Typing at random:

I guess this is the day that I air a few gripes. It seems like people in the Roanoke Valley have gotten their dangers up the past week and acted rather unreasonably.

Start with the parents of sandlot football players who called the office Tuesday morning. Their complaints were about the newspaper stories on the sandlot playoffs from the past weekend.

I guess if parents don’t see little itsy’s name in the paper, it ruins their day. One checked with the recreation department’s reporter, who wasn’t connected with the paper, and was happy to see his son would be given as a defensive standout.

When junior’s name didn’t make the paper due to space limitations, you can guess the reaction.

Another parent called using language that wouldn’t be permitted in front of children. He’s probably one of those rascals who’s adamant about getting rid of the X-rated movies and adult bookstores. But to be truthful, his language had a place in both of those spots.

Of course sports writers are well conditioned to parents. We laugh at them and disregard them while going on to do something more important.

Last week there was a Tech football fan who signed his name J. Nelson. He accused a column I had written about Jimmy Sharpe not returning his calls as being another attack uncalled for on Mr. Sharpe.

“It appears,” said the note, “the Times is trying to chase another good coach away. 8-3 ain’t bad, but it’s the best record in the state.”

“Now I must inform J. Nelson that the column appeared in The World-News. He was probably too steamed up to notice.

The fact is that Tech alumni chased away Jerry Claiborne and Charlie Coffey chased himself away. I don’t remember anyone wailing about the fact that Coffey left, though.

As to the last point, 8-3 ain’t bad. Too bad Tech won’t see that record this year. It’s also interesting for all Tech fans to know that William & Mary has locked up a tie for the best record in the state—not the Hokies. And since the Indians won the regular season game, that gives them top honors. For whatever that’s worth.

Last, but not least, is Ed Nicholson, who is a Davidson fan or graduate. He took exception to the column in The World-News (at least he got that right) of Nov. 10 about VMI not being televised, while two Davidson games with Notre Dame and South Carolina will be carried.

“Davidson basketball is not at it’s best right now,” says Nicholson, “but surely Davidson vs. Notre Dame or South Carolina is more interesting than VMI vs. Madison, Alderson-Broadus, or Salem (W. Va.). The point is that Davidson does have a schedule worthy of the name.”

No, the fact is that Davidson doesn’t have a team worthy of that schedule. And no one said VMI’s games with college division teams (please note Madison is university division) should be on television. But games against Southern Conference opponents would be better, at least from a competitive standpoint.

Keep those cards and letters coming. Don’t bother to take time out for the Christmas season.