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# FLAIR

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# Love, zombie style



JOE MAHONEY/TIMES-DISPATCH

James Callahan (left) and Jesse Bausch inject life into the undead for their first comic book.

## Local creators' first full book is tale noir of horror and gore

BY PETE HUMES  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

In the movies, zombies are drooling cannibals with bad complexions.

But in the world created by Jesse Bausch and James Callahan, the undead get to show their sensitive side.

This month, the local duo released their first full-length comic book, "Strange Detective Tales: Dead Love."

The book is a throwback to the EC Comics that ruled the racks in the '50s. Titles such as "Tales from the Crypt" and "Vault of Horror" popped the cheery bubble of the Eisenhower era. Horror comics plunged young readers into gloom and gore and were often blamed for creating juvenile delinquents.

While the words of Bausch and the pictures of Callahan owe a certain debt to the past, the comic's sensibility is all 21st century. Bausch found a way to twist two familiar genres — horror and crime noir — into a new amalgam.

"It's a story about hanging on to a love that

SEE ZOMBIES, PAGE G11 ►



Josh Coleman tests the soundproof makeover box "10 Years Younger" uses when passers-by guess contestants' ages.

## Eye on R-Town

What rocks or rots, tanks or titillates in Richmond? Here's our weekly take on R-town.

**Go west, young man:** Sharon Coleman (of the very cool Tinker's boutique on Westwood Avenue) reports that her son, Joshua, is doing it up right in West Hollywood, Calif. The Trinity Episcopal High School and VCU grad is a wardrobe stylist with TLC's revamped makeover show, "10 Years Younger."

Josh Coleman is providing daily wardrobe for "10 Years Younger" contestants as well as for host Mark Montano (also of "While You Were Out" fame).

In addition, Montano, whose "TY" gig begins airing Aug. 29, has hired Coleman to "wardrobe" several of his upcoming TV and tour appearances.

The two met when Montano, filming segments in Richmond last year for "While You Were Out," was referred to Tinker's as a good source for garden furniture. The 25-year-old Coleman — who studied fashion merchandising and marketing at VCU — had worked as brand manager, buyer and visual merchandiser for the store for six years. He also wrote a fashion column last year for Richmond Magazine.

Coleman moved to California on April 13,

began filming the new season of "TY" April 18 and now is doing the full-on West Coast thing as a freelance fashion editor, stylist and publicist.

**What's the buzz?** Why, **Captain Buzzy's Beany** on Church Hill, of course. We stopped in over the weekend and entirely forgot the heat while sipping an iced coffee with coffee ice cubes and a healthy dose of half-and-half.

One of us tried a crème de menthe Captain Crush (think Slurpee gourmet) and another fought lazy-afternoon ennui with a honey-tinged vanilla smoothie.

Nice. Homey. Lots of great choices. (Best-and-worst drink name: the Colon Buster.)

Check it out, especially if a Deluxe Oreo Chiller or Almond Joy Latte sounds like your cuppa Joe.

**Lights, camera, ticket:** So **Tony Pelling** never quite recovered from Eye on R-Town's expressed horror over the roundabout Richmond built on Monument Avenue.

E-mailing during a recent visit to London, he wrote, "You had a go at roundabouts. Now see what British experts have revealed. Wither the **Virginia traffic light cameras?**"

What British experts have revealed, according to the Evening Standard, is that the number of crashes at 70 London sites increased rather than decreased after red-light cameras were installed. At each site, an

average of 48 to 62 more accidents (involving serious injury or death) were recorded per year.

According to Pelling, "The UK is awash with Big Brother cameras, and I confess to being the official who got them into soccer/football grounds to sort out who were the soccer hooligans."

(This is the same Tony Pelling who worked for PM Margaret Thatcher's administration in the late '80s and early '90s and whose son, Andrew, was just elected to the House of Commons.)

The U.S. red-light camera program — to sort out who were the intersection hooligans — began in New York in 1992.

Pelling, now president of Richmond's Byrd Theatre Foundation, will be encouraged to hear, however, that the Virginia red-light camera pilot program ended July 1 (before it ever hit R-Town). Reactions from drivers and legislators were mixed; some localities reported a decline in violations.

In fact, Northern Virginia and Virginia Beach plan to lobby for reinstatement. (And why not? In its first several months, the Virginia Beach program had mailed 15,000 tickets to purported red-light runners.)

Hmm, maybe those concerned Brits don't realize that cash trumps compassion. Wake up and smell the pavement, people! There's money in them thar red lights.

Got news? E-mail flair@timesdispatch.com; mention Eye on R-Town in subject line.