



Cheaper online degrees: “a lofty goal.”

MATT LEONARD
Print Managing Editor

Virginia is considering using online degree programs as a means of potentially making higher education more affordable and convenient, despite experts' claims that effective implementation will be difficult to achieve.

House Bill 2320, proposed by Delegate Ben Cline (R-Lexington), tasks the state with studying how to implement online degree programs in conjunction with Virginia universities at a tuition cost of \$4,000 per academic year “or such cost that is achievable.”

“The goal is to start a new conversation about higher education in Virginia,” Cline said. “A conversation about making college more affordable for Virginians.”

Cline said he envisions a system where students will graduate with a degree from the university where they took the majority of their online classes, but he hopes the standards will be the same across

Virginia's universities.

Currently, the most affordable way to achieve a degree in Virginia is to start at a two-year institution before transferring to a four-year school, which can be done for around \$26,000, according to a report released last month by The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. In other words, schools would have to cut that price by \$10,000 to achieve the goal of \$4,000.

Programs like this will make university degrees and education more available to more people, according to Cline, but individuals on the university-level are worried about the financial burden placed on the institution for creating degree programs at such a low price.

“It’s a lofty goal,” said Juanita Sharpe, assistant vice provost for academic and faculty affairs at VCU.

Currently, VCU’s nursing and clinical laboratory science programs are the only degrees offered online. These tracks offer more convenience for students — allowing them to graduate in three years if they come

in with the right prerequisite classes, Sharpe said. But VCU, like other universities in Virginia charges the same price for online degrees as it does one that is earned in an offline setting.

“To do distance education well is not cheap,” said Gardner Campbell, who heads the strategic use of digital technologies at VCU.

There are unseen costs that people might not think about for online classes.

“One of the great things about distance education is it can erase barriers of time and space, but time and space still exist,” Campbell said.

There are the obvious costs the school would incur for more online classes: hardware and software, namely. But Campbell points out that when there is not a classroom setting there needs to be a “complex communication system” to help students when their technology isn’t working or when they don’t understand an assignment.

“So that’s why in the end it’s not really cheaper in

every case to go online,” he said.

Though the implementation of the proposed goal could be difficult for schools to comply with, Campbell says he understands why the legislation was brought to the table in the first place: the rising cost of college and college debt. The SCHEV report called the program “innovative and worthwhile” and Campbell agreed, but there are some things that are going to need to change before it is implemented.

The report laid out its main areas of concern fairly clearly: How will the state increase the number and variety of online degree programs? How will the the state identify the areas that aren’t currently covered by existing programs? How will the state identity student demand? And, perhaps most importantly, how will the state reach the low-cost goal?

Campbell said that increased state funding for a project like this would make the vision more realis-

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XC runs from the competition

ZACH JOACHIM
Contributing Writer

The VCU men’s and women’s cross country team opens its 2015 season Sept. 1 in Richmond at the Christopher Newport University exhibition meet.

Heading into the fall, the men’s and women’s squad presents drastically different outlooks.

Last year’s Atlantic-10 championships saw the men’s team

post three top 100 finishers in the 8k, all of whom were seniors and have since graduated. The women on the other hand posted four top-100 finishers in the 5k, all under-classman who will return this season to once again run for the Rams.

Although the men do not return a top-100 finisher from the A-10 Championship, juniors Austin Lushinski (103rd) and

—continued on page 4



Junior Austin Lushinski looks to power surge men’s XC this season. The team competes on Sept. 1 at CNU.

RVA born and bread: Sandwich Week stacked high with savings

AUSTIN WALKER
Spectrum Editor

Five-dollar hoagies, heroes, reubens and burgers beckoned locals inside popular establishments from downtown to the Fan last week during RVA’s annual “Sandwich Week.”

The weeklong event ran from Aug. 24-31, and was sponsored by Style Weekly. This year, 28 Richmond eateries were featured.

Some businesses slapped beef tongue on a bun, others went with prosciutto and mozzarella, but all the restaurants kept their prices low and doors open for one of the RVA’s more-recent, but highly anticipated traditions.

The event saw a larger guest turnout this year than in 2014, with options ranging from Italian to Pan-Asian. Places that don’t even specialize in sandwiches came up with something for their menus to take part.

Ipanema, a vegan and vegetarian cafe and bar on Grace Street near the VCU campus, participated this year by serving three grilled tofu sliders topped

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One year later, not enough

MONICA HOUSTON
Opinion Editor

One year after the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown, protesters returned to the streets of Ferguson, Missouri. The death of Brown catalyzed nationwide movements like “Black Lives Matter,” which attempted to bring awareness to police brutality against minorities but there has not been nearly enough change to the system.

Change and accountability is crucial if we want to see a reduction in the deaths of American citizens. I can only wonder why the number of deaths due to lack of police accountability has increased over the years. A police officer’s first responsibility needs to be to protect and serve. Is that not their motto?

The African American community protested and rioted following the case of Michael Brown.

But a year ago, Brown robbed a convenience store using excessive force against the owner as he walked out. By no means do I believe Brown deserved to die, but he was not completely non-violent, either.

We owe due justice and just as much of our attention and respect to those who posed no potential threat as an alleged precedent for their death.



Eric Garner, who was choked to death by an officer for trying to sell cigarettes.

Sandra Bland, who ended up dead in her jail cell because she made an illegal lane change.

Sleeping 7-year-old Aiyana Stanley-Johnson who was shot in the head when officers knowingly raided the wrong side of a duplex.

Jamycheal Mitchell, who died in his jail cell for an alleged \$5 theft.

And these are only a few.

Reports of other African Americans fatally shot at the hands of a white cop seemed to skyrocket following the attention garnered by Brown’s death.

Protesters marched in memory of Brown on the anniversary of Ferguson, but they were mostly

fed up with the fact that nothing is being done about the racial targeting of African Americans by law enforcement.

Despite events in cities like Cleveland and Baltimore, there is still little change between police authorities and minorities.

The Obama administration and Congress are trying to improve how police officers are responding to minorities by providing incentives to departments that adopt reforms. Congress is also trying to enforce the use of body cameras and reduce the militarization of police departments.

It is absolutely ridiculous that law enforcement is not being held accountable for the very lives they are suppose to protect. The FBI’s website reports that “During

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Campus Connector hours change

Beginning Saturday, Aug. 29, the Campus Connector will operate from:

6:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Monday through Friday



8 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Saturday and Sunday

UCI update

The VCU PD will reroute traffic near two intersections on VCU’s Monroe Park Campus between Tuesday, Sept. 1, and Friday, Sept. 4. Two pedestrian bridges are being constructed to accommodate pedestrian traffic during the UCI Road World Championships:

Pedestrian Bridge 1
W Main St between N Cherry St and North Harrison St

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 1
Wednesday, Sept. 2

No parking: W Main between N Cherry and N Harrison.

Pedestrian Bridge 2
The intersection of W Franklin St and Shafer St

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 3
Friday, Sept. 4



No parking: W Franklin between N Harrison and N Laurel.



In this section: #ItCanWait. Title IX training. UNIV291 bike race classes. Diversity Task Force. SCHEV report.

briefs

NATIONAL
Standoff over gay marriage licenses wears on, despite ruling

A clerk in a rural Kentucky county continued to refuse marriage licenses to same-sex couples Thursday in defiance of a mounting pile of federal court orders that reject her claim that her Christian faith should exempt her from licensing a gay union.

The United States Supreme Court, which two months ago legalized gay marriage across the nation, will now be asked to consider whether Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis can continue to deny marriage licenses until her appeal is complete, a process that could drag out for several more months.

Days after the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage ruling, Davis announced that her religious convictions prevented her from sanctioning a gay marriage. She refused to issue licenses to any couple, gay or straight.

Brief by the Associated Press

Ruling could ease way for unionizing at fast-food chains

It could be easier for unions to bargain for better pay and working conditions on behalf of millions of workers at McDonald's, Burger King and other fast-food chains after a National Labor Relations Board ruling on Thursday.

The ruling, which came from a case involving a waste management company and its staffing company, refines the board's standard for determining when parties can be identified as employers.

The decision could have broader implications for unions that have struggled to organize workers at fast-food restaurants, which are often run by franchisees who consider themselves small business owners, but pay fees and adhere to standards set by companies like Wendy's and Yum Brands, which owns KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell.

Brief by the Associated Press

Lawyer: Former franchisee alerted Subway about Fogle

A former franchisee alerted a Subway advertising executive in 2008 about her concerns about pitchman Jared Fogle, according to her lawyer.

Cindy Mills exchanged phone numbers with Fogle after they met at an event, said Robert Beasley, a lawyer in Florida who represents Mills. After Fogle began talking about paying for sex with minors, the lawyer said Mills alerted a regional Subway contact in Florida where her business was based.

Later, he said Mills alerted Jeff Moody, who was in charge of the Subway Franchise Advertising Fund Trust, which handles the company's marketing.

Subway did not respond to a request for comment late Thursday. The company has said it does not have a record of the complaints by the former franchisee about Fogle, which were previously reported by Business Insider.

Brief by the Associated Press

LOCAL
Black Lives Matter boos Washington mayor's anti-crime plans

The boos began as soon as Washington's mayor said she was putting more police officers on the streets in neighborhoods affected by violent crime. They didn't let up for the next 18 minutes as Democrat Muriel Bowser laid out her plans to address an increase in homicides in the nation's capital.

Shouting "Jobs, not jails!" and "More police is not the answer!", the protesters accused the mayor of failing to address the root causes of violence and advocating for policies that would do more harm than good.

There have been 103 slayings in the District of Columbia this year, a 43 percent increase over this point last year and just two fewer than in all of 2014. The increase in violent crime has represented the first real crisis for Bowser, who took office in January and pledged a "fresh start" for the city after her predecessor was dogged by campaign-related scandals.

Brief by the Associated Press

On-air shooter threatened to make 'headlines,' showed anger

On the day he was fired from a Virginia TV station, Vester Flanagan pressed a wooden cross into his boss' hand as two police officers walked him to the door. "You'll need this," he said.

More than two years later, Flanagan — fulfilling a threat to put his conflict with co-workers into "the headlines" — gunned down two station employees during a live morning broadcast, one of them a cameraman who had filmed his firing.

But as station employees struggled Thursday to explain the events that framed Flanagan's anger, others who had run across the gunman in the time since he lost his job at WDBJ-TV described a man whose hair-triggered temper was increasingly set off by slights that were more often imagined than real.

At a bar in Roanoke, the manager recalled Flanagan was so incensed when no one thanked him as he left that he sent a nearly 20-page letter, lambasting employees' behavior.

Brief by the Associated Press



Student Katy Feldhahn drives through Dallas, Texas using a virtual reality simulator from AT&T's "It Can Wait" campaign.

Virtual reality simulator puts students in the driver's seat

MARGARET CARMEL
Multimedia Editor

Students experienced the potential dangers of using a cell phone while driving by sitting inside a virtual reality simulator in the Compass last Friday.

AT&T and Drive Smart Virginia are cosponsoring a statewide tour of college campuses showcasing the technology to raise awareness of distracted driving. AT&T's

"It Can Wait" campaign began in 2010 to encourage drivers to keep their full attention on the road.

In May, AT&T reported 61 percent of drivers either glance at texts or actively engage in texting while operating their vehicle. Braun Research Inc. conducted the AT&T-commissioned study by polling 2,067 people in the U.S. aged 16-65 who use their smartphone and drive at least once a day.

Students who took part said the

simulator provided a valuable experience.

"I definitely learned a lesson from this simulator experience. I know I should not be texting and driving, and it's not worth it," said freshman Galal Beshir, who took part in the virtual simulation of potential consequences for using a cell phone while driving.

Drive Smart Virginia public relations coordinator Rich Jacobs said she hopes the event achieved

its intended goal.

"We're trying to change the attitude towards distracted driving, just like people's attitudes were changed about drunk driving decades ago," Jacobs said.

Virginia drivers can visit www.ItCanWait.com where they can pledge to keep their eyes on the road, not on their phones, and share their pledge via Twitter (#ItCanWait) and Facebook.



Bike enthusiasts Liz Canfield and Erin White will teach one of the 26 courses offered UNIV291 courses offered during the world cycling championship races in September. Their course is entitled, "Race, gender, sexuality cycling."

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

Students registered for UNIV 291 will study topics specific to the UCI race, with curriculums ranging from social media and events, to teamwork and racing, to poetics of public space the week of Sept. 19-27.

The courses cost students \$50 and are a pass/fail one-credit. Professors and their departments got \$3,000 in professional development money as well as being paid \$3,000 overload for teaching the class.

There are about 350 students enrolled for the 26 courses, according to Gardner Campbell, dean of VCU's University College.

Students' projects will be composed into a "book" consisting of multiple websites. As the week of the race approaches, greatvcubik-

eracebook.net will be accessible to view students projects to keep up with the race. Also, the #theworldsatvcu on Twitter will provide updates during the event.

"(UNIV 291) was a web of things that came together. I had the idea that was the hub of it all, but so many people contributed to it," Campbell said.

Campbell said the intention of UNIV 291 was to create courses that didn't create anxiety or stress for students, but were more concerned with learning about new topics.

"People responded beautifully. I am very excited about that," Campbell said.

VCU's Office of Community Engagement announced the idea of one-credit courses fusing the bike race into their field early last spring to professors in each department.

"We were challenged to submit a proposal for a meaning-

ful class, either online or in the classroom," said Judi Crenshaw, the communications and development relations director and also the UNIV 291 professor for social media immersion.

Crenshaw said the proposals for each course then had to be approved by individual deans, heads of schools and the Community Engagement Office.

During the week of the race, students in Crenshaw's class will be required to post on their respective social media platforms. Students are also encouraged share other students' and sponsors' posts to generate as much publicity as possible.

VCU's Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies department is teaching a course as well. Bike enthusiasts Liz Canfield and Erin White are co-teaching race, gender, sexuality cycling. The goal

is for students to think critically about the intersections of cycle culture, race, gender, sexuality and ability.

"We started by asking ourselves, 'What kinds of bodies are acceptable engaging in a public exercise like cycling?'" Canfield said. "And that led to a really cool conversation about the regulating ways in which people are either encouraged to publicly display their bodies engaging in exercise or discouraged."

Students in race, gender, sexuality cycling are required to post online and engage in auto-ethnographic work during the week of the bike race.

"What I want out of it is a chance to use a digital format to converse with students around these issues," Canfield said. "My hope, then, is that our students exit this experience with a critical eye toward sport."

One third of new students completed Title IX training

ANDREW CRIDER
Contributing Writer

Of VCU's 8,762 new students, 24 percent of graduate and 33 percent of undergraduate students have completed the mandatory Title IX training by the prize-eligible deadline of Aug. 25.

To encourage early course completion, VCU offered students the chance to win free parking for completing the course by Aug. 25, according to interim assistant dean Katherine Hill. On Sept. 15, there will be another drawing for a free iPad.

President Michael Rao announced all incoming students would be required to complete the hour-long series of online videos and quiz questions intended to teach students how to prevent and handle Title IX violations in an Aug. 3 email to the university community.

"As soon as (students) are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recognize the warning signs of any type of sexual violence then they are going to be more equipped to help a friend if they see those kind of situations and hopefully prevent the situation," said Hill.

Resident assistants, campus television monitors and VCU social media platforms are dispersing information regarding the course.

"We want to make sure that students know that this training is an opportunity for them to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills needed to end violence on campus," Hill said.

The office of student affairs predicted some students would feel uncomfortable with certain topics addressed in the videos.

Aside from defining consent and educating students on how to prevent rape, the course provided training for bystanders to a variety of dating abuses.

"I thought it shed light on what most people shy away from," said freshman computer engineering major Mason Smith-Timberlake.

"Most people that I've talked to said they haven't done it." Smith-Timberlake said that he thought some students failed to complete the course because they were uncomfortable about the topic, or simply did not know the course was required.

An Aug. 12 email to new students from Chuck Klink, interim vice provost for student affairs, warned the videos could trigger post traumatic stress for students who had, or knew someone who had, encountered dating violence.

Students who are experiencing emotional difficulties with the course are encouraged to contact The Well and university consulting services.

The office of student affairs is not alarmed at the completion rate as they believe that the new freshmen class has simply been too busy to complete it.

"I think it's been a very busy time of year so some students may not have prioritized this yet," Hill said.

Until spring semester, the office of student affairs will continue to send reminder emails, and track completion by V number. Although the course is required, as of now there is no penalty for failure to complete the training.

"I think it's kind of like throwing the wool over something that needs to be discussed," Smith-Timberlake said.

PHOTO BY JULIE TRIPP

PHOTO BY BRODIE MARSH

Rao’s Diversity taskforce delivers recommendations

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

Despite having one of the most increasingly diverse undergraduate student bodies in Virginia, fewer Richmond-area minority students are enrolling at VCU than in previous years.

Black students are particularly affected by the trend. In four years, VCU saw a 32 percent decline in black students who enrolled from school districts in central Virginia. In response to the trend, President Michael Rao established a task force in August 2014.

Former VCU president Eugene Trani and Vice President for Inclusive Excellence Wanda Mitchell co-chaired “The President’s Task Force on Innovative Recruitment of Underrepresented High School Students from central Virginia” to examine the issue and give recommendations for the institution to reverse the trend.

“I asked this taskforce to develop thoughtful strategies and recommend ways that we will remain a recognized leader in diversity while ensuring that the transformational educational experience of our national research university is available to all qualified students — especially those who live, work and learn in central Virginia, and are most likely to remain here as leaders in our region,” Rao said in a message to the VCU community.

About 11 months after Rao announced its inception, the group completed its work, giving six recommendations.

Among the recommendations was support for VCU’s decision to no longer require students with a high school GPA of 3.3 or higher to submit SAT scores in their college application, with the exception of certain STEM-based fields of study.

When Rao announced the university’s decision in January, he cited VCU’s and independent research claiming racial and socio-economic biases were inherent to the test.

“When it comes to SAT, there’s the issue of cost: first of all it costs money to take the exam in the first place,” Trani said. “Beyond that,

students from wealthier families often score better because their parents pay for them to take prep courses. Students from lower-income families usually do not have that opportunity.”

The task force also recommended the university give a substantial amount of financial relief to students from central Virginia. The task force told the university it should reserve 20 percent of its financial aid funds for students from central Virginia, in addition to prioritizing those students for scholarships.

“We felt that there were real disadvantages to central Virginian students to serving financial aid on a first-come first-serve basis,” Trani said. “A lot of these school districts do not have the staff help to train students and parents on how to complete the FAFSA that districts from Northern Virginia do. The students are turning their forms in later, and receiving less aid,”

It was also recommended that VCU build a strong relationship with area school districts by having regular interactions with superintendents, principals and counselors. It was also pushed to offer high-school students in the area on-campus classes that could translate to credit hours in college.

“We felt that we needed to do more outreach to students from local school systems, maybe they needed more familiarity with our institution and the great things it provides to its students,” Mitchell said.

Lastly, the task force recommended that VCU provide internships, career exploration services, enhanced advising and encourage students to participate in living-learning programs.

“Their recommendations — which I fully endorse — mark a clear path forward for enhancing the diversity of our student body and the likelihood that more of our students will succeed, graduate and become the leaders and catalysts who will transform Central Virginia in profound ways,” Rao said.

Rao has continually stressed the university’s efforts to maintain a diverse environment in all aspects, but while VCU prides itself on a diverse student body,



VCU President Emeritus Eugene Trani (left) and Vice President for Inclusive Excellence Wanda Mitchell (right) co-chaired the “Taskforce on Innovative Recruitment of Underrepresented High School Students from central Virginia.”

questions were raised about a lack of diversity in the university’s faculty in a report by vice president Mitchell to the Board of Visitors in December 2014.

In the fall of 2014, about 49 percent of VCU’s undergraduate students were white, but about 74 percent of the teaching and research faculty was white. While black students were about 17 percent of the undergraduate population, 4.6 percent of the faculty was black. Eight percent of the student body was hispanic or latino while only 2.6 percent of the faculty was.

VCU’s teaching and research faculty had 1,653 White professors, 289 Asian, 105 Black and African-American and 57 Hispanic and Latino professors in the fall of 2014.

Rao addressed the issue in his State of the University Address in 2014, stating that VCU

is “strengthening efforts to recruit and retrain “premier underrepresented faculty members.”

As a part of those efforts, the university has brought on a national consultant to examine the issue.

Task Force recommendations

1. Continue to implement a standardized test-optional admission process for freshman applicants who meet specific criteria. VCU should work on getting the word out on the program to high schools in Central Virginia.
2. Designate 20 percent of the need-based financial aid of the institutional awarded funds for students residing in

Central Virginia, and allow this institutional need-based aid to increase as tuition increases.

3. Work with deans and chairs to highlight scholarships to students from Central Virginia as a priority.

4. Grow stronger partnerships with the school districts of Central Virginia.

5. Work closely with the school districts to offer

college credit-bearing classes, at no charge.

6. To promote student retention and graduation, VCU should structure and provide internships, career exploration, enhanced advising and academic programming, and encourage participation in VCU’s living-learning programs.

VCU alum awarded Legion of Honor medal

AP NEWSWIRE

The president of France pinned his country’s highest award, the Legion d’Honneur, on three Americans and a Briton on Monday, saying they “gave a lesson in courage” by subduing a heavily armed attacker on a high-speed train carrying 500 passengers to Paris.

President Francois Hollande said that while two of the Americans who tackled the gunman were soldiers, “on Friday you were simply passengers. You behaved as soldiers but also as responsible men.”

One of the men who helped to foil the train attack and earned the award was Mark Moogalian who is a 1988 VCU graduate and a Midlothian, Virginia native. He earned a Bachelors of Science in psychology.

Hollande pinned the medals on U.S. Airman Spencer Stone, National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos, and their longtime friend Anthony Sadler. All took part in subduing the gunman as he moved through the Amsterdam-to-Paris train with an assault rifle strapped to his bare chest. British businessman Chris Norman, who jumped into the fray, also received the medal.

The Americans looked earnest and slightly overwhelmed — and a little under-dressed — for the unanticipated event in the ornate Elysee Palace. Their short-sleeved polo shirts and khakis contrasted with the gilded and velvet-curtained ceremonial hall as Hollande read out their names one by one — and kissed them on each cheek, in French style.

Public funds could make program possible

—continued from page 1
tic. The current bill has only asked for the state to research the idea, which means there was no mention of state funding.

“At some point,” he said, “without public funding for what’s recognized as a public good it’s like saying we’re going to have more and cheaper cars, but everyone’s

going to buy their own. Well how’re you going to do that?”

Cline said he hopes the program will receive seed funding from the next legislative session. The Secretary of Education has to report to a number of committees with a final plan by Oct. 16, 2016. Cline has been in conversation with his colleagues about funding

the program and hopes the Appropriations Committee will see it as a worthy investment for the state.

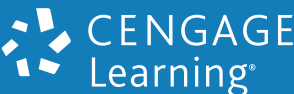
When asked what he thought possibility was that universities would receive more funding in the next legislative session, Campbell said he had no comment.



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what’s happening

program details, rates, and locations at recsports.vcu.edu

OAP weekly activities

belay clinic

mon – fri [7 – 9 pm]

SUP

mon [through – 10/26]

kayak pool

tues [through – 11/24]

kayak clinic

wed [through – 11/18]

manchester wall climb

wed [through – 11/18]

mountain bike

thurs [through – 11/19]

peak experience

thurs [through – 11/19]

backpacking weekend

[sat & sun, 9/12 – 13]

beginner white water rafting weekend

[sat & sun, 9/12 – 13]

ARC cpr/aed/fa

full certification

[Sept 16 & 17, 5 – 10pm]

AHA cpr/aed/fa

[Sep 19, 9am – 4pm]

adult swim lessons

register [9/14 – 9/28]

session [9/28 – 10/23]

children’s swim lessons

register [9/9 – 10/2]

session [10/3 – 11/7]



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STAT OF THE WEEK
Freshman Kelly Graves scored and assisted in her first collegiate match to give women’s soccer a 4-2 win over ODU.

Men’s soccer prepares for tough matchups

AUG. 28 VCU FALLS TO AKRON 3-2 IN OT

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

The Rams will take on each of the top-three ranked teams in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America preseason poll this season. Eight of VCU’s first 10 opponents are ranked in preseason.

Head coach Dave Giffard considers the team’s 2015 non-conference schedule the toughest in the country.

VCU, not ranked in the top-25 preseason poll, lost 1-0 at home to North Carolina State University in their only exhibition match on Aug. 22. VCU men’s soccer coach Dave Giffard used the opportunity to give 27 of his players time on the field.

“It was good to get out and play against another college team,” Giffard said. “We got minutes for a lot of guys and we were able to see where we are at this point in preseason. Now we have a week to work to get better and improve some things, especially in the attack.”

VCU opened the season at SportsBacker Stadium against No. 25 ranked University of Akron on Aug. 21, then against No. 21 Coastal Carolina University at home on Aug. 23. This week, they will travel to California to play the No. 16 ranked University of California on Friday, Sept. 4 and No. 8 Stanford University on

Sunday, Sept. 6.

Later in September, VCU will take on each of the top three teams in succession across an eight-day stretch: No. 3 Georgetown University at home Sept. 17; defending national champion No. 2 University of Virginia at home Sept. 21 and the top-ranked team, University of California Los Angeles, on Sept. 25.

Giffard hopes to make improvements on offense, as the team struggled to get goals last year, scoring only 18 goals in 20 games to finish with a 7-8-5 record.

“You can look on the outside and say, boy, it was a tough year,” Giffard told the Richmond-Times Dispatch. “Well, it was in that we didn’t score as many goals as I thought we were capable of, but we also gave up the fewest goals in the history of VCU against probably, at that point, the best schedule in the history of VCU and were among the leaders in the country.”

Maintaining defensive stability will also be a priority. Last year the Rams only allowed 14 goals, as the team finished in third place in the Atlantic-10 regular season standings.

The Rams will see the return of two crucial defenders that helped keep eight clean sheets last season: junior Juan Fajardo Ortiz and senior Denis Castillo, both made the A-10 preseason team this year. Senior goalkeeper Garrett Cyprus will also return.



Sophomore midfielder Rafael Andrade Santos forces Akron’s Adam Najem out of bounds.

VCU’S UPCOMING MATCHUPS FOR AUG. 30-SEPT. 6.

AUG. 30
NO. 21 COASTAL CAROLINA
5 P.M.

SEPT. 4
@ NO. 16 CALIFORNIA
7:30 P.M.

SEPT. 6
@ NO. 8 STANFORD
6 P.M.

Rams volleyball ready to spike this season



VCU volleyball is primed for its upcoming season at the Siegel Center

MARCUS BLACKWELL
Staff Writer

VCU’s volleyball team will kick-start its season Aug. 28, playing against Purdue University. It will be the opening match of the Mortar Board Premier, with VCU playing three matches in two days on the Belin Court at Holloway Gymnasium.

The Rams are coming off a 17-13 season (9-5 in the Atlantic-10) and were also A-10 semifinalists. VCU returns eight letter-winners and have added four new freshmen to the team.

Head coach Jody Rodgers is back for her third year, alongside last year’s statistical leader in senior Kalah Jones, who returns after averaging 3.27 kills last season. Key contributors returning for the 2015-16 season includes senior Uzoamaka Ibeh, and sophomores Jessica Young and Rebekah Strange; the three also lead the team in blocks and digs last year.

The two assistant coaches remain the same, as Chad Gatzlaff (third season, Minnesota State ’09) and Tim Doyle (second season, Ohio State ’10) return

for another year on the coaching staff for the Rams.

Former VCU walk-on Janelle Sykes won’t be returning for this season. Sykes went out with a bang last year as a senior, being named First Team All-A-10 Conference and VA SID First Team All-State. Sykes’ volleyball career won’t be coming to a close anytime soon as she has inked a deal with Azeryol Baku of Azerbaijan’s Super League, considered one of the top national leagues in European volleyball.

Rodgers said she is proud of her former middle blocker, but not surprised.

“This is all on her,” Rodgers said. “It’s exciting for her and kudos to her for working her tail off and making people around her great.”

Sykes isn’t the only Ram moving on to play professionally, as Cecilia Aragao signed a contract with Calcit in Slovenia a week after Sykes signed her deal. Aragao has graduated prior to her garnishing First Team All-A-10 and Second Team All-State honors.

Aragao is excited about the potential success to be had in her

upcoming professional season away from VCU.

“I had incredible people around me, other VCU athletes and coaches from my past, friends and family that gave support and confidence that I shouldn’t stop,” Aragao said. “I’m really excited that a great opportunity came my way.”

With Aragao moving on, the setter position is now up for grabs, as the Rams are looking for one of the younger players to step in and pick up where Aragao left off.

With these players graduating, the Rams have transitioned to a younger roster. Rodgers is calling on her older players to embrace the leadership role for the upcoming season.

“I told them that you’ll have a lot of young players this year that you’re going to have to guide,” Rodgers said. “I want my leaders to embrace that.”

Jones won’t be satisfied with anything other than a championship this season.

“We’ve had second place, we want to win, and we want a ring,” Jones said.

New Beginnings: Briante Weber seeks return

BRYANT DRAYTON
Sports Editor

For some, “everything happens for a reason” is a phrase that helps them get through the day. For Briante Weber, it’s a mantra to live by that acknowledges the road ahead offers more long-lived joy than the pain of the past.

VCU’s former basketball star Briante Weber suffered a grim knee injury on Jan. 31 this year, costing him the latter portion of his senior season and a potential all-time record for most steals in college basketball.

Instead, Weber observed from the bench as his team won an Atlantic-10 Championship and an NCAA Tournament birth. Through it all, the Chesapeake native understood his role as a leader on the team and knew it was up to him to keep the heads of his teammates elevated, as their season wasn’t over – even though his was.

“It takes a strong person to actually play that role and to not think about themselves,” Weber said. “I knew this was bigger than me since there is no I in team.”

Weber’s senior season may have come to an end, but his professional career still shows promise in the near future. Known for his tenacious defense and high motor, Weber was sure to find himself on a NBA roster before his injury occurred. Now he has an obstacle in front of him that he is certain won’t hold him back once he is healthy.

“I’m about to hit the six-month period, so that’s when I’m able to do a lot more cutting,” Weber said.

It’s been six months since the knee injury occurred, and his knee is finally mobile and strong enough for his return to the court.

Suffering a torn ACL/MCL in sports is a demoralizing trend that is growing rapidly amongst athletes, especially in basketball. All too often, a player is found lying aimlessly on the court, after falling victim to a damaging knee injury – this fate hampered 100,000 athletes in the U.S. this past year.

According to the Andrews Institute of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, there are at least 4.5 ACL injuries a year in the NBA, with no fewer than three.

An ACL tear has a recovery process of one year to fully repair and strengthen the knee back to its normal state. The hardest as-

pect about the recovery process is not so much the physical damage, but the mental.

“It has definitely made me a patient person, because in this whole process you have to have patience and resilience,” Weber said. “Like God says, ‘when one door shuts another door opens,’ it just made me a humble person and it’s been a great experience for me the whole time.”

NBA teams have reached out to Weber, understanding his recovery process is at a point where teams can conduct workouts and meetings for him to understand what’s demanded from him in the NBA.

“I had two visits where I went to the Indiana Pacers and Utah Jazz,” Weber said. “In the near future I should be going to Miami (Heat) and maybe Oklahoma City (Thunder).”

Weber remains hopeful in his recovery process to soon be able to get directive rehab to get the ball rolling again.

“Every day is a new beginning, you choose how it begins and you choose how it ends

— BRIANTE WEBER

Weber’s in-game statistics were not the tell-all for the production he displayed on the court for VCU the past three seasons. His superb leadership ability with his intelligence at the point guard position, gave former head coach Shaka

Smart a trusted floor general proven to control the pace of the game through his relentless attack on both ends of the court. His 4:1 turnover ratio this past 2014-15 season gave the senior a strong case for prospective NBA teams.

“Most teams said they like the way I distribute the ball, the way I get the team in the offense and the way I run the show,” Weber said. “I’m trying to bring a level of tenacity as a defender and all around team captain.”

During the Rams A-10 tournament run, no other player had a bigger smile on his face than Briante Weber. As he sat adjacent to the court, with his crutches thrown over the bench as he hobbled on one leg, constantly coaching and encouraging, his exuberance spread all throughout the Barclay’s Center. His cunning smile and energy brought excitement to the rest of the team to see its stricken leader hurt but not defeated.

“No matter if I’m playing or not, I can always uplift my team with my voice and my words of encouragement,” Weber said.

“New Beginnings” is what Weber called his current mindset; he said he’s looking to the future. He said he hopes to get back to 100 percent and show the NBA what Ram fans will cherish for years to come.

His name will be in the rafters at VCU and his legacy undoubtedly will continue to live on once he finds his home in the NBA.

“Every day is a new beginning, you choose how it begins and you choose how it ends,” Weber said. “That’s my hashtag forever – New Beginnings.”



Weber’s teammates console him after the A-10 Championship

Women’s soccer drops two of three in season opener’s



Freshman phenom Kelly Graves, center, wins the header over College of Charleston defenders

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

VCU’s women’s soccer team played another close match Aug. 28. The College of Charleston traveled to SportsBackers Stadium and defeated the Rams 1-0 in overtime.

Both teams played an aggressive game, battling back and forth for possession. VCU’s first scoring opportunity came from freshman forward Kelly Graves in the 20th minute. Also a freshman on the frontline, Julia Suarez, made a long pass to Graves for a header, but Graves’ shot was too high.

Both teams entered the half

taking 8 shots but not being able to find the back of the net, keeping the score at 0-0.

VCU began the second half with a persistent offensive approach. Three shots were taken in the first six minutes of the second half, but all were denied.

Desperate for a tiebreaking goal, freshman midfielder Margaret Boelman pressured the Cougar defense late in the game, but her shot was turned away, sending the game into overtime.

Only a minute into overtime, Charleston’s freshman forward Jessica Schifer got loose in Ram territory and released a shot into the bottom left of the net, past a

“If we just connected more and been calmer in front of the goal, we could have put something away.”

— JULIA SUAREZ

diving senior goalkeeper Kruse for the 1-0 win.

Charleston outshot VCU 19-17, leaving Kruse to record 10 saves on Friday.

“We must do a better job of finishing our chances,” said head coach Lindsey Martin. “Some of

our players are playing well and carrying the load for the team. We need to have others step up around them and provide some answers.”

The first loss of the season came on Aug. 23. Head coach Lindsey Martin and the Rams hosted Marshall University at SportsBackers Stadium at 1 p.m.

The game kicked off with VCU handling the opening possession. In the 10th minute, VCU’s greatest scoring opportunity arose when Suarez launched a pass into the box to senior midfielder Sharon Wojcik, but her shot went above the goal post.

Despite Kruse making a diving save a minute before, Marshall

was able to get on the board. Senior forward Erin Simmons sent a long pass across the box, received by freshman forward Ashley Seltzer, who found the back of the net with a jumping header into the right side of the goal. Seltzer’s first goal in a Herd uniform gave Marshall a 1-0 lead.

Just before the half, freshman defender Stephanie Stahl was sent to the box for a scoring opportunity for a VCU corner kick. Suarez launched a corner to Stahl for a header, but the shot was deflected wide.

Both teams took 15 shots during the match and Kruse recorded eight saves. The second half ended

scoreless for both teams and VCU suffered its first loss of the season, losing 1-0.

“We weren’t really working together in front,” Suarez said. “But if we just connected more and been calmer in front of the goal, we could have put something away.”

VCU’s first game of the season was a success, as the Lady Rams defeated Old Dominion University 4-2 at SportsBackers Stadium on Friday, Aug. 21.

The team’s next match is against James Madison University on Sunday, Aug. 30.

XC Preview: Run, Rams, run



Junior Emily Dyke looks to run away from the competition in 2015.

ZACH JOACHIM
Contributing Writer

—Continued from page 1

Calvin Wood, 114th, are vying to take on the vacated leadership mantle for the now experienced men’s side. Sophomore Bismillah Alidost, 121st, and transfer senior John Walsh are also looking to provide major contributions.

Lushinski will seek to break a 26:00 minute 8k for the first time in his career this season and Walsh could prove to be a dark horse candidate to assume the pace-setter role vacated this year by Mohamad Adam, who graduated this past May.

The key for the men this year could prove to be the maturation of runners who showed promise in past seasons, such as Lushinski, Wood and Alidost, in the absence of three decorated graduates.

Junior, Emily Dyke and sophomores Nichelle Scott, Courtney Holleran and Kathleen Gardner lead a women’s team loaded with potential. Dyke was the pacesetter for the Rams last year with an 18:55.2 5k time — placing her 39th at the A-10 Championships in Pittsburgh. She will attempt to break 18 minutes this season, which is an impressive feat at the collegiate level.

Scott, Holleran and Gard-

ner, all rising sophomores, also finished in the top-100 while running respectable sub-20:00 times in the 5k.

Upperclassmen seeking to contribute include senior Elizabeth Stump and juniors Maggie Grumbine, Caitlin McNicholl and Lindsay Steeley. McNicholl is the lone upperclassman with A-10 Championship experience, as she finished with a time of 20:36.6 in last year’s 5k, just behind her younger teammates.

The Sept. 1 meet, will be a tune-up before the Rams embark on the University of Richmond invite on Sept. 5.

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

date	opponent
Tue. 1	CNU Exhibition Meet @ Richmond, Va
Sat. 5	University of Richmond Invite @ Richmond, Va
Sat. 12	James Madison Invite @ New Market, Va.
Fri. 18	Longwood University Invitational @ Farmville, Va.
TBA	William & Mary Invite @ Williamsburg, Va.

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ON THIS DAY in 1888, Jack the Ripper claimed his first victim.

Titus Andronicus: a peculiar band on the road to RVA

CATHERINE KIESEL
Contributing Writer

Titus Andronicus is touring for the release of their latest album, “A Most Lamentable Tragedy,” and will make a stop at one of Richmond’s local venues, The Camel, on Sept. 13.

The group began their career as a buzzband from Glen Rock, New Jersey in 2005, but has since risen to national punk-scene-stardom. Their new album is a 92-minute rock opera three years in the making.

“It was a damn article on the internet that got us going,” said Titus Andronicus lead singer Patrick Stickles, referencing a positive review from music website Pitchfork which catalyzed the band’s big-time career in 2008.

A year after the Pitchfork review, Stickles said the group found themselves on tour in Europe promoting their first album, “The Airing of Grievances.”

“Titus Andronicus” is the title of one of William Shakespeare’s tragedies. The name carries multiple connotations, which Stickles said is partially how the band chose their name.

In Shakespeare’s play, Titus is a Roman ensnared in a cycle of revenge with the lover and sons of the Emperor. Some of the more notable scenes involve murder, rape and cannibalism. The play has been called over-the-top, even for Shakespeare.

“We have three stages in the process of finding the meaning behind Titus Andronicus,” Stickles said. “So it first started out that we just liked the way it sounded — Titus Andronicus — with the repeated vowel sounds, it just rolled off the tongue.”

However, like many of the decisions the band makes, Stickles said there were more layers beyond the sound. The name carries a social effect for the group, too. Stickles ex-

plained the second stage serves to break down distinctions between low and high classes of art, even going as far as bringing God and animals together.

He said the third stage of the naming process came with an examination of Shakespeare’s “Titus Andronicus” in terms of content and public reception.

“Titus Andronicus was a tragedy that was really meant to be a comedy,” Stickles said. “I think

Shakespeare knew exactly what he was doing when he wrote this — he was making fun of his own indulgent art in a sense, and we’re all for that.”

Stickles said in regard to musical influences, his band finds more ideological inspiration from other artists, rather than being influenced by the actual music they produce.

“I wouldn’t say that we have specific influences, we don’t really,”

Stickles said.

He added that the band strives for “a new way of using familiar ideas to provoke new reactions.”

Stickles said he hopes the band’s latest album is perceived as a more mature version of what the group has been doing, and the members are seen as more fully realized versions of themselves.

“We haven’t been able to tour very much since starting to record our rock opera, so we are so

pumped for this thing to be happening,” Stickles said.

Stickles expressed having little respect for bands like the Beatles who didn’t go out and face the public, claiming that it’s an integral part of their work. Still, he said, touring is something the band truly enjoys.

“All my bandmates are so incredibly industrious,” Stickles said, mentioning guitarist Adam Reich. Reich opened a recording

studio and all-ages music venue in Brooklyn called Shea Stadium.

Stickles also described drummer Eric Harm’s love of chess, and how Harm runs his own blog where he posts poems, pictures and answers to questions he gets from fans.

“But everyone’s just gonna have to quit it with their industriousness because we gotta go on the road,” Stickles said.



Titus Andronicus performs at Webster Hall in New York City on Sept. 6, 2014. They will play at The Camel in Richmond on Sept. 13, 2015.



A sign displayed outside of Ipanema, a vegetarian/vegan restaurant and bar, advertising Sandwich Week specials. Ipanema served grilled tofu sliders with hummus and pickled onions.

RVA born and bread: Sandwich Week stacked high with savings

— continued from page 1

with hummus, sauteed onions and pickled vegetables as a dinner special.

Greg Darden, a manager at Ipanema, said the event brought in a lot of new business and has been a fun opportunity to try something new.

“We like it because it’s fun to do something different,” Darden said. “We have a rotating menu, but when we brought in this new item, all our customers who come in regularly were pretty stoked.”

The restaurant also welcomed the opportunity to get their

name on social media, he said.

Davis Erney, a freshman at VCU, found out about the special after receiving a Facebook invite for this year’s RVA Sandwich Week.

“I saw that there was a vegetarian cafe doing it, and then I saw it was right on campus and it was like, ‘Sweet!’” Erney said. “I got the sliders and they were really savory. It was a nice break from the on-campus food.”

New York Deli in Carytown introduced a Big Apple delicacy to this year’s Sandwich Week-

ers, by combining beef tongue, turkey breast, Swiss cheese and Russian dressing between two fresh-baked slices of Rye bread. Vegetarians could try out a spicy guacamole and muenster cheese sandwich.

Other unique entrees included Mosaic’s braised pork belly sliders with pineapple slaw, Burley’s Tavern’s fried shrimp and chorizo sausage roll and Burgerworks’ gyro burger with lamb and beef.

Businesses brace for UCI’s anticipated 450,000 spectators

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

With the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships only 19 days away, Richmond’s local businesses are taking caution and making preparations for the quickly approaching event.

From September 19-27, the city will host 1,000 cyclists from 75 different countries, and is anticipating more than 450,000 on-site spectators — doubling Richmond’s population for those nine days.

The same cyclists who race in the Tour de France will compete in the UCI Road World Championships. Richmond landed the position as host in September 2011 through a bidding process, similar to the one used to determine the location of the olympics.

Alchemy Coffee owner Eric Spivack expects a possible decline in business at his shop. With road closures, Spivack doesn’t see the race increasing business for his cafe on Broad Street near campus.

“We originally expected it to be busier than usual because Monroe Park was a ‘fan zone,’” Spivack said.

“But now they took that away, I expect the same, maybe a little less. People might be a little intimidated to come out where we are.”

The VCU Medical Center has been preparing for the massive influx of human traffic since 2013, two years after Richmond was named host of the UCI Road World Championship. VCU Health was named the exclusive medical sponsor for the event, making it the only medical facility that will provide care to the athletes on the course, during the event, and after hours.

“We have worked collaboratively with the city to make sure the streets and the roads are taken care of,” said Robin Manke, manager of emergency management and telecommunications at VCU Health. “Most of the athletes aren’t going to want to seek treatment; they’re going to want to ride the last weekend because that’s their career, that’s what they’re here to do. As much as we can, we will assist them with their aches and pains.”

Manke said a tent will be deployed at 5th and Broad that will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. She added that one of the big-

gest difficulties in planning for the number of tourists is also making sure regular patients and Richmond residents still have access to the care they need.

“It’s a twofold mission to take on this race,” Manke said. “VCU Medical Center is one of biggest infrastructures in downtown Richmond. We have to continue the practice we do at the main facility in addition to out in the field. We’ve done lots of planning with our partners and patients so that they know how to get to us and ambulances know how to get here.”

The VCU Medical Center is the only level-one trauma center in central Virginia. Manke said protecting critical infrastructure with 450,000 people enables them to assure patients and visitors, as well as take extra measures to ensure athletes and spectators are being taken care of.

For instance, Manke said doctors are receiving additional training in fields they don’t treat on a regular basis, such as how to treat road rash, and reviewing their skills to leave no room for error.

“We did some simulation last

week on that,” Manke said. “We actually had our medical staff go through and see if they knew what the protocol was and see if they knew how to help the athletes get back on the course as soon as possible.”

The Richmond Marriott is one of the few hotels at the finish line of the race. The hotel will have VIP areas for sale to watch cyclists as they finish the race, along with beverages and food available. Rand Goodman, Director of Sales and Marketing at the Richmond Marriott, believes the hotel is well equipped and informed to take on the chaos.

“The Richmond Police Department has been fantastic,” Goodman said. “We have met with them several times so we have a complete understanding of road closures that we can in turn communicate well in advance to our customers and associates.”

“In addition, preparing for a large influx of tourists is what we do every day. The biggest difference with this group is the international guests, and we have made sure we have translators, who are on our team, on stand by.”



Alchemy Coffee, next to The Depot at VCU, is still preparing for the bike race, but they’re expecting a decline in business.

VCU grad throws down in national DJ competition

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

If you had told Ross Volpe at his graduation from VCU Arts that he would be competing at one of the most prestigious disc jockeying competitions in the country eight years later, he would have thought you were crazy.

Now, Volpe, who performs under his stage name “DJ Throdown,” is pinching himself. He was one of ten national finalists who competed in the 2015 Disco Mix Club U.S. DJ Championship, a prestigious DJ competition in Brooklyn, New York on Aug. 22.

Volpe experienced a rise to prominence in the DJing world, as “DJ Throdown” opened concerts for hip-hop icons like Wu-Tang Clan and Vanilla Ice.

The national competition is known to most as the DMC tournament. It pulls DJs who won regional tournaments from across the country and gives the winning DJ the chance to compete at the international level.

Although he came in fourth place, Volpe said he was elated to be able to compete with some of the best DJs in the country.

“I always fantasized about what it would be like to be on that stage, but I never conceptualized it actually happening,” Volpe said. “It was single-handedly the most significant and exciting weekend of my life.”

For Volpe, the competition was a long time coming. He had been interested in all kinds of music his entire life, but it took one day for him to narrow down his focus to disc jockeying and producing music: his 17th birthday, when he got his first turntables. He said he hasn’t looked back since.

Despite his passion for music, Volpe chose to major in sculpting. He said he believed the fine arts would present a safer career path than music. Even as he studied sculpting in college, he was always drawn to music.

“I was in art school, but DJing constantly lured me away from my studies. I don’t regret studying art though, because being in the art program at VCU definitely influenced my approach as well,” Volpe said. “I was around a lot of people who like to think outside of the box and I learned to have an alternative outlook. I’m grateful to have had that opportunity.”

He said is also enjoying working closely with his father Michael, a public relations specialist who handles the majority of his son’s media outreach.

“I’m good at working and dealing with people in a more personal sense, or with a crowd, but he’s the king of media relations and dealing with the press, in my opinion,” Volpe said. “I actually wanted my brand to elevate before I started being one of his clients. Now that he’s working for me, he’s helped

my brand grow.”

His father says anyone who meets him would never expect someone with his humility to have such a gift.

“To Ross, the fanfare and stardom isn’t as important as delivering the best show for his audience every night,” Michael Volpe said. “Our entire family is proud of Ross because he has worked very hard to achieve his success. We have seen him spend long hours practicing his turntable feats of magic and we kid him that he has truly earned the nickname the ‘Sultan of Scratch.’”

With the DMC tournament behind him, Volpe will return to mixing and scratching at shows in the DC-metro area. He will continue to produce music, something he enjoys doing just as much as DJing.

“I want to take that old-school golden-era hip hop sound and infuse it into a punchier, more club-friendly sound,” Volpe said.

Volpe said he’s always had a fondness for hip-hop music, but his years in an urban environment at VCU gave him an even greater admiration for it. While he does miss Richmond, he doesn’t visit as much as he would like to.

“Visiting Richmond more often is something I definitely need to do,” Volpe said. “I would also love to do a show at VCU.”



Ross Volpe spins tracks at the DMC U.S. Finals in Brooklyn. Under the name DJ Throdown, Volpe has been performing since before his graduation from VCU in 2007.



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opinion

Minority culture still missing from textbooks, classes despite achievements

MIKAELA REINARD
Contributing Columnist

American history books addressing social issues, written by historians for high school curriculums, fail to adequately represent minority culture. These textbooks have been used incessantly in school settings to teach students about the advancements and fall-backs of our nation.

There has been little to no representation of minority culture in a majority of textbooks and great American works of writing. This is a huge issue. By leaving out such vital information, students are missing out on a large part of what made America. As a result, students aren't able to adequately obtain knowledge on minority influences in the United States until they chose to do so for themselves when they reach college.

America was built upon immigrants, yet there is no recognition of the work they put in to help advance the country to where it is today. Everyone came to America in order to achieve the American Dream, but only the efforts of the majority — white — population was ever fully recognized.

Carnegie is revered by history books and is a name that has never faded from the mouth of the American people. What is he known for that got him into history books? Someone who achieved the American Dream? Cheap and efficient production of steel rails for railroad lines. He might have produced them, but he didn't put them together. He didn't slave in the sweltering heat to make sure those railroad piece were assembled and bolted to the ground.

It was mainly Chinese immigrants who built the first railroads that ever rested on American soil, yet they never get any of the glory. At most, they get one sentence in history textbooks, despite them being the moving factor for such a large advancement in our society, which completely transformed transportation as Americans knew it.

Historically, minorities have come to, or were brought to America as the first-generation to land on the continent. With their

family name and no safety net, unlike bloodlines of Americans such as Carnegie and Rockefeller. These minorities, at most, have enough money in their wallet for transportation to a hotel when they first step onto U.S. soil.

After all, according to the July 2014 Census, 37.9 percent of American citizens are classified as minorities. Just over a quarter of the population is classified as a minority race, and yet only a miniscule amount of minorities are even present in American literature.

Let's focus in on that 37.9 percent of time when any minority race gets the limelight in any textbook or literature that gets used in educational settings. The minority race is usually undermined and are the ones being rescued, educated or bossed around by the white man.

For example, when textbooks speak of Englishmen pushing Native Americans off of their land, they attempt to make it sound regal and as if the Englishmen did a service to the Native Americans by introducing Western society to them.

The books say that the Englishmen educated the Native American to keep them up to par with current advancements in Europe. In reality, the Englishmen imposed themselves on the Native Americans and created an extremely uncomfortable situation that still hasn't been fully resolved.

Society is always swayed in the direction that literature takes, and literature molds into the thoughts that are basking in the back of the minds of society. Textbooks also mold the minds of our youth, and create impressions in their spongy minds of what happened before they came around.

We might say that minorities are more appreciated now, but until I see that accurately translated into the next edition of a McGraw Hill history textbook for U.S. History, I'll be wary of how our society perceives American history, which is currently in favor of the white man rather than all of its ethnicities, cultures, colors, and religions.



ILLUSTRATION BY MIKA KO

Media gaffes create uninformed consumer culture

HIBA AHMAD
Contributing Columnist

Mainstream media has become one of the most infamous artists of our time. Conglomerates like CNN, BBC, Fox News and NBC paint dramatic and eloquent pictures of a breaking story to sway their viewers into believing a far more drastic narrative than the actual evidence might show.

The news is supposed to be an ethical source of information that viewers and readers can rely on but the audience is often tricked into the colorful images painted across their screens. The unfortunate reality is that news outlets — whether broadcast, print or online — have drifted from their standards of ethics.

It's easy to think of Rolling Stone's inaccurate article on campus rape, any of Don Lemon's gaffes or anything else that was worthy of being placed on Columbia Journalism Review's list of worst journalist of 2014 and say the profession is in a tail spin. However, this does not mean that all news outlets have lost their reputability or that all of the information they publish is untrue.

Though big newspapers and broadcast agencies still produce valuable content, they have been forced to succumb to the financial and political pressures. This is where smaller or less well-funded journalism outlets have had their chance to step out and deliver excellent cases of journalism.

Remember the highly addicting weekly podcast known as "Serial"? Sarah Koenig along with her team dug deep into the

case of Adnan Syed, a man who was convicted of the murder his ex-girlfriend. Koenig delivered an hour-long podcast every week that highlighted the case made against Syed and his story. Every listener was able to fulfill their childhood Sherlock Holmes fantasy through this podcast. The podcast was able to grip readers because of its consistent effort to stick to facts and evidence along with a sense of personable storytelling.

Other examples of heroic journalism are the journalists themselves. Every year, hundreds of journalists step out of their comfort zones to report on issues that the public merely watches from the comfort of their homes. Scott Foley, a freelance journalist, who made headlines in 2014 for his work in Syria and Northern Iraq lost his life after he was captured by Islamic State militants while reporting in the field.

Finally, the two journalists that were slain on Wednesday August 26 in Moneta, Virginia. Alison Parker and Adam Ward worked for the local station of WDBJ and were out conducting an interview about tourism in the local area when they were gunned down by a previous colleague. They were simply doing their duty to provide well-rounded coverage for the communities that they were in.

Foley, Koenig, Ward and Parker are some of the few examples of trustworthy and honorable journalism that still exists today.

As members of a society where the media plays a large role in our daily lives, we have to be actively aware of the information that is being presented to us. We have to

step out of our comfort zones, look past the blaring headlines and do our own research.

The first image or headline a citizen sees is often not the full story. It's an exaggerated summary of an event or topic to catch the audience's attention. For example, a CNN report of police brutality may spark interest and cause you to form an initial opinion that may be biased or simply not true.

News outlets are filled with individuals who entered this profession to be journalists. They are going out into the field to do research and get interviews to write and produce well-rounded stories, but they often get pushed to the bottom of the homepage or hidden behind different tabs because they are not be the most attention grabbing.

According to a Gallup Poll from 2014, only 40 percent of Americans believe that the media is able to report "the news fully, accurately, and fairly," which is an all-time low from the past 15 years. This

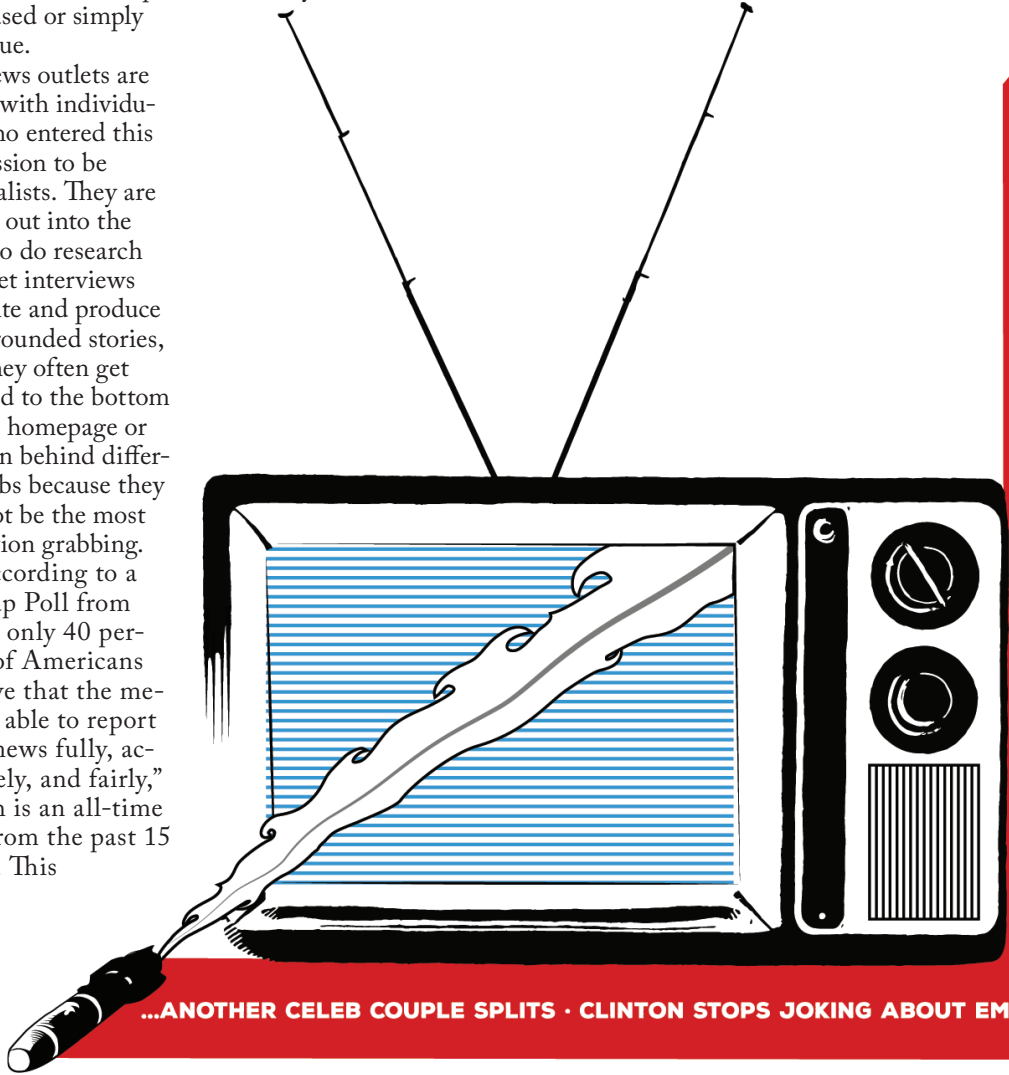
distrust in news is understandable.

As an audience we have to understand that even though the news is supposed to be a trustworthy source, it is still a business. There are certain pressures like ratings and advertising that cause organizations to cater to these pressures in order to get by. It may not be fair, but it is the reality.

The bottom line is that the

news is not what it used to be.

It's not straightforward and there is a lot of hype being thrown at the viewers. The public will have to adapt to this newfound media framework and do their part to honor the work of the journalists who are truly out there to share the stories of world.



JOSH DUGGAR GOES TO REHAB · ISIS · DARK IMAGES WILL HAUNT YOU...

ILLUSTRATION BY BENJAMIN WINANS

A year later, not enough

—continued from page 1

website reports that "During 2012, forty-two percent of the FBI's total civil rights caseload involved color of law issues, (falling) into five broad areas: excessive force, sexual assaults, false arrest and fabrication of evidence, deprivation of property and failure to keep from harm." That is an absurdly large percentage of officers clearly violating the rules.

Many officers who have used their weapon to kill are not charged and get away scot-free. Officers are not allowed to use excessive force unless the person is blatantly resisting arrest or causing direct threat to the life of the officer or others.

The Federal Government requires the Department of Justice to keep track of the use of excessive force by law enforcement and publish an annual summary. The DOJ reported that police brutality has some racial bias, but could not accurately report the number of deaths due to those biases.

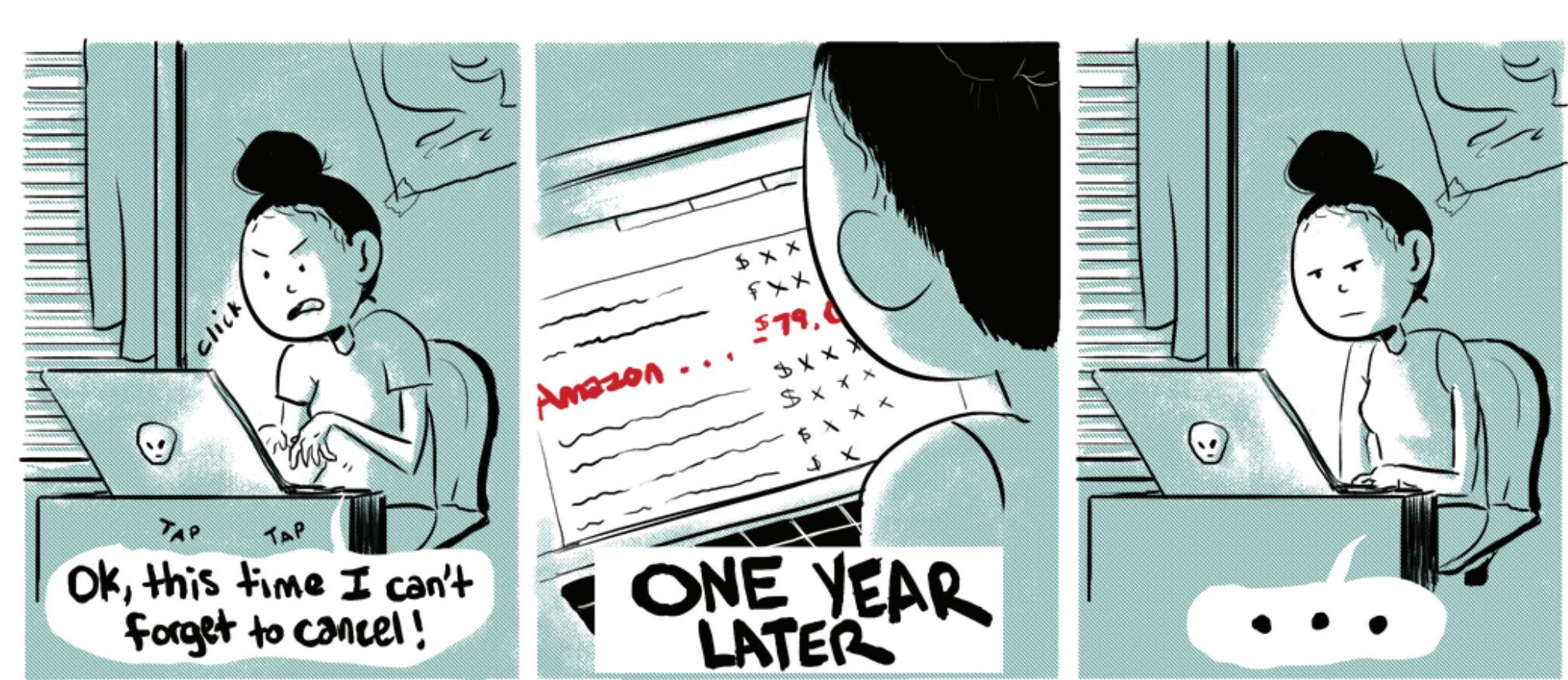
There is a clear issue of race targeting by the police, but police brutality is a major issue on its own. Cops need to be held responsible for their actions and need to have more training in deescalating a situation and less training on how to fire a gun.

COMICS

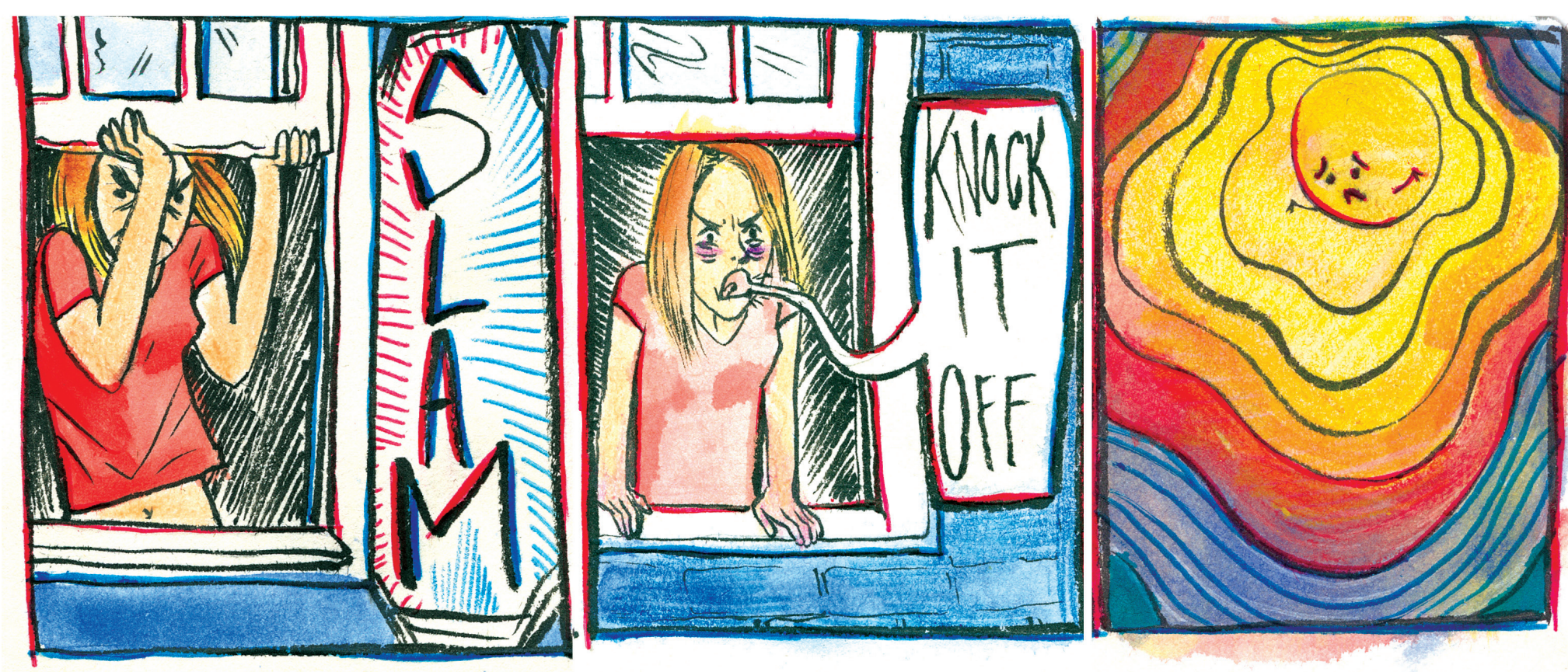
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