

THE CT

NEWS • 2
Rao holds forum on social justice

SPORTS • 5
Men's soccer: In their own words

SPECTRUM • 8
"I Am Powerful"

OPINION • 13
Peppa's opinions

Election 2016

TODAY is the last day to register to vote in Virginia!

Trump's comments are crude, I reject them totally.

Rep. Dave Brat
(R - Va., 7th district)

...it is language we hear used by both men and women on a daily basis, just walking across campus or sitting in the dining hall.

John Rackoski
College Republicans at VCU

Area Republicans produce mixed reactions to 2005 Trump comments

This is disgusting, vile and disqualifying, no woman should ever be subjected to this type of obscene behavior and it is unbecoming of anybody seeking high office.

Barbara Comstock
(R - Va., 10th District)

SARAROSE MARTIN
Contributing Writer

In a 2005 video released last week by the Washington Post, Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump is heard discussing kissing and groping women without consent. "When you're a star they let you do it," Trump said. The vulgar sexual comments prompted dozens of Republican party leaders to abandon their support for the candidate. Some elected Republican officials — including Arizona Sen. and former party presidential nominee John
—continued on page 4

Second student falls fatally from the Towers on Franklin

FADEL ALLASSAN
News Editor

Police have identified the VCU student who fell to her death from the 17th floor of the Towers on Franklin last Thursday. Emma Pascal, 19, of Fairfax County, Virginia was pronounced dead just before 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 13, according to police. Pascal was a freshman in the arts foundation program. A spokesperson for the rental company said Pascal was not a resident at the Towers on Franklin. Pascal is the second freshman in two months who passed away from a fatal fall at the Towers on Franklin. Building resident Jordan Bowman, 18, fell to her death on Sept. 10 around 3 a.m. "We are deeply saddened by the deaths that have occurred at Towers on Franklin and our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the victims," said a Towers of Franklin spokesperson in a statement to CBS 6. Police do not suspect foul play in either incident. "The VCU family is saddened by the loss of Emma Pascal and offer our condolences to her family and friends," said Vice Provost for the Division of Student Affairs Charles Klink. "We have been in touch with members of our community who were closest to her to provide support during this sad time.

Students can reach University Counseling Services at VCU at 804-828-6200.

Sports

Women's soccer topples La Salle in double overtime




PHOTO BY BECCA SCHWARTZ

Women's soccer averages 1.58 goals scored per game while their opponents average 1.33.

—continued on page 5

Letter to the Editor

TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN



ILLUSTRATION BY GARETH BENTALL

VCU has left a hole in the heart of this band.

—continued on page 13

Spectrum

Living in Lavender

VCU's new living-learning community



PHOTO BY CAMERON LEONARD

Freshman Gloria Castillo is one of 12 students living in VCU's inaugural Lavender dorm.

FADEL ALLASSAN
News Editor

Living in VCU's first-ever LGBTQIA-friendly residence hall was a spontaneous decision for Gloria Castillo. The freshman first heard about the option, known as "lavender housing," as she was applying for housing as a senior in high school. She has now been living in the residence hall for almost three months and she's sure she made the right choice.

—continued on page 9



In this section:
U of R policy. Rao forum. Rams in Recovery. VCU PD new location. U.Va. Professor. Mayoral poll.

CRIME LOG

(All data obtained from the VCU PD daily incident log)

10/10/2016	Simple Assault 1003 W. Grace St. Pending
	All Other Larceny 601 W. Broad St. Pending
	Burglary/B&E 917 W. Franklin St. Pending
	Theft From Motor Vehicle 520 W. Broad St. Reported by Outside Agency
	Peeping Tom 117 S. Laurel St. Pending
	Shoplifting ABC 1217 W. Broad St. Reported by Outside Agency
	Sexual Assault Unknown Exceptionally Cleared
	Burglary/B&E 519 Hancock St. Reported by Outside Agency
	Simple Assault 1309 W. Main St. Reported by Outside Agency
	Simple Assault 1317 W. Cary St. Reported by Outside Agency
	Forgery/Counterfeiting 1015 Floyd Ave. Pending
10/11/16	Theft From Building Cabell Library 901 Park Ave. Pending
	Drunkenness 900 W. Broad St. Closed
10/12/16	Stolen Property Offenses/ Drug Violation/Weapons Violation 918 W. Franklin St. Closed
	Theft From Building Temple Building 901 W. Main St. Pending
	All other Larceny 515 Catherine St. Pending
	Trespassing/City Code Violation 14 N. Laurel St. Closed
10/13/2016	Theft From Building 1015 Floyd Ave. Pending
	Shoplifting Wal-Mart - 910 W. Grace St. Pending
	Reporting suspicious or emergency situations to the VCU Police Department can help solve crimes, provide emergency assistance that may save a life and help deter criminal activity.
	Download the VCU LiveSafe mobile phone app to report crimes anonymously.
	To contact the VCU PD call (804) 828-1196.
	For an on-campus emergency call (804) 828-1234.
	For an off-campus emergency call 911.

U of R makes changes to sexual assault policy after student narratives spark national outrage



Changes to the policy include a weekend and evening counselor and a survivor advocate for students to confide in.

HANNAH PARKER
Contributing Writer

The University of Richmond released new policies on sexual assault following public outrage after The Huffington Post published two students’ personal accounts of the university mishandling their sexual assault cases.

“The fear I feel in speaking up as a faculty member is just another manifestation of a larger problem at UR: rape-culture,” said Eric Grollman, a U of R assistant professor of sociology after the Huffington Post published the students’ accounts.

U of R President Ronald Crutcher published a letter on Oct. 7 outlining changes in the university’s sexual assault policies and steps the university will take moving

forward to protect victims and prevent future sexual assault cases.

The university is going to create a Center for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and a President’s Advisory Committee for Sexual Violence Prevention and Response, according to the letter.

In addition, Crutcher said the university will hire a counselor in Counseling & Psychological Services who, starting in January, will be available weekend and evening hours for appointments. There will also be a survivor advocate who will be a confidante for students and help them access campus and local resources.

The changes came about a month after the first student, Cecilia Carreras, penned an open letter in The Huffington Post titled “There’s a Brock Turner in all o(UR) lives.”

Carreras’ account published on Sept. 6 and described her case concerning a student athlete assaulting her.

“We have a problem at Richmond,” Carreras said in her open letter. “A problem that is made worse by an administration that justifies reported rapes and judges the survivor’s credibility on a harsher scale than the accused.”

The day after Carreras’ letter published, U of R released an email to its students discrediting the accuracy of information and events described in the letter.

In response, Carreras published another open letter in The Huffington Post titled “Richmond, all I wanted was for you to say sorry. But instead you called me a liar. So, here are the receipts.” on Sept. 8. The letter provided screenshots of texts be-

tween her and her abuser and emails from Title IX Coordinator and Director of Compliance Maura Smith.

The next day, a second student, Whitney Ralston, published an open letter in The Huffington Post titled “The Other Girl.” Ralston wrote how the school also mishandled her case and participated in victim blaming due to her history with mental illness.

“The investigating Dean told me that my assailant had reported that I had PTSD, and because of this, I was ‘an unreliable witness’ and my ‘memory couldn’t be trusted,’” Ralston stated in her open letter.

Ralston said her abuser also received little punishment, and he was only put on academic probation.

President Rao hosts forum on social justice

HIBA AHMAD
Staff Writer

The VCU community gathered last Thursday for a social justice forum hosted by President Michael Rao on Oct. 13.

The forum was organized as part of a continued effort on the university’s behalf to further address issues of diversity and inclusion. Rao hosted a similar forum last fall in response to students standing in solidarity with the University of Missouri.

“I don’t want anyone to think that I am not grateful for a lot of the progress that we have made,” Rao said last Thursday. “But, on a personal level I will tell you that I am far from satisfied.”

In comparison to the forum last fall, which overflowed the Salons in the Student Commons, the social justice forum was organized so there could be more intimate and candid discussions rather than a question-

and-answer style conversation.

There were three discussions throughout the day with representatives from the President’s office, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and VCU Health. Attendees were put into groups; each equipped with a moderator, scribe and various materials highlighting the resources the university provides for its students.

Bryanna James, a junior finance

major, said she attended the event in hopes of learning more about what the university is doing to address the community’s concerns.

“It was nice to be able to talk and actually feel like I was being heard and listened to, which is very important,” James said. “It was nice to bounce ideas off of everyone who was apart of the conversation at the table.”

Diana Borkar, a junior marketing major, was a scribe for one of the tables. She wasn’t allowed to participate in the conversations, but said she walked away having learned a great deal just by just listening.

“I am a person of color as well and I can only see things through my eyes, so I found it very enlightening to hear other people’s perspectives,” Borkar said.

A summary of the findings from this forum will be compiled and reviewed by the President’s Action Group on Diversity and Inclusion, which will ultimately be incorporated into the administration’s Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.



President Rao at the social justice forum last Thursday, where he stated that the university still has room to grow.

“I don’t want anyone to think that I am not grateful for a lot of the progress that we have made. But, on a personal level I will tell you that I am far from satisfied.

Pres. Michael Rao



Grad student Kenny Kane finds support in Rams in Recovery.

Rams in Recovery helps keep students on solid ground

MARY LEE CLARK
Staff Writer

Kenny Kane found himself at rock bottom at age 22. It was fall 2012 and the Pennsylvania native and recent college drop-out was sitting in the county prison facing multiple felonies. Living alone in a run-down apartment with no job and fighting a losing battle with addiction to alcohol and drugs, this wasn't his first time in the correctional system—but it was his longest. “It was torture because all those things I had done in my life, all the harm I had inflicted onto others came flooding into me and there was nothing I could do about it,” Kane said. “I just sat in that cell for a week.” Kane said he can remember when he started experimenting with drugs and alcohol at a young age. He would go to highschool with a backpack full of substances. “As soon as I started I'd just become obsessed with it, everything else ceased to matter,” Kane said. “School didn't matter, athletics didn't matter, friendships didn't matter. It

was all about getting drunk and getting high.” After spending a week in prison, Kane said the first thing he did upon his release was call his father. It was the first moment he can recall being completely honest with another person. “I told my dad everything that I'd done and the first words out of his mouth were, ‘So what are we going to do about it now?’” Kane said. Kane next saw the judge, who decided to give him another chance and sent him to treatment instead of sentencing him to more time in jail. Now, four years after Kane's 26 day treatment, he says he considers himself extremely fortunate to receive another chance and being forced to rid himself of addiction cold turkey. Kane eventually went back to school soon after treatment and finished his undergraduate degree in physics. He is now a Ph.D. candidate at VCU and an active member of the Rams in Recovery program at the VCU Wellness Center, known to most students as The Well. Thomas Bannard, the program coordinator for Rams in Recovery,

said it's important for people in recovery to be surrounded by supportive peers who have had endured similar experiences. “At a core level we provide a community for people to be who they are, to support each other and to be of service to each other,” Bannard said. Bannard said the members of the Rams and Recovery group are special and recalled fondly a river trip the group took with current students and alumni. The organization hosts group events and outings, as well as weekly meetings and meditation sessions for members of the VCU community in recovery. Beginning Oct. 27 “Yoga for 12 Step Recovery” will added on Thursdays. “I had forgotten something that was so crucial for me in the first place, that sense of belonging, that sense of being part of something bigger than myself,” Kane said. “The relationships I have now, they're beautiful, I love people and they love me back for who I am.” Kane said his story shows that addiction is not an end, but a hurdle that can be overcome in order to live

a healthier and more successful life. “There is just something about sharing an experience with other people who literally put themselves through hell and have gotten themselves back that just brings people together,” Kane said.

“The relationships I have now, they're beautiful, I love people and they love me back for who I am.”
Kenny Kane

Rams in Recovery holds a speaker series the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m in the Academic Learning Commons. The program pairs a alumni with a current student, both who tell their stories of addiction and recovery. The event is free and open to the public.

RESOURCES FOR RAMS IN RECOVERY

Open Recovery Office Hours
In Fall and Spring while classes are in session, students are encouraged to meet with Program Coordinator Tom Bannard at The Well (815 S. Cathedral Pl.) during office hours or by appointment, bannardtn@vcu.edu.

SUNDAYS

NA Meeting
8 p.m.
Hibbs Hall, room 303

MONDAYS

Meditation for Recovery
12 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.
Open Recovery Office Hours
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.
Hitting the Books (Grapevine AA Meeting)
7:00 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.
SMART Recovery
7:15 p.m.
819 S. Cathedral Pl.

WEDNESDAYS

Hitting the Books (Grapevine AA Meeting)
12 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.
Open Recovery Office Hours
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.
Refuge Recovery Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.

THURSDAYS

Open Recovery Office Hours
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.
(Starting Oct. 27) Yoga for 12 Step Recovery
5:30 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.
Family Education Program
6:30-8:00 p.m.
563 Southlake Blvd.
Richmond VA, 23236
Meditate and Destroy (NA Meeting)
8:00 p.m.
Recovery Clubhouse
815 S. Cathedral Pl.

FRIDAYS

Rams in Recovery Pizza and Community
2 p.m.
The Well
815 S. Cathedral Pl.
Artists in Recovery (Open Studio)
5:30 p.m.
1812 W Main St, Richmond, VA 23220
Friday Night Young People (AA Meeting)
8:30 p.m.
Hibbs Hall, room 403

VCU Police settle into new headquarters

JOE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The VCU Police Department moved into new headquarters which will better centralize the department between the Monroe Park and medical campuses. VCU PD staff spent most of the business day on Wednesday, Oct. 12 making the move to the new location at 224 E. Broad St. and changes went into effect on Thursday, Oct. 13, according to VCU news. Last Wednesday marked the last day of public access to the former location at 938 W. Grace St. “It's important to point out that we're now centrally located equally distanced from both campuses,” said VCU Police Chief John Venuti. “Where we do all of our admin work will change but that puts us in between both campuses.” Despite the usual complications associated with the move, Venuti said he was confident the move would continue to progress smoothly. “When you move a police department, it's kind of a difficult and complicated situation,” Venuti said. “Mostly the logistics like any other situation when you move—picking up and putting down in a new location and getting settled in.” Venuti insisted the move would not adversely affect officers' patrols on either campus and said the VCU PD will continue to function normally throughout the move. There will be no interruptions to emergency responses, according to an email sent to VCU students. Venuti likened the headquarters' move to fixing a plane in mid-air; challenges must be handled while continuing to fly. “You can't just call a time-out and say you're moving,” Venuti said. “You have to keep working. We're just kind of rolling.” Venuti said the move has been in the making for about three years and VCU has been cooperative and supportive throughout the entire process. “We've worked with a bunch of contractors who have helped make this a reality,” Venuti said. “We've had a lot of assistance from VCU and this is something we couldn't have done by ourselves.”



VCU PD relocates to their new headquarters between Monroe Park and MCV.

U.Va. professor takes leave after backlash from Black Lives Matter comments

MARY LEE CLARK
Staff Writer

A University of Virginia engineering professor is on leave after he made critical comments on social media about Black Lives Matter co-founder Alicia Garza speaking at the university. “Black lives matter is the biggest racist [sic] organisation [sic] since the clan [sic]. Are you kidding me. Disgusting!!!” said Douglas Muir in a Facebook comment on Oct. 4. Muir is expected to resume teaching classes at the university on Oct. 17. U.Va. Executive Vice President and Provost Tom Katsouleas said in a statement he was disturbed and saddened by Muir's remarks. “This statement is inconsistent with the University of Virginia's values and with its commitment to the principles of academic freedom,” Katsouleas said. “The University of Virginia stands firmly against racism and social injustice of any kind.” The U.Va. School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Darden School of Business both released statements expressing distaste for Muir's comments and support for the diverse people in their student body. Director of Communications for the Black Lives Matter Global Network, Shanelle Matthews, said in

an email that what Muir did denies students the right or understanding of important social movements within a democracy. “Black Lives Matter demands fundamental human rights for Black people,” Matthews said. “The Klan is a white supremacist organization with a long history of violently murdering black people. If Mr. Muir is unable to make the distinction between the two, he has no business teaching and the University of Virginia has an ethical obligation to fire him.” According to the Cavalier Daily, the university's student newspaper, Muir said he was wrong to make the comparison between BLM and the KKK and was saddened that he caused pain to the student body and faculty. “This careless post was called out by many for ridicule,” Muir said in a statement, “I accept those criticisms and promise to take these hard lessons learned to heart as I go forward.” Garza, who was at the crux of Muir's Facebook comment, is one of three co-founders of the Black Lives Matter movement. Last spring, another BLM co-founder, Opal Tometi, spoke at VCU. A few months before Tometi's appearance, civil rights activists Cornell West presented at the Siegel Center, which was near-capacity.



U. Va. professor Douglas Muir is on leave after calling the Black Lives Matter movement a “racist organization” on Facebook.

ELECTION 2016

Local Republicans react to Trump's 2005 comments

—continued from page 1

McCain and Former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice — called for Trump to withdraw from the race.

John Rackoski, vice president of communications for the College Republicans at VCU said the organization's members still unanimously support Trump despite the tape and recent fall-out.

"The general reaction among our members was that of anger at the media, as well as at Republican Party officials who have rescinded their endorsements of Mr. Trump over the issue," Rackoski said. "Though we all thought the language used in the tape was disgusting, it is language we hear used by both men and women on a daily basis, just walking across campus or sitting in the dining hall."

Rackoski said the comments seem like a distraction from real issues facing the country.

"Nearly everyone acts differently in private among friends than they would in public," Rackoski said. "I believe there are few adults alive who could honestly say that they have never used inappropriate language in private that they would never have used in public."

In contrast, Virginia Republican leaders had differing reactions to the recording.

"This is disgusting, vile and disqualifying," said Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10th) in a statement. "No woman should ever be subjected to this type of obscene behavior and it is unbecoming of anybody seeking high office."

Comstock also called for Trump to drop out of the race.

"Trump's comments are crude," said Rep. Dave Brat in a statement "I reject them totally."

Brat's opponent in the upcoming 7th District race, Eileen Bedell, criticized Brat's 252-word response as not being harsh enough and joined Comstock in a call for Trump to step aside in the race.

Corey Stewart, then-chairman of Trump's Virginia campaign said Trump acted like a frat boy, "as a lot of guys do," but didn't think the tape will change votes.

According to The Washington Post, Stewart was fired last Monday after taking part in a protest at the Republican National Committee headquarters where he warned the party against abandoning Trump. According to the Trump campaign, Stewart did not have their knowledge or approval for the protest.



PHOTO BY BROOKE MARSH

Survey indicates three-way mayoral race before first televised debate

SARAH KING
Executive Editor

The Nov. 8 mayoral election is a three-way race whose outcome will depend significantly on undecided voters, according to survey data released Saturday by local nonprofit business association ChamberRVA.

In preparation for hosting the first televised mayoral debate on Oct. 17, ChamberRVA partnered with the Southeastern Institute of Research to conduct a survey of likely voters across all nine city districts from Oct. 5-11.

"This election is occurring at a pivotal point in the revitalization of the City of Richmond," said Chair of ChamberRVA Ned Massee in a statement. "The winner of this election is of critical importance to not only citizens of the city but to all in the Richmond region."

According to the findings, if the election were held today based on a city-wide popular vote:

— **Former state delegate Joe Morrissey would lead with 20 percent**

— **Former Venture Capital CEO Jack Berry would tally 17 percent**

— **Former Secretary of the Commonwealth Levar Stoney would clinch 15 percent**

Eight candidates are vying for the Richmond mayoral seat, but Monday's debate at the Altria Theatre will only feature the five candidates who had more than 1 percent overall response rate according to the Aug. 30 Wason Center poll.

Berry, Morrissey and Stoney will be present Monday, as well as First District City Councilman Jon Baliles and Council President Michelle Mosby.

According to the ChamberRVA survey, among "decided" respondents Morrissey leads in six districts. Berry leads in the remaining three (the First, Second and Fourth Districts) and Stoney is in second place to either Morrissey or Berry in all nine districts.

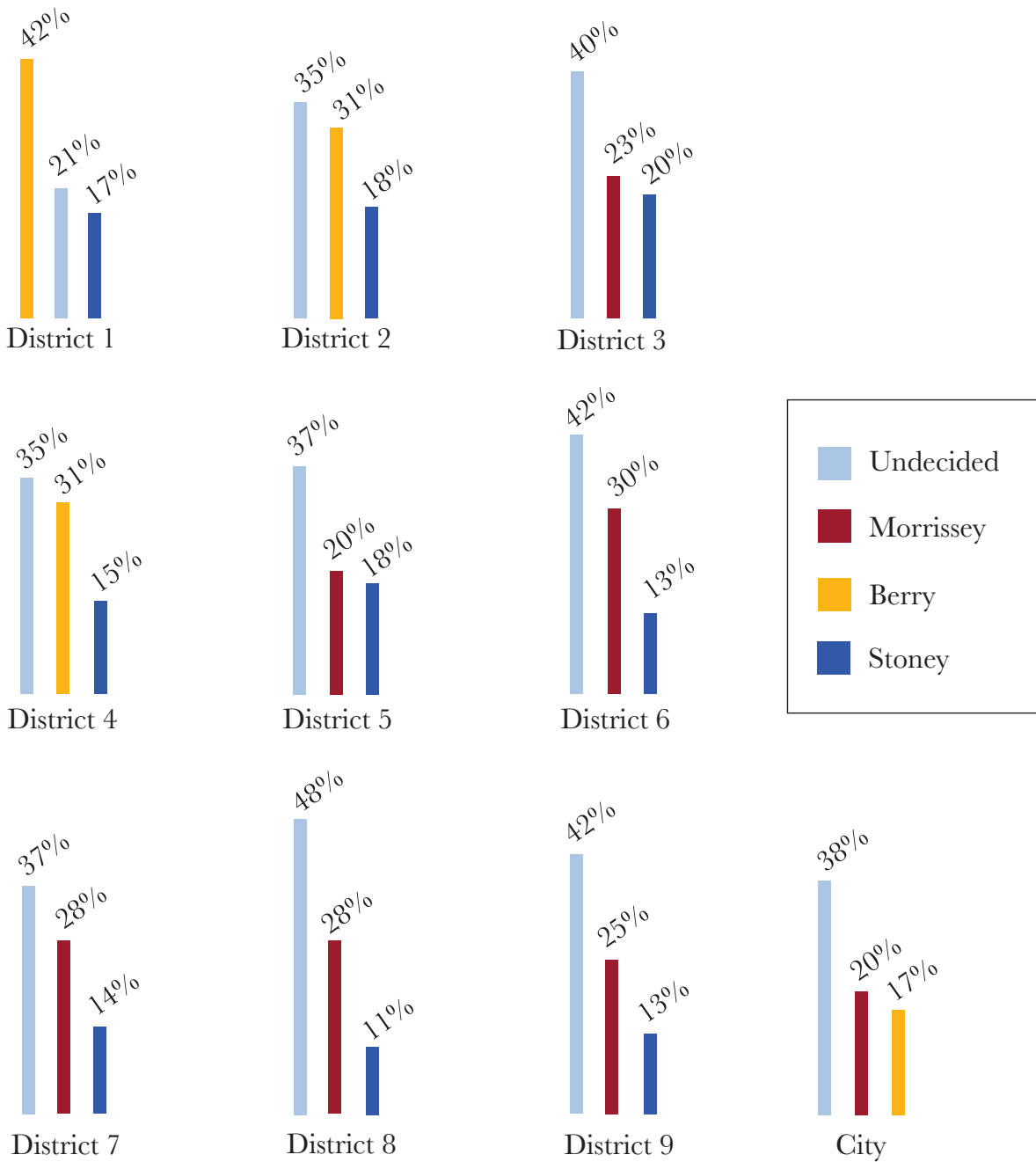
These numbers are likely to shift as the November election edges closer, however. In all but the First District — where Berry has a stronghold 42 percent of the vote — the percentage of "undecided" voters exceeds the leading candidate's percentage of the "decided" vote.

"As of this fieldwork date, the firmly undecided respondents could significantly impact the outcome of the election," states the Oct. 15 report of survey results.

ChamberRVA and the Southeastern Institute of Research also issued a corresponding Topline Report on Oct. 13 which gauged the same respondents' attitudes toward key issues facing the city this election.

The data found top priorities for respondents includes improving the quality of Richmond Public Schools, reducing crime and delivering basic services such as filling potholes and collecting garbage. In the Sixth District, improving public transportation is a high priority.

Monday's debate at the Altria Theatre is free to the public and will be televised on NBC12 from 7-8 p.m.



INFOGRAPHIC BY SARAH KING AND SARAH BUTLER

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE!

to register online visit elections.virginia.gov

21 Days Until Election Day

AT THE POLLS VIRGINIA GENERAL ELECTION

Clinton Democrat 44% **Johnson Libertarian 11%**
Trump Republican 29% **Stein Green 2%**



Stat of the Week
Freshmen middle blocker Jasmin Sneed was named Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week last week.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT: Simond Kargbo escapes through soccer



Kargbo has three assists in his career, but teammates say his contributions to the club go far beyond statistical measures.

ELIJAH LOCKABY
Contributing Writer

Wearing a Sierra Leone men's national soccer team jersey, Simond Kargbo sat across the marble-slab table beaming with pride for his Western African country.

"There will always be someone in a worse situation," Kargbo said. "What gives me the right to complain?"

Overcoming the tragedies of a civil war in Sierra Leone, the struggles of being a refugee and the death of his parents, Kargbo has found his escape through soccer.

Kargbo is a senior and sociology major at VCU. As a member of the VCU men's soccer team, he stands at 5-foot-5 and plays as a striker, and has provided the team with three assists during his career.

However, according to Greg Boehme, one of the team captains, the statistics do not define what Kargbo brings to the team.

"Simond manages to wear a smile on his face at all times," Boehme said. "This attitude is contagious and I am thankful to have him as a teammate."

VCU men's soccer head coach Dave Giffard reinforced Kargbo's strength of character.

"For a person who has been through so much in his already young life, he just keeps going each day with a smile on his face," Giffard said. "A positive attitude and a tireless work ethic."

Born in Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1994, Simond Kargbo was introduced to the realities of his country's Civil War. As a child, Kargbo saw traumatic images, including hundreds of dead bodies lying in the streets being preyed upon by vultures.

As a child, a group supporting the rebellion burned down Kargbo's family home and forced the family to flee to Senegal for a year. After a brief stint in Senegal, Kargbo returned to his war-torn nation only to

leave once again for The Gambia where he was provided the paperwork allowing him to emigrate to America.

Kargbo's desire to come to the United States was driven by the opportunity to receive a quality education, while also living with his grandmother and uncle in Alexandria, Virginia. In 2003 Kargbo moved to the U.S., thinking he had escaped tragedy.

But five years later, Kargbo received news that his father, Sori, had died in Sierra Leone. Then, during his senior year of high school in 2013, Kargbo's mother, Kamara, passed away while giving birth to his younger sister.

As for now, Simond said he is looking ahead towards the future. He is expected to graduate in the May 2017 and is determined to pursue a future in the game of soccer.

"If soccer doesn't pan out the way I want, I would love to get right into coaching and help the next generation of athletes," Kargbo said.

From a fellow player

I am currently a redshirt sophomore for the VCU men's soccer team, and I can confirm everything both coach Giffard and captain Greg Boehme said about Simond Kargbo.

We train on a daily basis at 8 a.m., and the first person to say good morning to me is Simond. He approaches every day with a smile, which spreads throughout the team and creates a positive atmosphere.

No one ever doubts Simond's work ethic, as he is consistently one of the first guys on the field at training and one of the last to leave. Given what Simond has been through, I can say without a doubt in my mind he is one of the most genuine, committed and honorable people I will ever meet.

Simond's life and story will continue to inspire me and others as he continues to defy the odds.

“He approaches every day with a smile, which spreads throughout the team and creates a positive atmosphere.”

Elijah Lockaby



Women's soccer spends weekend in overtime

Women's soccer is 3-3 in Atlantic-10 play, good for seventh place.

NICK VERSAW
Contributing Writer

La Salle

Women's soccer knocked off conference rivals La Salle University in a double overtime thriller Sunday at Sports Backers Stadium to improve to 7-7-1 on the season and 3-3 in Atlantic-10 conference play.

Both teams had ample opportunities to score throughout the match, but it was a strong defensive performance by the Rams that helped seal the clean sheet victory.

VCU's best opportunity of the first half came with 38:57 on the clock. A build-up play by the Rams led to an open header for junior defender Amanda Hallesjo, but she put her shot just wide of the target. VCU went into half-

time with four shots on goal, but the game remained scoreless.

The second half featured back-and-forth play, with neither team able to find the back of the net. The Rams held a minimal advantage in opportunities, with 10 shots to La Salle's nine, but VCU continued to struggle to find the back of the net.

La Salle dominated the first 10 minute overtime period with three shots on goal. With 94:27 on the clock, the Explorer's Danielle Marx lined up a shot from well outside of the VCU penalty area. The shot narrowly missed it's mark, as it hit the woodwork and ricocheted off the crossbar.

Just over three minutes later, La Salle's Kristin Haugstad had the Explorers' best opportunity of the night. She beat the keeper and fired on net, however, VCU's

sophomore defender Brittany Beckwith swept in with a last-ditch effort and cleared the ball off the line.

The Rams held on to force a second overtime period, and it did not last long. Just 50 seconds into the period, the Rams won their fourth corner kick of the match. Freshman midfielder Rachel Hardy lined up and fired the ball into the penalty area, finding the head of redshirt freshman Amanda Tredway, who redirected it into the bottom left-hand corner of the goal. Tredway's third goal of the season ended the game and secured the Rams thrilling 1-0 victory in double overtime.

George Washington

VCU fell short 1-0 in an overtime nail-biter to conference foe

the George Washington University on Oct. 13.

The Rams defense, led by red-shirt goal-keeper Audrey Sanderson, held strong for 90 minutes, but ultimately, the Rams returned from the nation's capital with the loss.

The first half saw solid scoring opportunities from both sides, but the two goalkeepers kept their opponents scoreless.

With 27:25 on the clock, George Washington was able to break down the Rams' defense, setting up senior forward Mackenzie Cowley to take aim at the edge of the box. Cowley's attempt forced Sanderson to make a tough save, as she was able to extend just far enough to get a hand on it from about seven yards out to keep the game scoreless.

Five minutes later, the Rams saw their best opportunity of the half. Sophomore forward Julia Suarez's shot attempt forced George Washington's Miranda Horn to make a tough save. Suarez took another shot with five minutes remaining in the half, but after another save by the Colonial keeper, the two teams went into the halftime 0-0.

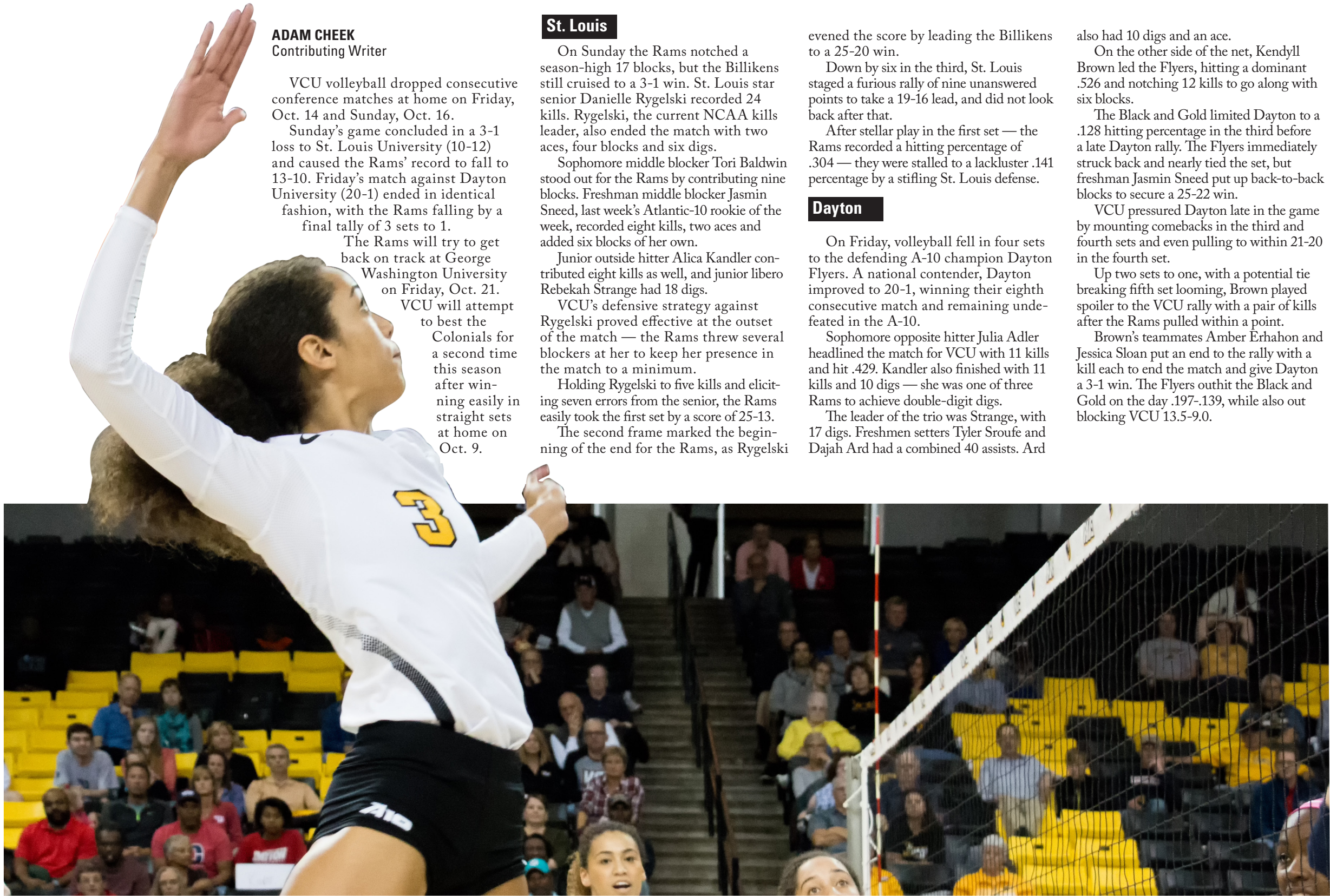
In the second half, much of the play hovered around midfield, with neither team able to break their opponent down. During the last ten minutes of regulation, the Rams held the offensive advantage, with several looks in and around the Colonial's 18-yard box. However, the Colonials held off the VCU onslaught and forced overtime.

Just under five minutes into the overtime period, George Washington earned their seventh corner

of the night. The Colonials' Brooke Bean lined up and crossed the ball into the Rams' penalty area, finding Cowley. Sanderson was able to get a hand on the shot and force it back into play, but unfortunately for the Rams, GW's Megan McCormick found herself on the end of the rebound and fired the ball into the back of the net, handing VCU their third conference loss of the season.

VCU will return to action this Thursday, at Sports Backers Stadium to take on the George Mason University Patriots. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Volleyball falls to top contenders



ADAM CHEEK
Contributing Writer

VCU volleyball dropped consecutive conference matches at home on Friday, Oct. 14 and Sunday, Oct. 16. Sunday’s game concluded in a 3-1 loss to St. Louis University (10-12) and caused the Rams’ record to fall to 13-10. Friday’s match against Dayton University (20-1) ended in identical fashion, with the Rams falling by a final tally of 3 sets to 1.

The Rams will try to get back on track at George Washington University on Friday, Oct. 21.

VCU will attempt to best the Colonials for a second time this season after winning easily in straight sets at home on Oct. 9.

St. Louis

On Sunday the Rams notched a season-high 17 blocks, but the Billikens still cruised to a 3-1 win. St. Louis star senior Danielle Rygelski recorded 24 kills. Rygelski, the current NCAA kills leader, also ended the match with two aces, four blocks and six digs.

Sophomore middle blocker Tori Baldwin stood out for the Rams by contributing nine blocks. Freshman middle blocker Jasmin Sneed, last week’s Atlantic-10 rookie of the week, recorded eight kills, two aces and added six blocks of her own.

Junior outside hitter Alica Kandler contributed eight kills as well, and junior libero Rebekah Strange had 18 digs.

VCU’s defensive strategy against Rygelski proved effective at the outset of the match — the Rams threw several blockers at her to keep her presence in the match to a minimum.

Holding Rygelski to five kills and eliciting seven errors from the senior, the Rams easily took the first set by a score of 25-13.

The second frame marked the beginning of the end for the Rams, as Rygelski

evened the score by leading the Billikens to a 25-20 win.

Down by six in the third, St. Louis staged a furious rally of nine unanswered points to take a 19-16 lead, and did not look back after that.

After stellar play in the first set — the Rams recorded a hitting percentage of .304 — they were stalled to a lackluster .141 percentage by a stifling St. Louis defense.

Dayton

On Friday, volleyball fell in four sets to the defending A-10 champion Dayton Flyers. A national contender, Dayton improved to 20-1, winning their eighth consecutive match and remaining undefeated in the A-10.

Sophomore opposite hitter Julia Adler headlined the match for VCU with 11 kills and hit .429. Kandler also finished with 11 kills and 10 digs — she was one of three Rams to achieve double-digit digs.

The leader of the trio was Strange, with 17 digs. Freshmen setters Tyler Sroufe and Dajah Ard had a combined 40 assists. Ard

also had 10 digs and an ace.

On the other side of the net, Kendyll Brown led the Flyers, hitting a dominant .526 and notching 12 kills to go along with six blocks.

The Black and Gold limited Dayton to a .128 hitting percentage in the third before a late Dayton rally. The Flyers immediately struck back and nearly tied the set, but freshman Jasmin Sneed put up back-to-back blocks to secure a 25-22 win.

VCU pressured Dayton late in the game by mounting comebacks in the third and fourth sets and even pulling to within 21-20 in the fourth set.

Up two sets to one, with a potential tie breaking fifth set looming, Brown played spoiler to the VCU rally with a pair of kills after the Rams pulled within a point.

Brown’s teammates Amber Erhahon and Jessica Sloan put an end to the rally with a kill each to end the match and give Dayton a 3-1 win. The Flyers outhit the Black and Gold on the day .197-.139, while also out blocking VCU 13.5-9.0.

Outside hitter Sahbria McLetchie boasts an impressive 155 kills this season, good for third on the team.

Tennis rallies in opening tournaments

JESSICA WETZLER
Contributing Writer

International Tennis Federation’s 10K Charleston Tournament

Women’s tennis represented VCU at the International Tennis Federation’s 10K Charleston tournament Sept. 26 - Oct. 2. VCU finished the tournament with a 1-3 record. The Rams competed against members of the ITF’s Pro and Junior Pro Circuits.

The women’s team is made up of six women from five different countries: Brazil, Germany, Denmark, Spain and Kazakhstan.

Sophomore Janina Braun defeated teammate and redshirt-freshman Isabella Capato Camargo to advance to the second round, but fell to Spain’s Celia Cervino Ruiz.

The United States’ Anna Letto eliminated VCU freshman Gabriela Araujo in the first round.

Sophomore Anna Rasmussen fell in consecutive sets to Chloe Beck in the first round and was also eliminated from play.

USA’s Nicole Coopersmith won the ITF 10K singles match. USA’s Andie Daniell and Canada’s Erin Routliffe won doubles.

The Rams were scheduled for a tournament in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, on Oct. 7 but the trip was cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew.

Duke James Bonk Invite and Belford Cup

The Rams kicked off the fall season Sept. 18 at the Duke James Bonk Invite and Belford Cup. VCU posted a combined 11-9 record in singles. The tournament was held at Duke University and The University of Maryland.

Braun and Rasmussen participated in the Duke James Bonk Invite. The duo dominated the courts with a 4-2 singles record, along with a second place finish in the doubles Blue Flight.

Rasmussen fell to the University of Miami’s Ana Madcur in the opening round of the Yellow singles flight, but rallied for a win over Duke’s Christina Makarova and got revenge over Madcur in the consolation final.

Braun’s path was similar, as she dropped a tightly contested match to Miami’s Maci Epstein in the opening round, but bounced back with back-to-back straight set victories.

Arajuo, Berezhnaya and Aubets represented the Black and Gold at The Bedford Cup in College Park, Maryland.

Aubets placed second in the Consolation Final and finished with a 3-2 record in the tournament. Berezhnaya also finished with a 3-2 record on the weekend. In her first tournament with the Rams, Arajuo posted a 1-3 record in singles play.



Sophomore Janina Braun won ten consecutive singles matches to close out her freshman campaign with a 16-4 record.

Men’s Tennis takes the Ivy-plus invitational

Junior Louis Ishizaka and sophomore Vitor Lima provided men’s tennis with strong individual performances during their fall opener, the Ivy-Plus Invitational from Sept. 23 - Sept. 25.

Ishizaka and Lima combined for a 5-3 record in singles play. Ishizaka won three of his four matches, defeating The University of Tennessee’s Steven Karl, Princeton University’s Josh Yablon, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Lamar Remy.

Lima finished the tournament with a 2-2 record. Lima dropped his first two matches, including one to Tennessee’s Timo Stodder, ranked 89th by the ITA.

The Sao Paulo, Brazil native bounced back to win his final two matches in singles play, including a marathon, 6-3, 1-6, 11-9 affair with Marist’s Christopher Gladden.

Ishizaka and Lima also teamed up in doubles play. The duo finished the tournament with an 0-3 record.

VCU coach Paul Kostin said the tournament was a good chance for both players to compete in quality matches.

“I was very impressed with Louis’ effort and focus the whole weekend,” Kostin said. “His hard work over the last year has really paid off, and I am expecting a lot from him as the season continues.”

Kostin said although Vitor did not play his best this weekend, he found a way to win his last two singles matches in spite of that.

“I am really excited about where this team is at the moment. We have a lot of work to do, but the future’s very bright.”

The men’s team returns to action Oct. 13-16 at the ITA Atlantic Regionals in Blacksburg, Virginia.

PHOTO BY ERIC MARQUEZ

PHOTO PROVIDED BY VCUATHLETICS

THE PRESS BOX

President Obama, Colin Kaepernick and real “locker room talk”

ZACH JOACHIM
Sports Editor

The recent montage of social activism in the sports world has sparked national conversations about socially relevant topics. Meanwhile, the political battlefield is strewn with vulgar mud-slinging.

Football Sundays have become a platform for social activism and political conversation. Sports broadcasters banter passionately about the widespread social injustice in our country and how to best speak out against it.

In contrast, at last week’s circus of a “presidential debate,” Donald Trump vehemently denied allegations of sexual assault. Trump also labeled his vulgar comments from a recently-released 2005 recording as “locker room talk.”

This label suggests Trump’s attitude and vulgarity are somehow synonymous with athletic culture. At a time when athletes such as Colin Kaepernick are the face of social change and political activism in our country, this interpretation of athletic culture is egregiously arrogant.

The inherent culture of athletics is widely conceptualized as being rooted in patriarchy and stupidity. Sports are not an inferior intellectual pursuit.

Athletes are intelligent, socially-aware human beings who are leading the conversation surrounding the need for social change in this country right now, and their voices are making more of an impact than ever.

In southeast Texas, young athletes are contributing to the conversation. The Beaumont Bulls senior football team, comprised of 11 and 12-year-old kids, have kneeled during the national anthem before every game this season, in spite of death-threats and public scrutiny.

In an interview with BleacherReport, Jaelun Parkerson, an 11-year-old sixth-grade running back on the Bulls, said the team wanted to be part of Kaepernick’s protest against injustice.

“Since Colin Kaepernick took a stand, we wanted to do the same,” Parkerson said. “We wanted to stand against racism and injustice.”

Even young athletes are joining the conversation and setting a better example than the two

people chosen by their respective political parties to represent this country on a global scale.

Not only can athletes spark a national conversation by engaging in simple peaceful protest, they can influence political campaigns by exercising their voice.

Cleveland Cavalier’s star forward LeBron James recently endorsed presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. This move has already done wonders for Clinton’s polling numbers in the hotly-contested swing state of Ohio.

President Barack Obama reinforced this belief in the power of athletics in a visit to the nation’s largest historically black university, North Carolina A&T University, last Tuesday.

Obama engaged in a town hall meeting with students where he discussed athletes and activism. The event was hosted by The Undeclared, a sports journalism organization, and aired on ESPN.

Obama said he hopes the recent trends toward activism will expand so that athletes commit themselves to speaking out against a wider array of social injustices.

“How you do it is less important than your commitment to use whatever platform you have to speak to not just issues of racial injustice,” Obama said, “but to speak to issues of discrimination against Muslims or sexual assault on college campuses or

a whole host of issues.”

Obama urged students, particularly student-athletes, to engage in activism in all walks of life. He spoke about the importance of community engagement in response to a question from Sam Hunt, a junior on the A&T basketball team.

“The ability for you to mentor some kid who lives right around here, maybe he doesn’t have a Dad, doesn’t have a lot,” Obama said. “You paying attention to him and you’re a star guard on your team, you taking him to a ballgame and asking him how he is doing in school – that is revolutionary.”

Athletes, not politicians, are the leading voices of revolution in this country right now.

From contentious arguments over national symbology to simple community engagement, this is the attitude permeating athletic culture right now – this is real locker room talk.



“
Athletes are intelligent, socially-aware human beings who are leading the conversation surrounding the need for social change in this country right now, and their voices are making more of an impact than ever.
Zach Joachim

ADVERTISEMENT

“I’m saving an entire year’s worth of expenses, just by adding one extra class per semester.”

– Carley Langley

SAVE UP TO \$50,000.*
dothemath.vcu.edu

**VCU**
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
Make it real.

* Estimated savings based on a 120-credit-hour program with standard tuition and fees, books/supplies, room, board, miscellaneous and transportation expenses and graduating in four years instead of six.



AN ONLINE COURSE WITH THE SUPPORT OF VCU UNIVERSITY

Fact of the week:
Queen bees can lay between
600 and 800 eggs per day.

Incarcerated youth create conversations through art about the justice system

GEORGIA GEEN
Contributing Writer

Richmond-based youth art program Art 180 worked with a group of 12 teens in the city’s juvenile detention system during a two month program that provided participants with the chance to create a wide variety of art, through audio, visual and conceptual mediums.

The resulting exhibition, “I Am Powerful,” runs from Oct. 7 through Nov. 21 at Art 180’s gallery at 114 W. Marshall St. Following its conclusion there, the pieces will travel across the state and the nation for display at different festivals and conferences.

Art 180 Creative Director Mark Strandquist said the themes are developed and explored firsthand by the young artists, with aided from mentors such as artists, advocates and formerly incarcerated adults.

In the exhibition the teens explore the transformation of the juvenile justice system and maintaining the freedom of kids.

“It is important that the teens connect with people with shared experiences who can help mentor them,” Strandquist said. “But, also a multitude of community experts that can help amplify and expand the power of the teens’ artwork.”

Not only was the series intended to provide opportunities for youth in the juvenile detention system — their art has also been used to educate and spread awareness about issues in the justice system.

“We are using their art to train every active-duty officer in the City of Richmond,” Strandquist said.

Contrary to traditional training methods, the art pieces, and their creators, were part of a session that combined creative expression with the presentation of facts concerning youth imprisonment in the U.S.

According to the World Prison Brief, the U.S. is the global leader in incarceration. Virginia is particularly guilty, at three times the national rate, it is the state with the most youth referred to law enforcement, according to the Center for Public Integrity.

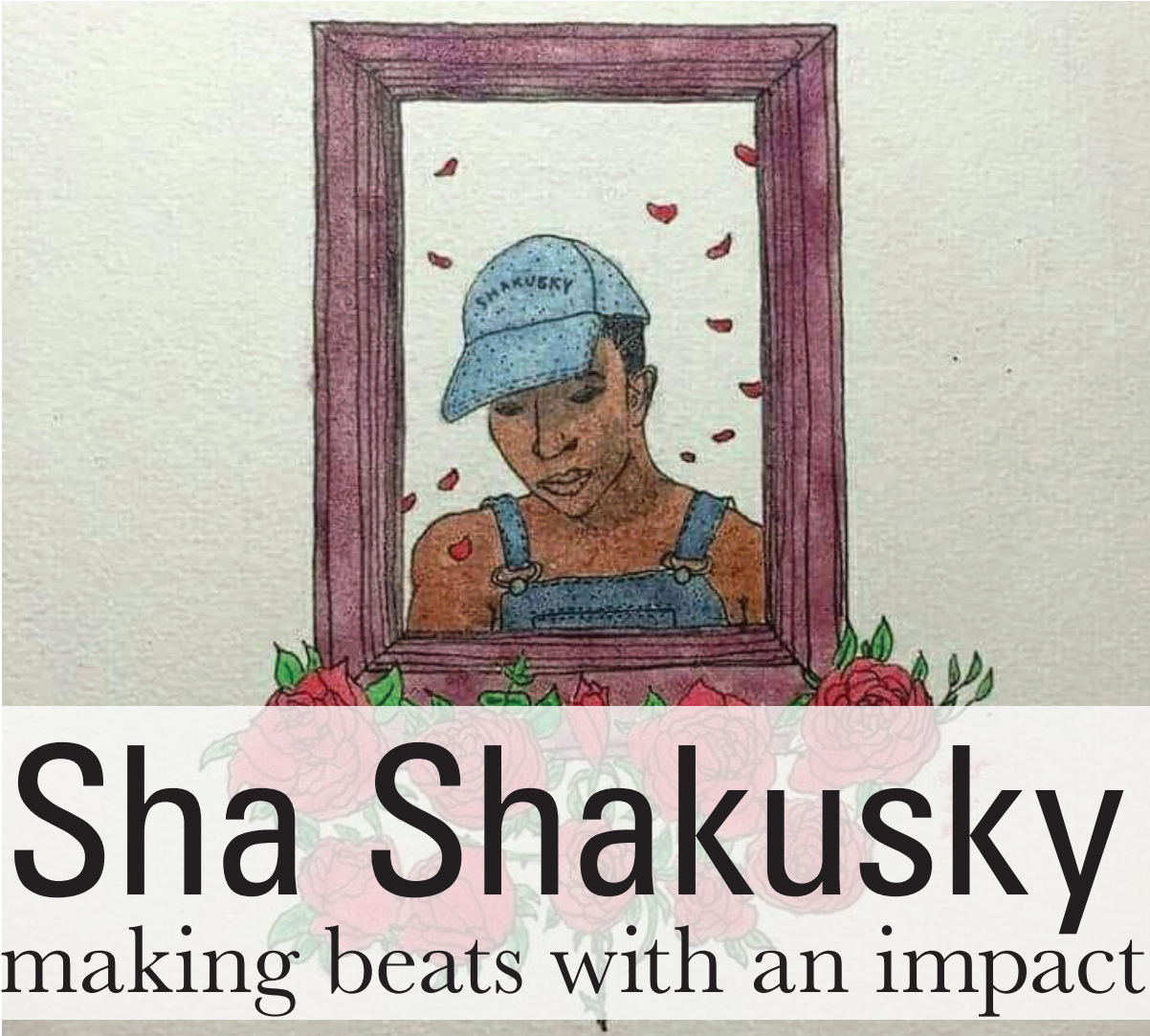
During the week-long training session sponsored by Art 180, youth, speakers and police officers utilized the pieces as starting points to catalyze bigger discussions about their own experiences with various issue.

At the end of the two-month session, a forum at the Richmond Public Library brought together police and youth who had been impacted by the justice system; the conversations were aided by mediators like teachers or lawyers.

“If you invest in youth in small numbers, we believe, and have seen, that the impact and ripple effect can be huge,” Strandquist said.



The artwork created by a dozen teens in Richmond’s juvenile detention system this summer will be on display as part of the “I Am Powerful” exhibit at Art 180, located at 114 W. Marshall St., until Nov. 21.



Sha Shakusky making beats with an impact

SIONA PTEROUS
Staff Writer

Twenty-year-old Sha Shakusky might have only bought her first beat-making sampler nine months ago, but she is quickly making a name for herself in the Richmond music scene.

Shakusky’s first album, R.I.P Ma’s and Pa’s, which she describes as a compilation of her work spanning the last nine months, dropped Oct. 16. Shakusky said the album title is an ode to the house where she used to live and held house shows for artists to perform.

“They were great shows, merch was sold, connections were made,” Shakusky said. “I just felt I wasn’t providing a safe space for people to come. Things die, you know, you have to move on.”

Shakusky said she draws on a number of influences, but she grew up listening to 90’s hip-hop and the production was what most intrigued her.

In addition to experimentally blending sounds, Shakusky exclusively uses tapes to produce her beats. She said the format

provides her with a better, warmer sound and there’s less reliance on software which can glitch and ruin the beats.

“You got people who have a mindset that unless you get this \$900 software with a \$500 keyboard, you won’t sound like the (popular) artists,” Shakusky said.

“I want people to know that I’m just getting started, this is just the beginning.”

Sha Shakusky

“It’s so ridiculous.”
In August, Shakusky was featured in RVA Magazine alongside another up-and-coming artist Ben Escobar whose artist name is Bedroom Hijinks. Together the duo have started a record label, Master

Hand Records, which is where Shakusky dropped her tape.

“I want people to know that I’m just getting started, this is just the beginning,” Shakusky said.

Shakusky also has shows lined up in Washington D.C., a mini tour in Rochester, New York, as well as a host of house shows and venue shoes in the Richmond area.

For Sha, beatmaking isn’t a passing fad. She plans to continue pursuing her career and wants to do it for as long as as possible.

“My presence and how I play music, and the single fact that I am a trans-woman in beat music is sorta that big middle finger to a lot of heteronormativity and misogyny and just the rap game itself,” Shakusky said.

To keep up with Sha’s upcoming show follow her on twitter, @cosmic_charli3, and to take a listen to her work, check out masterhandrecords.com and her sound cloud page in her name, Sha Shakusky.

Dreadlock ruling allows firing because of hair style

MUKTARU JALLOH
Staff Writer

The U.S. federal appeals court ruled it is legal for companies to ban employees from wearing dreadlocks on Sept. 15.

The 3-0 decision was made by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, dismissing a case brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission about a woman who was asked to remove her dreadlocks to abide by company policy.

As argued by the EEOC, “prohibition of dreadlocks in the workplace constitutes race discrimination because dreadlocks are a manner of wearing the hair that is physiologically and culturally associated with people of African descent.”

VCU Assistant Professor of African American Studies Brandi Thompson Summers, believes the ruling was on par with acts of discrimination African-Americans face on a daily basis.

“It was pretty consistent,” Summers said. “The military banned certain hairstyles for women in the Army and Marines. They had images that accompanied the banned ones including dreadlocks. They showed acceptable braids with a white model and unacceptable with a black model. I wasn’t surprised but definitely disappointed.

Summers is also a sociologist and has conducted research on urban studies and visual culture theory centered around fashion and race. Similarly she said the treatment of black life and value correlate with White America’s acceptance of their visual expressions.

“There’s a way that our styles, particularly black people, is policed that’s around our hair,” Summers said. “Thinking about the way hair expresses your history, culture, it’s also easier in terms of grooming habits, it’s easier to have locks.

A lot of black people’s hair doesn’t grow straight and requires additional labor to conform to a white standard, but today that is what’s encouraged to look appropriate, Summers said.

Much like many other tenants of black culture, Summers said dreadlocks have become a thing of the mainstream despite the many myths surrounding the hairstyle.

“You hear the idea that it looks unclean and unkempt, unprofessional. It’s associ-

ated with drug culture. It’s also associated with Rastafarian culture so it can be considered not Christian,” Summers said. “Even though we see it sports, music, arts and fashion, there seems to be difference between a black body with dreads versus a white body. When it’s on a black body, it elicits danger, fear and violence.”

The origin of dreadlocks runs deep through the black experience, struggle and plight, despite now being a popular and commercialized hairstyle.

When slaves were taken from Africa, they were under deplorable conditions, made to lie in their own sweat, urine and fecal matter. Summers said this environment led to their hair becoming matted, in a way which Europeans deemed “dreadful.”

“That started the lineage of it becoming dreadlocks to just dreads as we know it today,” Summers said. “If you carry it over to spirituality and the Rastafarian culture, there is a connection in which locks represent your connection to your heritage and roots. It certainly has its history and the voyage we took to this country.”

Summers, who has never worn dreads, said she has faced controversy over her own hairstyle choices. Prior to being a professor, she worked in the corporate world. There, she said she very seldom saw women wearing their hair naturally.

“It’s become less common but certainly in the ‘90s and early 2000s there was still that pressure to have a relaxer or straighten your hair,” Summers said. “There was a point in my life where I shaved my hair. I remember the reaction I got. While there were women that longed for that type of liberation but there were men who questioned my decision.”

Physically, among other issues, relaxers are damaging to one’s hair. Over time, research proven relaxers are detrimental to a person’s hair, scalp and health. Summers said the fact that the court overlooks such findings further adds to their disregard for black life.

Although it’s been a month since the court ruling, there’s been no reaction from any VCU officials. Summers said she is hopeful that students will take it upon themselves to make this a larger issue.

“Since this is a space of academic freedom, in terms of style and politics of your hair, it should be the same,” Summers said.



PHOTOS BY ERIN EDGERTON

Richmond Fall Fashion week stirs up state-wide inspiration

KEYRIS MANZANARES
Contributing Writer

Richmond Fall Fashion Weekend kicked off this Friday with a trunk show hosted at the VCU Arts Depot Building. The trunk show was followed by a designer and boutique runway show Saturday night at The Observation Deck at City Hall.

The annual trunk show featured local jewelry, art, accessories and clothing vendors. This allowed attendees to shop and wear what was going to be on the runway the following day.

"I love fashion week and I love RVA. I am a tomboy at heart and I swim and do a lot of things that are not girly," said owner of artisan jewelry Teal Jayne, Laure Ray. "But I love jewelry, I love the stones, and I love that fashion week gives the chance to showcase that."

The trunk show brought together many fashion lovers of Richmond, including VCU students, local bloggers, spectators and store owners.

"The coolest part about being a blogger in general is just getting to meet different people with different visions and dreams," said local fashion blogger Megan Wilson. "People who understand that fashion is a creative expression and something that we can all access everyday."

The fall fashion weekend concluded on Saturday with a designer and boutique runway show. The venue overlooked the city of Richmond, giving spectators, most of which are Richmond

natives the chance to experience two things they love in one place — the RVA skyline and fashion.

The fashion show included 10 designers and boutiques, 4 of which showed at New York Fashion Week this past September. Neutrals and nature inspired most of the collections seen; the colors to wear this fall are definitely dark greens and simple colors. But there were also extravagant gowns and sequins that allow people to express their personalities.

"I thought it was lit and very inspiring," said Vanessa Blanco from Norfolk, Virginia.

She was not the only one to be inspired. Veronica Cooper is a teacher in Washington, D.C. who traveled to Richmond to see the show. She brought along with her some of her students, young girls who she teaches entrepreneurship and how to sew.

"It is important for them to see this, so that they can be inspired and they can see the different designers," said Cooper. And just the overall feel of the atmosphere and the finale of the production of fashion."

Most designers dream of this moment, the finale where they can finally exhibit what they have been working on for months.

"I saw a lot of variety and individual style — even in the models as they modeled the clothing of the designers. You can definitely tell that the designers who showed are very creative and skillful," said Iqra Khan, a Washington D.C. native who traveled to see the show.



PHOTOS BY ERIN EDGERTON



RVA Fashion Weekend concluded with a fashion show for local designers at City Hall.

The trunk show took place at the VCUarts Depot building and featured clothing, jewelry, art prints and accessories.

Life in Lavender

VCU's new living-learning community

— continued from page 1

“My experience so far has been great, nothing bad. Lavender is a really good place, I’m so glad they have it this year.” Castillo said.

She is among 12 people in the small Cary and Belvidere community, which is the brain-child of a partnership between the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and VCU Residence Life and Housing.

OMSA Director Yolanda Avent said she thought it was necessary and important to have a space exclusively designed to support students.

“It was important for us to make sure that they had a community where they could explore their first identity, but also feel affirmed within those identities particularly within our residence life and housing communities,” Avent said.

This year, VCU became the fourth major Virginia university to adopt the housing option after the University of Richmond, Old Dominion University and George Mason University. In the fall of 2014, George Mason was the latest major Virginia university to institute lavender housing.

Interim Assistant Director of OMSA, Camila Hill, said officials took examples from other schools to implement at VCU.

“When we looked at the framework for this community we did benchmark against some other schools, particularly in the southeast and on the east coast,” Hill said. “I think that ours is gonna progress into a larger community and we have the capacity to do that.”

Students in Lavender Housing participate in monthly programs sponsored by OMSA that focus on LGBTQIA identities, history, and concerns. Castillo said she has already learned much from these programs and better understands how to be an ally to her LGBTQIA friends.

In an interview with the Commonwealth Times last September, Clayton Hall, a senior student who is gay, said he disagreed with the idea of lavender housing.

“I think separating certain students from other students because of their sexuality is a step backwards. Why do we need special housing for gay students? Can’t they just live with everyone else?” Hall said.

Hill said that while she understands where Hall is coming from, she has a different approach to the issue.

“[It’s about] creating a physical space on campus where folks can be and just exist as who they are rather than worry about carving that space for them,” Hill said.

Hill said that she thinks it will help take diversity and inclusion to a new level.

“Engagement in VCU’s community is based on people feeling like they belong,” Hill said. “What we really want with this community is to tell people regardless of what you hear from anyone else you belong here, you’re important, you’re a part of VCU.”



ILLUSTRATION BY MAGGIE VANDEVEER



PHOTO BY BECCA SCHWARTZ

Marc Stein has taught political science courses for the last decade at San Francisco State University.

Students, sodomy and the state: LGBTQ struggles in the 1970s

ANNIE GALLO
Contributing Writer

The second lecture of the fall LGBTQ speaker series, “Students, Sodomy, and the State: LGBT Campus Struggles in the 1970s” was held in the University Commons Oct. 13.

This fall marks forty years since the first LGBT student group gained official recognition, and the VCU Humanities Research Center is celebrating this milestone with the LGBTQ fall speaker series.

“At a critical juncture in the history of student activism, gay and lesbian rights and the rise of the new right, VCU’s Gay Alliance of students challenged the university’s refusal to recognize it as a student group,” said San Francisco University history professor Marc Stein. “The Gay Alliance of Students vs. Matthews

decided by the fourth circuit court in October 1976 was one of at least a dozen cases from around the country in which gay and lesbian student groups took their universities’ to court in the 1970s.”

VCU professor Bee Coston who teaches GSWS201: Intro to LGBT Studies was one of those in attendance.

“It is important to have a year-long dialogue of LGBT issues and learn our history and I hope this is just the start,” Coston said. “It’s important to know what made VCU how it is today.”

The next lecture a part of the fall speaker series will be held on October 27th at 6 p.m. at the Siegel Center.

“A Conversation with Billie Jean King” will feature tennis star and LGBT advocate Billy Jean King, who will be talking about her journey across the past several decades toward equality as well as

inclusion in society and sports.

Freshman Kelly Mullin, a member of the LGBT community, plans on attending all of the lectures and panels a part of the fall speaker series.

“As a freshman I’m pretty excited to be learning about VCU LGBTQ community’s rich history though this speaker series,” Mullin said. “I think this series is an amazing opportunity for us students to learn about our school.”

For VCU LGBTQ+ inquiries, students should contact Paris Prince, senior LGBTQ equity officer, at pprince2@vcu.edu or (804)828-3957.

VHS shares history of Church Hill’s Chimborazo Park

JESSE ADCOCK
Spectrum Editor

The Virginia Historical Society featured “A Manner Which Would Not Have Been Permitted Toward Slaves: Race, Reconstruction, and Memory in Post War Richmond” as part of the Banner series on Oct. 12.

The lecture was offered as part of the Banner series, a free lecture program for the public by authors and scholars continuing since 1988 by the Virginia Historical Society.

“In general we’ve always wanted to put Reconstruction into a one-size-fits-all narrative,” said National Park Service historian Michael Gorman. “Either diabolical northern carpetbaggers coming south for the wrong reasons, or for sweeping social justice.”

The event, presented by Gorman, focused on the Reconstruction era history of Chimborazo military hospital barracks located at what is now Chimborazo Park in Church Hill, at 3215 E Broad St.

“The end of the war caught everyone flat-footed,” Gorman said.

By June of 1865, Gorman said there were 30,000 former slaves in Richmond with no place to live and no way to sustain themselves.

“They were trying to get a job, trying to find a new way of life,” Gorman said. “There was this fundamental narrative of ‘Okay slavery is over. Now go get a job.’ How?”

About a month later, in July 1865, there were 50,000 former slaves in Richmond with no feasible living situation. The former confederate Chimborazo military hospital barracks had around 4,000 beds and offered a viable solution, according to Gorman.

By the end of July, there were 2,571 black and 198 white people living in the Chimborazo camp, according to Freedman’s Bureau documents.

The Freedmen’s Bureau was established in 1865 by Congress to provide food, healthcare, housing and education to former slaves and those left destitute by the Civil War.

“They (the Freedmens Bureau) were asking themselves ‘Do we have money to buy them firewood? Do we have money to buy them food? Do feed them?’” Gorman said. “The answer is increasingly no.”

Gorman said he read accounts of entire families sharing one tattered blanket and one sputtering fire at Chimborazo. In response, Gorman said The Freedmen’s Bureau bought people one way tickets north to cities like Baltimore and Chicago.

Left unprotected by police and preyed upon by white gangs from the city, Gorman said the residents of Chimborazo had no choice but to train a militia to defend themselves. This escalating violence brought the Freedman’s Bureau to it’s breaking point.

“This concentrated violence caused the Freedman’s bureau to wash its hands and close Chimborazo,” Gorman said.

According to Gorman, most of the the land was sold off to residents already living there, and schools opened in Chimborazo that were funded by aid societies from the north.

After another riot that escalated from throwing stones to firing muskets, compounded by letters from white neighbors detailing the awful living conditions sent to the Richmond City Council, led to Richmond

“I could’ve rubbed shoulders with his descendents. He didn’t know what kind of narrative he was living in.”

Michael Gorman



PHOTO BY JULIE TRIPP

National Park Service historian Michael Gorman has been researching the history of Chimborazo for two years.

City annexing Chimborazo, Gorman said.

In 1874, Richmond City bought the 35-acre settlement for \$35,000 and forced the residents off the land, and began clearing land for a public park.

Through his research, Gorman said he found an article in an early 1900’s St. Louis newspaper about “Old Braxton,” a Chimborazo resident who had picked up his home at Chimborazo and moved it across the street.

“Thanks to the research we can do now, I can tell you the rest of his story,” said Gorman.

Gorman said Braxton Howard lived with his daughter on O St. until he died. His daughter passed in 1951, and her children moved away from Richmond in 1993.

“I could’ve rubbed shoulders with his descendents. He didn’t know what kind of narrative he was living in,” Gorman said. “His story is one of thousands we can get tantalizingly close to.”

On Thursday, Oct. 20 Banner lecture series presents “On the Back Roads Again: More People, Places, and Pie Around Virginia by Bob Brown and Bill Lohmann.”

“What was so interesting is I’ve been to Chimborazo park several times but I’ve never heard this history,” said attendee Alice Waller.

To watch past presentations, visit the Virginia Historical Society’s website.

“Thanks to the digitalization of Freedman’s Bureau records, this research is ongoing,” said Gorman. “This is the golden age of research.”

YOU CAN BUILD TOMORROW BY CHOICE. NOT BY CHANCE.

Wherever you are on your financial journey,
TIAA can help you make informed choices to help
you pursue your personal definition of success.

Enroll in your retirement plan today at TIAA.org/VCU.



INVESTING | ADVICE | BANKING | RETIREMENT



BUILT TO PERFORM.

CREATED TO SERVE.

C34117b

TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc., and Nuveen Securities, LLC, Members FINRA and SIPC, distribute securities products.
©2016 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America-College Retirement Equities Fund, 730 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017



opinion

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SARAH KING
Executive Editor

Armed with my favorite cancer-laden pack of Marlboros, I idled outside the Student Media Center around 9 p.m. on Sunday. Perfectly content with my spot on Broad street, I begin marking up a final draft and inhaling carcinogens when a well-dressed man, probably in his mid-30s, stops in front of me. I glance up and he unabashedly continues giving me the once-over.

“A fuckable tough bitch,” he mutters, standing less than a yard from me. I cock my head, trying to gauge if he’s insane, or dangerous, or talking into a bluetooth headset. He doesn’t seem to be any of the latter. “What?” I ask him, not really wanting a response -- frankly I am too tired and lacking too much patience for this stranger to ruin the rest of my cigarette. He looks me over again and smiles widely, like I should be saying “thank you” for his endearing introduction.

“A tough bitch,” he repeats, still smiling. “But entirely fuckable.” And then -- before I can even exhale a plume of smoke at him -- he walks off. It struck me as I walked back into the office that this is precisely how I felt when I read Donald Trump’s 2005 comments caught on audio two weeks ago -- it was bizarre and disgusting, but not out of character or surprising. “You can do anything,” Trump said in the recording released by the Washington Post on Oct. 7. “Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything.” No matter how desensitized women are forced to become regarding daily sexist encounters, the fact is degrading behaviors are not acceptable on Broad Street coming from the mouths of strangers and certainly not a man who hopes to lead the hegemon of the free world.

When I read the transcript of Trump’s words in 2005, sitting at the bar inside the Village Cafe, I reacted very similarly to how I did outside my office: I blinked a few times, cocked my head to one side and let out a bitter laugh because ... of course, right? Trump denied these allegation vehemently, labeling his remarks “locker room talk” and a “distraction” from the “real issues” this country is facing today. But violence against women is a real issue this country is facing. This election marks a time when more college women nationwide have come forward in reporting sexual assaults, batteries and rapes on their campuses than ever before, when more than 100 colleges and universities are under federal investigation for mishandling matters of Title IX law and when the current administration has actively pursued making these matters of national importance and scrutiny.

This is only the 24th U.S. election white women have been allowed to vote. Black women have had the opportunity to participate in 14 or less elections, depending on which state they lived in. There are not one, but two, women campaigning for the U.S. presidency this election and this is not something that can be taken for granted.

Trump’s statements are not about right or left wing leanings. This is a matter of human integrity and fundamental respect (as it has been every time he finds a new way to somehow disrespect a new group of marginalized people). Frankly, what is more shocking and almost as disgusting, is it took 11-year-old audio to finally confirm to some Republican elected officials and members of the citizenry how sleazy the party’s candidate is.

Has Trump’s violent disregard for the dignity of women been not abundantly clear for decades? In 1991 during the George H.W. Bush administration, Trump told Esquire magazine it doesn’t really matter what the media writes “as long as you’ve got a young and beautiful piece of ass.”

In 2011 he walked out of a courtroom during a deposition over a failed real estate project and called the opposing lawyer “disgusting” when she asked for a break to breast feed her three-month-old child.

The Associated Press reported this month that “The Apprentice” producer Katherine Walker said Trump would constantly speculate, judge and rate women contestants’ bodies, gauging which might be “a tiger in bed.” Another crew member recalled Trump stopping in the middle of a set to point at a contestant and say “You’d fuck her, wouldn’t you? I’d fuck her. C’mon, wouldn’t you?”

Or let’s not forget about Trump’s co-ownership of the Miss Universe and Miss America pageants. In 2009, beauty queen Carrie Prejean wrote about the “Trump rule” during the Miss USA pageant in her book. According to Prejean, Trump would appraise the girls’ appearances before the competition ever began so he could separate the ones he thought were attractive and which ones weren’t.

Quote of the week

What VCU received was a divorce from one of the most talented, creative and passionate directors I have ever played for. As a result, VCU has left a hole in the heart of this band.

We’ve come too far to not be “tough”

“Many of the girls found this exercise humiliating. Some of the girls were sobbing backstage after (Trump) left ... it was as though we had been stripped bare,” Prejean wrote. Then there’s Trump’s comments last month about the 1996 Miss Universe winner and Venezuelan actress, Alicia Machado, who he called “Miss Piggy” after she gained weight following the competition -- going from 118 pounds to a completely reasonable and totally healthy 160. “She was the winner and she gained a massive amount of weight, and it was a real problem for us,” Trump said, because of course it was if he couldn’t milk a bigger profit margin out of a woman catering her entire existence to the righteous and well-intentioned male gaze. Trump said in his 1997 book, “The Art of the Comeback,” there are three types of women and they can be categorized by how they react to prenuptial agreements (Trump is now in his third marriage). Well, I think there are three types of misogynists: those who victimize women because they are in a position of power over them, and those who are not in a position of power over women and therefore feel threatened, or both. The former is ugly and often leads to overt instances of sexual harassment, assault and violence. But the latter form is more covert; it is a weak attempt at degrading women for simply existing because the idea of an autonomous, intelligent female in a position of power is perhaps the worst sin one can bear witness to. The combination of former and latter, however, is most dangerous, and perfectly characterizes Trump. I have experienced both forms of this misogyny. When I was 15 I lost my virginity to rape by a man more than a decade my senior. I learned later that when I walked into the room full of people for the first time he pointed at me (I was also wearing sweatpants and a t-shirt then) and told one of his friends, “that’s mine.”

“When you are working you need to keep your head on straight and focus on the task at hand. Success is the sweetest revenge — and guess what, maybe that’s what makes a “bitch” a little too “tough.”

Similarly, in the last year I have been evicted twice and lost more job opportunities, easy A’s on my transcript and a feeling of belonging among my peers as I learned the harsh realities of navigating a physically, mentally and emotionally grueling relationship. Occasionally, as I did tonight, I recall the time my nose was broken on Goshen street, or a chunk of flesh was bitten from my ring finger -- because how can I not think about those things when strangers walk away from calling me “tough but fuckable,” and I am left staring across the street at the same spot where my blood inked the snow red two years ago. But what I think bothers me more about both the stranger on Broad Street tonight and Trump’s lewd existence (not just language, mind you), is how they react in particular to “tough bitches.” It’s ironic, because the fact is being a woman is tough. Being a woman who doesn’t take failure as an answer is tough. Being a woman who has an iron grasp on her own autonomy, dignity and refusal to be demeaned, patronized or pigeon-holed is tough. And that is why Trump’s comments about women leaders on both sides of the political spectrum are so inherently, even more-so, offensive. In 2012 and 2015 Trump criticized Huffington Post owner Arianna Huffington, not for being part of the “liberal media,” but because he thinks she is ugly. In August 2015 he called FOX news’ Megyn Kelly a “bimbo” after the first Republican debate when Kelly questioned him about previous accusations of sexism. Later, after a CNN interview, Trump suggested Kelly’s line of tough questioning was a function of her being on her period. In September 2015 he came for the only Republican candidate on the primary ballot, former Hewlett-

Packard boss Carly Fiorina. “Look at that face,” Trump said of Fiorina. “Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that being the face of our next president? I mean, she’s a woman, and I’m not supposed to say bad things, but really, folks, come on. Are we serious?” And let’s not even dive into the dozens of times Trump has threatened to reignite conversations about Bill Clinton’s infidelity to Trump’s opponent, Hillary -- as if the whole nation and then some hasn’t been aware of that for the last two decades. Trump’s attacks on these women, and countless others in similar positions of power, are pathetic, pitiful and petty. He is desperate. His money can’t get him what he wants because these women are not interested in being bought. Huffington, Kelly, Fiorina and Clinton each had to claw their way up by consistently proving people wrong by flexing their brains, not their tiny clenched fists, or wallets. Currently, there are 23 female CEOs of Fortune 500 companies -- that’s 4.4 percent of the total -- and Fiorina was one of them at Hewlett-Packard. In politics, there is only 19.3 and 20 percent representation of female lawmakers in the U.S. House and Senate, respectively. In the media, there is virtually almost no female ownership in the print, radio or television industries. Regardless of how “crooked” or “evil” or downright terrible of a person you can make Clinton out to be, the fact is she -- like her Republican counterparts, Kelly and Fiorina -- had to be “tough” to get where she is. In an interview with Humans of New York owner Brandon Stanton, Clinton shared the time she was taking a law school admissions exam at Harvard. She and her friend were the only women in the room. “And while we’re waiting for the exam to start, a group of men began to yell things like: ‘You don’t need to be here.’ And ‘There’s plenty else you can do,’” Clinton said. “And they weren’t kidding around. It was intense. It got very personal. But I couldn’t respond. I couldn’t afford to get distracted because I didn’t want to mess up the test.”

This is the reality of being a woman in the real world. You can not afford to lose your cool over being degraded simply for existing in your female body. You can not afford to sacrifice your success by allowing others to demean you. “I know that I can be perceived as aloof or cold or unemotional,” Clinton continued. “But I had to learn as a young woman to control my emotions. And that’s a hard path to walk. Because you need to protect yourself, you need to keep steady, but at the same time you don’t want to seem ‘walled off.’ (...) But if that sometimes is the perception I create, then I can’t blame people for thinking that.” This is the cold, harsh reality of learning to be “tough.” I am so grateful for the experiences and supplements to my life’s narrative I’ve acquired in tirelessly pursuing what I love to do. I am in my second year as editor of one of the best college newspapers in Virginia. I have won state and national recognition for my work, as have so many of my peers, friends and colleagues. I hired the first female sports editor in decades -- because she earned it. Our creative director is a female, too. And we work our asses off, tirelessly, without taking anyone’s shit, because that is what we’ve had to do each step of the way to get where we are.

I’m not unaware of the times I am the only female in a room full of reporters. I am not unaware of when interview subjects spend more time looking at my chest, or complimenting my hair than giving me a semi-intelligible statement. I’m not ignorant to the fact that at the Atlantic 10 and NCAA Men’s Basketball tournaments I could count on one hand the number of women reporters sitting courtside among the dozens of seats -- or the fact a group of men in the work room had nicknamed me “Tits.” Coincidentally -- that’s also what the boy who raped me six, nearly seven, years ago called me too. I learned a long time ago that anger, frustration or outspokenness rarely address these problems. When you are working you need to keep your head on straight and focus on the task at hand. Success is the sweetest revenge -- and guess what, that is what makes a “bitch” maybe a little too “tough.” Today is the last day to register to vote. I implore you to do so. It’s online, free and easy. I absolutely implore you, however, to not cast your vote for Trump on Nov. 8. If you have a sister, daughter, mother, lover or friend who is female-bodied you can not afford to elect this man to the highest office of the most powerful nation on earth. It is unacceptable, disgusting and an embarrassment this man is even on the ballot. Take it from me, a cold, hard, sweatpants-wearing “tough bitch.”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Take the money and run

Dear Editor,

Unfortunately this letter has nothing to do with The Steve Miller Band, Billy Jo, Bobby Sue or two young lovers with nothing better to do. Sadly, I write due to the current, steadily-declining, state of affairs with the new director of the VCU Pep Band, Duane Coston.

I have to write this letter anonymously for fear I will be dismissed from the band. But if I choose to leave because of the new director and his antics, it will be on my terms.

As many of you know, VCU’s Athletic Director, Ed McLaughlin, decided he could not afford to keep our pep band director who had been with the school for 18 years. It seems as though this all stemmed from a money issue, as Athletics did not see the value in what Ryan Kopacsi brought to this university.

In contrast, Coston has been the perfect politician. As a matter of fact, we should probably put him on the presidential ticket. He says exactly the right things but his actions are empty.

But the true tipping point

and catalyst for this letter is the fact our new director, Duane Coston, can not be approached. Traditionally, a leader is supposed to field the concerns of the people he or she commands, but Coston always goes on the defense.

Recently, we had a member dismissed from the band for raising concerns about some of the ongoing issues with the new director. Coston told this member he would like the band to be a student-run organization while he continues to take the full director’s salary.

Since Coston has taken over, there have been two rehearsals — one of which was held in the auxiliary gym at the Siegel Center. The auxiliary gym is not an appropriate place to have a rehearsal due to the undesirable acoustics. All the sound bounces off of the four parallel walls, creating a cacophony that is almost intolerable.

Coston has also promised additional pay for students who exceed a given amount of Olympic sporting events, but he has given out no contract. It is all still very unclear, even though we are ap-

proaching the end of our Fall Schedule.

There were also promised changes regarding the attendance policy, but the attendance policy we received had

during basketball season.

Furthermore, if our new director were to follow his own policies, you would not be seeing him at any basketball games this season as he



the same requirements as previous years. Long story short, this policy is in place to determine whether or not members are eligible to continue playing with the band

is falling severely short on his own attendance.

Recently, the Washington Wizards asked the band to play for their open practice. The band was extremely ex-

cited for this opportunity, but unfortunately, Coston did not share our same sentiment. He was clearly opposed to the idea, but at the urging of several members the idea was put to a vote. The band decided by an overwhelming majority to play the gig. Nonetheless, our director still did not attend this event.

In addition, Coston has preached fairness for everyone but has worked backdoor deals with certain individuals to motivate them to stay in the band. These deals include paying them cash per performance, allowing them to play less than everyone else and giving them less responsibilities — just to name a few.

With basketball season rapidly approaching we have not received our uniforms, have not had a set rehearsal schedule (as promised by the Athletic department) and have only practiced three new songs. This is truly unacceptable if Coston expects The Peppas to remain one of the premier college pep bands in the nation.

It is a tragedy VCU decided they could not agree with our previous director’s contract

terms. What VCU received was a divorce from one of the most talented, creative and passionate directors I have ever played for. As a result, VCU has left a hole in the heart of this band.

Now, members of the band have to work with a director who continues to act as if he is still in the assistant role, but honestly appears to do even less than before. Not only are students conducting the band, but they are also taking attendance, serving as contacts on emails and handling what seems to be most of the day-to-day operations of the band.

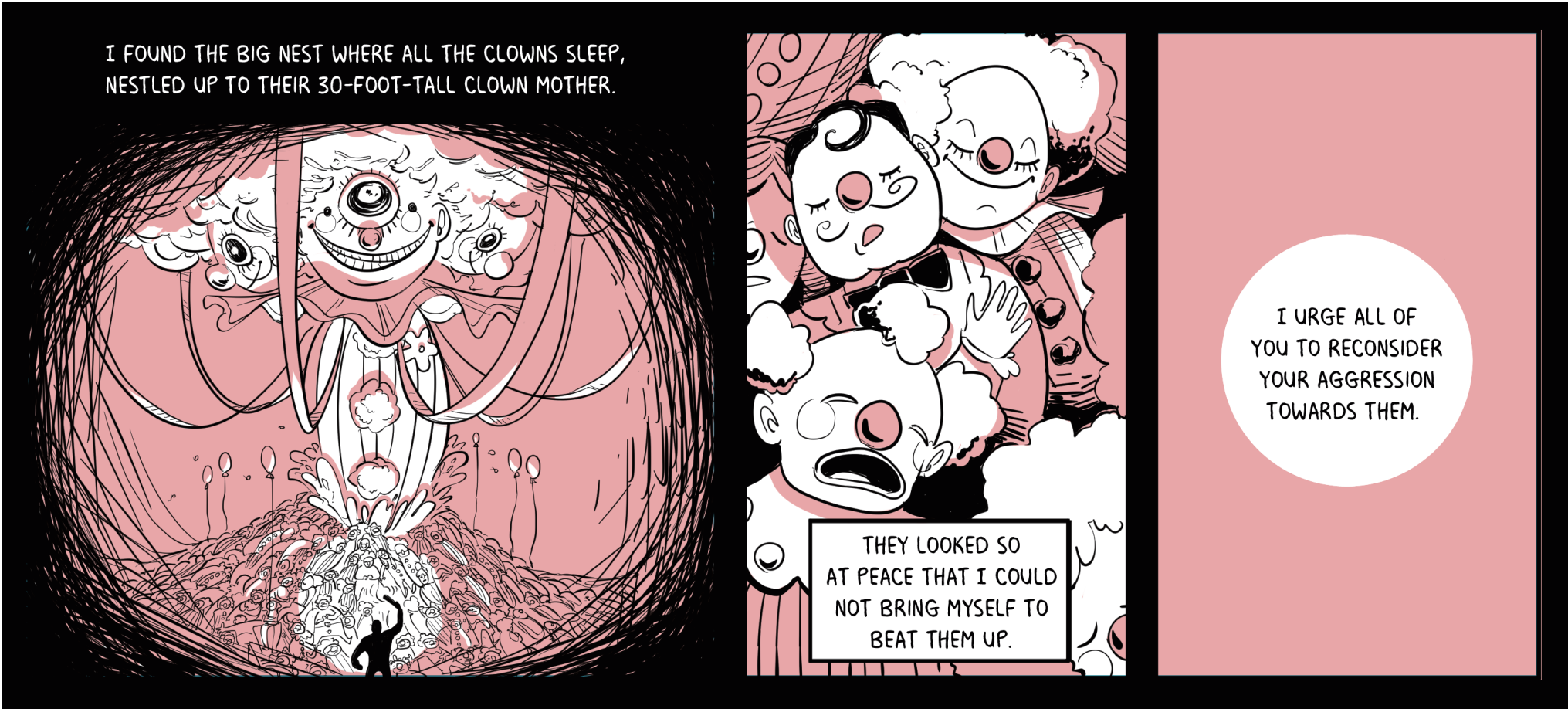
As I look around and see the new students, I can say I am truly sad for them. Yes, we are still good — for now — but returning members can tell this band will never be the same. The new students will never know the band that I was introduced to and came through. They will never know what it truly means to be a Peppa. To be a Peppa is an Honor, HONOR IT!

-Anonymous

Punny by Kelly Macrae



Clown Nest by Megan James and Ethan Koffsky



Mom’s Gone by Jacque Chandler



THE CT STAFF

- Executive Editor**
Sarah King
kingsa@commonwealthtimes.org
- Creative Director**
Ashley Moody
moody@commonwealthtimes.org
- News Editors**
Fadel Allassan
allassanf@commonwealthtimes.org
- Online News Editor**
Maura Mazurowski
mazurom@commonwealthtimes.org
- Sports Editor**
Sophia Belletti
bellettisr@commonwealthtimes.org
- Zachary Joachim
joachimz@commonwealthtimes.org
- Spectrum Editor**
Jesse Adcock
adcockj@commonwealthtimes.org
- Opinion Editor**
Ellie Fialk
fialke@commonwealthtimes.org
- Illustrations Editor**
Gareth Bentall
bentallgr@commonwealthtimes.org
- Photography Editor**
Julie Tripp
trippjm@commonwealthtimes.org
- Staff Writers**
Gabe Hauari
hauari@commonwealthtimes.org
- Hiba Ahmad
ahmadh@commonwealthtimes.org
- Joe Johnson
johnsonj@commonwealthtimes.org
- Mary Lee Clark
clarkml@commonwealthtimes.org
- Muktaru Jalloh
jallohmm@commonwealthtimes.org
- Staff Photographer**
Ali Jones
jonesa@commonwealthtimes.org
- Becca Schwartz
schwartzb@commonwealthtimes.org
- Erin Edgerton
edgertone@commonwealthtimes.org
- Staff Columnist**
Shaun Jackson
- Staff Illustrators**
Carson McNamara
mcnamarac@commonwealthtimes.org
- Skye Ali
alis@commonwealthtimes.org
- Graphic Designers**
Ashley Moody
Sarah Butler
Rachel Lee
Desiree Choe
Eric Ngo
designers@vcustudentmedia.com
- Advertising Representatives**
Abigail Keatinge
advertising@vcustudentmedia.com
804-828-6629
- Outreach Coordinator**
Felix Mallaby-Kay
smc_outreach@vcustudentmedia.com
- Student Media Director**
Allison Dyche
abdyche@vcu.edu
804-827-1975
- Production Manager**
Mark Jeffries
mjeffriesVCU@gmail.com
- Business Manager**
Jacob McFadden
mcfaddenjc@vcu.edu
- Assistant Business Manager**
Mikaela Reinard
smc_assistant@vcu.edu



The Commonwealth Times strives to be accurate in gathering news. If you think we have made an error, please call Sarah King, executive editor, at 804-828-5317 or email her at kingsa@commonwealthtimes.org.

Corrections will appear on the Opinion page or online at www.commonwealthtimes.org.

Opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Commonwealth Times or Virginia Commonwealth University. Unsigned editorials represent the institutional opinion of The CT.

One CT per person. Additional copies can be purchased at the Student Media Center for \$1 each.

ADD YOUR VOICE

The opinion pages of The Commonwealth Times are a forum open to the public.

Clear, concise and compelling contributions are welcome by email at houstonm@commonwealthtimes.org, by mail or in person at 817 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va. 23220-2806.