism for the selection of the Chairman and lays out many long-needed specifics, such as a clear procedure for honor referendums. The Honor Committee Constitution will insure proper maintenance of the Honor System, preventing such turmoil as has arisen recently; we regard it the most positive change of the past year.

And that's the way it was, March, 1976 to March 1977.