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Black and gold scrimmage showcases new, old talent

BRYANT DRAYTON
Sports Editor

The third annual VCU Black and Gold game left fans bemused about who to root for, but satisfied at the glimpses of persistent play from their beloved Rams. The Black team went on to defeat the Gold, 85-76.

VCU, under the tutelage of head coach Will Wade, hit the hardwood in the Siegel Center for the first time in the 2015-16 season. The event's agenda called for an intrasquad scrimmage, autograph signing period and an alumni basketball game.

The team was surprised to receive their A-10 Championship rings to start the evening off, with each player individually called to receive his ring to the ambient ap-

plause of the audience. More than 5,000 fans showed up to get a taste of what this year's team's offerings in the quest to defend their Atlantic 10 Championship.

The Black team, in what looks like the potential starting lineup for the season, saw seniors, Melvin Johnson and Corey Billbury, juniors Jequan Lewis and Mo Alie-Cox, and sophomore Justin Tillman take the court first. The Gold team's starters consisted of juniors Doug Brooks and Ahmed Hamdy-Mohamed, sophomores Mike Gilmore, Doug Brooks and Jonathan Williams to go alongside freshman Samir Doughty.

Johnson started the game off with a with a three-point jump shot from the corner to give the Black squad the early lead.

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Members of the scrimmage teams, including #4 Justin Tillman and #24 Corey Billbury, vie for the ball. Men's basketball was picked to finish fifth in the Atlantic 10 conference.

OPINION

Federal government continually fails to acknowledge the mentally ill

MONICA HOUSTON
Opinion Editor

The saying “Out of sight, out of mind” never rang truer than with the federal government’s attitude toward the mentally ill. Federal spending on inpatient care facilities have been increasingly cut since 1980, leaving millions of Americans in nursing homes, homeless or in prison. Yet as always, national attention to this issue isn’t discussed until people end up dead from a violent incident. It is ridiculous that a minority of people are being displaced and forgotten and someone needs to be held accountable.

In Oct. 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Mental Health Systems Act proposing continued federal community health centers paired with state involvement. However, though Carter’s Commission on Mental Health issued more CMHCs—Community Mental Health Centers—and more federal spending, these centers put more pressure on communities to provide treatment rather than in state psychiatric institutions. In Nov. 1980, President Ronald Reagan was voted into office where he quickly gained a reputation when he discarded the Act and CMHCs funds became block grants to the states causing a great deals of problems for the mentally ill.

According to an article by Salon, in the 1960s and 70s, a majority of

mentally ill patients were discharged from state institutions leaving them without proper care. According to Jeneen Interlandi, in a New York Times Magazine story, “By treating the rest in the least-restrictive settings possible, the thinking went, we would protect the civil liberties of the mentally ill and hasten their recoveries.” Apparently releasing mentally sick patients into communities without proper supervision or medication is safer for everyone.

Subsequently, when polled by National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, a number of respondents who listed themselves as the primary payer said they could not afford their medications as they ranged from \$100 to \$5,000. Seventy one percent of respondents to a study in the journal of Psychiatric Services did not seek medical attention because they thought they could solve the problem themselves.

During the 1980s, approximately 40,000 beds in state mental hospitals were shut down leaving an estimated 300,000 patients homeless. Nursing home abuse has become public after 1974 when Congress passed a legislation in 1987 requiring all Medicaid-funded nursing homes to screen new admissions to keep out patients who did not qualify for admission because they did not require skilled nursing care.

Obviously there is a disconnect between administrators and the reality of societal needs. How is any member of Congress qualified to tell these patients they do not require skilled nursing care? Just because the issue doesn’t affect you personally does not mean it isn’t a relevant issue. You can not just stop funding and supporting institutions where people are trying to get help because you’d like to fund a war or law enforcement.

These centers were a safe place for patients to acknowledge their illness and attempt to treat it. The

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McAuliffe appoints Henrico pastor to Board of Visitors

ANDREW CRIDER
Contributing Writer

Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed the pastor of Richmond’s Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, Tyrone Nelson, to the VCU Board of Visitors on Oct. 23.

Nelson’s term is effective immediately and will expire on June 30, 2017.

Nelson said that he has seen VCU grow since he was a student and he hopes to continue to be apart of that growth on the BOV.

“I know persons who are on the Board and I just want to be apart of VCU as it continues to move forward,” Nelson said.

According to Nelson, VCU’s growth is indicative of success and he wishes to continue in that legacy.

“I feel like VCU is heading in a great direction so i’m just excited to go back to my alma mater and serve,” Nelson said.

Nelson replaces former Board member Nancy Everett, a VCU alum and member of the VCU School of Business Foundation, who resigned mid-term after accepting a different position managing VCU investments.

Former Gov. Bob McDonnell appointed Everett to the Board in 2013. In May of this year, the BOV established the VCU Investment Management Co. to provide internal investment consulting services to the university and health system.

Nelson’s appointment to the BOV was announced at the same time as six other appointments to various state positions, including the appointment of Gopinath Jad-

hav, who will replace Nelson on the Board of Directors to the University Health system authority.

Lifetime native of Richmond, when he was 25, Nelson received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from VCU in 1999 after working full time and attending Old Dominion University and J. Sargeant Reynolds community college. After graduating from VCU, Nelson pursued his Masters of Divinity from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

Nelson currently serves in a variety of public positions in Richmond, and is currently vice chairman of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors and a member of the Capital

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A taxidermied coyote stands watch over a sign warning patrons, “You break it, you buy it!”

Recycled bodies find their way onto shelves in Carytown

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

About three years ago, New England natives Justin Torone and his girlfriend Alaina Gearhart fell in love with Richmond, packed up all their bones and skulls, and left for the city.

Now the couple owns and operates Rest in Pieces, an oddities and taxidermy shop in Carytown that will bottle, frame and sculpt recycled materials from dead animals.

“For our two-year anniversary, I got her two human ribs,” Torone said. “We had a little curiosity cabinet at our house and we collected stuff.”

Torone said he likes anything human: human bones, skulls, anything. But he is also fascinated by wet specimens, ouija boards and anything “old history.”

He said the couple share an interest in “curiosities to the collector” items, but they wanted to take the concept to the next level, and thus, the idea for Rest

in Pieces was born.

“One day, we just picked up a roadkill groundhog on the side of the road and let it decompose,” Torone said. “We sat there and cleaned the bones with toothbrushes and we started making jewelry and bone terrariums and stuff. We sold them to an antique store and budgeted what we made and it grew from there.”

Taxidermy, skulls and specimens fill the two-person shop on South Stafford Avenue in the Fan District. The business had its grand opening last May, and is open six days a week.

Torone said no animals are harmed for the purposes of the store -- Torone and Gearhart make an effort to keep the stock full of animals that died naturally. The shop works with local pet stores, farms and breeders in the area to collect animals after they’ve passed.

“People come in and ask if we buy animals and I say no because I don’t want someone killing

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In this section: State senate debate. Heroin overdoses. BOV appointee. Gerrymandering. Rideshare app.

briefs

LOCAL
National Student Town Hall with Bernie Sanders, George Mason University, Recreation & Athletic Complex, Fairfax, VA

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. will host a special town hall meeting with students at George Mason University, which will be live streamed at colleges and universities across the country. Sanders will focus on the most important issues facing students and young people including college affordability, getting big money out of politics, climate change, criminal justice reform and income and wealth inequality.

Information for the public: Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets will be required for this event. All tickets are free and will be available in advance of the event only. Tickets available on a first come, first served basis at the GMU Arts Center Concert Hall. The Concert Hall is located at 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax, Virginia. Pick up times will be on Monday, October 26th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Tuesday, October 27th, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., or until tickets run out. Tickets will be limited to two per person at the time of pick up.

Brief by Michael Briggs, Bernie Sanders campaign

Many Virginia voters won't have choice on Election Day

All 140 seats of the Virginia General Assembly are up for election next month, but many voters won't have much of a choice at the ballot box on Election Day.

Less than half of contests for state Legislature will have more than one candidate, and only a small percentage of contested races are expected to be close.

For critics of the state's current electoral map, the lack of meaningful competition is largely a symptom of what they say are unfairly drawn maps designed to benefit incumbents.

"Today with gerrymandered districts, good people aren't running," said Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

In the state Senate, 22 out of 40 races have more than one candidate, but only six are expected to be close. In the House, only 38 out of 100 have two or more candidates, with only a handful expected to be competitive.

The chief architect of the 2011 Republican legislative redistricting plan testified in federal court earlier this year that raw political self-interest was at work when the maps were being drawn. Del. S. Chris Jones testified that he tried to accommodate requests from 75 to 80 delegates who sought to tweak lines, sometimes to draw out precincts where they had historically performed poorly or to draw out a potential primary challenger.

Brief by the Associated Press

West Virginia-Virginia natural gas pipeline before FERC

The backers of the Mountain Valley Pipeline filed a formal application Friday with federal regulators to build a 300-mile natural gas pipeline from Wetzel County, West Virginia, to Pittsylvania County in Southside, Virginia.

The filing by energy companies behind the \$3.2 million project comes a little over a month after Dominion Resources Inc. filed its application for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. That \$5 billion project would total more than 500 miles, also originating in West Virginia and dipping into Virginia and North Carolina.

Both pipelines are intended to deliver natural gas from drilling fields in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania. A drilling technique called hydraulic fracturing has made accessible vast, deep deposits of natural gas embedded in shale in the Marcellus and Utica deposits.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a joint venture between EQT Midstream Partners and affiliates of NextEra Energy Inc. Dominion is partnering with Duke Energy and other energy companies.

Brief by the Associated Press

College of William and Mary receives \$50M anonymous donation

The College of William and Mary has received a \$50 million donation that will help fund scholarships, teaching awards and facility improvements.

The anonymous donation is the largest gift that the school has received in its 323-year history.

It comes as the public university in Williamsburg embarks on an ambitious effort to raise \$1 billion by 2020. With the \$50 million donation, the school is more than halfway to its goal with more than \$532 million raised so far.

William and Mary's business and law schools will each receive \$22 million to support scholarships, among other things. The remaining \$6 million will go toward athletic facility improvements at the school.

The school says it's the smallest public university to ever launch a \$1 billion fundraising campaign.

Brief by the Associated Press

State senate candidates square off in Student Commons

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

With just two weeks until election day, the candidates running for Virginia's hotly contested 10th district senate seat squared off in a forum at the VCU Commons Theatre on Oct. 20.

The contest for the seat, which will be vacated by the retiring John Watkins (R), is critical in deciding whether Democrats or Republicans will control the senate in January. Six seats will be contested in the Nov. 3 elections; four of those seats are currently held by Republicans and two by Democrats. Republicans currently have a 21-19 majority.

The forum featured not only the Democratic and Republican nominees, Daniel Gecker (D) and Glen Sturtevant (R), but third-party libertarian candidate Carl Loser and independent Marleen Durfee. The debate allowed the candidates to pose each other questions as well as answer questions from audience members.

The candidates discussed topics including the economy, health care, college affordability and gun regulation.

The segment in which the candidates posed questions to each other produced some tension, but perhaps the most tense moment occurred when Loser accused Gecker and Sturdevant of stealing their adopted children from their natural parents.

"You stole your adopted kids. These children were taken away from their parents," Loser said as some members of the nearly 300-member audience booed.

Sturtevant, at whom the question was directed, chose not to give it consideration.

Sturtevant has three adopted children and Gecker has four children, two of whom are adopted.

"I did not understand most of the question posed," Sturtevant said. "The part that I did understand, I'm not going to dignify with an answer."

Gecker and Sturtevant challenged each other's stances on the minimum wage. Sturtevant said he would seek to raise wages by improving the education and skills of those in the workforce, not by raising the minimum wage.

"It's not lack of education, it's a failure of the market to pay appropriately so every Virginian has the opportunity to earn a living wage," Gecker responded.

Durfee, who served one four-year term on the Chesterfield board of supervisors, was eager to point out the rising costs associated with campaign financing.

"Instead of knowledge or experience dic-



MARLEEN DURFEE, INDEPENDENT

"Instead of knowledge or experience dictating our elections its money and power," Durfee said, "expensive TV ads would make you think that there are differences between these candidates, the realities of both of them are tied to parties, parties' agendas, and money." "I strongly support two years of free community college for those who qualify."



DAN GECKER, DEMOCRAT

"It's not lack of education, it's a failure of the market to pay appropriately so every Virginian has the opportunity to earn a living wage," Gecker responded. The candidates each elaborated on their own measures for reducing gun violence: Gecker and Durfee called for stricter gun regulations, proposing measures such as the prohibition for anyone convicted of domestic violence.



CARL LOSER, LIBERTARIAN

"We can make the process easier by privatizing student loans. If we could do that, that would solve the problem," Loser said. "I'm the only candidate here that is pro-gun," Loser said. "I think conceal-carry is something we should have. I stand by that and everyone here might not agree with me but that is my position."



GLEN STURTEVANT, REPUBLICAN

Gecker and Sturtevant challenged each other's stances on the minimum wage. Sturtevant said he would seek to raise wages by improving the education and skills of those in the workforce, not by raising the minimum wage. Sturtevant also said he supports funding for law enforcement to enforce gun laws and improve mental health services.

tating our elections its money and power," Durfee said, "expensive TV ads would make you think that there are differences between these candidates, the realities of both of them are tied to parties, parties' agendas, and money."

Durfee pointed toward the difference in spending on her campaign and that of Gecker and Sturdevant, who have both eclipsed their opponents in funds raised. To date, Gecker

has raised about \$1.1 million to Sturtevant's nearly \$800,000. Durfee and Loser have raised approximately \$12,000 and \$6,000, respectively.

The candidates also addressed the topic of increasing tuition costs and student debt. Durfee proposed free community college tuition for students with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

"I've already said I strongly support two

Heroin overdoses outnumber highway fatalities

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

friend to an overdose.

Their stories aren't uncommon.

In 2014, more lives were lost due to drug related deaths than freeway accidents, according to recent statistics released by the Virginia government.

Heroin and opioid use claimed the lives of 728 Virginians — 28 more than highway fatalities. The highway death toll in 2013 was 741 compared to 661 from overdoses. In 2009, there were 750 traffic fatalities and 504 deaths from heroin and opioids.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found a new correlation between highway and drug related deaths; as the highway deaths decrease, drug related fatalities rise.

Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring is addressing the troubling rise in heroin and prescription drug overdoses in the Commonwealth. Herring reported on milestones in the first year of his Five Point Plan to Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse.

Launched in September 2014, Herring's plan lays out legislative, prosecutorial, and educational efforts will complement and build on the efforts of other state, local, and federal agencies to fight abuse of prescription drugs and heroin.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is working with local Commonwealth's Attorneys and the U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern and Western Districts to prosecute heroin fatality cases at the federal level where statutes are more effective.

The plan also include regional prosecutors from the Office of the Attorney General in Northern Virginia, Central Virginia, and Western Virginia, who have been instructed to prioritize heroin

and prescription abuse cases.

Prosecutors can either assist local Commonwealth's Attorneys with complex cases, take them to one of Virginia's twelve multi-jurisdictional grand juries, or work with the U.S. Attorney's Office to prosecute cases federally, as appropriate.

For the first time, an OAG prosecutor is being placed in Hampton Roads with the charge to prioritize heroin and prescription drug cases.

"Far too many Virginians are losing loved ones to prescription drug abuse and the resurgence of cheap, potent heroin," Herring said. "There's no silver bullet to this spike in opiate abuse and fatalities, but we've identified things we can do right away to help turn the tide, and hopefully save lives."

Herring said commitment from all levels of government to prevent, educate, treat, enforce and prosecute.

According to the CDC, heroin use more than doubled among young adults ages 18–25 in the last decade. More than nine in ten people who used heroin also used at least one other drug.

Over the last year, federal-state cooperative efforts have dismantled what is thought to have been the largest heroin-trafficking operation in Hampton Roads, Herring said.

In Hampton Roads, the number of heroin and other opiate deaths went down more than eight percent between 2013 and last year. But that came after the number had skyrocketed 73 percent, from 83 deaths in 2012 to 144 in 2013.

Herring said federal-state coordination is more evident and that

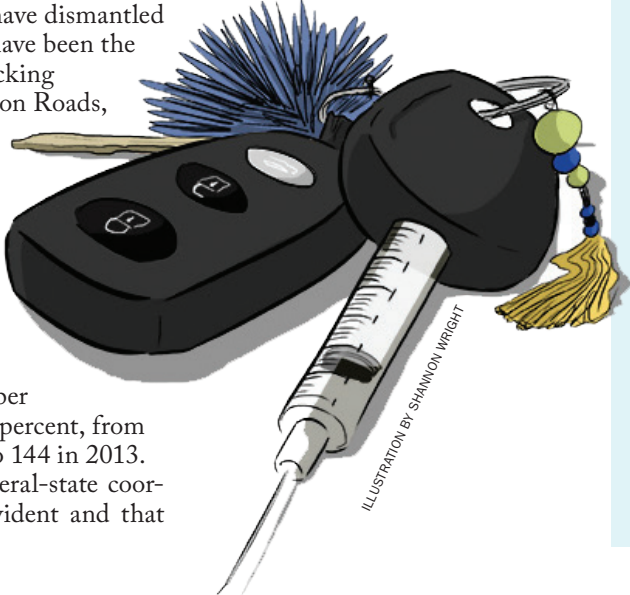
regional drug task force coordinators with expertise in drug prosecutions are being placed in all regions of the state.

Regulatory boards are putting screws to bogus prescription scams through license revocations and suspensions.

Last April, The State Board of Pharmacy shut down the prescription department of Westbury Pharmacy, alleging, among other violations, that the pharmacy failed to take steps to prevent theft of nearly 50,000 oxycodone tablets by an employee.

Meanwhile, the members of NA continue to work together to beat heroin and prescription drug abuse.

"I could live the rest of my life living paycheck to paycheck as long as I have a roof over my head but if that means a girl calls me at 2 a.m. and says 'I want to get high, help me get through this' — if I have to live the rest of my life through this shit but I get to save another woman from not dying, then that fulfills my spirit and my soul," a woman said, looking around the room at the many empathetic 20-somethings who sat around her last week.



McAuliffe appoints Henrico pastor to Board of Visitors

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Region Airport Commission, The Richmond Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

According to Nelson, his career experiences thus far will give him skills to help him serve on the Board of Visitors.

"You are not born into a position of serving on the university's Board of Visitors," Nelson said.

Nelson said that his time on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors has given him budget experience that he hopes to apply to the university.

"I have some understanding of budgeting," Nelson said. "There is just so many things we are responsible for and we do so many things on the government side."

Nelson believes that his experience as a pastor will help him better communicate with the community.

"I'm a pastor, so I know the importance of working with people," Nelson said.

"I want to continue to see VCU become the premier academic institution in Virginia."

VCU briefs

VCU study: Exports benefit local businesses and regional economy

Exports present a tremendous growth opportunity and should be a larger part of the Richmond region's economic development efforts, according to research conducted by the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at Virginia Commonwealth University and the Greater Richmond Partnership.

Businesses that increase their exporting activity boost revenues and, in turn, improve the regional economy. The analysis, presented today at VCU at a briefing of the Greater Richmond Exports Initiative, was the result of a survey of local businesses, focus groups, visits to other regions around the country that are pursuing export strategies, and interviews with local governmental agencies and other key stakeholders.

Brief by Pamela Stallsmith

VCU psychiatry professor honored with prestigious award from the National Academy of Medicine

The National Academy of Medicine today awarded Virginia Commonwealth University psychiatry professor Kenneth S. Kendler, M.D., with the Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health in recognition of his research on the role of genes and environment in the development of psychiatric and substance use disorders.

The award was presented to the director of the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics at the NAM's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Kendler shares the recognition with Kay Jamison, Ph.D., professor of mood disorders at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Brief by Anne Dreyfuss

Prominent neuroscientist Kenneth R. Pugh to keynote annual Ruth Harris Lecture at VCU

Cognitive neuroscientist and experimental psychologist Kenneth R. Pugh, Ph.D., will present the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education's sixth annual Ruth Harris Lecture in Dylexia Studies.

Pugh, the president, director of research and a senior scientist at Haskins Laboratories, will present "The Literate Brain: Insights from Neuroimaging."

The free lecture takes place Thursday, Oct. 22, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in The Depot, 814 W. Broad St.

Best known for his work on the neural, behavioral and cognitive underpinnings of reading and other cognitive activities, Pugh is a professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at University of Connecticut, an associate professor in the Department of Linguistics at Yale University and the director of the Yale Reading Center.

Brief by Leila Ugincius

VCU Wilder School honors Excellence in Virginia Government

The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University will honor individuals and organizations who have made noteworthy contributions to the practice of government and the betterment of Virginia on Friday, Nov. 13.

The 11th annual Excellence in Virginia Government Awards program, a signature event of the Wilder School, will take place during a luncheon ceremony from noon to 2 p.m. at the Richmond Marriott, 500 E. Broad St.

"These awards recognize the outstanding work of remarkable Virginians whose tireless efforts have enhanced the well-being of our citizens and communities through innovative practices, creative approaches and dedication to public service," said Niraj Verma, Ph.D., dean of the Wilder School.

Brief by Pamela Stallsmith

Rev. Tyrone E. Nelson named to VCU Board of Visitors

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has appointed one new member to the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors.

Rev. Tyrone E. Nelson, pastor of Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond, will join VCU's governing body effective immediately. His term continues until June 30, 2017.

Nelson was elected to represent the Virginia District on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors in November 2011 and has served as vice chairman of the group since January.

Nelson serves on a number of government and community organizations, including the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, the Capital Region Airport Commission and the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority and is concluding service on the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority Board of Directors.

Nelson earned an Associate of Science degree in business administration from J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from VCU and a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

He is married to the former Sharaza Cotman. They have three children: Tyrone Jr., Sydney and Makenzie.

Brief by Michael Porter

In 71 of the 100 districts up for election in 2015, there is only one major party candidate running for election.

Two major party candidates will face off in the general election in just 29 of the 100 districts up for election.

Five incumbents faced primary competition on June 9.

Ten incumbents did not seek re-election in 2015 and the remaining 85 incumbents advanced past the primary without opposition.

Va. House of Delegates majority control (as of Oct. 2015):

Republican party 67
Democratic party 33

58 percent

Each of the 12 "challenged districts" in the Bethune-Hill case were at least 58 percent Black or African-American, with the exception of District 75 (56 percent).

There are no GOP candidates running for seats in any of the 12 districts challenged by the Bethune-Hill case.

Gerrymandering lawsuit dismissed in court

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

A panel of three federal judges to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a lawsuit challenging the boundaries of 12 Virginia House of Delegate voting districts on Oct. 20 in Bethune-Hill v. the Virginia Board of Elections.

The plaintiff, the Democratic National Redistricting Trust, argued the Republican-controlled legislature unfairly redrew voting districts to pack black voters into state and federal zones to diminish their influence following the 2010 census.

Tuesday's decision in the Bethune-Hill case contrasts the ruling in a separate but similar lawsuit filed in 2013 where the plaintiffs challenged Virginia's 3rd congressional district on the same premise of lawmakers unfairly grouping African-American voters.

In that case, a panel of three federal judges sided with the plaintiffs and ordered the General Assembly to draw a new congressional map by September 2015. Lawmakers could not agree on how to redraw the district and the court appointed University of California, Irvine professor of economics and political science Bernard Grofman to aid in the redistricting process.

On Tuesday, the Eastern District court ruled 2-1 that the House of Delegates' redistricting plan concluding that, "each of the twelve Challenged Districts withstands constitutional scrutiny under the Equal Protection Clause," is constitutional. The court stated that Republican lawmakers did not use racial gerrymandering to give their party an advantage and the districts meet the state's interest of ensuring the representation of minority groups.

House Speaker William J. Howell applauded the decision and said the lawsuit was politically motivated.

"The lawsuit came despite the fact that the House districts were adopted with bipartisan support, including the support of a majority of the African-American members in the House of Delegates at the time, and approved by President Obama's Department of Justice," Howell told The Washington Post following the decision.

Brian Cannon, Executive Director of the redistricting advocacy group OneVirginia2021, said the court labeled the districts in question a "political gerrymander," and despite being antithetical to democracy, political gerrymandering is completely legal.

The Plaintiffs bring this action to challenge the constitutionality of Virginia House of Delegates Districts 63, 69, 70, 71, 74, 75, 77, 80, 89, 90, 92, and 95 (the "Challenged Districts") as racial gerrymanders in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

— Civil Action No. 3:14cv852, United States District Court, E.D. Virginia, Richmond Division., May 26, 2015. —HB 5005 (passed April 11, 2011)

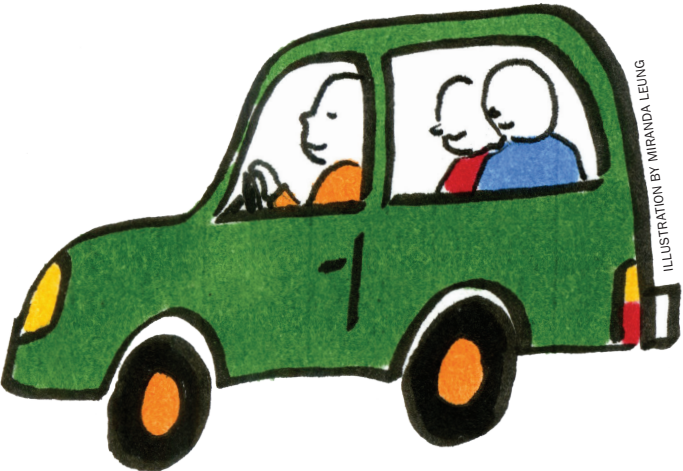
A press statement from OneVirginia2021 released Tuesday cited the panels' approval of the 55 percent black voting age population threshold as acceptable in the Bethune-Hill case, despite the same threshold ruled as a racial gerrymander when applied to the 3rd Congressional District case earlier this year.

"This court's ruling makes the case for reforming Virginia's redistricting process to make political gerrymandering illegal," Cannon said regarding Tuesday's decision. "There's no place in our Commonwealth for racial or political gerrymandering."

OneVirginia2021 also recently launched a lawsuit challenging the boundaries of Virginia's voter districts. The group sued the state election board in September on the grounds of the current districts not being compact — a requirement of the Virginia state constitution. This suit has yet to be deliberated in court.

Tuesday's Bethune-Hill case decision was financed by the Democratic National Redistricting Trust. Marc Elias, the Trust's legal counsel, is also the general counsel to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

"We are reviewing the court's decision and expect to appeal," Elias told The Washington Post.



New mobile app rolls in to VCU

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

In the next few days, a new ride-share app will launch on campus and change the nature of hitchhiking.

Founder and CEO of the app "Wheeli" Jean-Pierre Adéchi said he designed the app specifically for college students. With Wheeli, the driver is paid through the app, and students are able to split the cost of both tolls and gas, thus making a cash-free exchange.

The mobile app is currently only operating as a website platform. Each ride allows users to post for rides to short distances.

When drivers post, they are given a suggested price, which is calculated by the car's gas mileage and the number of tolls along the route. This price can be increased or decreased, depending on the driver's preference.

"A lot of drivers decrease the price," Adéchi said. "When we ask them why, they say they don't want to be in the car by themselves for three or four hours."

Students search or post for rides with their start and end locations. There is also a specific option that allows users to post for rides to events such as concerts and sporting events.

"Eighty percent of car seats are left unused during rides," said VCU sophomore Jamie Cherwek. "Through Wheeli you can make friends and be eco-friendly."

Cherwek, the team leader for Wheeli at VCU, said that she has worked to recruit new team members and promote the app around campus.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity because I'm interested in starting and growing my own business," Cherwek said. "It's a simple idea but it's really well executed and it hasn't been done before."

Cherwek is joined by two other executive members, sophomore Daniel Garcia and graduate student Furqan Syed. The three are currently working to expand their team and promote the app across campus.

According to Adechi, the goal behind Wheeli is to encourage college students to stop "hiding behind applications" and to start having social interactions and experiences again.

"When we talk to our parents and grandparents, they have these awesome stories about hitchhiking, and I feel like our generation is becoming the boring generation," said Adéchi.

Adéchi's interest in VCU struck when he dreamt of expanding Wheeli to college campuses to the south and east.

"It's a large school and (Wheeli) fits the VCU culture," said Adéchi. "People are very social and outdoors. It fits the profile of people who go on trips and want to go on an adventure."

In addition to the social aspect, what sets Wheeli aside from other rideshare options, such as Facebook and Craigslist, is its increased level of safety.

When using Wheeli, students are presented with various filters to select who they drive with and who the passengers are. Students are given the option to link their profile to Facebook and Twitter so they can view their mutual friends.

"You're choosing who you're riding with and sharing those experiences with," Adéchi said. "We're building a community of students going around the country."

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STAT OF THE WEEK
Senior Kalah Jones is 13 kills away from becoming the sixth Ram with 1,000 kills in her career.

Volleyball wins against A-10 rival



The Rams were able to beat the Explorers, winning in five sets against their conference foe.

MALINKA WALTERS
Contributing Writer

Volleyball started its Friday night hoping for a much-needed victory against La Salle University at home and the Rams ended the night victorious.

The Rams fell behind 3-1 in the fifth, but came out strong with seven straight points to take the 8-3 lead. La Salle fought back to tighten up the score 12-10 but a Baldwin kill and an error derailed them. VCU was able to obtain the three sets it needed to win the match: 25-23, 19-25, 17-25, 25-22, 12-15.

Freshman Tori Baldwin took a stand and led her team with a season high 11 kills and six blocks with three solos. VCU held the Explorers to a .036 hitting percentage in the fifth-set tiebreaker. While the middle blocker supplied 15.5 points, she had her sophomore libero Rebekah Strange with her hitting 22 digs and a tacked on service ace. Strange has recorded at least 20 digs in four of her last seven matches.

As she dug up what seemed to be two crucial kills, Strange assisted her team in winning the game point to throw them in the lead 13-10 in the last set against the Explorers.

Outside hitters in senior Kalah Jones and freshman Sahbria McLetchie received double-doubles both having 11 digs

while Jones supplied her own 14 kills with McLetchie's added 15 and her own set of solo blocks. Redshirt freshman setter Indigo Thompson added 41 assists and 13 digs for the Rams.

The Rams suffered misfortune earlier in the week however, dropping a conference road match to Dayton University in a 3-1 deci-

sion. The Rams started off strong with an upset comeback during the first set as they had initially trailed the Flyers 21-17, but was unable to garnish the win losing the set 25-23.

In hopes of keeping the upsets going, the Rams trailed behind Dayton as the Flyers jumped out by winning the first 10 of 12

points in the second set, but VCU couldn't quite make a second comeback as they fell short 14 rallied points with a final score of 25-11, Dayton. With all the momentum on Dayton's side, the powerhouse from Ohio took a strong lead of 19-9 in the third set leading to another win with a stretched out 11 points finalizing a

25-14 win, placing the Flyers in a 2-1 overall lead. VCU would go on to succumb to the Flyers.

Despite the loss, VCU's McLetchie still thinks the team is headed in the right direction.

"The season has been tough, but I think we are starting to get to the point now where we are where we need to be," McLetchie said. "I just want us to keep going on the path that we're going, keep moving forward, which I think we are doing really well at."

With McLetchie coming in as a starting freshman, she understands the Rams are a young team with most of the players being underclassmen.

"On and off the court we are together; we know how each other operates which helps a lot in understanding one another," McLetchie said.

Volleyball sits at (9-14, and 3-5 A-10). VCU will host Duquesne at the Siegel Center Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m.



Freshman Sahbria McLetchie had 15 kills against La Salle.



Freshman Indigo Thompson has an 9.8 A/S this season.

Unbeaten streak ends for men's soccer in Saint Louis

CJ PASCHALL
Contributing Writer

On a cool, cloudy Wednesday night at Hermann Stadium in Missouri, men's soccer fell to the Saint Louis University, ending their five game unbeaten streak to open Atlantic 10 play.

The Rams got off to a slow start, with their first shot attempts coming back-to-back in the 35th and 36th minutes from junior Dakota Barnathan and sophomore Luc Fatton respectively, unfortunately this might have been the team's best chance to score all match. The Billikens responded with freshman Lennart Hein scoring for the first time in his collegiate career off a deflected corner kick.

The Billiken offense found paydirt in the second half, when a takedown in the box by the Rams in the 54th minute set up a penalty kick for senior Tyler David — the score increased the Billikens' lead to 2-0. VCU put the pressure on in an attempt to respond with five shots in the second half, ultimately outshooting Saint Louis 7-6.

The defeat is their first since a loss at University of California, Los Angeles on Sept. 25, putting an end to a run that saw VCU go

five straight games undefeated, winning two games and drawing three more over that span. Their defensive play was the primary reason for their string of successes, allowing only one goal in five games, before the match against the Billikens. Despite the defense still shining, the Rams offense struggled, failing to record a goal in the Rams' past three games.

The loss at Saint Louis came just days after the Rams maintained their winning streak with a hard-fought draw against Duquesne at home, a match full of opportunities the Rams failed to capitalize on.

The Rams put the pressure on early, with their first shot coming in the seventh minute off the foot of sophomore Rafael Andrade Santos, the first of 18 shots the squad would fire off in the match. VCU's defense, stout throughout the game, stonewalled the Dukes in the first half, holding them without a shot until the 67th minute.

In the second half, VCU came out firing, as junior Kai Marshall found an attempt on goal in the 46th minute, though he missed wide. The Rams kept pressing throughout the half and both subsequent overtime periods. Ultimately, the Rams would

outshoot the Dukes 18-3, but couldn't find the back of the net and both teams managed to come away with a point.

After the loss against Saint Louis and the draw against Duquesne, VCU falls into a tie with George Washington for fifth place in the A-10 standings. With three games to play before the A-10 tournament, they sit at nine points, just three points back of first place Fordham.

Record
4-7-7 (.400)
Conference
2-1-3 (.583)
Shots
174
Goals Scored
15
Assists
15
Shut Outs
3

Women's soccer beats La Salle, Mason

MARCUS BLACKWELL
Staff Writer

Women's soccer returned to the field after having its five-game winning streak snapped by the George Washington University. Last week, the Rams traveled to La Salle University and George Mason University, hoping to jumpstart another win-streak.

On Oct. 18, VCU faced off against La Salle in what ended up being a great night for the Rams. Things got started early as sophomore Amanda Hallesjo booped a corner kick into the box that senior Sharon Wojcik blasted to the back of the net, putting VCU on the scoreboard less than two minutes into the game.

For the rest of the first half, the game went back and forth with both teams trading possessions until Wojcik, who was celebrating her birthday, struck again by setting up teammate Tori Burress to give the Rams a 2-0 lead. The two point lead stood heading into overtime.

The Rams continued to dominate in the 62nd minute as freshman Julia Suarez received a quick pass from Wojcik, and maneuvered through the defense to score, taking the lead to 3-0. A little over three minutes after this goal, Suarez was back with a strike to the back of the net giving VCU a four-point lead over La Salle.

In the final minutes of the game, La Salle's Maci Bower got her team on the scoreboard, but it'd be the only time the Rams would give up a goal. The final score was 4-1 VCU consistently dominated, winning its sixth victory of the past seven games.

Wojcik said she was happy with the way her team played from beginning to end and with getting a commanding victory on her birthday.

"We knew it was key for us to win today on the road, after coming off a loss. We came out with a game plan in mind and stuck to it," Wojcik said. "Getting a goal in early really helped us settle into the game and we kept finishing our opportunities. It was a great team effort and felt good to get the win on my birthday."

Thursday night, the Rams went to Fairfax County to play the George Mason Patriots.

In the first 30 minutes of the first half, neither team was successful in getting the ball in the net. Late in the first half, the Patriots took the first lead of the game. Suarez was able to slip past a Mason defender and boot a shot into the net, tying the game at 1-1 going into the half. With this goal, Suarez tied with Senior Kailyn Slade as VCU's leading scorer.

VCU got off to a quick start in the second half with three good shot attempts before they were able to get the lead. Wojcik almost gave the Rams a score, blasting a header just past the net on a VCU corner kick. Despite the missed attempt, Wojcik returned minutes later, scoring from 20-yards out on a free kick.

The Rams' defense, anchored by senior goalkeeper Emma Kruse, was able to keep the Patriots from scoring and finish the game with a 2-1 victory.

Record
8-7-1 (.531)
Conference
6-1 (.857)
Shots
211

Goals Scored
28
Assists
21
Shut Outs
2

Johnson thrives in inaugural Black and Gold scrimmage



Johnson was voted to the Atlantic 10 Preseason 3rd team.

BRYANT DRAYTON
Sports Editor

—continued from page 1

The Gold team started off strong, impressing the crowd after a Hamdy-Mohamed and-one put-back, giving the Gold team the 8-6 lead with 16:19 remaining in the first half.

Gilmore would cash in three of his impressive 13 points to silence the Black squad's run 25-15 with 7:40 remaining. Unfortunately for the Gold, the Black team always seemed to have an answer as Alie-Cox had an emphatic slam to put to rest Gilmore's three and extend the lead to 13.

Billbury, an Oral Roberts University transfer, controlled the game on the offensive end with his ability to drive on smaller defenders and finish at the rim. Billbury extended the Black squads lead 31-21 with a step back three-pointer with 3:46 remaining in the first half. The Black squad would increase the lead going into the half 41-23.

The second half opened with a Williams runner off the glass, lifting his arms to ignite the intensity of the Gold team. Gilmore adhered to Williams' message and connected on another three-point attempt to cut the lead to 48-30 with 17:58 remaining. Billbury (17 points) connected with Tillman (18

points) on a sweet alley-oop assist, extending the Black squad's lead to 55-33 with 13:25 left in the game.

The Gold team made a late run with the full court press, creating Black squad turnovers. Hamdy-Mohamed (10 points) cut the lead to an 11 point difference after another and-one finish with three minutes remaining, but all was too late. After a half-court heave at the buzzer went in for junior Torey Burston, the entire team rushed toward him as the game concluded with a Black squad victory.

The flow of the game remained fast-paced, sloppy at times, but crisp overall.

Johnson led all scorers with 22 points on an efficient shooting afternoon. Teammate Alie-Cox contributed 15 points, but the defining characteristics of his play were his relentless abandon on the boards and blocked shots in the paint. Gilmore was the surprise of the game with his sweet shooting stroke and consistency on the offensive glass, providing the Gold squad a legitimate scoring threat around the rim.

Notables participating in the alumni game were Final Four players Ed Nixon, Joey Rodriguez, Darius Theus and a guest appearance from Larry Sanders, the for-now retired NBA athlete.

VCU opens the season at the Stu on Nov. 13 against Prairie View University.



Lewis enters into his first season at the helm of the Ram offense.

PHOTOS BY JULIE TRIPP

Field hockey falls short to defending champs



vs. UNC
Oct. 18
loss 5-1

vs. Longwood
Oct. 23
won 2-0

Field hockey was able to defeat the Longwood Lancers in a 2-0 victory on Oct. 23.

ZACH JOACHIM
Contributing Writer

Field hockey went 1-2 in its last home-stand of the season. The Rams came away victorious against Longwood University winning 2-0, but suffered defeat against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill by a score of 5-1.

Facing the third-ranked Tarheels was a daunting task for the 4-9 Rams, and one that head coach Laura Baker and her girls couldn't overcome.

"We have to clean up some mental errors, but I'm proud of the way our team fought against one of the best teams in the country," Baker said.

UNC claimed an early lead in the 11th minute, then scored one more before halftime to take a 2-0 margin into the break.

Leading scorer freshman Emily McNamara and twin sophomore forwards Jamee and Alexis Albright worked quickly passing down the sidelines to open the second half, but the UNC backline proved too stout.

The Tarheels added three more goals before J. Albright finally got VCU on the board in the 54th minute for her fifth goal of the season. She now trails McNamara by just one goal for the team lead.

Later in the week, the Rams rebounded against another out of conference foe, Longwood University.

Both sides battled for possession at the start of the half, each gaining multiple chances in the circle.

VCU took a 1-0 advantage in the 34th minute when the team leader in assists, Taleah Scott, found the team leader in goals Emily McNamara off a corner opportunity. They would take the slim lead into the half.

The Rams would double the lead right out of the gates in the second half when Albright finished a rebound from a blocked shot by junior Mackenzie Bowler. The insurance goal was not needed however, as goalie Kendall Clifton made five saves en route to her third career shutout.

Baker again praised her team after the match.

"First and foremost, I'm really happy that we got the win for our seniors. It was a great way to recognize all of the hard work that they put in over the last four years," Baker said. "We played a good 70 minutes of hockey and stuck to our gameplan."

The Rams will close their 2015 out-of-conference schedule this upcoming week at the College of William and Mary on Oct. 25, before heading back up interstate 64 for a date with the University of Richmond on Oct. 28. Their season will come to an end Sunday Nov. 1, at Lock Haven University.



Freshman Lauren Kaup's shot attempt is blocked by LU's goalie.

PHOTOS BY JULIE TRIPP



Tues, Oct 27, 4 – 7 pm
Cary Street Gym

FREE to VCU students, faculty & staff



- 4:00 – 5:00 pm:**
- **Adaptive Group Exercise Class:** Hip Hop We Don't Stop
 - **Presentation and Discussion** with representative from the Brain Injury Association of Virginia
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm:**
- Wheelchair Basketball Exhibition Game
- 4:00 – 7:00 pm: Meet representatives from**
- Virginia Department for the Blind & Vision Impaired
 - VCU Military Student Services
 - Safe Harbor
 - Sportable
 - University Student Commons & Activities
 - Recreational Sports
 - Disability Support Services
 - University Counseling Services
 - Students Advocating Violence Education and Support (SAVES)
 - The Well
 - Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
 - VCU Career Services
 - VCU Police Department



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ACCESS 2015, Oct 27
4 – 7 pm Cary Street Gym

ARC First Aid/CPR/AED
recertification
[oct. 26, 5 – 9pm]

ARC lifeguard certification
[nov. 6 – 8 & nov. 13 – 15
fri 5 – 10pm,
sat & sun 12 – 6pm]
registration ends nov 5

halloween climbing comp
[fri, 10/30]

day cave
[sun, 11/1]

day climb
[sat, 11/7]

day MTB
[sun, 11/8]



spectrum



ON THIS DAY
in 1989, doctors replace the failing heart of a 14-day-old girl with a healthy baboon heart.



When form doesn't follow function: Fixie bikes explained

A student rides away from campus on a fixed-gear bicycle. These stripped-down cycles are rising in popularity despite their less-intuitive design.

SAMUEL GOODRICH
Contributing Writer

Fixed-gear bikes, or fixies, are a national trend that have rolled onto the VCU campus. Fixed-gear bikes have one gear and no freewheel, which is the component that allows the bike to roll without pedaling. People who use fixies say they give the rider a better connection to the road; stripping the bike of gears and brakes reduces the cycle to its simplest elements. With their low cost and abundance of customization options, these bicycles can be great for

veteran cyclists, but amateurs might be confused as to what makes these bikes desirable and controversial. “Richmond’s pretty flat and it’s easy to get around,” said Victoria Wilson, who, like many other students, said she commutes to and around campus on her fixie. Fixed gears operate by attaching the chain directly to the back wheel, meaning the rider directly controls whether the bike moves or not. Because of this, fixed gears also don’t come with a separate brake, which means the rider has to backpedal to slow

their speed. Braking is accomplished by actively resisting the wheel’s forward movement, which is very different from using a brake attached to the front wheel. While tedious at first, many riders claim that it eventually becomes second nature. “I like that it keeps me pedaling, since it keeps me engaged and I have to be more alert,” said James Lukas, an employee at RamBikes. For those worried about the learning curve, many fixed-gear bikes come with a “flip-flop hub,” which allows the rider to flip the

back wheel to switch between fixed and freewheel cycling. “Generally, we have more people on the freewheel,” Lukas said, adding that he has seen many students modifying their fixed gears into single-speed bikes instead. Objectors are quick to criticize the missing brake and inability to freewheel, especially riding in the unpredictable city environment and around cars. While considered a recent trend, fixies were once the only bikes on the market until the invention of the derailleur gear, which gave bicycles the ability to

switch gears and move without input from the pedal. Thus, some fixed-gear cyclists don’t see their bikes as a “hipster” fad, but as a personal preference. Some like the minimalist aesthetic from taking away the gears, while others simply like the feeling of control they get from only using the pedals to move the bike. “I ride my fixie for fun, like when I’m going to class or the store,” said Dajion Martin, a member of the VCU cycling team. Martin owns both a multi-gear bike and a fixie, using the

former for team training and the latter for getting around campus. “I feel more comfort knowing that my bike won’t get stolen when riding a fixed gear,” Martin added. Still, Martin almost exclusively uses his multi-gear bike for exercise. Both types of bike have their own benefits: fixed gears are good for general use while multi-gears are great for training. This is an interesting change, as fixed-gear track bikes were traditionally used for track cycling, which involved indoor races around a track known as a velodrome.



Rest In Pieces, a local shop in the Fan District, sells a variety of taxidermied animals, insects and wet specimens.

Recycled bodies find their way onto shelves in Carytown

—continued from page 1
a fox so they can make money off it,” Torone said. “That’s not right.” Torone said he has a “pretty bold” five-year plan, because the couple is quickly running out of room at the store. After the two-year mark, he said they hope to lease a larger space and would love to have an employee or two, as well as deeper involvement with the Richmond community. Walking into the shop, the customer is greeted with rows of distinctive, sometimes disturbing, items. Warthog skulls, pickled armadillo fetuses, zebra paws, long-dead dragon lizards, bone or teeth jewelry, ouija boards and other eccentric merchandise. (“Our most popular items are) wet specimens, jewelry and small mammal skulls,” Torone said. “I’m always trying to come up with new things, and recently I’ve been doing this predator-

prey series where it’s snakes eating mice in jars. I’m always trying to take it to next level.” Gearhart operates the shop’s social media and website and is constantly posting new works online, which Torone said draws a lot of people in for specific items. The shop also takes special order requests. Torone said shoppers often bring in their deceased pets to preserve skulls, bones and hearts. Rest in Pieces will be at the Richmond Voodoo festival Oct. 29 and the Richmond Tattoo festival Nov. 20-22. For large events, Torone said he and Gearhart create and sometimes tailor new items. “For example, at our last event I brought our giraffe skull,” Torone said. (“I wasn’t) expecting I would sell it, but it’s more ‘Oh cool they have a giraffe skull, let’s see what else they have.’”



Rest in Pieces co-owner Justin Torone outside his storefront.

Symphonic Halloween spooktacular in Richmond

ADRIEL VELAZQUEZ
Contributing Writer

Strings, percussion, bones and ghosts — a symphony of spooky sounds is playing in Richmond to celebrate Halloween this weekend. The Richmond Symphony will be hosting the Halloween Spooktacular concert at the Richmond CenterStage’s Carpenter Theatre on Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. The event is the first Union Bank and Trust Lollipops concert of the 2015-2016 season and will feature guest conductor Ankush Kumar Bahl. Tickets for the event are \$12 for children and \$17 for adults. Bahl, who received high praise and critical acclaim after both his Carnegie Hall debut and his work during the 2009 Kurt Masur Conducting Seminar. From 2011 until 2015, Bahl was the assistant conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. Before the concert, there will be a pre-show festival including activities such as the popular “instrument petting zoo,” which allows children to experiment with different instruments, crafts provided by the Children’s Museum of Richmond and a Sound Science Lab provided by the Science Museum of Virginia. “Our educator will bring items to demonstrate how sound is created, discussing how you can make different volumes and pitches by lengthening (or) shortening amplitudes and frequency,” said Chrissy Caldwell, manager of communications at the Science Museum of Virginia. The lab is meant to both entertain and educate, providing viewers with new insight into the creation of sound and how science plays into music.

“Something I personally find interesting is the mixture of science and art and our demonstration will explain how these two fields overlap and complement each other,” Caldwell said. The Children’s Museum of Richmond will be providing crafts during the pre-concert festival for children to create and play with. “Fostering an interest in music and the performing arts while incorporating all that makes Halloween such fun is a win-win situation,” said Kim Hollon, director of operations at the museum. Hollon also talked about why the Children’s Museum decided to partner with the Richmond Symphony for this special event. “The Children’s Museum exists to create innovative learning experiences for all children, and those who support them, that inspire the next generation of creative problem solvers,” Hollon said. After the pre-festival, attendees are encouraged to dress up in a costume, pick up a trick-or-treat bag and enjoy the symphony show. During the Halloween Spooktacular event, the Richmond Symphony will perform music from Star Wars, The Wizard of Oz, Pirates of the Caribbean, Harry Potter, Frozen and more. The organizers described the event as ideal for children ages five and older, but music lovers of all ages are welcome to attend. Caldwell said that the sound science lab alone is an interesting experience for everyone. “It will be an interactive education demonstration, which will be great for all ages — and a pretty cool intro to the concert,” Caldwell said.

Ghosts, goblins and gore — oh my!

Where will you be this Halloween?

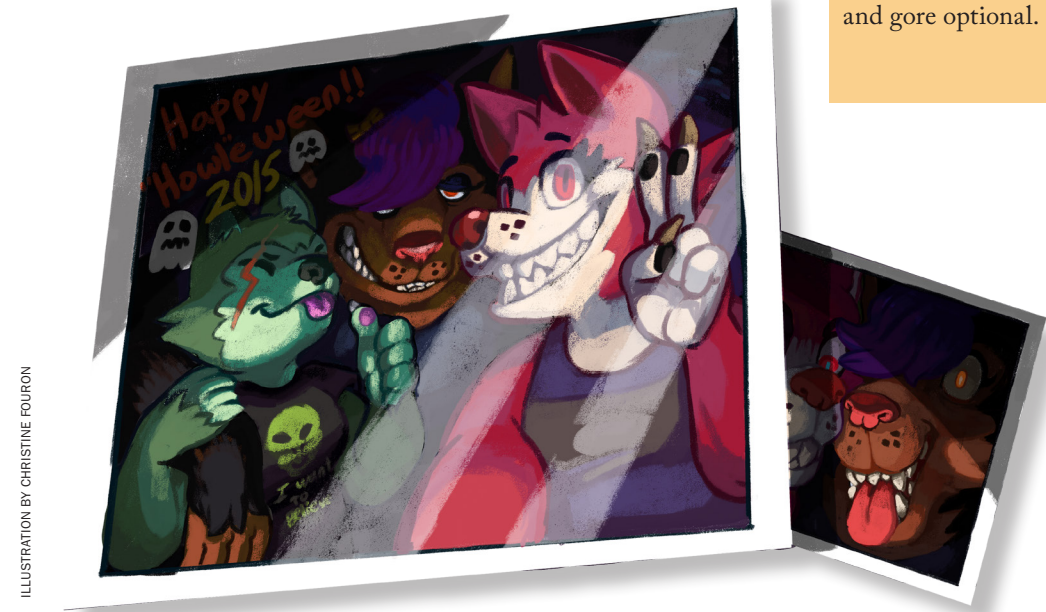


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINE FOURON

AUSTIN WALKER
Spectrum Editor

The spooky, jack-o-lanterned holiday characteristic of the fall season is only days away, and for the costumed and less festively dressed students on campus, there are more events in store than a bout of trick-or-treating this Halloween.

Below is a list of events from, fun to frightful, open to students and not far from the Monroe Park Campus — blood and gore optional.

Eerie Nights Ghost Tours

17th Street Farmer's Market, 100 N. 17th St.
9:15 p.m.

A yearly tradition, the Eerie Nights ghost tours lead a brave group through some of Richmond's most notoriously haunted locations including the Byrd Theatre, Hollywood Cemetery and more. Tickets are \$13, and can be purchased at the doors or online with discounts for larger parties.

TheatreVCU's Rocky Horror Picture Show

The Performing Arts Center
7:30 p.m. and 11:45 p.m.

TheatreVCU has reimagined the cult classic movie about the sweet transvestites of Transylvania that spawned deviant live-performance tradition. On Halloween night, the midnight showing encourages audience members to attend in costume and participate in the performance.

Fright Night at the Firehouse Theatre

Firehouse Theatre, 1609 W. Broad St.
8 p.m.

Firehouse's spooky musical returns for a frightful evening of choreographed and costumed television, stage and radio Halloween music mashups spanning the decades. Audience members are also invited on stage for dancing and drinks at the open bar.

Spooky Throttle 9 Halloween Party

The Canal Club, 1545 E. Cary St.
9 p.m.

For the ninth year, the Canal Club is having a Halloween bash, this year's theme is all things that glow: Expect neon and strobe lights, glow sticks and performances by NUM-BERNIN6, Gangsta Fun and Shugadadde. The event is open to everyone 18 and older, and tickets are \$10 in advance.

Halloween Sunset Party with Graveside Breakfast, President Sam and Ten Foot Beast

Strange Matter, 929 W. Grace St.
5 p.m.

This year, Strange Matter is holding an all-ages concert session featuring artists from Richmond, Texas and the Hampton Roads area. The early event is designed to kickstart a long night of festivities.

Slasher! The Improv Comedy Horror Show

Coalition Theatre, 8 W. Broad St.
8 p.m.

The Coalition Theatre is holding their third annual Nightmare on Broad Street series of shows starting on Oct. 29, and this Halloween is the improv comedy event. They're encouraging people to dress up, grab a drink in the bar (if you're 21), and maybe even wear a poncho — they're expecting a gory mess as performers come up with on-the-fly Halloween scenes.

Cinema Department brings film back to its roots

KELLY MICKEY
Contributing Writer

The cinema department is hosting free weekly film screenings and lectures to expose students to some of the cinematic masterpieces that have most impacted modern Western culture.

The VCU Cinematheque Film Series takes place every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Grace Street Theater. The showings present select movies on actual 35mm film — a format which film enthusiasts hail as being the most visually appealing.

All screenings are followed by a discussion of the film with members of the cinema department and occasionally people who worked closely on the film's creation.

"The goal of the Cinematheque is more or less the same goal as any other cinematheque: to screen historically important, avant-garde or art house films," said Kirk Kjeldsen, assistant programmer for world cinema and advanced screenwriting professor.

Kjeldsen said the department models their cinematheque after some of the world's most renowned programs — such as the Deutsche Kinemathek in Berlin, the Cinémathèque Française in Paris and the British Film Institute in London.

VCU's department has worked closely with several other Richmond Film organizations such as the James River Film Festival, the VCU French Film Festival and the Virginia Production Alliance to bring "world and experimental cinema" to the Richmond community.

"This is one thing that the world's cinematheques are doing," Kjeldsen said, "keeping the celebration of actual film alive."

Kjeldsen said the department isn't against screening Hollywood films, however. This fall, they'll be featuring Alfred Hitchcock's "North by Northwest," a studio

film and the third-highest grossing in the box office during the year of its release.

Two years ago, Kjeldsen said the department also screened "Beasts of the Southern Wild," a fantasy movie that received four Oscar nominations in 2013.

"The producer of the film attended the screening and spoke afterwards," Kjeldsen said. "We prefer to screen films that have been underrepresented or have never been screened in Richmond and celebrate other voices, points of view, and styles."

The films featured in this program are selected based on several criteria from various countries that present many different cinematic styles. Kjeldsen said he works with the Cinema Program director, Rob Tregenza, to look for interesting or award winning films that have

been screened at the world's major film festival.

"We also meet with and talk to film distributors about their archived 35mm films," Kjeldsen said. "We encourage our students, faculty and other School of the Arts personnel to make suggestions."

Although the VCU Cinematheque season is drawing to a close, there is still time to attend screenings.

On Oct. 27, the department will screen the 2012 Oscar-winning film "Django Unchained," the Nov. 10 showing is "Still, The Children Are Here," and the Nov. 24 screening is the 1959 film "North by Northwest" by Alfred Hitchcock.

"There's really no point showing what every other theater is already showing," Kjeldsen said.



Professor Joshua Tyree introduces the film of the night at a cinematheque screening at the Grace Street Theater.



PHOTOS BY BYRON KORANTENG

Students attend a screening of "Hunger," directed by Steve McQueen on 35mm film.

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VCUarts graduate showcases work at Tompkins-McCaw Library

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

MCV’s Tompkins-McCaw Library unveiled striking and scientific masking tape art creations earlier this month.

Nickolai Walko, a VCUarts alum, revealed his exhibit, “Unmasked: A Visual Dissection,” featuring 30 anatomically inspired, masking tape creations on Oct. 22. The exhibit is free to view and is open until Jan. 31, 2016.

“I thought his anatomic-based work was a really good fit for the gallery,” said Teresa Knott, the director of the Tompkins-McCaw Library. “The technique that Nickolai uses to create his pieces with masking tape was intriguing. It is always exciting to see a young person who is so passionate about his chosen path.”

To create his unique sculptures, Walko begins with a brightly colored single panel or wall. He lays down a full layer of black masking tape from edge to edge of the surface, then draws his design. Using an exacto blade, he cuts out some pieces of tape to create a strongly contrasting image. Walko completes his pieces by spraying the finished work with a polyurethane coating to prevent tape decay.

“When I have the strips of tape laid over my panel, I look at the tape as a skin,” Walko said. “I use an X-Acto blade, which I view as a scalpel cutting into the skin, or tape, to reveal the exposed anatomy.”

Walko said in pursuing his anatomical perspective, he’s studied hundreds of diagrams by Frank Netter, Henry Grey, Nicolas-Henri Jacob and Leonardo Da Vinci.

“As I go along, I gain an understanding and appreciation for the human body and how it works,” Walko said.

Recently, Walko curated and headlined his first show at The National. He has been involved in shows at the Page Bond Gallery, The Nest, Crossroads Art Center



Artwork by Nickolai Walko, a VCUarts alum, hangs on the walls in the Tompkins-McCaw Library on the MCV Campus. His work is themed around anatomy.

and Art Works. Some of his past pieces have been displayed at the Science Museum of Virginia, Classic Rock Coffee Shop and UNOS Organ Transplant Center.

VCU Health primarily features local artists in the Tompkins-McCaw Library gallery space. Earlier this year the director of the cultural arts program for VCU Health, Philip “Muzi” Branch, suggested Walko’s style would fit the library’s focus on art related to the health sciences.

Gallery space at the Tompkins-McCaw Library was renovated and updated in 2011. The gallery opened with “Bedpan Excellence: Celebrating the Beauty of an Everyday Object” in March 2011 and has thrived since.

Past exhibits have incorporated photography projects, including “Wild Things: Far and Near” by VCU School of Dentistry faculty member Rob Sabatini, “Discover Magica” by VCU School of Medicine instructional designer Jeanne Schlesinger and “Bedpan Excellence: Celebrating the Beauty of an Everyday Object” by William DuBois, a faculty member from

the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Tompkins-McCaw Library has also hosted several contests. The initial contest was Rams Reaching Out, featuring photographs that highlighted work by students enrolled in health sciences programs.

“When I have the strips of tape laid over my panel, I look at the tape as a skin. I use an X-Acto blade, which I view as a scalpel cutting into the skin, or tape, to reveal the exposed anatomy.”

— NICKOLAI WALKO

The most recent was “Through the Looking Glass: An Exhibit of Microscopic Images.” It included images submitted by VCU students, staff, faculty. “Watercolors” by Victor Yanchick featured the work of the former dean of the



VCU School of Pharmacy and “Intersections: Art and Science” featured the medical illustrations created by students, faculty and alumni from the VCU School of the Arts Department of Communication Arts.

“We’ve had good attendance at opening events and positive press on the exhibits,” Knott said. “In addition, we have had very strong, favorable feedback from visitors throughout the course of exhibits. Students routinely express their appreciation at having art on our walls to enjoy.”

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opinion

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“There is a nationwide misconception that gun violence is related to mental health.”
— Monica Houston

Presidential candidates continue to step on, ignore the Muslim community



HIBA AHMAD
Contributing Columnist

Islamophobia is a growing trend in the United States that shames Muslims. It's also a growing tactic used by political and social leaders in an effort to further their personal agendas.

In 2014, Pew Research Center conducted their second “Religious Landscape Study” which stated there are 2.8 million Muslims currently living in the United States. Apparently, those are 2.8 million votes that many of the candidates in the 2016 presidential election are willing to lose, simply because they cannot get past their narrow-minded perspectives.

Islamophobia has been brought up in multiple televised interviews and debates, and

many candidates have refused to address or even acknowledge the growing problem.

Islamophobia hinders those who choose to pursue their Islamic faith from opportunities in the workplace, classroom and elsewhere. Negative, unfounded stereotypes cause rifts between communities and largely hold society back from advancing together.

In September, Ahmed Mohammed, a 14-year-old Muslim boy and Texas native, brought a homemade clock to school. His teacher claimed that it “looked like a bomb” and he was arrested at school. Mohammed’s arrest sparked uproar on social media and news broadcasts criticizing the bias of the school officials and police department in the area.

This incident occurred a few days before the Republican Debate on CNN, and was brought up in the questions for the candidates. The candidates’ responses and follow-up questions revealed the ugliness and prevalence of Americans’ attitudes towards Muslims.

Most candidates took the opportunity to redirect their replies toward ISIS and foreign relations with Iran — important topics, but completely unrelated to the question they were posed. The only exception was Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal, who instead talked about Kim Davis, the anti-marriage equality crusader in Kentucky.

Ahmed’s case isn’t the only example of Muslim-bashing that has taken place this campaign cycle, and more often than not, it

reveals itself in indirect forms.

When candidates are approached with questions regarding the Muslim community in the U.S., somehow the responses are always redirected to a completely different cause. Even though the Republican candidates are notorious for their comments, in particular Donald Trump, Democratic candidates have also fallen short in addressing the issue properly.

During the Democratic debate a few weeks ago, many of the candidates made broad, overarching statements regarding religious and racial equality.

It seems nobody wants to touch the topic of Muslims in America — as if we aren’t dynamic players in this election, or the nation for that matter.

How can a candidate claim

they stand for every American voice, but not address the issues that those individuals face?

Trump claims he wants to “make America great again,” but does he plan on doing that by calling all Muslims and Arabs bad guys? Ben Carson claims that a Muslim could never become president due to conflicts between Sharia and American law. Interestingly enough, people said the same thing about African Americans 50 years ago, and today, President Barack Obama is in his seventh year of his presidency.

Yes, extremist groups like the Islamic State and Al-Qaida are a problem, and relations with Iran are never going to be perfect. That does not mean that an entire community who has fought and worked to be accepted into a

society based on the premise of freedom deserves to be ridiculed for actions they are not responsible for.

We need a president who is willing to stand up for us, like any other community in this vast nation.

When it comes time to go to the polls, I urge students to think about who they are voting for. Everyone is predisposed to support those like themselves, but when you run for an office that is supposed to represent an entire land of individuals from all backgrounds, it is your responsibility to be objective and empathetic. Look toward a candidate that will serve the needs of all the lives this great nation serves, not just a select few communities.

The federal government still fails to acknowledge the mentally ill

— continued from page 1
government is famous for making hasty decisions on issues that do not directly affect the legislators implementing them. If they can take money away from the improvement of the world and fund their own agendas, they will not hesitate to do so.

Now fast-forward to December 2007 when the U.S. was struck by the recession and \$1.8 billion was cut from non-Medicaid state mental health funding. With budget cuts this large, according to the National Alliance for Mental Health, “Rather than saving states and communities’ money, these cuts to services simply shift financial responsibility to emergency rooms, community hospitals, law enforcement agencies, correctional facilities and homeless shelters.”

Now that responsibility lies in the hands of law enforcement, prisons or homeless shelters who held accountable? How can patients get the proper care they need if there are still no care facilities and health care costs are sky-high? The government is putting these patients at risk to harm themselves and potentially others.

Aside from being placed in nursing homes or becoming homeless, a large percentage of

the mentally ill also end up in prison. A report by the Treatment Advocacy Center showed that an estimated 356,268 inmates had some kind of mental illness in 2012. That is about the population of New Jersey and 10 times more than the number of people who are being treated at in-state psychiatric institutions.

After the movement to de-institutionalize mental health care, community health centers housed 558,922 patients in 1955; today that number has dropped to about 35,000. Another report by the Treatment Advocacy Center in 2014 showed that in 44 states, at least one prison holds more individuals with mental illness than the state’s largest psychiatric hospital.

These are outrageous proportions that must be fixed immediately. The government needs a serious reality check and realize this is no way to deal with your citizens. Instead of allowing minorities to fend for themselves with limited resources and unsupportive assistance, the government needs to get intensely involved with these growing proportions.

There is a nationwide misconception that gun violence is related

to mental health; the reality is that the mentally ill are actually more likely to be victims of gun violence. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the risks of violence among this small subset of individuals may increase when appropriate treatment and supports are not available. The use of alcohol or drugs as a form of self medication can also increase these risks.

When instances of violence do occur, we get a clear understanding of the consequences of an uninvolved and unsupportive government.

Twenty-four hours before the 2013 stabbing, Senator Creigh Deeds’ son was under evaluation by mental health professionals while under emergency custody order.

Deeds declared that, “the system failed my son,” when officials had to release his son Gus because there were no psychiatric beds available and an individual could only be held under custody for six hours. Following this, Deeds’ son attacked him — stabbing him multiple times. Had the senator’s son had the proper attention, things could have gone differently.

In another incident, we recall the Virginia Tech shooting that occurred in April 2007. Back in December 2005, a judge ordered

Seung-Hui Cho to see outpatient care after making suicidal comments to his roommates. Cho later received evaluations at Carilion-St. Alban’s mental health facility. All the counselors he saw dismissed Cho despite his complaints about symptoms of depression and anxiety. Incidentally, Cho killed 32 people and himself making it the deadliest shooting in the U.S. at the time just two years later.

A final incident, two months before the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, two Dallas police officers shot and killed a black man holding a screwdriver who charged at them. The video shows the victim’s mother warning the officers that her son suffers from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia as she exited the house.

When the officers asked the man to drop the screwdriver and he did not comply, instead becoming agitated and attacking them, he was fatally shot. When did the rule change to shoot to kill before deescalating the situation? It seems like every officer replaced their Tasers with another gun. The officers were not indicted of course.

These incidents all resulted in death or injury that could have been prevented had these patients



had the proper care they needed. The shift in financial responsibility needs to go back to care facilities and less towards law enforcement and prisons.

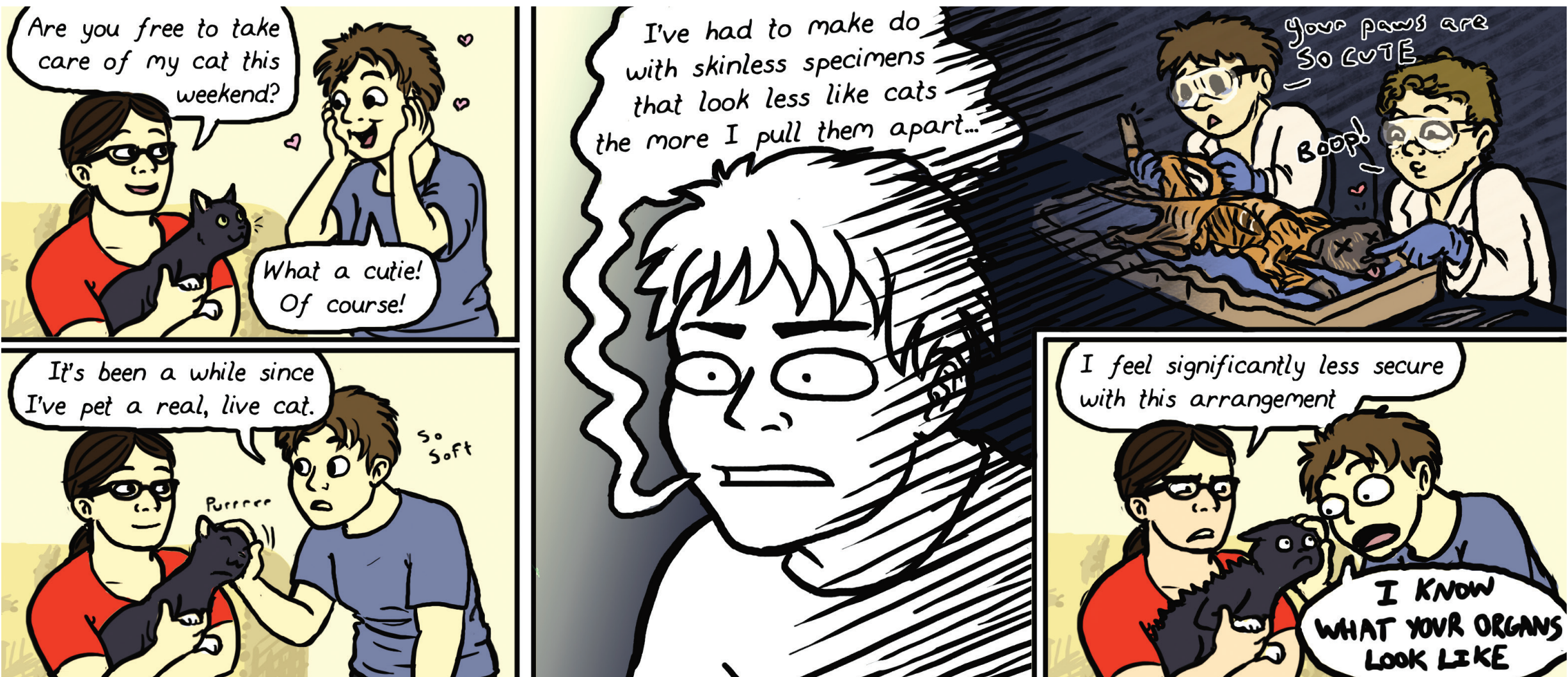
Obviously cops are not equipped and trained adequately to handle such cases and our pris-

ons are extremely overcrowded. Patients with mental illness need a safe place to acknowledge their illness and get the proper medication. We can no longer ignore the blaring signs.

So Busy by Skye Lim



Cat-Deprived by Lisa Revette

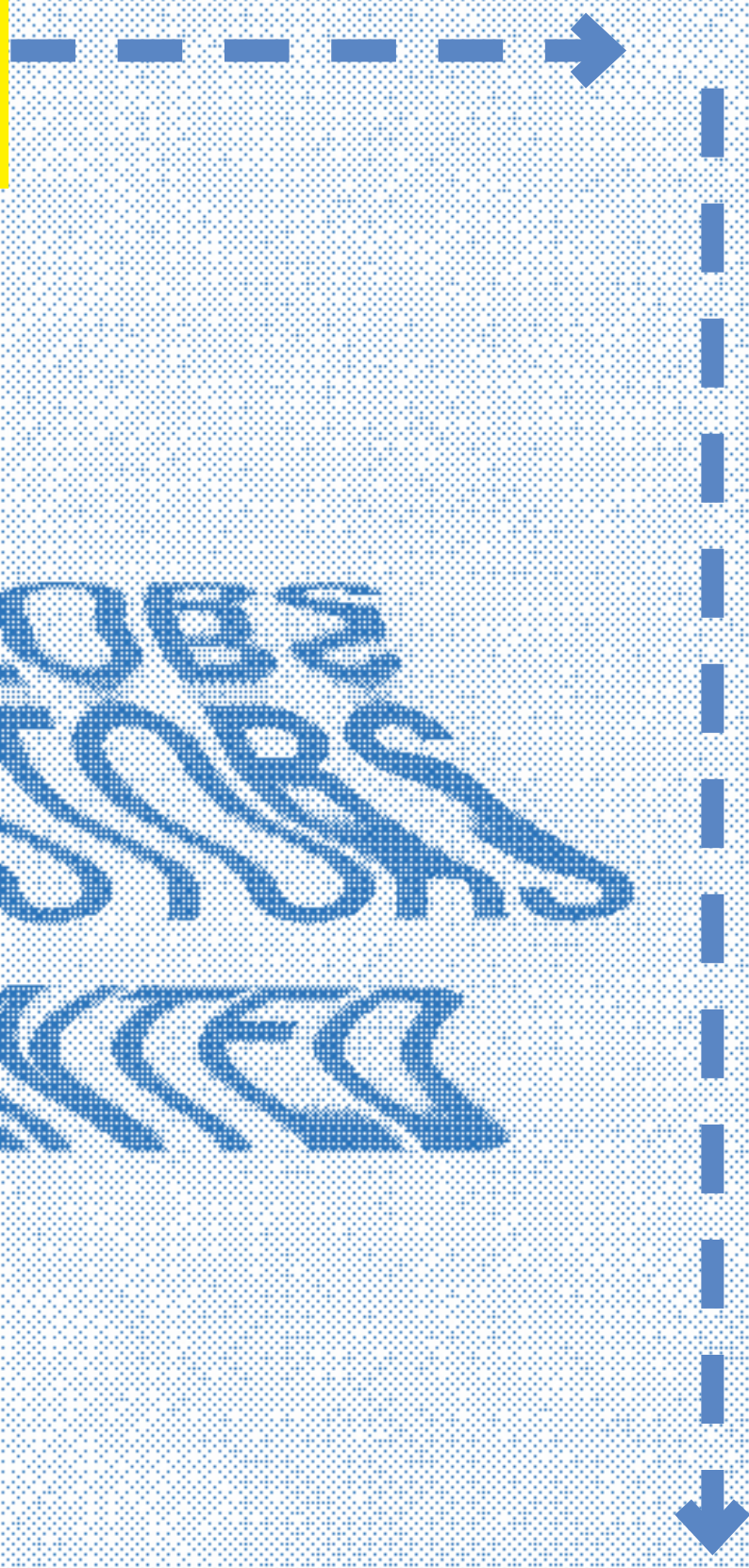


The Wood Chirper by Robbie Shilstone



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