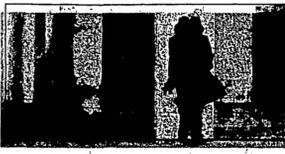
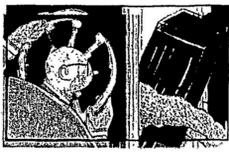


**FLAIR**  
M is for murder and  
for mystery novelist  
Sue Grafton **C1**



**METRO BUSINESS**  
Virginia's major banks can't wait  
for the recession's end. They  
need to unload properties now. **E1**



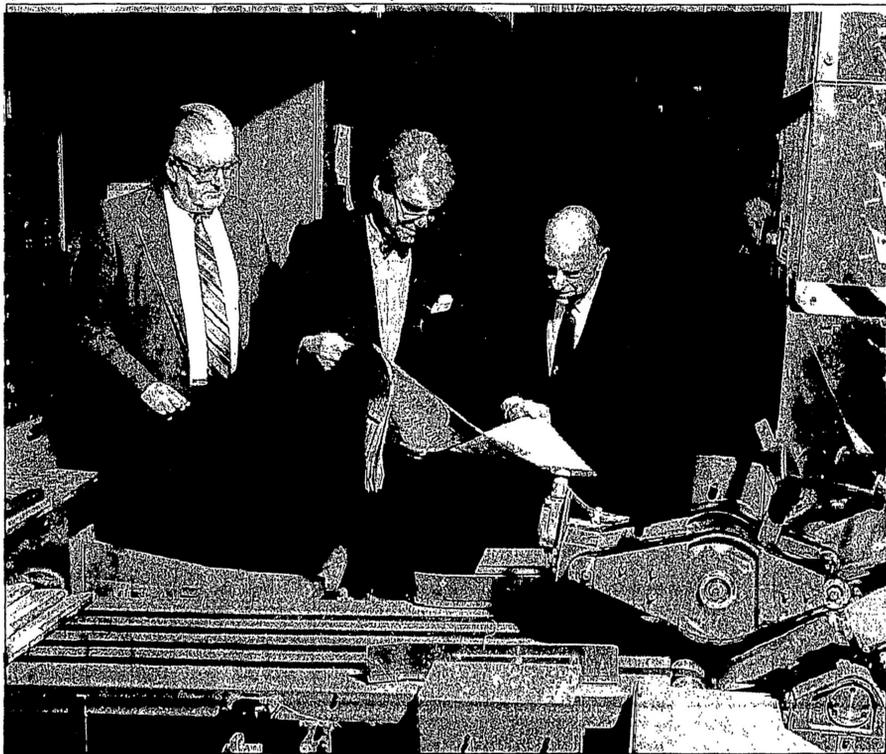
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# Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23293 142nd Year, No. 153 VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER CITY EDITION MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1992

## A new newspaper is born



**PAPER CHASE.** Publisher J. Stewart Bryan III greets the inaugural copy of the new Times-Dispatch, which began rolling off Hanover County presses early this morning. Joining him were **AN** Goodykoontz, executive editor (left), and Joseph M. Porter, president. First-night glitches delayed the run.

### Product of merger rolls off new Hanover presses amid excitement, anxiety

BY GREGORY J. GILLIGAN  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Much like expectant parents, officials from Richmond Newspapers Inc. paced the floors and hallways awaiting the birth of their child — the new Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The new paper — a result of the merger of The Richmond News Leader and The Times-Dispatch — made its debut early this morning after a long labor and some birthing pains.

The merger coincides with the opening of the company's \$175 million production plant featuring state-of-the-art presses in Hanover County.

"It will be the beginning of an entirely brand-new newspaper that will carry the legacy of The News Leader and The Times-Dispatch," Publisher J. Stewart Bryan III said.

The News Leader ceased publication Saturday after publishing for 95 years, and the last issue of the old Times-Dispatch appeared at doorsteps and at newsstands yesterday.

Both papers were owned by Richmond-based Media General Inc., but had separate news and editorial staffs.

As newsroom employees put together the new paper yesterday, there was excitement in the air.

Bill Millsaps, the paper's managing editor, compared it to the feeling he had in the locker room before basketball games while he was a student at the University of Tennessee.

"You could hear the crowd noise coming through the floor, the band was playing and you were ready to come up out of that tunnel and walk out on the court and play," Millsaps said. "We're nervous now, but we're ready."

Joseph M. Porter, the paper's president and general manager, agreed that there is a "little bit of anxiety."

But opening a production plant isn't new to Porter — he did so in 1975, when he was production manager at the Tampa Tribune.

Even so, Bryan said there will be growing pains.

"Despite everything you do to anticipate problems," Bryan said, "something will come up that you can't ever anticipate."

Last night, for example, there were several problems in transmitting pages by facsimile machines from downtown to the Hanover plant. Because of the fax problem, the start of

### The new paper: today's lineup

- This is the new Richmond Times-Dispatch.
- As of today, The Times-Dispatch and The Richmond News Leader are consolidated in one morning newspaper. We think we have preserved the best of both and combined them in a redesigned paper easier to use.
- Special features starting today include:
- A page of news of the nation, A2.
  - A page of news of the world, A4.
  - A full Op/Ed page of columns and comment, A11.
  - A new weekly column by staff writer Michael Paul Williams, B1.
  - An expanded report on national, state and local weather, B8.
  - "The Writer's Block," a weekly column by staff members, C1.
  - An expanded comics section, C6.
  - "The Back Page," a daily package of popular syndicated features, C8.
  - A daily page on a single sports topic. Today's topic is recreational sports, D4.
  - A new business column by Ed Crews, E3.
- Lottery numbers are on Page A5. One News Leader Monday feature, Guy Friddell's column, will appear Tuesdays in The Times-Dispatch.

## Ease in reading and use stressed

### Familiar features appear in new packaging

BY MARYLEE SAUDER  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

It's early morning. You've just picked up your newspaper. Something's different.

Relax and put your feet up. What you've got in your hands is the new and improved Richmond Times-Dispatch. It's what we've been calling "The New Product" since the merger of the papers was

announced Sept. 4.

The new Times-Dispatch combines the best of the former Times-Dispatch and The News Leader. News, features, familiar bylines — they're all still there.

They're just packaged differently.

"Our philosophy is to make the paper easier to use and easier to read," said Louise Seals, deputy managing editor and leader of the team that re-

signed the paper. "We want to pull out information readers need to know . . . and put it high up where they can find it easily."

"We hope that after a day or two, readers will not think about how the other papers looked. We hope it will seem logical, like the furniture in your house — you're aware of it, you use it every day, but you don't concentrate on [its appearance] that much."

The following is some help on how to get the most out of your Times-Dispatch — a guide to help you

PLEASE SEE **REDESIGN**, PAGE **A6** ▶ PLEASE SEE **BORN**, PAGE **A6** ▶

## 3 in family found slain in Southside

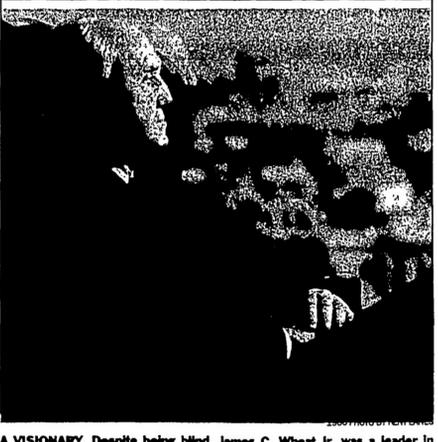
BY KATHRYN ORTH  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

**BUCKINGHAM** — Three family members were found slain yesterday at a home about 10 miles west of the village of Buckingham Courthouse, the Buckingham County Sheriff's Department said.

Describing the deaths as homicides, a Sheriff's Department spokesman last night identified the victims as Clarence Stinson, 66, the owner of the home; his sister, Roberta Stinson, 62; and, Ms. Stinson's daughter, Gloria Stinson, 40.

Authorities declined to release a cause of death. The bodies were taken to the state Medical Examiner's office in Richmond.

A 1977 Plymouth belonging to one



**A VISIONARY.** Despite being blind, James C. Wheat Jr. was a leader in business and civic affairs in Richmond.

## Corporate guard changing

### Can the next generation fill leaders' big shoes?

BY RANDY HALLMAN  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

The meeting, Wallace Stettinius recalled, took place about 10 years ago. Four of the city's most powerful corporate chairmen — James C. Wheat Jr. of Wheat, First Securities Inc., Sydney Lewis of Best Products Co. Inc., E. Claiborne Robins of A.H. Robins Co., and D. Tennant Bryan of Media General Inc. — called together other business leaders, about 40 in all, and told them what needed to be done.

"Virginia Union University was having a cash crisis," said Stettinius, chairman and chief executive officer of Cadmus Communications Corp. "Wheat and the others said we had to step up to the plate. That meeting raised \$750,000."

It wasn't the first such meeting — a few years earlier a similar gathering had raised \$120,000 to bail out the Metropolitan Richmond Chamber of Commerce — and it wasn't the last. But the cast of characters has changed and continues to change.

Control of the companies run by Lewis and Robins has

passed to other interests. Bryan has turned the reins of Media General over to his son, J. Stewart Bryan III. And Wheat — who may have been without peer in his ability to galvanize corporate, political and professional support for a cause — died in April at age 71.

Other key business leaders who wielded corporate power for community causes are no longer with us. Frederick Deane Jr., chairman emeritus of Signet Banking Corp., died in April at 85. Thomas C. Boushall, who founded Signet, died last month at 98.

And, Stettinius noted, the strength of the Richmond area's corporate community is diluted every time a business closes or control passes to outside interests.

He began ticking off examples. Miller & Rhoads Inc. is no more. What's left of Thalimer Bros. Inc. is controlled from St. Louis, Mo. A New York buyout firm took over Best Products. The Northeast is also home to the owners of Overnite Transportation Co. (Bethlehem, Pa.) and of A.H. Robins (New York). What was once Sovran Financial Corp. is now part of NationsBank Corp., based in Charlotte, N.C.

"What we've really lost," Stettinius said, "is a bunch of giants."

In many ways, Wheat, who was blind from his teen-age years on, stood tallest among them all. Few corporate leaders in Virginia have used their power and credibility as

PLEASE SEE **WHEAT**, PAGE **A8** ▶