



Senior Korey Billbury converts an emphatic slam during VCU's 96-60 exhibition win against California University of Pennsylvania on Friday night. The senior transfer recorded 10 points and 11 rebounds in the contest.

# Brotherhood: Why he stayed

CJ PASCHALL  
Contributing Writer

Sophomore Justin Tillman remembers. He remembers the two things about VCU that stood out to him, driving the heralded recruit to make Rama Country his home: the sense of family that surrounded the team and the coaching staff, led by former head coach Shaka Smart. More than a year after those visits, said he remembers the unpleasant night of April 2. He remembers the night, more than seven months ago, that Shaka Smart left the team. “(When the meeting was called) I had a feeling he was going to leave,” Tillman said. “After he told

us, everybody left. I went up to his office and just talked to him, and told him how much I respected him and wished him good luck.” He remembers the days and weeks that followed, with many of the team’s high-profile recruits decommitting, and his fellow 2014 recruit Terry Larrier requesting his release from the team — Tillman did the same. “I wanted to open up my recruitment and see what other schools were interested in me,” Tillman said. He said he remembers the pain of losing the coach who brought him to Richmond. Of seeing teammates walk away. Of watching the big plans for the next

three years, signaling the start of a golden age for VCU basketball, ultimately fade away. But Tillman also remembers why he stayed. The two things that brought him to VCU in the first place, were the two things that kept him here, starting with the coaching staff and incoming head coach Will Wade. “Just talking to Coach Wade ... I didn’t even have to ask for it, but he said I still could work out with them, he still thought I’d be a great player,” Tillman said. “Just getting to know him, building a relationship with him, and seeing how much he’s a caring guy.” The second factor? Even though Smart had moved on, the sense of family Tillman had experienced on his recruiting visit still remained. “I’m really close with Mike (Gilmore) and Johnny (Williams), and the rest of the team,” Tillman said. “We still had a tight bond, even though the coach left. We thought we still could do big things here.” And so, just days after reports surfaced that he had requested his release from the school with intent to transfer, Tillman took to Twitter to announce he was staying with the team. “I have decided to be here with my brothers and stay at VCU ... RAMNATION!! #Brotherhood #Family.” Even though Tillman remembers the past, the 6-foot-7 small forward now focuses on the road ahead. With the graduation of stars Treveon Graham and Briante Weber, as well as the departure of Larrier, Tillman steps into a new role as a consistent starter. In only his second year, Tillman should see a vastly increased role for the Rams. Stepping into the spotlight, he sets his goals for the season higher than ever before. “I want to be on the A-10 Defensive Team,” he said. “I want to be one of the best sophomores in the country ... offensively and defensively, in rebounding and blocking shots.” Tillman pondered the question a moment more before finishing his thought. “I just want to be a standout player,” he said.



Sophomore Tillman looks to provide athleticism and activity on the boards as he adjusts to his starting role.



Junior Lewis records seven assist in Fridays exhibition contest against Cal.(Penn.)



Sophomore Williams found success driving the lane, recording 11 points Friday night.

# Changing of the Guard

MARCUS BLACKWELL  
Staff Writer

With two of the team leaders from last year, Briante Weber and Treveon Graham, moving on to the professional level, there is now an opening for someone to move into the position of both on-and-off the court leadership. In VCU’s past, the point guard position has spearheaded the team’s attack and heading into this season, there will be new faces at the position. Since Eric Maynor’s sophomore season in 2007, the VCU point guard has been consistently one of the most important assets on the team, whether it is offensively or defensively. When Maynor graduated as VCU’s all-time leading scorer in 2009, his understudy, Joey Rodriguez, was passed the torch. During Rodriguez’s time as the starting point guard, he was able to help lead the Rams to their most successful year to date, the classic “Final Four” season. Following Rodriguez’s stint,

Darius Theus took the lead of the Rams’ offense, with back-to-back successful seasons while leading the team in assists. Finally, for the past three years at VCU, the heart and soul of “Havoc” has been Briante Weber, who graduated leading the country in steals and leading the team in assists. Former head coach Shaka Smart was able to provide specific insight to the position, thanks to the fact he played point guard at Kenyon College from 1995-1999. Smart instilled his passion into his players, while having an extra emphasis on his guards. Entering this new season with new head coach Will Wade there will be two guards that will look to take over the offense. In the past, it is unprecedented for VCU to having question marks around the point guard position. The two contenders will be junior Jequan Lewis and sophomore Jonathan Williams. Last year Lewis played 22 minutes a game, averaging 8.5 points and just fewer than three

assists per game. Lewis said he feels Wade gives the team the push they needed to be successful and understands they have what it takes. “Coach Wade has been tough, not sugarcoating anything,” Lewis said. “He’s hard on us because he knows what we can do.” Williams, entering his second season as a Ram, played just 10 minutes a game last season, but this year will see a huge increase in playing time as he adjusts to a bigger role. “I’m ready. This offseason I worked a lot on my shot,” Williams said. “Last year teams would go under screens on me so this year I’m coming back being a better shooter. I just got to keep getting better as a player.” VCU has become known across the country for its aggressive, hectic defensive style of play. Despite Weber and Smart no longer being at VCU, the Rams are preparing to use that same style with these —continued on page 6



In this section:  
Student deaths,  
safe neighborhoods,  
GOP updates.

briefs

**LOCAL**  
**FBI: Bank robber strikes for 5th time in northern Va.**

The FBI says a bank robber known as the “Forever Loyal Bandit” for a slogan on a T-shirt he wore has struck again in northern Virginia.

The most recent robbery attributed to the man occurred on Friday in Arlington. The FBI says the man handed a teller a note demanding money at the Capital One Bank on Columbia Pike. He left with some cash.

The man is now wanted in five robberies dating back to June. The first three occurred in Falls Church. Then, the FBI says the man robbed a bank in Fairfax on Oct. 30 before the most recent robbery in Arlington on Friday. During the first two robberies, he wore a T-shirt that read “Forever Loyal.”

*Brief by the Associated Press*

**Woman sentenced to prison for stealing from Norfolk firm**

A former bookkeeper has been sentenced to 2½ years for embezzling almost \$470,000 from her Norfolk employer.

The Virginian-Pilot reports that court documents say 37-year-old Katherine Albert-McNaughton also stole \$520 that her co-workers tried to donate to children’s charities. U.S. District Judge Arenda Wright Allen said that “takes it even down to a deeper level.”

Albert-McNaughton worked for HBA Architecture & Interior Design. Court documents say that between October 2011 and June 2104, she forged a supervisor’s signature on 83 checks and used the money for vehicles, air fare and entertainment. Meanwhile, the company laid off six employees, froze salaries, suspended bonuses and stopped matching retirement contributions.

At Friday’s hearing, defense attorney Kirsten Kmet blamed her client’s actions in part on an abusive marriage that ended in January 2014.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

**Russian media executive Mikhail Lesin dies at 57 in DC hotel**

Mikhail Lesin, a former aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin who helped found the English-language news service Russia Today, has been found dead in an upscale Washington hotel room.

The Russian Embassy in Washington on Friday confirmed the death of Lesin, whose body was discovered Thursday. Russia Today reported on its website that Lesin, 57, died of a heart attack.

Metropolitan Police Department spokesman Officer Sean Hickman said that officers were called to the Dupont Circle Hotel about 11:30 a.m. Thursday and found a man dead. Russian Embassy spokesman Yury Melnik confirmed that the man was Lesin.

Russia Today, commonly known as RT, credited Lesin with “inspiring the creation” of the agency.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

**NATIONAL**  
**Sorting sexting offenders from victims will take time**

It could take a month to sort the offenders from the victims in a widespread sexting case at a Colorado high school, and then authorities plan to file charges only if “absolutely necessary,” a prosecutor said.

An unspecified number of Canon City High School students have been suspended over the exchange of hundreds of explicit photos of students as young as eighth-graders.

An investigation began Monday after some people contacted school officials and a tip came through a state student safety hotline.

Three phones have been confiscated, and authorities are seeking search warrants to examine them. It’s unclear how many students posed for nude pictures and the investigation is expected to take about 30 days, Canon City Police Capt. Jim Cox said Friday.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

**9th Circuit addresses senility among federal judges head on**

Now 84, federal appellate court Judge William Canby made the difficult decision a few years ago to mostly stop hearing cases after a 30-year career. He was sharp and healthy, but didn’t want to risk mental decline that would lead him to make mistakes, he said.

“It seemed to me if the goal is to work until you are no longer able, you will work a couple of years too long,” he said.

Canby’s decision reflects one of the unique job hazards federal judges face: age-related mental decline. Unlike judges in most states, U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal appellate and district court judges are appointed for life. To be removed, they must be impeached by Congress, which has occurred only a few times. Undergo cognitive assessments and designate colleagues, friends or family who can intervene if concerns arise about their mental health.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

# Three VCU students pass away unexpectedly, two from fatal falls

**SARAH KING**  
Executive Editor

Three VCU students passed away unexpectedly within a week of each other.

First-year dentistry student Benjamin Sykes and senior engineering student Christopher Ducic both suffered fatal falls over Halloween weekend in unrelated accidents.

Michael Porter, interim director of VCU public affairs, said the Richmond Police are conducting investigations of both incidents.

According to Susan Rowland, a public affairs specialist for the Richmond Police, at approximately 11:55 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, officers were called to the area of S. 14th and Dock streets for a report of a person walking on the elevated railroad tracks.

“A few minutes later, witnesses reported the man had fallen. The victim was identified as Benjamin G. Sykes, 25, of the 15000 block of Carlbern Drive in Centreville,” Rowland said in an email.

Shortly before 1:15 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1, Rowland said officers working on Canal Street were

flagged down in reference to a person down in the roadway.

“Officers located an adult male, who was unconscious and not breathing, in the 100 block of E. Canal Street. The victim – Christopher J. Ducic, 21, of the 00 block of E. Canal Street – was pronounced dead at the scene,” Rowland stated in an email.

Chris was one of the most intelligent people I’ve ever met, and he buried none of it. He was generous and kind, taking time out of his days and nights to help teach his friends and classmates.”

— SHANNON MINNICH

Following an autopsy, Rowland said the medical examiner determined Ducic’s death to be accidental, also stemming from a fall.

“He didn’t come home this weekend,” said Shannon Wright, a senior communication arts major who

works for the Student Media Center. Wright said she and Ducic were friends since elementary school.

“I’ve just been crying a lot. People from back at home and family have been texting and calling me non-stop trying to figure out what’s going on and what happened,” Wright said.

“Chris was one of the most intelligent people I’ve ever met, and he buried none of it,” said Shannon Minnich, a senior at Christopher Newport University who was also close with Ducic in high school. “He was generous and kind, taking time out of his days and nights to help teach his friends and classmates.”

Minnich said her friend also had an innate ability to make anyone laugh, regardless of his or her sense of humor; his bright smile was contagious; on any given Monday or dreary morning, he would walk into the cafeteria and lift spirits with his presence; his propensity to love others was exceptional.

“Most significantly, Chris ensured that every single person he came into contact with felt included,” Minnich said. “Throughout

the tough transitions of middle and high school, Chris Ducic’s capability to remind you of your personal value was unmatched.”

Interim vice provost for student affairs Charles Klink sent an email to the VCU community Monday afternoon addressing Sykes and Ducic’s passing.

Klink’s email also stated Lisa Rubi, a recent transfer into the College of Humanities and Sciences, was killed in an automobile accident on Oct. 28 in Poquoson, Virginia.

The Daily reported that Rubi was killed in a single-vehicle accident early on the morning of Oct. 25, according to a release from the Virginia State Police.

Klink said the university has been in contact with the schools and those who are close to the students to make them aware of available university resources that provide support.

“We are deeply saddened by these losses and our condolences go out to the students’ families and friends. Your thoughtful efforts to support those impacted by these tremendous losses are deeply appreciated,” Klink said.

FREE UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

**The Wellness Resource Center**  
815 S. Cathedral Place  
(804) 828-9355  
Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**VCU Counseling Services on Monroe Park Campus**  
University Student Commons, Room 238  
907 Floyd Ave.  
(804) 828-6200  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**VCU Counseling Services on MCV Campus**  
Grant House, B011  
1008 E. Clay St.  
(804) 828-3964  
Monday: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.;  
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Tuesday - Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For an emergency after hours, please call VCU Police dispatch at (804) 828-1234 and ask to speak to a therapist.

# Hitting too close to home: student’s homicide reflects national trend of gun violence victims

**SARAH KING**  
Executive Editor

“LIVE LONG” were the words written across the sole of a white Nike sneaker amidst white, pink and red roses in full bloom sitting atop Joe’s casket as Alec Bose watched his younger brother put to rest on Friday.

“RIP Joe Joe.”  
“Love you always, love!”  
“You know you my mans.”

At Galilee Baptist Church in Maryland, home-going service attendees blanketed a pair of Air Force Ones with snippets of thought dedicated to their 20-year-old friend, classmate and family member.

According to Norfolk Police, third-year journalism student at Hampton University, Joseph “Joe” Bose, was fatally shot at a weekend party near West 35th Street and Killam Avenue about 3:15 a.m. last Saturday. According to Norfolk Police Sgt. Daryl Jarvis, he died at the scene.

“My brother didn’t die, he was killed,” said Joe’s older brother, Alec, a May 2015 VCU graduate and former Residential Assistant and orientation leader. “He didn’t lose his life, it was taken.”

Last week, Edison High School students painted “the senior rock” in memory of Joe, a fallen 2013 alum. On Wednesday, Nov. 4, Hampton University sponsored a home-going service at HU’s Ogden Hall. Two days later, Joe’s family held his home-going service in Maryland and Alexandria, Va.

Alec posted on Facebook shortly after the Edison rock was repainted to commemorate his little brother. He said he has seen the names of one too many people he loves on that rock.

“I’m not sure if I’ll be O.K. even though I keep telling myself I will be. But I have to try, I have to keep moving and live my life with purpose. Because that’s what my brother would have wanted and I have to do anything and everything in my power to honor his memory and take care of my family,” Bose’s post read.

He ended the post by thanking the students of Edison High School for the tribute and said his family asked anyone attending the funeral wear formal attire with their “freshest pair of sneakers” to honor Joe’s love of shoes.

Students came home from colleges across the country, many who hadn’t seen each other since their graduation from high school, to stand together at Mount Comfort Cemetery and say goodbye to their



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOSE FAMILY

**Third-year Hampton University journalism student, Joseph K. Bose, 20, photographed at his 2013 high school graduation. Hampton University and the Bose family have organized a scholarship fund for the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications in Joe’s honor.**

friend and classmate.

“He was my role model,” said Sean Duffer, a close friend of the Bose family who grew up with both brothers. “As a little brother (Joe) would just give me advice — Joe would sit me down and we’d have real talks. If I wanted to do something that could clearly get me in trouble and put me at risk Joe wouldn’t let me do it. He was literally my conscience,” Duffer said.

Now, more than a week after the fatal shooting, and just days after Joe’s funeral, the Bose family still doesn’t know who shot Joe. Nobody has been charged in the death; the police have no suspects.

According to the Virginian-Pilot, detectives know people saw Joe get shot because it happened at a weekend party, but not enough witnesses have talked to police.

But Joe is not the first to die from gun violence in the Norfolk area this school year. He is the second youth to lose his life from gunfire and the fifth college student shot near Old Dominion University’s campus since Oct. 16.

According to police data, in Norfolk alone there were 14 homicides in August, 24 in September and 21 in October of this year.

“Our family has suffered the most horrific loss a family can experience, the loss of our son,” said Kim Bose, Joe’s mother. “Made from complete innocence and love,

snatched from our family in the most violent, incomprehensible way,” she said.

Alec Bose said he understands there’s something to be said about constitutional rights, but hopes his little brother’s death sparks a serious conversation about the implications of gun violence.

We need to get out of this mindset where somehow taking a life, whether it’s justified or not, is a reality of our nation. It doesn’t have to be and I really hope people can start to at least think about it before they go to defend guns or even worse — reach for it.

— ALEC BOSE

According to a 2014 report by the Center for American Progress, the second-most frequent cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 24 in 2010 was homicide, and 83 percent of those homicides were committed with a gun.

The report states that every year, about 2.5 million Americans die from a range of causes, but less than 3 percent are under the age

of 25. In contrast, when looking at gun-related deaths, the corresponding narrative is very different. In 2010, more than 20 percent of individuals killed by guns were under age 25 — totaling more than 6,500 deaths.

Furthermore, homicide was the fifth leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 35 and 44 in 2010, and guns accounted for 68 percent of those deaths. Homicide was not even in the top 10 causes of death for individuals ages 45 to 54.

In 2010, more than 6,000 people between the ages of 15 and 24 were killed by guns, while 7,024 people in the same age group were killed in motor vehicle accidents. According to the report, if the current trends continue, gun deaths among this age group are projected to outnumber car accident deaths this year for the first time since 1994.

Widening the scope of this issue, Forbes reported in August that at least 32,000 people per year are killed by guns in the United States. This number may not be the most accurate depiction of the problem, because not all gun-related deaths are reported.

In January 2013, President Barack Obama ordered the Centers for Disease Control to study the causes for gun violence, but the CDC has done little to address the issue for “fear and funding short-

falls” that come with potentially upsetting the gun lobby. Hence, the Washington Post reported, some researchers still actively avoid studying gun violence.

“Guns kill. People kill,” Alec Bose said. “We need to get out of this mindset where somehow taking a life, whether it’s justified or not, is a reality of our nation. It doesn’t have to be and I really hope people can start to at least think about it before they go to defend guns or even worse — reach for it.”

Although words like “funding” do little to assuage the grief felt by families affected by gun violence, the Bose family and Hampton University are rallying the community to support a positive cause.

In Joe’s honor, the Bose family and Hampton University’s Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications are establishing the Joseph K. Bose Endowed Scholarship.

Brett Pulley, Dean of Hampton University’s Scripps School of Journalism, said every year, in perpetuity, a journalism student will receive a scholarship in Joe’s name.

“A plaque will also hang in the atrium of the Scripps Howard School, memorializing the scholarship and reminding every single student who walks through that building, that a bright and promising young man named Joseph Bose also walked those hallowed corridors,” Pulley said.

Pulley and his wife, Stacey, have contributed the first \$500 toward establishing the memorial scholarship. Pulley and the Bose family ask others to please match their gift, or give whatever they can.

If just 49 other people just match their \$500 contribution, Pulley said the fund will have a total of \$25,000 — the amount needed to fully endow the scholarship.

Once that’s accomplished, Pulley said the Joseph K. Bose Endowed Scholarship will live on, proudly, for as long as Hampton University is in existence.

The family and dean ask to please make checks payable to “Hampton University – Joseph K. Bose Endowed Scholarship.” Mailed to: Brett Pulley, Dean, The Scripps Howard School of Journalism & Communications, Hampton University, Hampton, VA 23663.

“I need families to know that my son is just like your son and your child is my son . . . innocence. Joe represents us all — the best that life has to offer,” Kim Bose said.

# Monroe Park campus named Richmond’s “most walkable” 2015 neighborhood

SOPHIA BELLETTI  
Staff Writer

Redfin Real Estate named Richmond one of the top-10 “Most Walkable Mid-Sized Cities” of 2015. Last week, Redfin followed up with a report on the “most walkable neighborhoods” in Richmond, ranking Monroe Park as number one.

Redfin created the tool “Walk Score” to measure the walkability of any address and amenity. It takes into consideration the proximity to amenities including bars, restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores and retail stores.

Richmond ranked ninth among the most walkable mid-sized cities of 2015 with a total walk-score of 49.2.

In June, Richmond led all other markets in year-over-year sales growth. The median sale price increased 10.3 percent and sales were up 35.4 percent since 2014.

Local Redfin agent Warren Teller says that neighborhoods like Carytown and The Fan — which received Walk Score ratings of 92 and 89, respectively — are highly desirable among buyers.

“The charming, historic homes, tree-lined streets and proximity to an array of shops and restaurants are a potent combination, creating strong demand and bidding wars,” Teller said. “New developments in the Monroe Ward, Jackson Ward, Shockoe Bottom and along the Riverfront are attracting residents who want to live and work in the urban center.”

“Points are awarded based on the distance to amenities in each category,” said Alina Ptaszynsk, a Redfin communications specialist. “Amenities within a five-minute walk are given maximum points. A decay function is used to give points to more distant ameni-



A VCU student reads at the center of Monroe Park, which was named the safest neighborhood in Richmond by Redfin Real Estate this past summer.

ties, with no points given after a 30-minute walk.”

Walk Score analyzed more than 10 million locations and computed more than 2 billion walking routes for 2,500 U.S. cities.

Walk Score also measures pedestrian friendliness by analyzing population density and road metrics, such as block length and intersection density. The tool pulls data from Google, Education.com, Open Street Map, the U.S. Cen-

sus, Localeze and places added by the Walk Score user community.

Walk Score considers Monroe Park a “Walker’s Paradise” and estimates that the average resident can walk to an average of 24 restaurants, bars and coffee shops in five minutes.

“In terms of housing, the area has mostly rental options, though there are a few condo buildings in the VCU neighborhood with a median sale price a little over

\$250,000,” Teller said.

Walk Score does not directly report crime and homelessness, but it does factor in pedestrian friendliness.

The VCU Police Department recently put together a crime report dating from Aug.1 to Oct. 28. The report listed 16 sex offense reports, two reports of robbery and four aggravated assaults on west campus.

Neighborhoods surrounding the Monroe Park campus, including Monroe Ward, Carver and The

Fan, all ranked in the top-10 as well. Carver earned a Walk Score of 91 and was recognized for its variety of restaurants and coffee shops, including the popular Sugar Shack Donuts.

The Fan followed behind Carver with a score of 89. Students are often drawn to The Fan because of its balance of college students, families and older residents.

“The Fan includes many beautiful historic homes, including some

truly grand properties along Monument Avenue, which have been home to many wealthy and famous residents in the city’s history,” Teller said. “Beyond the architecture, it remains and widely coveted neighborhood today thanks to the walkable lifestyle it offers.”

## Sturtevant wins District 10, Governor takes hit as GOP maintains Senate and House

FADEL ALLASSAN  
Staff Writer

There were no changes to the Virginia House or Senate control this election as Republicans kept their majority despite this being the most expensive off-year election in Virginia history.

The Republican victory comes as a blow to Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), who needed to gain control of at least one of the chambers in the General Assembly to more easily impose his legislative agenda in the state. The governor will now have to continue the final two years of his first term as governor with a divided government.

In the critical contest for Virginia’s 10th senate district, Republican candidate Glen Sturtevant edged out Democrat Dan Gecker by about 2 percent of the popular vote, allowing Republicans keep control of the chamber on Tuesday.

Despite a strong showing for Gecker in the City of Richmond, Sturtevant got large margins of victory in Powhatan and Chesterfield counties, including in the Midlothian region, where his op-

ponent served for eight years on the Board of Supervisors.

Sturtevant’s victory means that the seat, previously held by retiring Republican John Watkins, will remain under Republican control despite Sturtevant winning by the smallest margin of any candidate in this year’s senate races.

The crucial race seemed like the Democrats’ best chances to regain control of the senate, where they needed only a net gain of one seat to be even with Republicans at 20 seats each. If that were the case, the Democratic Lieutenant Governor would have essentially served as the tiebreaker, which would have been a virtual majority for Democrats.

In District 16, which has constituency in part of Richmond, Democrat Rosalyn Dance saw off her challenger, Joseph Morrissey (I) with 72 percent of the vote. In another senate race that had constituency in Richmond, District 9 Democrat Donald McEachin won reelection after running unopposed.

In Northern Virginia, the second closest senate battle in the state took place. First-time candi-

date Jill McCabe came relatively close, but was unable to pull off the unlikely win against Republican Dick Black by a 5 percent margin. The Loudoun County seat has been held by a Republican since 1992.

Republicans also easily retained their 2-1 majority of the House of Delegates, where elections are held every two years for each seat. In house districts with constituents from Richmond, every incumbent was reelected.

In District 68, Republican Delegate Manoli Loupassi kept his seat by winning more than 60 percent of the vote against Democratic challenger Bill Grogan, while districts 69 and 70, held by Democratic Senators Betsy Carr and Delores McQuinn respectively did not see challenges to their positions.

In districts 71 and 74, Democrats Jennifer McClellan and Lamont Bagby rolled over their independent challengers with 87 and 77 percent of votes respectively.



Richmond residents voted for state senator on Tuesday at locations throughout the city.

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VCU briefs

\$50.8 million expansion, renovation of VCU's main library is now open

New building defines the academic library of the future, emphasizing collaboration, openness, discovery and creativity.

Virginia Commonwealth University's greatly expanded and renovated James Branch Cabell Library is now open, providing VCU's more than 31,000 students with vastly more space to study, collaborate, discover, create, and conduct research.

The \$50.8 million project adds 93,000 square feet of new construction and 63,000 square feet of improvements to the existing library, with 90 percent of the space designed specifically for student use.

The first two floors of the new library building open to the public today, while final construction of floors three and four is slated for completion in December and those floors will be furnished and open for the spring semester.

A state-of-the-art innovative media studio, which will feature a variety of maker tools and technology, such as 3-D printers and scanners, laser cutters, Arduino boards and robotics, will open early in the spring semester in the new library building's lower level.

James Branch Cabell Library, which is among the busiest academic libraries in Virginia, was built in 1970 and expanded to its current five floors in 1975. Over the past decade, use of the library has doubled to serve more than 2 million visitors annually.

*Brief by Brian McNeill, University Public Affairs*

National Association for Ethnic Studies now headquartered at VCU

The oldest ethnic studies organization in the United States has moved its headquarters to Virginia Commonwealth University.

The National Association for Ethnic Studies, founded in 1972, is an interdisciplinary forum for scholars and activists concerned with national and international dimensions of race and ethnicity. It is now located within the Political Science Program in the College of Humanities and Sciences.

The mission of NAES is to encourage activities and scholarship in the field of ethnic studies and to promote social justice and equality through research and scholarship, curriculum design, conferences and assistance to ethnic studies programs to develop civic-minded and culturally informed communities and people.

*Brief by Brian McNeill, University Public Affairs*

Art and Fashion author to speak at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts

Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts (VCUarts) presents a conversation with New York Times best-selling author E.P. Cutler. Ms. Cutler is the co-author of "Art + Fashion: Collaborations and Connection Between Icons" (2015), and the New York Times bestseller "PANTONE on Fashion: A Century of Color in Design" (2014). The fashion historian will be discussing how art and fashion have intersected throughout her career on Thursday, Nov. 19 at noon in the VCUarts Depot Building, located at 814 West Broad Street. This event is free and open to the public.

*Brief by Suzanne Silitch, director of communications, VCUarts*

VCU hosts free evidence-based clinical practice workshops

Health professionals can register to receive a seat

Virginia Commonwealth University will host a series of free workshops for local health professionals, focusing on evidence-based clinical practice, which is the integration of clinical expertise with the best available research evidence in making decisions about the care of the individual patient. The workshops are sponsored by the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology in the Department of Internal Medicine at VCU.

The free workshops will be held Wednesday, Nov. 18, through Friday, Nov. 20. Most sessions will be held at the Kontos Medical Sciences Building, 1217 E. Marshall St. The medical grand rounds session on Nov. 19 at noon will be held in the Sanger Hall Auditorium, 1101 E. Marshall St. For additional details or to register, visit the VCU Office of Continuing and Professional Education website at <http://ocpe.vcu.edu/> and locate the workshop information in the announcements section.

*Brief by Lynn Myers, Ed.D.*

New events added to Homecoming

A full slate of events celebrating black and gold Ram pride is scheduled Nov. 8–14, an update on the chilly winter schedule that's been in place since 2002.

Those outdoor events include the "Rectacular Spectacular" (flag football, a mechanical bull, obstacle course, refreshments), an MCV Campus carnival, a parade down Harrison Street, and a tailgate and outdoor watch party to celebrate as the VCU men's basketball team opens its 2015–16 season against Prairie View A&M at the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

View the complete VCU Homecoming 2015 schedule at <http://vcuhomecoming.com>.

Jake Johnson, College Humor release sexual assault PSA

MATT LEONARD  
Print Managing Editor

The Obama administration's "It's On Us" campaign, which has worked toward drawing attention to sexual assault since its launch last year, has released a new video with CollegeHumor that tackles a tricky subject in a light hearted way.

The video features Jake Johnson and Lamorne Morris from New Girl, David Walton from About a Boy, Rob Riggle from Let's Be Cops. In the video they're all hanging out watching football when the character played by Riggle leaves the room to get a new beer.

When he opens the door to leave the room he sees a bear sitting on the kitchen floor.

"Oh, that's just a big, angry, hungry bear," Johnson's character says. "Just pretend it's not there."

As the bear begins to growl on the other side of the door his friends became worried about what is on the other side and ask why he doesn't want to do anything.

Johnson's character then says the bear will only kill one in five of them — a number commonly referred to with sexual assault saying that one in five women will be assaulted in college.

When the bear knocks down the door Johnson screams "It's fine, It's fine! The majority is fine. I don't want to deal with this problem."

The video is a comment on



IMAGE COURTESY OF COLLEGEHUMOR

CollegeHumor's new sexual assault PSA ponders the question: What if one in five people were killed by bears? Would it be taken more seriously than sexual assault?

people turning their back on sexual assault even when they know that it is happening.

"I heard about it and I it just seemed like something that was worth doing," Johnson said in a

conference call on Thursday. "I think what's kinda going on with these sexual assaults is crazy."

Spencer Griffin from College Humor said they had been working with "It's On Us" since the

campaign began in September 2014, and said when coming up with this sketch they wanted to focus on the one in five statistic.

"We said 'what if it was something else,'" Griffin said.



PHOTOS BY JULIE TRIPP

This \$50.8 million project is the first expansion and renovation to the James Branch Cabell Library since its opening in 1970.



The recent expansion adds 93,000 square feet of new construction and 63,000 square feet of improvements to the existing library space.

Library opens first part of \$50.8 million expansion

ANDREW CRIDER  
Contributing Writer

The James Branch Cabell Library opened the first and second floor of its \$50.8 million dollar expansion on Nov. 2. The new addition is the first renovation to the library since its debut in 1970.

The \$50.8 million project adds 93,000 square feet of new space in addition to 63,000 square feet of renovations to the existing library. 90 percent of this space was designed specifically for student use.

The opening of the bottom two floors is only the first part of the library's expansion. The next and final phase of its opening will include the third and fourth floors, which are expected to be completed in late December and will be furnished and open for the spring semester.

According to John Ulmschneider, the university librarian, VCU worked with the construction contractor, W.M Jordan Company, to have construction on the library completed by final exams.

"We worked with the contractor for months and months and months in advance to say we really wanted to bring the space online," Ulmschneider said.

Before its expansion, Cabell was the smallest library at any Virginia university. Cabell offered only 5.6 square feet per student — a small amount in comparison to the College of William and Mary's Earl Gregg Swem Library, which has 44 square feet per student.

According to the William and Mary website, the university has a student body of 6,299 undergraduates and 2,138 graduate students. This is a small number is comparison to VCU's 23,962 undergraduates and 5,483 graduate students.

"It's overcrowded. I see students on the floor sitting in stacks, so they have no place to go for their study work," Ulmschneider said. "We hope students can find a place where they can be able to sit, do their work and find a computer, and that's incredibly important for the work our students are doing."

W.M Jordan Company is based in Norfolk and has an office in Richmond. The construction company has worked with many Virginia universities, including William & Mary, Old Dominion University, the University of Mary Washington, Christopher Newport University, Virginia Union University, the University of Virginia, James Madison University and Virginia Tech.

Ulmschneider said that the contractor faced several obstacles in meeting the deadline.

"There were many challenges, but they kept us on schedule and I'm really delighted by it," Ulmschneider said. "They have been great to work with."

Construction began in spring 2014. According to Ulmschneider, some of the spaces that are open are still incomplete due to the lack of furnishing.

More technology will be added to the first and second floors before construction is finished, Ulmschneider said.

"We have new group study rooms, wonderful glass-enclosed group study rooms. But they don't have monitors in yet," Ulmschneider said.

Although W.M. Jordan Company stayed

within their construction budget, students will still be expected to continue to pay a \$50 annual library fee.

According to Sue Robinson, director of communication and public relations for VCU libraries, the fee is essential for the operation of the library.

"Student leadership supported VCU Libraries in its request to have a small student fee that directly benefits the library," Robinson said.

Ulmschneider said the services allow the library to operate 24/7.

"The library fee has helped us in two parts: one is able to operate the building and have it open around the clock," Ulmschneider said. "The other is to equip the building with the kind of high end computing equipment in the basement that would otherwise not be available."

The Starbucks on the first floor is also being expanded and is expected to be completed in early spring.



# sports

**KOREY BILLBURY/ NO. 24**

6-foot-4, 210 pounds  
Hometown: Tulsa, Okla./ Oral Roberts University  
Position: Guard  
Class: Senior

Billbury came to VCU at a much needed time. The strong and sturdy scorer offers an well-equipped offensively talented playmaker, capable of scoring from every aspect of the game. A bigger guard at 210 pounds, Billbury is able to drive to the basket on smaller defenders and provide rebounds at the guard position. The Tulsa native averaged 14.4 points and 7 rebounds for ORU last season.Prediction: 13 PPG/ 7 RPG.



**JORDAN BURGESS/ NO. 20**

6-foot-5, 225 pounds  
Hometown: Richmond, Va./ Benedictine  
Position: Guard  
Class: Junior

Possibly the strongest player on the team pound-for-pound, Burgess brings physicality to the game, often times assigned to shut down the opposing team's top playmaker. Burgess, finally healthy, shot the ball well last season, hitting big three's when given the opportunity. His five points and four rebounds average last season will escalate with a heavier role this season.  
Prediction: 8 PPG/ 4 RPG.



**SAMIR DOUGHTY/ NO. 2**

6-foot-4, 180 pounds  
Philadelphia, Pa./ Math Civics and Sciences  
Position: Guard  
Class: Freshman

A late addition into the program, Doughty provides a strong scoring threat for the future. Averaging 25 points per game in high school, Doughty was ranked the NO. 35 point guard in the country and No. 6 player in the state of PA.  
Prediction: 3 PPG/ 1 APG.



**AHMED HAMDY-MOHAMED/ NO. 23**

6-foot-9, 230 pounds  
Hometown: Alexandria, Egypt/ Lee College  
Position: Forward  
Class: Junior

Known by "Hamdy" his presence on the low block will be much needed this season to go along with Alie-Cox. A high motor around the basket and a proven offensive weapon, Hamdy gives VCU the depth it needs down low. Last season at Lee College, Hamdy average 16.6 PPG to go alongside 10.7 RPG. Prediction: 5 PPG/ 7 RPG.



**JEQUAN LEWIS/ NO. 1**

6-foot-1, 180 pounds  
Hometown: Dickson Tn./ Dickson County  
Position: Guard  
Class: Junior

Quick, explosive and great court vision describe the play of the Tennessee native, Lewis is primed to take over the reigns at point guard. Coming off a season where he averaged 8.5 PPG and 2.7 APG, Lewis will be called on to step up big for the Rams. Limiting turnovers will be the focus for him to improve on this season. Prediction: 9 PPG/ 6 APG.



**JORDAN RIULLANO/ NO. 35**

5-foot-9, 185 pounds  
Hometown: Bronx, NY/ Victory Rocky Prep  
Position: Guard  
Class: Freshman

Riullano provides depth at the point guard position for the future. The Bronx native will probably take on a similar role as Burston, observing and adjusting to the game at this level before playing later on in his career.  
Prediction: Redshirt



**JUSTIN TILLMAN/ NO. 4**

6-foot-7, 215 pounds  
Hometown: Detroit, MI/ Pershing  
Position: Forward  
Class: Sophomore

Tillman is VCU's human highlight reel. The most heralded of the 2014 recruiting class, Tillman is a big-time dunk machine. Known for his tenacious defensive ability, he has worked to improve his mid range jump-shot to better contribute on the offensive end. Prediction: Dunks, Dunks, and More Dunks — 6 PPG/ 6 RPG.



## The Breakdown

BRYANT DRAYTON  
Sports Editor

ALL PHOTOS BY BROOKE MARSH

#

12

24

5

20

14

2

11

23

32

1

33

35

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4

10



**MO ALIE-COX/ NO. 12**

6-foot-7, 250 pounds  
Hometown: Alexandria,Va./ Middleburg, Academy  
Position: Forward  
Class: Junior

Known for his abruptive shot blocking capability, Alie-Cox is a bruiser on the lo block. Averaged seven points and six rebounds per game last season. Alie-Cox provides a dominant force in the paint for the Rams on the offensive and defensive ends of the court. His "Mo says No" trademark has resonates across the Stu after each blocked shot. Mo was voted to the Atlantic 10 preseason third team and all defensive team. Prediction: 7 PPG/10 RPG.

**DOUG BROOKS/ NO. 5**

6-foot-4, 195 pounds  
Hometown: Lake Wales, Fl./ Lake Wells  
Position: Guard  
Class: Junior

A lethal shooter that came on late in the season for the Rams last season, Brooks offers instant offense off the bench. Brooks shot 40 percent from the three-point line and 62.1 percent from the field last season. Tallied 14 points against Ohio State in the NCAA tournament game to close the season.  
Prediction: 7 PPG/ 2 RPG.



**TOREY BURSTON/ NO. 14**

5-foot-8, 180 pounds  
Hometown: Richmond,Va./ Trinity Episcopal School  
Position: Guard  
Class: Junior

A scrappy, relentless defender, set to see critical minutes on the court this season according to coach Wade. Probably the fastest player on the squad, Burston's main objective will be to provide pressure in the full court press, forcing opponent's into turnovers turned into fast break points.  
Prediction: 2 PPG/ 2 SPG.



**MICHAEL GILMORE/ NO. 11**

6-foot-10, 215 pounds  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
Position: Guard  
Class: Sophomore

A long, capable scorer for the Rams, Gilmore will be an asset to the offense this season. With an improved jumpshot able to extend to the three-point line, Gilmore provides a matchup problem for forwards unable to move their feet to stick with him. The Florida native shot 48 percent from the floor last season. Prediction: 5 PPG/ 5 RPG.

**MELVIN JOHNSON/ NO. 32**

6-foot-4, 190 pounds  
Hometown: Bronx, NY./ St. Benedict's Prep NJ  
Position: Guard  
Class: Senior

The leader of the team, Johnson is the face of VCU basketball. Johnson was named to the preseason A-10 Third Team, coming off a successful season last year, averaging 12.4 PPG while amassing an impressive 40 percent field goal percentage. The NY native will rely on his three-point shooting to lead the Rams back to an A-10 Championship this year. Prediction: 14 PPG/ 3 APG.



**JONATHAN NWANKWO/ NO. 33**

6-foot-9, 245 pounds  
Hometown: Bronx, NY./ Victory Rock Prep  
Position: Forward  
Class: Freshman

Nwankwo brings a big body to the program, able to learn from Alie-Cox and Hamdy about the position before he is rushed into action. Nwankwo was the No. 19 Center in the country out of high school. Prediction: Redshirt

**GERON SCISSUM/ NO. 22**

6-foot-7, 210 pounds  
Hometown: Huntsville, Ala./ Lee Huntsville  
Position: Forward  
Class: Freshman

Scissum is a lean, high motor big man with a good feel for the game. His best work will come on the defensive end in the future. Averaged 16.4 PPG and 9.0 RPG last season for Lee Huntsville. Prediction: Limited Action/Redshirt.



**JONATHAN WILLIAMS/ NO. 10**

6-foot-1, 185 pounds  
Hometown: Richmond,Va./ St. Benedict's Prep NJ  
Position: Guard  
Class: Sophomore



"Flash" Williams, a nickname deservant due to his lightning quick ability to push the ball, is set to play crucial minutes at point guard. His defensive pressure in the full court press and speed to beat his man off the dribble give him the edge to become a solid point guard for the program. Prediction: 4 PPG/ 3 APG.

ALL PHOTOS BY BROOKE MARSH

# Rams look to defend A-10 Tournament Championship

**PETER MASON**  
Contributing Writer

The pressure is on for men's basketball with the season tip-off being so close.

Last season, VCU won its first championship as a member of the Atlantic 10 conference before making its fifth straight appearance in the NCAA tournament, ultimately falling 75-72 in overtime to Ohio State University. In the 2015 season the Rams will aim for a sixth-straight NCAA tournament appearance.

"Our depth is going to have to really come through for us," said Head Coach Will Wade. "We're going to need to be consistent with what we do and how we approach each game every day. There's very thin margins between being an NCAA tournament team and not. We have the talent to do it, we have the depth to do it and now it's on us to make it happen by getting a little bit better every day."

Wade will take the helm of VCU basketball for his first season as head coach. Wade served as an assistant coach at VCU for four seasons, 2009-13 including the Final Four run, before he went to coach for two seasons at Chattanooga.

"I can't try to beat Shaka Smart," Wade said. "I'm Will Wade, and we're going to run the program how I run

the program and that's what I focus on every day, being the best head coach for VCU that I can be. I think if we can do that and work really hard, good things are going to happen."

The Rams will be tested early in the season with games against Duke University and Florida State University. Duke will come into this season as the defending NCAA champions.

"I'm not too concerned about what they are right now," said senior guard Korey Billbury. "I don't care if you're ranked No.1 or No. 351, you're just not better than the team I'm playing for."

VCU finished the 2014 regular season with a record of 22-9, and a record of 12-6 in the Atlantic 10. In the A-10 Tournament, the Rams were able to claim the championship with wins against Fordham University, the University of Richmond, Davidson College and finally Dayton University. Richmond, Davidson and Dayton all had wins against the Rams in the regular season.

"You can get beaten on any day in this league," senior guard Melvin Johnson said. "Everyone's good, everyone has good players. You just have to prepare well."

The Rams averaged 72.5 points per game last year and in the Atlantic 10 averaged 69.3 points. They also shot an average of 34.3 percent in three pointers. From the free throw line, the Rams

shot an average of 65.6 percent.

"Our guys are ready to play somebody else at this point," Wade said. "We've been playing each other for a long time. I think the time in the summer certainly helped. It used to be you started practice on Oct. 15 and it was a huge deal. Now since we've got the players year round, it's a bit of a continuum. It's a different phase of practice and it's a different phase of work."

Last year in the A-10, the Rams lost six tough matches including two against crosstown rival Richmond. The Spiders came into the Stu last season and defeated the Rams 64-55, then later when VCU traveled to Richmond, they fell 67-63 in double overtime to U of R. They also suffered home losses to opponents like Dayton, in which the Explorers defeated the Rams 74-69 and the Flyers bested the Rams 59-55. All losses where the Rams potentially had the lead, but were unable to hold off their opponents.

"Taking care of the ball is a big thing we've been focusing on this summer," said junior Mo Alie-Cox. "One thing the coach talks about is our effort. We should always be playing hard. If we play hard I think we can compete with any team."

Alie-Cox is one of the returning starters for VCU, starting in all 36 games back in the 2014 season. His defensive presence for the Rams earned

the "Mo says no" chant from the home crowd.

"On defense we always try to pressure the ball at all times," Alie-Cox said. "We're trying to get a lot of deflections and always get our hands on the ball on the defensive end, whether it be blocks, getting in the passing lane. On offense, we're just keeping the floor spread and getting the ball in the post and play a little more inside out than we have been in the past."

"The thing I'm looking forward to the most about this season is probably the home games," said junior guard Torey Burston. "The fans coming out, just the new look, our new defense and new style of play with Coach Wade."

The Rams will begin A-10 play on Jan. 2 with a home game against George Mason.

"Once you get into the conference play, it gets a little rough," Wade said. "We're just working daily to get better. We want to get better in the non-conference based on who we're playing, how we're playing, what we're doing and we'll certainly test some things out in the non-conference play that we'll use for the A-10 play and setting things up in the non-conference that we'll change for A-10 play."



Johnson knocked down 86 three-pointers in his junior campaign last season.

## Transfer Billbury ready to bring "bully" mentality to VCU



Billbury averaged 14.4 PPG for ORU last season to go along with 7.4 rebounds.

**ERIKA ROBINSON**  
Korey Billbury

Excitement: the feeling Korey Billbury has as the season approaches.

Billbury, a redshirt senior guard who transferred from Oral Roberts University came to VCU and surprised everyone with his level of play. While basketball is fun for Billbury, he is also focused.

For him, this is business.

Billbury's excitement for the season to start was validated when he took the court for VCU's Annual Black and Gold game and heard the fans for the first time.

"The amount of love is crazy that they give us and the support they give us," Billbury said. "5,500 people showing up to our scrimmage is absolutely crazy. I never thought that would happen."

Billbury said he hopes to show fans the team is still the same highly

I'm pretty chill and I'm not really like an angry person ... I don't yell and all that kind of stuff.

— KOREY BILLBURY

energetic team that they have been in previous years.

"Just for them to come out and support us like that," Billbury said. "We owe it to them to come out on the floor every game and bust our behinds and get wins and be the program that we've always been."

It should come as no surprise that Billbury has emerged as a sound player for the Rams, he averaged 14.4 points and 7.4 rebounds per contest as well as leading ORU with 206 total rebounds last season. Billbury wants to be viewed by his teammates as someone who leads by example.

"I'm pretty chill and I'm not really like an angry person," Billbury said. "I don't yell and all that kind of stuff. I'd rather let them see me doing something than hear me talking about it, so I feel like that carries a

lot of weight with the guys."

His senior status, experience and quality play has led him to become one of the team leaders. He tries to keep himself consistent to ensure that his teammates know what the standard is.

"They know what they are going to get from me," Billbury said. "They know they are not going to get an up-and-down leader. I'm going to do what I'm supposed to do and handle my business."

Billbury has also been regarded as a "bully" on the court, due to his aggressive attitude and ability to take smaller defenders to the rim without hesitation. His relentlessness to win has asserted him to finding success in the Rams exhibition game. He registered his first double-double of the season with 10 points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

"It felt really good, it felt like home," Billbury said after Friday night's contest. "I haven't played on a team since February so it was just good to get out with the guys I actually like playing with and have good chemistry with."

## VCU holds first tailgate for season opener

**ZACH JOACHIM**  
Contributing Writer

For the first time, VCU plans to designate multiple tailgating areas for the men's basketball home opener and homecoming game Fri. Nov. 13 against Prairie View A&M University.

One of the areas will be between the Siegel Center and the Basketball Development Center.

The Marshall Street tailgate will act as a football-esque event that will be new for VCU. This is the first-ever free area designated by the Rams for fans to show

their support and enjoy concessions. It is also the only open-to-the-public tailgate event scheduled on the season, but the hope is to add more according to VCU Alumni running the event.

From 4-7 p.m. on Nov. 13, Harrison Street will also be closed off for VCU Homecoming's "Chill and enjoy the grill" event. This tailgate will consist of food trucks, a cash bar, T-shirt swap, giveaways and a live DJ. Winning team of the homecoming spirit competition will also be crowned.

According to Tim Lampe, the director of facilities, West Marshall Street will be roped off between Kinney and Norton Streets. Food and beer trucks will be set up in this area, and the doors on the Marshall Street side of the Stu have been outfitted with scanners and card readers so fans can now from that side.

According to Lampe, the idea to close off Marshall is a product of Rams fans asking if the new practice facility would be used for hospitality events. The facility has only one public restroom, so Lampe and VCU compromised

with fans by setting up a pseudo-village area between the Stu and practice facility.

Tents up to 10-by-10 can be allowed to be set up on Harrison, but VCU Alumni (waiting for response about alumni) requests advance notification because they cannot guarantee spots will be available. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for faculty, staff and alumni.

Watch parties will also be held during the game on both Harrison Street and Marshall Street for those who do not have tickets.



The tailgate offers students a "football saturday" experience for the first time.

## Changing of the guard



Williams and Lewis provide speed and athleticisms at the PG position.

—continued from page 1

two guards taking the lead.

"Briante was one-of-a-kind, but this year we plan on coming with the same pressure defensively and as a team hope to be just as effective," Lewis said. "I see us winning a lot if everyone is able to play their role. We're ready to go."

Lewis was unable to provide an instant spark in the exhibition match against California University of Pennsylvania. The junior struggled to get going offensively and turned the ball over early. Williams on the other hand displayed his improved game and ability to act as a floor general, understanding when to push the rock and when to have the offense settle into their offensive set.

I see us winning a lot if everyone is able to play their role. We're ready to go.

— JEQUAN LEWIS

Williams and Lewis combined for most of the minutes at the point guard position of the 96-60 win. Williams performed better, scoring 11 points and two assists to only one turnover. Lewis scored a modest four points, but was able to pass the ball to shooters on the fast break, totaling seven assist in 15 minutes. However Lewis did succumb to three turnovers.

Men’s basketball shakes off slow start to tame the Blaze

—continued from page 1

this team for us to be successful, so it’s more of a shoot-first, think-later mentality for me this year.” Lewis, who is slated to be the team’s leader at the point guard position, struggled early with fouls and had to sit most of the first half. For the Rams, this ignited the duo of sophomore Jonathan Williams and junior Torey Burston. Both played side-by-side, attacking opposing ball handlers, offering a suffocating opposition for the Blaze guards bringing the ball up the court.

The pace of the game changed for the Rams after Billbury finished the assist by Williams off an errant Blaze pass. Wade’s pressure defensively was able to trouble the Cal(Penn.) offense into costly turnovers. Williams recorded back-to-back buckets off deflected passes and scored each in transition extending the lead 38-30 with 1:42 remaining in the first half. The Rams’ pressure on the basketball would continue and VCU kept extending the lead. Sophomore

Mike Gilmore showed off his improved shooting stroke, knocking down three of his seven points at the top of the key, increasing the lead to 44-31 going into halftime.

VCU kept the pressure on as the second half commenced with Johnson getting off to a hot start with a made three point basket, the score increased to 47-31 with 19:00 remaining in the game. “Flash” Williams and Burston would again lead the Ram defense, creating fast break opportunities from turnovers. Billbury cashed in two of his 10 points for the game on an assist by Flash off a Blaze turnover, 55-40 VCU with 12:30 remaining.

“Well, they are the two who seem to want to pressure the ball the most,” Wade said of Williams and Burtson. “(Burston) eats the ball up, I thought he changed the momentum in the first half.”

Alie-Cox had a quiet performance, suffering from foul trouble early as well as a larger defender in Cal(Penn.) Tony Richardson. His replacement, Hamdy-Mohamed, provided a much-needed presence

on the offensive and defensive glass, amassing seven rebounds and six hard-earned points in 14 minutes of game action.

With 5:45 remaining in the game, Johnson would add to his scoring efforts, connecting on the final of his four three-point field goals extending the lead to 75-55. After an Alie-Cox rebound, Johnson received the outlet pass, catching his man in the air to draw the foul on a mid-range jumpshot by the foul line, 79-55 VCU.

The onslaught would continue, with VCU cruising to victory after Williams converted a fastbreak layup to increase the lead to 89-57 with 2:14 remaining. Gilmore would put everyone on their feet in the waning seconds as he was left wide open under the basket, gripping the basketball in preparation for an impressive windmill dunk to end the game.

Johnson converted 20 points for the Rams, leading his team in scoring, while Burgess would go on to score 16 points off the bench on impressive drives to the basket and three-point shooting. Bill-



A deeper bench provides the depth to increase the pace for the Rams in 2015-16.

bury, the Oral Roberts University transfer, finished the game with a double-double accounting for 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Freshman Samir Doughty and junior Doug Brooks did not dress out for the Rams, Brooks for team related reasons and Doughty for

eligibility purposes.

“Defensively we’ve got plenty of work to do, offensively we weren’t perfect we turned the ball over too much, we were a little too jittery,” Wade said. “We are a work in progress, we have plenty of work to do and we have to get back to work

Sunday to get ready to go, because certainly will be a step up in competition this next week or so.”

The Rams return to the Stu to start the 2015-16 season against Prairie View A&M University Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.

Free throw woes have Rams running through the Stu

FADEL ALLASSAN  
Staff Writer

There were 12 minutes remaining in VCU’s crucial cross-town contest against the University of Richmond when former guard Treveon Graham was fouled. With the Rams down 32-39 at the Siegel Center, Graham stepped up to the foul line. As usual, he emitted the confident swagger that you would expect from any team’s leading scorer. With his knees bent slightly, he raised the ball to a shooting position and released toward the basket — the shot did not fall.

Minutes later, with the score at 39-35, freshman forward Terry

Larrier is summoned to the foul line. VCU’s fourth-best free-throw shooter dropped his shoulders, sprung them back up and hurled the ball toward the basket — another miss.

It was an all-too-familiar sight for home fans. The Rams have not averaged higher than 70 percent at the charity strike since the 2012-13 season, a year that saw five players shoot better than 70 percent at the line: Troy Daniels, Briante Weber, current senior guard Melvin Johnson, Treveon Graham and Juvonte Reddic.

Against U of R, the Rams shot 61.5 percent at the line while their opponents eclipsed them with an

83.3 percent conversion rate at the line. Had the Rams had similar success, it’s possible the game may have been a more competitive contest. Instead, the Rams were upset 64-55 against their rivals.

Last season, VCU ranked 292 in the NCAA Division 1 for free-throw percentage, a ranking which exists in stark contrast to the team’s Associated Press rankings, where the Rams were considered one of the top-25 teams in the country for seven weeks of the season.

It’s no secret that VCU’s ability — or inability — to take advantage of fouls has hampered the team’s chances to win games. The Rams shot 65.7 percent from the

free throw line in 2014-15 — the second worst in the Atlantic 10 conference, beating out only Saint Joseph’s University and 14 percent below the best shooting team in the league, Fordham University.

With last year’s two best free-throw shooters still on the squad, the Rams are hopeful the team’s statistics from the line can reflect the habits of two of its current leaders: Johnson — as did the habits of last year’s seniors Graham and Weber -- shot 69.1 percent and 70.1 percent respectively from the line.

The players believe an increased focus on free-throw shooting in practice since the arrival of new head coach Will Wade will mean

improved results. The former Rams assistant under Shaka Smart comes from a University of Tennessee at Chattanooga team that averaged 68.5 percent, just about 3 percent higher than VCU’s last year.

“Free throws are something we’ve been practicing a lot,” Johnson said. “Whenever we have breaks in practice we use the time to do free-throw lines. We’re going to be better at that now.”

Junior forward Mo Alie-Cox echoed the views of his teammate. “That was something we really needed to work on last year and we did a lot independently to all get better, I think we’ll be much better this season,” Alie-Cox said.

Fans of VCU will hope that the players assertions will be affirmed, but only time will tell whether the team can move beyond its free-throw slump.

In the exhibition match against California University of Pennsylvania Friday, VCU as a team shot 62.5 percent (20-32) for the game, compared to Cal(Penn.)’s 71.8 percent (20-27).

“Really disappointed in our free throw shooting,” Wade said. “Not that we missed, but we didn’t stick to our routine to come off the line like we are suppose to, but I was proud we got two free-throw offensive rebounds.”

VCU adjusts to life without Shaka Smart.

New coach, same team, same mentality

SOPHIA BELLETTI  
Staff writer

Attitude. It’s what makes a player, defines a team and determines the outcome of every game.

Everyone loves an underdog story and that’s exactly what VCU has given college basketball over the past few years. The Rams are notorious when it comes to a work-hard, play-hard attitude.

On March 27, 2011, the No. 11 seed Rams caused one of the biggest March upsets in years, when they defeated the No. 1 seed Kansas Jayhawks, 71-61, which led to VCU’s first Final Four birth in program history. VCU became just the third 11th-seed to make the Final Four.

“Once again we felt like nobody really thought we could win going into this game,” said previous head coach Shaka Smart. “Our guys have done a phenomenal job of putting all the doubters aside, all the people that didn’t believe in us, and go-

ing out to do their job.”

On April 3, Richmond’s beloved Smart, the man who turned the River City upside down and into a basketball town, announced he accepted the position as head coach at the University of Texas for the 2015-16 season. With his departure, the outlook for the season without Smart was up in the air.

Any time a team loses a coach who goes only by his first name, it’s a problem. But a lot of recent talk has revolved around who will replace departed seniors Treveon Graham and Briante Weber, as well as freshman Terry Larrier.

With the loss of the coach who put VCU basketball on the map, the team’s leading scorer, a point guard who was on the verge of breaking collegiate records and a top-ranked recruit with promising potential, doubt hovers over the program.

“We’re being doubted because we lost Tre, Bri and Coach Smart — and I think it’s mostly Coach Smart — but some people don’t realize the coach isn’t the one playing the game,”

junior Mo Alie-Cox said. “We have a good head coach now and he proved he can be successful. We just have to go out there and prove everyday we’re a good team and the team we know we are.”

For the first time in two years, VCU didn’t rank in the top-25 in the NCAA preseason rankings.

“It is what it is,” Wade said. “People just don’t know what we have. I think we have a good team and we’ll see what happens. You can’t worry about the preseason poll. The reality is we came in fifth place in the league last year and we lost our leading scorer, it kind of make sense. But they haven’t see our improvements or Billbury or the other guys.”

Despite winning the conference last season, the Atlantic 10’s annual men’s basketball preseason poll predicted VCU to finish fifth. Senior Melvin Johnson and Alie-Cox were all named to the Preseason All-Conference Third Team. Alie-Cox, VCU’s rim protector, was also named to the A-10 all defensive team.

The players recognize the reasoning behind the rankings, but don’t read too far into them. Johnson, the second-leading scorer last season, said he isn’t interested in personal statistics, he just wants to win.

“We’re self-motivated, we’re motivated just to win whether it’s Duke or Prairie View,” Johnson said. “I take the pride

myself, I didn’t really play as well as I could have. It is what it is, but I feel like we’re a really good team and with the coach transition a lot of people are doubting, which is perfectly fine. Guys are internalizing that and it’s fuel to the fire.”

During his last season as VCU’s assistant coach in 2013, Wade took on the role of helping Johnson transition into college during his freshman year. Nearly three years later, Wade said Johnson has matured and sees a successful man and a leader.

Wade has continuously made it a point to turn his players into successful young men on and off the court.

The basketball staff checks in on the player’s classes and Wade meets with every player individually on Tuesdays.

Every Sunday evening, Wade brings in a guest speaker to show

them life after college basketball. Speakers have taught etiquette and how to manage their money.

“I tell my guys there’s a difference between getting a degree and getting an education,” Wade said. “Anyone can come here and get a degree. (I want parents) coming to me at graduation telling me I made their son a man.”

Wade recognizes Richmond has become a basketball city even more since he left and he plans to keep it that way. Players have shown discipline and humbleness, two keys to success.

“Our fans are awesome,” Wade said. “It’s great for the university, players and the students. It’s great for the city to thrive. Our goal is to keep it moving in a positive direction and grow the support, keep people excited and bring new folks.”



VCU is “self motivated” to quiet critics

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## Banana stand on standby, Jeffrey Tambor shares life story

AUSTIN WALKER  
Spectrum Editor

A crowd of energized young student actors, television viewers and intrigued adults piled into the Camp Concert Hall at the University of Richmond as they waited for what promised to be an interesting night with Jeffrey Tambor.

The Emmy-winning artist hosted the part-lecture, part-performance, part-rant titled “Performing Your Life” at the Modlin Center for the Arts on Oct. 28, where he detailed some of his hilarious and tragic history.

Amidst roaring applause, Tambor, dressed in slacks and blue button-up, casually walked onto the stage, but stopped his opening remarks almost immediately. He was beginning to describe how the upcoming lecture came to be, when he decided to tell a story about an interaction he’d had earlier that day. He’d met a man who nearly recognized him, but Tambor pretended to be someone else.

“When I left and I got to the elevator, I heard him talking stuff about me,” Tambor said. “It was not nice, and I felt horrible.”

That was the end of the anecdote: flat and dry. This set the pace for the entire evening, as Tambor lulled between deeply emotional and personal stories to inspirational quotes from old friends and acquaintances, interjected with his exceptionally dry humor.

Tambor is known best for his leading role in “Arrested Development” and “Transparent,” the latter being his portrayal of a late-life transgendered woman. Tambor has been in countless other films, theatrical productions and television roles, with his career beginning at an early age in the ’70s.

He was introduced to the stage

by Modlin Center Executive Director Deborah Sommers, who read a biography that called Tambor an incisive talent that has been entertaining audiences for nearly four decades.

A thread that ran throughout the entire presentation dealt with his overcoming of personal issues, ranging from substance abuse to self-doubt.

“I am the Jewish son of Russian-Hungarian parents,” he said to a timidly-laughing audience. “Happiness wasn’t even on the menu.”

Tambor’s performance was undoubtedly intended to motivate the audience to achieve greatness. He would regularly recite quotes from articles, speakers and friends that talked about the youth’s potential and the purpose of existence.

The atmosphere remained light thanks to Tambor’s snippy humor that regularly engaged the audience, often through insulting them. He would shush the crowd, or ask a question and immediately cut-off the answerer. Some of these incisive comments lacked any humor, and one of the most tense moments came midway through his presentation.

Tambor has worked for 40 years as an acting coach and teacher, and brought some volunteers on stage to demonstrate some of the work that he does. One of the volunteers was a student at U of R, and the other was a faculty member of the school’s theatre department.

Tambor instructed the student to recite lines from “A Letter to Agnes DeMille,” prodding her and frustrating her until she was shouting on the stage, and the crowd wound up applauding her performance. When it became the instructor’s turn, Tambor was annoyed by his attitude, as he dismissed and joked about Tambor’s remarks.

Once he began reciting the same

lines as the student, Tambor was visibly annoyed with his performance. Tambor stopped him short, ending the exercise after telling the instructor that he needs to get out of his head and use his heart instead. The crowd didn’t applaud or laugh, unsure how to react.

Tambor didn’t shy away from self-deprecation either, but he always had an explanation. At one point, he spoke about his father’s experiences with the Holocaust, being Jewish, and how he instilled a fear of celebration in Tambor.

“Don’t say anything. Don’t say anything. They’ll take it away from you,” Tambor said, quoting his father. “This actor, when he was walking up to receive his Emmy, was shushing himself.”

Tambor clearly wanted the audience to believe in their own abilities and strive for greatness. While he was an actor, and many of his stories related to him auditioning, being on set or discovering his passion for acting, he would always try and make it relatable to people going for different fields.

Still, at various points throughout the evening, Tambor would ask for the actors in the crowd to raise their hands — a command which garnered wide response. He encouraged these aspiring students to meet with him after the show.

Actors and non-actors alike were a part of the question and answer session before Tambor left the venue. People asked him questions about his fondest memories on set, advice on beginning careers and one VCU student extended an open invite to come to the university to speak.

Tambor ended the night with one of his character’s most memorable quotes:

“There’s always money in the banana stand!”



ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL TORRACA

## HI Richmond introduces first hostel to the river city

FADEL ALLASSAN  
Staff Writer

Travellers, students, vagrants and more are all invited to Richmond’s first hostel, which opened its doors right before the UCI Worlds.

Unlike a hotel and its extravagant amenities, guests are welcomed by a modest doorway leading to a narrow staircase with the words “Hi, let’s spend some time together” printed on the adjacent wall. It isn’t until patrons walk up the staircase that they find themselves in the lobby.

This is only one part of a chain of worldwide hostels called Hostelling International. The organization has hostels in over fifty countries. In August, they opened ‘HI Richmond,’ adding the River City to its collection of venues.

Hostels aren’t anything like hotels — a hostel is a low-budget, sociable version of a hotel, where guests can book beds instead of rooms, often sharing their room with strangers. While some may find this uncomfortable, the idea behind it is that guests can meet strangers to tour with while in a foreign city or country.

“We have a different concept of privacy in the United States than they do in Europe. We like to have our own space and keep

to ourselves,” said Ethan Ashley, the general manager of Richmond Hostel. “With a hostel, it doesn’t allow you to be completely by yourself all the time. But that can be an advantage, because you get to meet new people and share tourism information.”

Hostels typically attempt to reflect the culture and history of the location in which they reside. The Richmond hostel is no different: The words “Richmond” and “RVA” are decoratively displayed on the walls throughout the hostel as a tribute to Virginia’s capital. The walls have kept their uncolored brick and wooden appearance from the days when the building was a women’s prison — though viewers of the building today may find this hard to believe.

Although there is plenty of decoration and furniture in the lobby and kitchen in the hostel, the occupancy spaces are more modest in their design, and most rooms give the guests the essentials: a bed (sometimes a bunk), a window and a communal restroom.

Junior interior design major Noshin Faruque, who inspected the interior of the hostel as part of a class visit, felt that the design of the hostel did justice to the historic aspect of the city.

“I think it’s a beautiful space for people to communicate,” Farque said. “The living space is comfortable too, it’s very eye catching. It definitely has a rustic style, with a little bit of city life. It feels like you’re on the railways by the river. It’s very southern, you wouldn’t see an interior that looks like this in New York.”

The idea of a hostel is relatively obscure, but the independent hostel industry is rapidly growing in cities around the world. According to the New York Times, during the 2008 economic crisis, as hotels across the United States reported low occupancy rates, hostels found that their occupancy rates had risen.

While Hostel International originally bought the midtown space in 2007, plans to build the hostel had to be put on hold due to some of the company’s internal setbacks. The hostel was finally completed in August, in time for the UCI Road World Cycling Championships in September.

“We didn’t get as much business as we expected during the bike race. I think a lot of local companies had that problem as well,” Ashley said.

Like many of the residents in it, the hostel is still adjusting to life in Richmond. As a non-profit, the costs not used to maintain



PHOTOS BY FADEL ALLASSAN

One of the bedrooms at “HI Richmond.” Hostel bedrooms are often shared with strangers.

the hostel are given back to the community. The hostel hosts community events for its temporary residents as well as locals. The hostel will also be working with Habitat for Humanity while some members come to

Richmond engage in community service.

For now, Ashley is focusing on his efforts to spread word of the new hostel not only so it can have more guests in the future, but volunteers as well.

“We’re still new so we don’t have many volunteers but we’re working to find more,” Ashley said “It’s rewarding to volunteer with us. Volunteers can earn free stays at any hostels and other amenities.”

## Shaferbird Feature

Shafer Bird is part of the Mesh Media Network, a division of VCU Student Media. The Shafer Bird team works to bring the VCU community menu updates and original content, including reviews of on- and off-campus restaurants. [www.shaferbird.com](http://www.shaferbird.com)

### Quality Over Quantity at Black Hand Coffee Co.

Café / Coffeehouse



“The fresh tomato and pesto really makes their bacon, egg and cheese stand out from its competition. While they don’t offer the variety that can be found at Lamplighter, the quality of their minimalist menu is better than Lift. Overall, if you’re going to Black Hand for fantastic coffee, you won’t be disappointed if you get hungry.”

— GRANT SMITH



PHOTO BY GRANT SMITH

A cup of coffee at Black Hand Coffee Co.



PHOTOS BY FADEL ALLASSAN

One of the lobbies at the new hostel in downtown Richmond. Rooms like these allow for patrons to socialize with others during their stay in the city.

# A glimpse at the work of VCUarts visiting faculty

ADRIEL VELASQUEZ  
Contributing Writer



An installation piece by Roger Beebe, visitor for VCUarts.



Daphne Fitzpatrick places materials on a wall for a piece.

## Roger Beebe

Roger Beebe was a guest lecturer presented by the VCUarts department of Photography and Film who gave a lecture on Oct. 9 at Candela Books + Gallery. Beebe is an associate professor at the Ohio State University. He has screened his films around the globe with solo shows at the Laboratorio Arte Alameda (Mexico City), the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and dozens of other venues. Beebe is also a film programmer.

### WHAT ARE YOU SPECIALIZED IN AND WHAT DID YOU TEACH VCU ARTS STUDENTS WHEN YOU CAME TO VCU?

I'm a filmmaker and one of the things I'm best known for is my multi-projector performances (using up to eight projectors total, including six 16mm projectors). One of those film performances is what I did during my visit to Richmond.

### WHAT INSPIRES YOUR ART?

Whether I'm shooting original footage or using some kind of found footage from popular media or old educational films, I think what I'm most inspired by is exploring the ideologies embedded in those texts and places and objects that make up our everyday lives. I'm interested in the world around us and I use experimental forms to explore our collective blind spots in that world. But I can also equally be inspired by just some idea about material and trying to do something with the film itself or a specific camera or a new technique that I've never tried before.

### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU GIVE VCU STUDENTS TRYING TO BREAK OUT IN THEIR ART FORM?

Persevere. It took me about five years to start making films that I feel were/are really working. I was very fortunate to have a supportive context around me as I was doing those five years of exploration, and it allowed me the positive feedback and encouragement I needed to continue making work, but I've seen too many people give up before they find their idiom or their project. The world doesn't always make it easy to hang in there.

## Christian Patterson

Christian Patterson is an artist who gave a lecture on Oct. 27 in the Student Commons here at VCU. Patterson is a photographer who often accompanies his photography with drawings, paintings, objects or sound. His work Redheaded Peckerwood won the 2012 Recontres d'Arles Author Book Award and is not in its third printing.

### WHAT ARE YOU SPECIALIZED IN AND WHAT DID YOU TEACH VCU ARTS STUDENTS WHEN YOU CAME TO VCU?

My work is most often pre-conceptualized and begins with photographs that are the heart of the work, and are then surrounded, complemented and informed by other mediums and other materials — and depending on the project, these things could include documents, objects, paintings or readymade sculptures. I work with both appropriated and original materials, and I freely mix the two. And crucially, I also never indicate the source of my materials. There is often a certain expectation of truth and representation associated with the medium of photography, and this is a real gift to me and my work. The preconceived notion of truth and the expectation of a certain reality in fact end up creating endless opportunities for me to do whatever I want, after the fact — to fracture things and explore the spaces in between; to create my own little world in my work.

### WHAT INSPIRES YOUR ART?

A natural curiosity, a juvenile sense of humor, an interest in materials, an appreciation for the endless possibilities found between fact and fiction, an obsessive nature and a wild imagination.

### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU GIVE VCU STUDENTS TRYING TO BREAK OUT IN THEIR ART FORM?

Sleep a lot, dream a lot, follow your imagination, have fun and take your time.

## Ernesto Pujol

Ernesto Pujol was a visiting lecturer who came to VCU on April 11. He gave a workshop titled "Performing the Human Spirit: Reclaiming Religion as Credible Material for Art Making in the West." It was presented by the Marcia Powell Festival of Religion and the Arts at VCU.

### WHAT ARE YOU SPECIALIZED IN AND WHAT DID YOU TEACH VCU ARTS STUDENTS WHEN YOU CAME TO VCU?

I am a performance artist, but I only did graduate art studio critiques, during a special visit, giving creative feedback to the students on a multitude of different ambitious projects.

### WHAT INSPIRES YOUR ART?

The evolving flow of the human condition and the sustainability of American democracy, which needs space for silent reflection about our past, present and future.

### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU GIVE VCU STUDENTS TRYING TO BREAK OUT IN THEIR ART FORM?

I would not use a "break out" expression. It is a life practice, not a business practice. My advice in developing their art work, in addition to an intellectual life and skills, is to foster interiority in order to find their voice as the foundation to finding the voice of their society.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA WALTHALL

## Other Visiting Artists

### Nir Evron

Evron is a Tel Aviv-based Israeli artist who opened a new solo show at the Depot Gallery on Nov. 6. On Oct. 5, he held a lecture presented by VCU Photography and Film at the Depot that dealt with kinetic imaging. Evron has been included in group exhibitions at venues such as the New Museum, New York; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, and more. He explores the intersections of history and media, time and technology, and the relationship between the documenter, the documented and the viewer.

### Daphne Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick is an American Contemporary artist who held a lecture presented by VCU Sculpture and Photography and Film at the Depot on Nov. 2. She comes from Long Island, New York, and has had solo exhibitions at Bellwether, New York and La Galleria at La MaMa, New York.

### Nayland Blake

Blake held a lecture at the Student Commons Theatre on Nov. 5. The lecture was presented by VCU sculpture and extended media. Interracial desire, same-sex love and racial and sexual bigotry are recurrent themes in Blake's sculptures, drawings, performances and videos. In 2012, Blake was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship, which is intended to award artists who have demonstrated great ability in their craft.

### General Sisters

General Sisters presented a lecture on Nov. 3 at the VCU Fine Arts Building presented by VCU Sculpture and Extended Media. General Sisters is a general store located in North Braddock, Pennsylvania, which focuses on feeding the community by confronting the racial and economic injustices evident in the national food system, and working actively to change them.

# InLight plans to ignite RVA on Friday, Nov. 13 at the VMFA

SOPHIA BELLETTI  
Staff Writer

InLight, 1708 Gallery's biggest event of the year, is returning to Richmond at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for the eighth consecutive year Nov. 13-14.

A public exhibition of light-based art and performances, InLight invites artists to a particular neighborhood, attracting audiences to various areas of Richmond.

1708 Gallery was founded in 1978 by VCU faculty, including current dean of the VCU School of the Arts Joe Seipel. The faculty was looking for a space to show more experimental contemporary art. The original gallery was located at 1708 E. Main St. in Shockoe Bottom, and moved to its current location in the RVA Arts District in 2001.

To celebrate the gallery's 30th anniversary in 2007, the faculty wanted to do something new and

exciting. Several board members had attended "Nuit Blanche" in Paris, an event that takes over the city from dusk to dawn and fills Paris with light-based installations. 1708 Gallery was inspired to do something similar in Richmond, so they held the first InLight in September 2007.

On Friday, the event will begin with the Community Lantern Parade and will feature performances, sculpture, video and interactive projects that will illuminate pathways, walls, sidewalks, green spaces, trees, benches, building facades and more in and around the VMFA.

As a nonprofit art space, 1708 Gallery works to present contemporary art, with a particular focus on emerging artists and artists with innovative practices.

"The thing that distinguishes us from a commercial space is we're not set up to make money from selling artwork. We don't plan shows that way," said Emily Smith, the executive director of

1708 Gallery. "Instead, we think about giving artists a platform to try new stuff, so we fund the projects with installations support, as opposed to selling the artwork."

Each year, InLight is held at a new location. In the past, it was held at the Canal Walk and in Monroe Park, but this year it will be hosted by the VMFA, with installations displayed on the inside, the front lawn and sculpture garden of the museum.

For the first time ever, InLight has been expanded to a two-night event. After countless remarks about the disappointment of missing InLight, 1708 Gallery took on the challenge on expanding its availability to more people.

"If there was ever going to be an opportunity to have the support and the structure to do it two nights, the (VMFA) would be the place to do it," Smith said. "They have the capacity for audiences and the ability to make it

happen."

Each year, a juror is chosen to select artists to showcase their work. 1708 Gallery aims to invite jurors from outside the Richmond metropolitan area to preserve an objective process, and this year they chose Alex Baker.

Baker currently resides in Philadelphia where he is the director of the Fleisher/Ollman Gallery. He has organized exhibitions such as "Outsiderism," "Eugene Von Bruenchenhein: Time Produced Non Better" and "Department of Neighborhood Services: Isaac Tin Wei Lin, Barry McGee." Before that, he was the senior curator of contemporary art at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Melbourne, Australia, 2008-2012.

Proposals from artists are split

evenly by local artists and national artists. Richmond residents Matt Lively and Tim Harper created an interactive piece that is powered by participants. It was created with all found objects and the light portion is a strobe that animates a drawing of a hummingbird.

"Tim's miniature kinetic sculpture inspired me to ask him to collaborate on a lighted, scaled-up version of what he does," Lively said. "He uses only found objects and engineers them to move in a repetitive and wobbly way by a wind-up mechanism or a crank. I thought we could cause the movement to manipulate shadows and or animate the movement."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRY BROWN



Visitors participate in the Community Lantern Parade at last year's InLight. Each year, InLight provides new opportunities for audience participation.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRY BROWN

## what's happening

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[fri & sat, 11/14 – 15]

**day cave**  
[sun, 11/21]

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[sun, 11/29 12pm – 12am]

#### MCV Campus Rec

[wed, 11/25 6am – 4pm]  
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# Disney’s Midas touch isn’t lost on Newsies at the Altria

AUSTIN WALKER  
Spectrum Editor

The smash-hit musical “Newsies,” which depicts the story of paper-boys in early 1900s New York, made its debut in Richmond at the Altria Theater. With the splendor of a Disney theatrical production, the musical was undoubtedly a success.

Point to the quality of the actor’s singing, the intricacy and fluidity of the set changes or the Tony-award-winning choreography and you’ll find few qualms that have a drastic impact on the overall pleasure of the show.

Twenty-five-year-old Joey Barreiro makes for an excellent Jack Kelly, the smooth-talking unionizer that stands up to the vicious media mogul Joseph Pulitzer (played by seasoned actor Steve Blanchard). While Barreiro’s dancing took a backseat to the exceptional ensemble at times, his voice and emotion didn’t leave a dry eye in the audience during his dejected songs, namely “Santa Fe” and its reprise.

Blanchard doesn’t do outstandingly well singing “The Bottom Line,” but his stage presence, in both his appearance and his voice, solidifies him as Pulitzer. His wife and assistants aren’t in any way distracting and allow Blanchard to use his boisterous voice to convince the audience of just how evil he really is.

Daughter of Pulitzer and aspiring journalist Katherine was played by Morgan Keene, who despite seeming timid at points with her voice and movement, managed to release beautiful belts and proved to be quite convincing in her overwhelming romance for Jack Kelly.

Kelly’s nurturing mother-figure Medda Larkin, played by Aisha De Haas, hits her notes with ease in “That’s Rich,” and serves as an endearing interlude to the violence and noise of the first act.

Christopher Gattelli’s choreography that netted the musical a Tony award back in 2012, coupled with the highly mobile and grandiose stage, makes for a spectacle sure to excite, exemplified especially in “The World Will Know” right before intermission.

The newsies make for an exceptional ensemble, with effortless aerials and layouts that kept the energy high and made for smooth transitions between scenes. The tap number during “King of New York” lived up to expectations, and they nailed the infamous dancing on the newspapers scene from the movie.

The show’s message about busting up big media in support of the little guys falls somewhat on deaf ears given Disney’s position as one of the world’s wealthiest and widest-reaching media corporations. The immense production quality of

“Newsies” is almost bittersweet as you realize the show’s initial budget of \$5 million was only made possible by buying up ownership for countless show’s rights and charging immense fees for independent performances.

Still, “Newsies” accomplished

“The newsies make for an exceptional ensemble, with effortless aerials and layouts that kept the energy high and made for smooth transitions between scenes.”

exactly what one would expect from a blockbuster Broadway tour: It was extravagant, filled with exceptional dancing, excellent singing and hair-raising set design, with a young romance that’s nearly tragic made possible by performances by skilled actors.

VCU students can purchase a discounted ticket before the show’s closure on Sunday, Nov. 8.



Members of the show’s ensemble dance to a live orchestra.



The cast of “Newsies” does a toe touch leap. The show won a Tony award in 2012 for its choreography, and the some of the original Broadway cast remained in the ensemble for this tour.

# F\$S

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Officers have the responsibility of treating all individuals, whether they are suspects, victims or passersby, with dignity and respect during incidents and investigations.”  
—COREY BYERS

# Better late than never

MONICA HOUSTON  
Opinion Editor

Throughout his presidency, the Black community has faulted President Barack Obama for his lack of involvement in the Black community. Dr. Cornel West said Obama is “the first black president [to] become the first niggerized black president ... A niggerized black person is a black person who is afraid, and scared and intimidated when it comes to putting a spotlight on white supremacy and fighting against white supremacy.”

This is an acceptable accusation as the surge of blacks being murdered by law enforcement increases and we continually see the system abusing its power and incarcerating our men. In reality, however, most federal decisions that hold police authority accountable aren’t solely made by the president; they must go through Congress first. With the recent “Ban the Box” campaign, the black community should be thankful for the president’s attempt to make a change during his last days in office. Better late than never.

Over the summer, Obama became the first sitting president to visit a federal prison to help bring attention his prison reform agenda. “Ban the Box” is a pledge to do

more to address the problems of mass incarceration, police brutality and mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent offenders. Obama has announced other initiatives to improve the rehabilitation and re-entry of former inmates into society, including education, housing grants, and partnerships that would provide jobs and training in technology.

During his trip to El Reno Federal Prison in Oklahoma in July, Shane Smith, co-founder and CEO of VICE revealed the statistics of how federal mandatory minimum laws have disproportionately hurt poor and minority communities. One in three black men will spend time in prison while only one in 17 white men will. Smith asked Obama in the September interview, “is the criminal justice system in America racist?”

In response, Obama discussed the implications of a racist justice system on society. “I think the criminal justice system interacts with broader patterns of society in a way that results in injustice and unfairness,” Obama said. “The system, every study has shown, is biased somewhere institutionally in such a way where an African-American youth is more likely to be suspended from school than a white youth for engaging in the same disruptive

behavior, more likely to be arrested, more likely to be charged, more likely to be prosecuted aggressively, more likely to get a stiffer sentence.”

Bobby Reed, a first time offender with a life sentence and no parole said in an interview with VICE, “Good people make bad decisions, but you shouldn’t be punished for it for life.”

The government should not fault people for their mistakes so harshly. They are simply a product of their environment and when all they know is poverty and struggle, it is incredibly easy to get caught up in the system. When the system is forcing you into a category, it is hard to escape. You need the opportunity to escape before you can make a change.

When someone becomes a convicted felon, the system denies you a job, denies you money, and denies you food stamps, housing, education, and the right to vote. They deny you every opportunity to improve your life and make a change for yourself by punishing you for life whether behind bars or back on the streets. United States citizens do not exist under “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” That is a lie and hypocritical. The system is designed for us to fail.

In attempt to combat this fail-



ing system Obama said, “Let’s follow the growing number of our states, and cities, and private companies who’ve decided to ban the box on job applications so that former prisoners who have done their time and are now trying to get straight with society have a decent shot in a job interview.”

Without actions like this, the cycle of stereotypes will continue. When men are forced to spend years behind bars it not only affects them, but their families and children as

well. Years of their life get taken away and they become even less of a “human” in the eyes of society.

I have witnessed the type of growth and change a person can experience and it does not take five, ten, or a life sentence for a person to learn their lesson — especially for something as minor as a nonviolent drug offense or theft. It takes one humbling moment to realize life is too precious to waste behind bars — especially when you have someone to live for.

Obama’s “Ban the Box” is an effort to allow a conversation between employers and job seekers before they disclose past history. It gives them a chance to make an impression before being judged for past mistakes. Go to [changeofcolor.org](http://changeofcolor.org) to sign the petition to urge President Obama to implement a federal-level reform for the criminal justice system without Congress.



MIKAELA REINARD  
Contributing Columnist

Donald Trump may be one of the most outspoken candidates for the presidential elections thus far; however, the words that come out are derogatory and full of hate. He has stayed in the media and continues to surge despite a large sway of dismay towards him. I’ve had enough of Trump and I know many feel the same way towards the candidate.

Trump is doing well in the polls because he has no ties to the current political system. Like Ben Carson, with his medical background, this lack of prior involvement in politics brings comfort for people seeking change. For those who support Trump, they see someone with no connection to the current issues they are frustrated with, allowing him to look like the best option possible.

During his most recent act via Twitter on Nov. 3, he retweeted

a series of photographs which depicted Jeb Bush and read “ADIOS, JEB aka JOSÉ!” The photographs show Bush wearing a sombrero while playing a guitar next to a cactus, a swastika, and photo-shopped as Forrest Gump.

Not a stranger to Twitter, Trump also reheated a feud with Megyn Kelly of Fox News. The morning of Nov. 4, he tweeted “Isn’t it terrible that @megynkelly use a poll not used before (I.B.D.) when I was down, but refuses to use it now when I am up?”

In response, Megyn Kelly tweeted “@realDonaldTrump — Facts matter.” Kelly also responded to the obscene comments directed towards her after she questioned Trump about his treatment toward women by stating, “Trump will not apologize, and I certainly will not apologize for doing good journalism.”

Trump is also known for his past statements in various debates where his hurtful, derogatory

words were left to resonate in the minds of the American people. Some are in favor of Trumps views, but more often than not, most wish that he had not entered the presidential election. Trump has continually cut off people speaking, calling them naïve or telling them to not be naïve. He has stated that “our country’s going to hell.”

Trump claims that he’s concerned about everything in terms of the United States, but from what he talks about, all he seems concerned with is spitting rude remarks towards women, the Hispanic population in the United States, and anyone else that veers away from his picture-perfect view of his utopic American society.

“I have tried to give a great deal of latitude to Donald Trump in his for the presidency,” said Erick Erickson, editor-in-chief of RedState.org and past political contributor for CNN. “But there are even lines blunt talkers and unprofessional

politicians should not cross. Decency is one of those lines.”

Conservatives such as Erikson have been veering farther and farther away from Trump’s candidacy ever since his obscene comments towards Kelly back in August.

The fact of the matter is Trump has done nothing but shine a negative light on himself by verbally attacking people and being a misogynistic, self-absorbed man of the “upper class” who ultimately cares about how much money is in his wallet. Albeit, countless amounts people continue to follow him and believe his views are what America is. I strongly believe in the notion “to each their own,” but I also believe that every person in the United States deserves to be equally cared for and should have a president who cares for them just as much as they care for their country. This country would be nothing without the people who embody it, most of whom are immigrants.

## VCU PD Column: Police Training

COREY BYERS  
Public Information Officer, VCUPD

How police officers treat a person during traffic stops, arrests, pursuits and other interactions has been an issue that’s dominated national headlines. At Virginia Commonwealth University, police officers and police administrators are keenly aware that community members have concerns about how they personally will be treated by law enforcement, should they be stopped.

Officers have the responsibility of treating all individuals, whether they are suspects, victims or passersby, with dignity and respect during incidents and investigations.

Recently all 92 VCU Police officers completed a course on fair and impartial policing. This is distinctly different from diversity training because participants learn that everyone, no matter who they are, has biases. Taught by instructors with Fair & Impartial Policing LLC, officers learned how to recognize human biases, how biases affect behavior and how biased policing negatively impacts a department and the community.

According to Anna Laszlo, the chief operating officer of the company, bias is a normal human attribute. Her research-based training explores how some biases are explicit (openly expressed by an individual) while others are

implicit (feelings or snap judgments lingering below a persons’ consciousness).

Biases about how people look, what they’re wearing or how they act can lead to a misinterpretation of an individual’s intentions. Laszlo’s goal for VCU PD officers was to have them recognize when bias is kicking in and to override it with controlled behavioral responses.

Laszlo’s training uses a well-known, pop culture example of how biases can be extremely misleading. A YouTube clip from 2009 shows the introduction and performance of Susan Boyle on the television show “Britain’s Got Talent.”

Boyle is judged on her looks and how she speaks; she’s clearly not taken seriously by the audience or judges. However, when she starts singing opera, everyone’s reactions reverse. One judge later admits to being cynical upon first seeing Boyle; another calls Boyle’s performance “stunning.”

The message Laszlo’s in training for officers? “Beware: gut reactions might be based on your biases.” The fair and impartial police course also drove home a key point for VCU Police, one that Chief John Venuti feels very strongly about: procedural justice and the fair treatment of every person leads to police legitimacy – the core of community trust.

Law enforcement agencies usually offer this type of training after an alleged bias-based incident occurs. However, it can also be offered without an incident to prompt it. For VCU, it’s the latter.

Since 2010, when Venuti became chief, the department has had dramatic decreases in the number of complaints against officers, use of force by officers and a decrease in bias-based complaints. He considers these stats as positive indicators of an overall organizational change.

Relationships between police departments and communities are under a microscope and a national movement is underway to make agencies more transparent. VCU Police is actively a part of that movement and, in addition to training, is looking at broader ways to serve VCU in the best ways possible.

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama issued a task force report on 21st Century Policing. VCU Police is implementing ideas from the president’s report into actionable items for the academic year and beyond.

Boosting the department’s website ([police.vcu.edu](http://police.vcu.edu)) has been one of the ways VCU Police is making task force recommendations a reality. The main page on the site has quick links for visitors to make a suggestion or complaint, report hate crimes and report a bias based

incident by an officer.

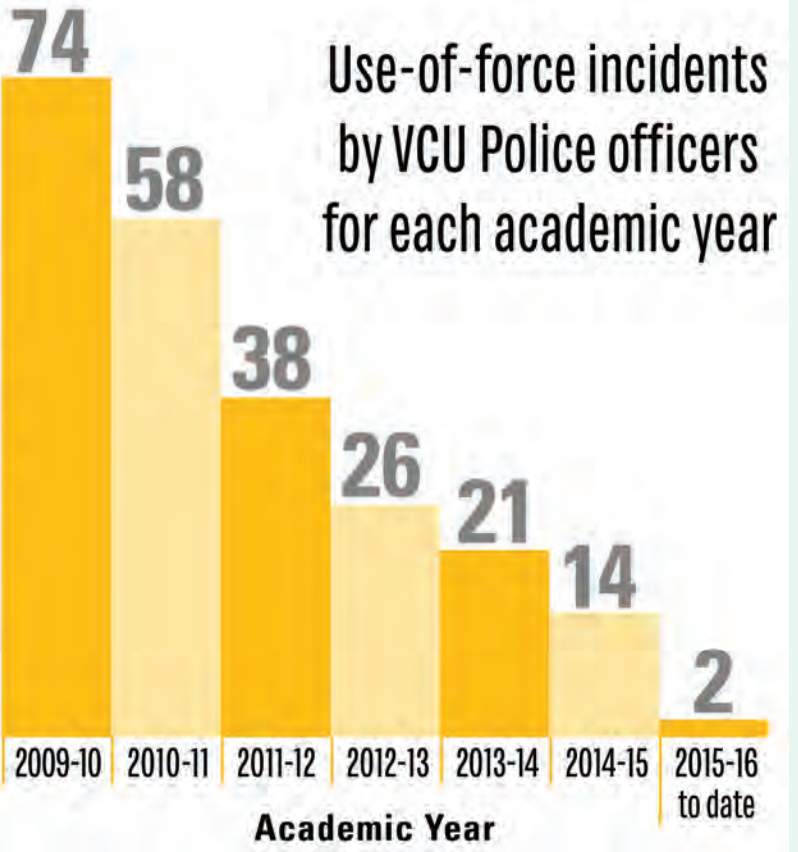
Visitors can also review a breakdown of the demographics of sworn officers, review a copy of the department’s annual biased based policing review and access numerous department policies.

Venuti has a theory about the future of American policing: Departments will have to track operations by collecting accurate data on themselves and use the information as performance indicators. Law enforcement agencies can no longer tell communities what they’re doing — they need to tell people what they’re doing and prove it with valid, accurate data.

The chief has made it a cultural expectation within VCU Police to rely on data. Here are a few examples:

A few years ago VCU PD initiated a bi-annual perception of safety survey for VCU students, faculty and staff. The latest results show that more than 96 percent of respondents feel “safe” or “very safe” on VCU’s campuses. Feedback is used to deploy patrol officers to where respondents feel less safe and to plan for outreach programs and operations in the months ahead.

People who have contact with officers receive surveys on their experience; the feedback is rou-



tinely reviewed by supervisors and officers are given feedback on their job performance.

The department routinely receives requests for crime stats, not only from the media, but from student journalists and researchers. Crime stats are reviewed by the chief and his executive staff every week to determine the best ways to deter and prevent crime and how to help community members boost their personal safety.

Policing is a two-way relation-

ship between the individuals who serve as officers and the individuals who make up VCU and the surrounding communities.

Through training, partnerships and developing best practices for community policing, the VCU Police Department wants to make sure every interaction with an individual is fair, impartial and positive. Ideas from our students, faculty, staff and neighbors are always welcome.

The History of Modern Cheating by Gareth Bentall



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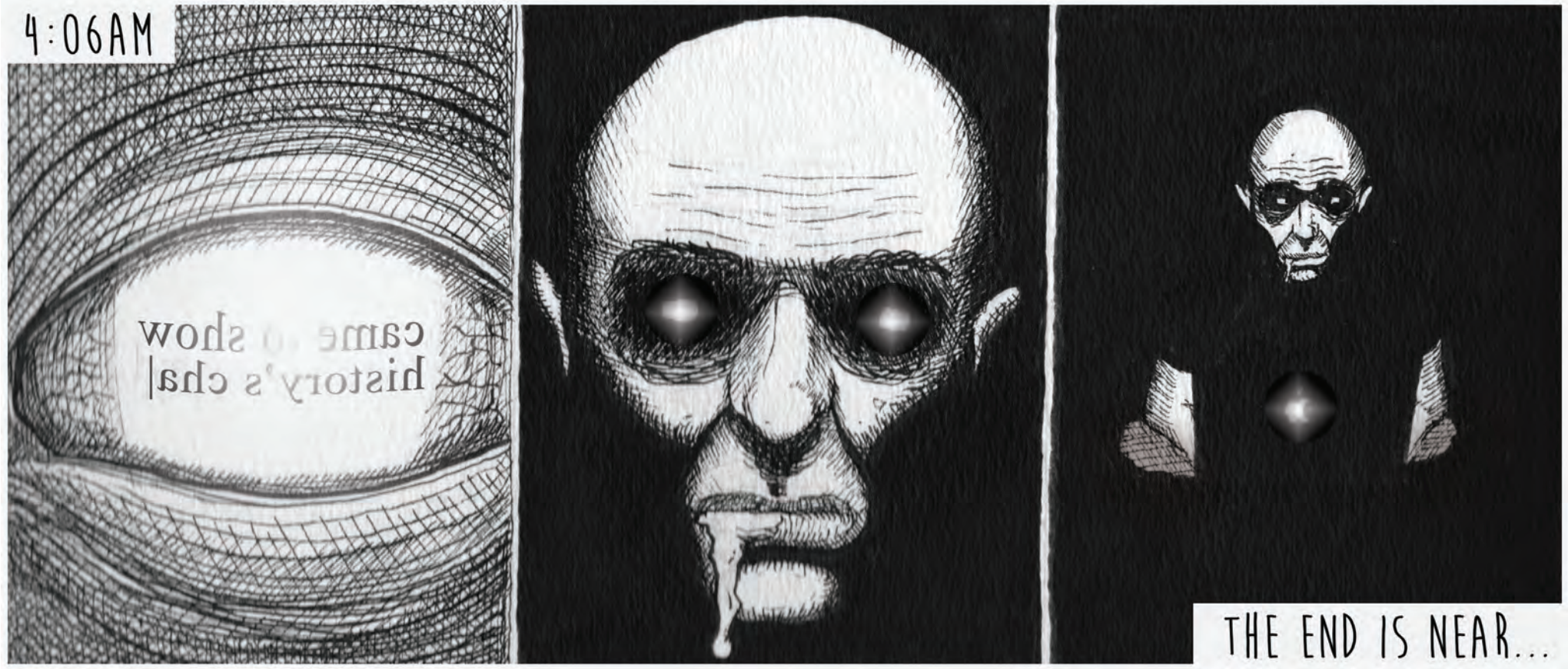
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# I Just Know It by Skye Lim



# The Studios Dead by Benjamin Winans



# Nobody Likes Cyclists by Sarah Morley



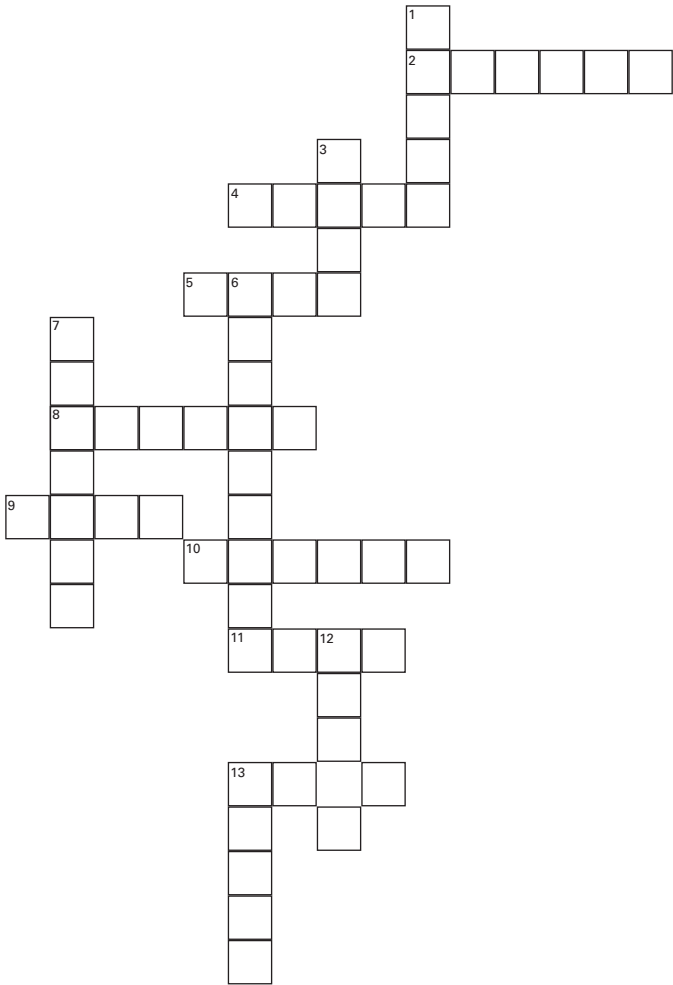
# PUZZLES

## Across

- 2. When a player passes to a teammate who then scores
- 4. An attempt to score in sports
- 5. Last name of VCU's new coach
- 8. You get points when the ball goes here.
- 9. To slam a ball through the basket from above.
- 10. Accumulation of a double-digit number total in one of five stat categories
- 11. When a player distributes the ball to a teammate
- 13. Greatest Of All Time

## Down

- 1. Rectangular area on the court within the key
- 3. Not man-to-man
- 6. A high pass caught by a leaping teammate who tries to dunk the ball before landing
- 7. Gaining hold of such a ball after a missed shot
- 12. When an defensive player takes the ball from an offensive player
- 13. Point and shooting



## Answers to last week's puzzle

- Across:  
2. Sturtevant  
4. Loser  
5. McEachin  
6. Gecker

- Down:  
1. Durfee  
3. Morrissey

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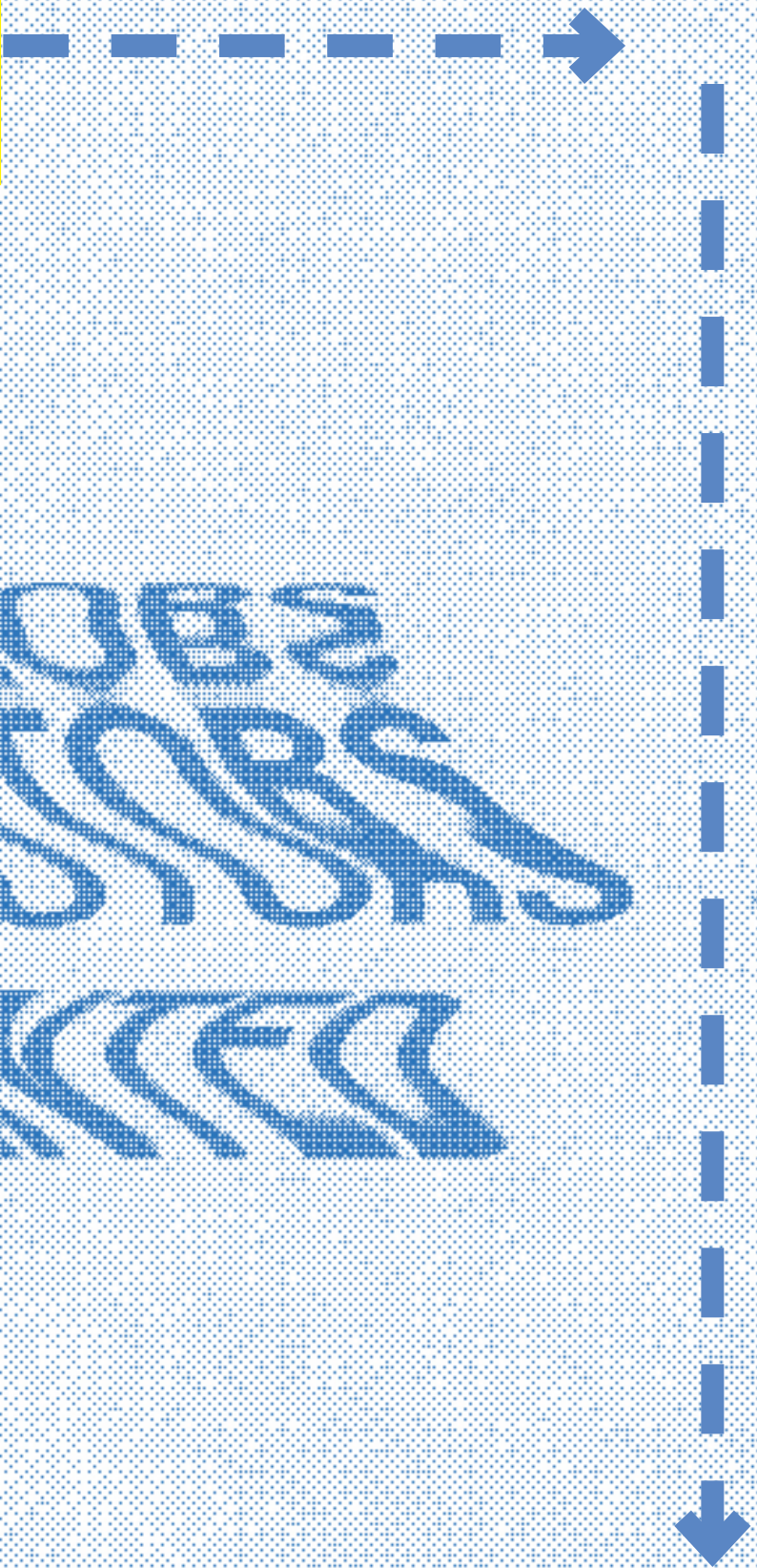
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