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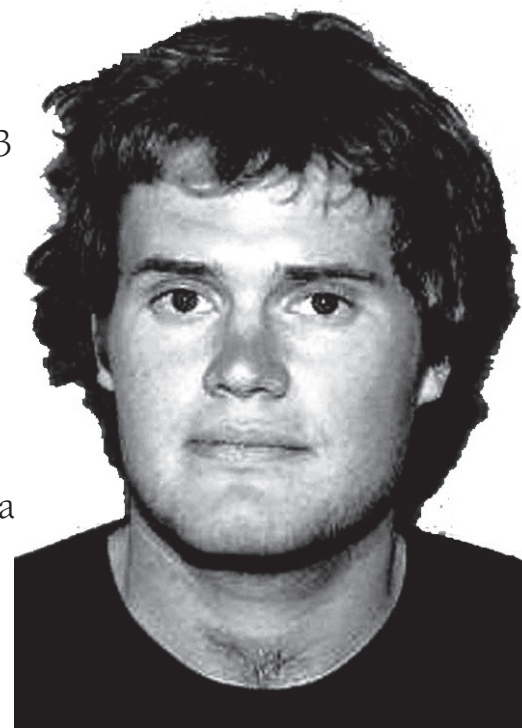
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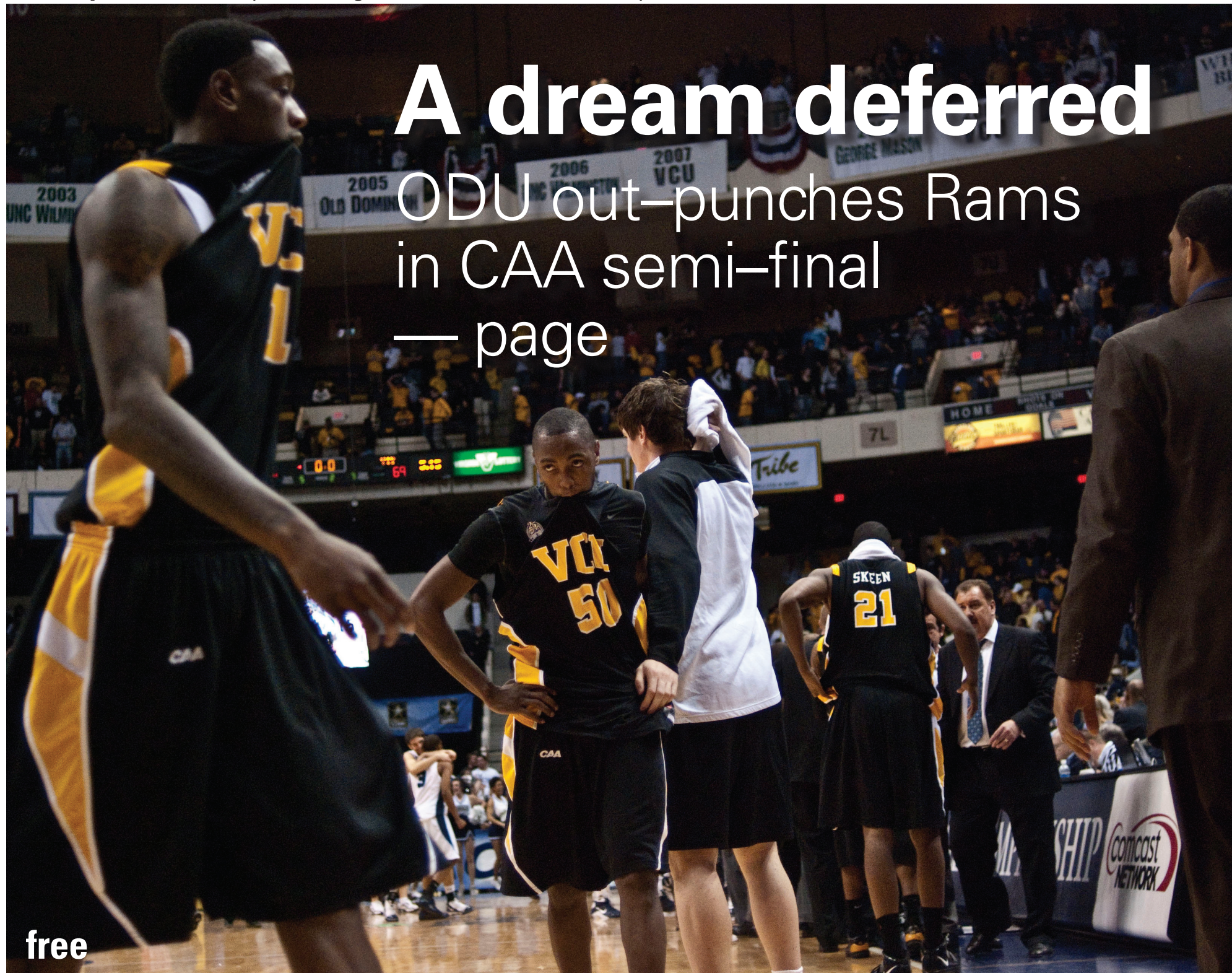
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The independent student press of Virginia Commonwealth University

commonwealthtimes.org



A dream deferred

ODU out-punches Rams in CAA semi-final

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briefs

Jake Cunningham cover photo
AJ Lund cutout photo

Local and VCU

VCU health fair addresses host of concerns

VCU's 3rd Annual Community Health Fair was held Saturday at Armstrong High School.

Students from VCU's pharmacy school set up a display case showing medications side by side with similarly colored and shaped candies.

Hallways were lined with VCU student displays.

VCU medical students and doctors set up eight black-curtained booths for health screenings, including blood pressure, cholesterol and H1N1 flu.

VCU dental students set up 10 portable dental chairs, offering screenings.

Almost every one of the 200 or so people who took an exam had some kind of problem, said dental school professor Carol Brooks.

"This is about trying to help people get access to care they need," she said.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

CU to operate learning center's child care/preschool

The VCU Health System has been chosen to operate the child-care and preschool center at the Northside Family Learning Center, which is under construction and scheduled to open this summer.

The child care/preschool will be one component of the family-focused learning center, a project of Partnership for Families Northside.

In addition to space for child care, the 20,000-square-foot center at 800 W. Graham Road will have staff offices, adult classrooms, a lending library and a computer lab. According to the building permit, the project cost is \$2.24 million. The Robins Foundation is providing support.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

More state job cuts loom

This month, Gov. Bob McDonnell will name members of a commission on government reform and restructuring. In some agencies that saw job increases, funding for new positions did not come from the state's general fund budget.

At George Mason, Longwood, Christopher Newport and Virginia Commonwealth universities, the number of authorized positions increased as tuition, endowments, federal stimulus funds and other targeted federal grants helped make up for decreased state support.

At VCU, state taxpayers funded 48 fewer VCU jobs in 2010 than in 2008. The school gained nearly 200 positions funded by so-called "nongeneral fund" dollars.

With more job cuts for agencies looming, representatives of state workers, and some Democratic lawmakers, said government employees have sacrificed enough already.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

National and International

Rowdy protests target funding cuts at US campuses

Students staged raucous rallies to protest education funding cuts on college campuses nationwide Thursday, but some demonstrations got out of hand.

Dozens of nationwide campuses were hit with marches, strikes, teach-ins and walkouts in what was billed as the March 4th National Day of Action for Public Education.

Organizers said hundreds of thousands of students, teachers, parents and school employees were expected to participate in the nationwide demonstrations.

The steep economic downturn has forced states to slash education funding

Experts said schools and colleges could face more severe financial problems over the next few years.

Brief by The Associated Press

Gunman killed after shooting 2 Pentagon police officers

The gunman who shot two Pentagon police officers was heavily armed and spent weeks driving to the Capital area from the West Coast, authorities said Friday. Resentment of the U.S. government and suspicions over the 9/11 attacks have surfaced in writings by the Californian identified as the man fatally wounded in a hail of return fire.

John Patrick Bedell, 36, of Hollister, Calif., was identified as the shooter and authorities said he'd had previous run-ins with the law.

Investigators have found no immediate connection to terrorism, and the attack at the massive Defense Department headquarters appears to be a case of "a single individual who had issues," Richard Keevill, chief of Pentagon police, said in an early morning press conference.

Brief by The Associated Press

25 die in Iraq as nation votes in historic election amid insurgent attacks

Iraqis voted Sunday in an election testing the mettle of the country's still-fragile democracy as insurgents killed 25 people across the Iraq, unleashing a barrage of mortars intent on disrupting the historic day.

About 19 million Iraqis are eligible to vote for who will lead the country after U.S. forces pull out, in an election that will determine whether Iraq can overcome the jagged sectarian divisions that have defined it since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

Insurgents who vowed to disrupt the elections launched attacks as polls opened across the city and country.

Brief by The Associated Press

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news

Search for missing exchange student expands

ERICATERRINI
News Editor

The search continues for the missing 22-year-old exchange student from Guernsey, England, who was last seen on campus on March 2. The VCU Police Department is joined by students, family and friends in their efforts to locate the student.

Jonathan "Jonny" S. Dorey is a geography major who lives in the Gladding Residence Center.

According to press statement issued by VCU Police Chief John Venuti, Dorey is between 5 feet, 10 inches and 6 feet tall, weighs between 180 and 200 pounds and has brown hair. Dorey wears glasses and was last seen wearing a blue and white plaid jacket with a hood and dark blue jeans. He was riding a black mountain bike.

Venuti stated police have no reason to believe foul play is involved in Dorey's disappearance, but would like to talk to anyone who has seen Dorey.

Lorna Yarberry, a friend of Dorey and a communication arts major stated in an e-mail she was

informed of his disappearance Wednesday afternoon when mutual friends called asking if she had seen him. Yarberry stated Dorey was a frequent bike rider and the search had extended to trails Dorey had been known to ride.

"A friend works for the K-9 Alert search and rescue for Henrico and she and her dog and the rest of the team with state-certified search dogs were out around the river today looking for him," Yarberry stated. They didn't find anything yet they're going to continue to search the area and the river."

Yarberry stated some of Dorey's friends, including an officer, covered all the paths and grounds at Belle Isle (north and south ends) and the trails of Hollywood Cemetery.

The rest of Northbank Trail still needs to be checked, though there are cyclists who use those trails everyday.

According to Yarberry, students and friends have been working closely with the the VCU Police Department, which has checked hospitals and local jails daily. Students, family and friends have

searched the Greyhound station, used bike shops and local pawnshops for Dorey's bike. A picture of Dorey's bike will be dropped off at those shops.

Dorey's parents flew over from Guernsey and arrived Sunday to aid in the search.

Yarberry stated a Facebook event and group has been created to broaden the search. The Help find Jonny Facebook group has 3,999 members and the event has 3,652 confirmed guests.

"We have contacted everyone we know that he had or could have contact with in the last few days," Yarberry stated.

Dorey's dorm room and laptop history have been searched, fliers have been distributed around the city and plans have been made to check downtown bars and distribute fliers there.

"Just keep your eyes open and any and all tips that might lead to his finding would be greatly appreciated," Yarberry stated.



Photo from AJ Lund

Those with information should contact Sgt. P. Abrams with VCU Police at 828-6409 or VCU Police Communications at 828-1196.

Cuccinelli says colleges can't protect gays

BRITTANY DANIELS
Contributing Writer

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is asking the state's public colleges and universities to rescind their policies banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Cuccinelli sent letters telling the institutions of higher education that they do not have legislative authority to prohibit discrimination against people who are gay or lesbian.

"It is my advice that the law and public policy of the Commonwealth of Virginia prohibit a college or

university from including 'sexual orientation,' 'gender identity,' 'gender expression,' or like classification, as a protected class within its nondiscrimination policy, absent specific authorization from the General Assembly," Cuccinelli's letter stated.

VCU President Michael Rao sent an e-mail Friday afternoon informing all students, faculty and staff at the university and the MCV about Cuccinelli's letter.

"The University's senior leadership team and I are examining the issue closely. Provost (Stephen) Gottfredson is planning forums to provide students, faculty

and staff an opportunity to discuss the implications of the Attorney General's request," Rao's e-mail stated.

VCU has a policy stating that "no person, either singly or in concert with others, shall willfully discriminate against another person on a basis not reasonably related to the educational or job functions involved on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, color, creed, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, and age."

Other public colleges and universities have similar policies.

Cuccinelli, a Republican who served as a state senator

before being elected attorney general in November, reminded the schools they are "arms of the state" and are "subject to control of the General Assembly" at all times.

His letter said state institutions cannot include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies without express permission from the General Assembly.

"I am aware that several Virginia colleges and universities have included 'sexual orientation' in their respective policies," Cuccinelli wrote.

"For the reasons stated, any college or university that

CUCCINELLI continued to CT5



Universities, students respond to Cuccinelli letter

CATHERINE MACDONALD
Managing Editor

VCU

Location: Richmond

Total undergrads: 23,149

Graduate enrollment: 9,287

91 percent in-state students

Existing policy: "no person, either singly or in concert with others, shall willfully discriminate against another person on a basis not reasonably related to the educational or job functions involved on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, color, creed, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, and age."

Students react through social media:

A Facebook group with about 530 members states, "At VCU, we learn from one another in an environment where we can share our life experiences openly. We believe Ken Cuccinelli's actions threaten the education of not just gay and lesbian students, but all students."

Students are holding a VCU Anti-Discrimination Rally at the Compass Point Wednesday from 12 to 1 p.m. The event on Facebook lists more than 400 attendants.



Location: Blacksburg

Total undergrads: 23,558

Graduate enrollment: 7,312

73 percent in-state students

In the news: Karen DePauw, the vice president and dean for graduate education, told Metro Weekly, "We send the wrong message about our commitment to diversity and inclusion by removing sexual orientation."

CT4 · commonwealthtimes.org · news

A university spokesman told The Associated Press the school's policy banning discrimination based on sexual orientation remains in effect. Any change would have to be approved by the school's Board of Visitors, he said.

Students react through social media:

A Facebook group with more than 530 members states, "Remember – STUDENTS pay Virginia Tech's tuition, FACULTY provide Virginia Tech's services. The university will listen to US. That is why we have to come together as one voice to make sure that our Board of Visitors publicly resists this malicious attack on civil liberties."



Location: Charlottesville

Total undergrads: 15,464

Graduate enrollment: 8,798

72 percent in-state students

Existing policy: The university "administers its programs, procedures and practices without regard to age, color, disability, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation or veteran status."

Students react through social media:

UVA's Queer and Allied Activism is launching a social media campaign.



Location: Norfolk

Total undergrads: 18,253

Graduate enrollment: 5,760

92 percent in-state students

In the news: Carl Pucci, the former president of the student body at Old Dominion University, told the Virginian-Pilot he thinks Cuccinelli's letter is likely to stir a strong response on campuses. "It's going to be a mess. There's no doubt about that," he said. "Our generation is really open-minded. The concept of discrimination, we're just not interested in that ... I think you're going to see the whole gamut, from angry letters to protests."



Location: Williamsburg

Total undergrads: 5,836

Graduate enrollment: 2,038

65 percent in-state students

Existing policy: None will face discrimination in "regard to race, sex/gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, political belief, disability, Vietnam veteran status, age, and all other categories protected by the Commonwealth and by federal law."

According to the college's student newspaper, the Flat Hat, the school's statement of rights and responsibilities now includes a more comprehensive definition of gender identity and expression in order to provide the same protection to transsexual, transgendered and gender-neutral faculty and students.

Students react through social media:

About 500 Facebook users are listed as attending an event organized by students for a Phone Bank against Cuccinelli's Discrimination, held Monday from 1 to 4 p.m.

A Facebook group with about 700 members states, "We as the student body must stand together and send a message that Cuccinelli is on the wrong side of history. We will not let this happen. William and Mary is not his campus, it's ours."



Location: Fredericksburg

Total undergrads: 4,397

Graduate enrollment: 983

80 percent in-state students

Students react through social media:

A Facebook group with more than 500 members states, "This is anti-gay rhetoric at its finest, and we as a student body must stand as one and refuse Cuccinelli's 'advice,' both for the integrity of our institutions, and for the rights of our fellow students, (faculty) and staff."



Location: Fairfax

Total undergrads: 19,702

Graduate enrollment: 12,365

79 percent in-state students

Students react through social media:

Students created a Facebook group, which has about 40 members and states its purpose as "a group to organize for equality at Mason and against Cuccinelli's bigotry."

Information provided by collegeboard.com.

Monday, March 8, 2010

CUCCINELLI continued from CT3

has done so has acted without proper authority. Such invalid policies create, at a minimum, confusion about the law and, at worst, a litany of instances in which the school's operation would need to change in order to come into conformance.

"Accordingly, I would advise the boards of each college to take appropriate actions to bring their policies in conformance with the law and public policy of Virginia."

Virginia Democrats condemned Cuccinelli and accused him of encouraging discrimination. They called on Gov. Bob McDonnell, a Republican, to rein in Cuccinelli.

"Our colleges and universities are more than capable of setting policies that work for them without meddling from Ken Cuccinelli," said Richard Cranwell, chairman of the Democratic

Party of Virginia.

The Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus denounced Cuccinelli.

"Attorney General Cuccinelli is turning the clock back on civil rights in Virginia," said Sen. John Edwards, D-Roanoke. "His advice to Virginia's colleges and universities has no basis in the law."

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia said Cuccinelli's advice could hurt student and faculty recruitment.

"I am puzzled why the Attorney General would authorize our public colleges and universities to discriminate," Warner said in a statement.

"A decision on whether to hire, promote or offer admission should be based on whether or not the individual is qualified—period. I believe the Attorney General's advice will hurt the ability of our colleges and universities

to attract the very best faculty, staff and students, and damage the Commonwealth's reputation for academic excellence and diversity."

Warner served as governor in 2002-2005. He and his successor, Democrat Tim Kaine, both issued executive orders specifically barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

McDonnell declined to issue such an order when he replaced Kaine in January.

Last week, the House of Delegates defeated legislation to protect state employees from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"There are plenty of challenges facing the Commonwealth, and I don't think our elected leaders should be spending their time looking for ways to allow discrimination," said Sen. Donald McEachin, D-Henrico.

"First the governor refused to protect gay state workers, then he sat silent while the House of Delegates killed legislation that would have protected his state workforce, and now his attorney general tells schools they can't protect their gay students and employees."

McDonnell's office issued a statement saying Cuccinelli's letter simply reflects the law.

"The legal analysis contained in the letter concerning the General Assembly's sole responsibility for setting state employment policy is consistent with all prior opinions from the Office of the Attorney General over the last 25 years on the subject," the statement said.

"The Governor expects that no Virginia college or university, or any other state agency, will engage in discrimination of any kind."

Day of Action lacked student passion

ERICATERRINI
News Editor

Student protesters were arrested in Wisconsin and California. Oakland students caused a California freeway to be closed. Nationwide, students and faculty united in protest for the March 4 National Day of Action for Public Education.

At VCU about 30 students and professors spoke out.

Members of Students for Social Action

sponsored a rally for the national movement Thursday afternoon, which was held in the University Student Commons Plaza. The rally drew a small crowd of students, who listened to student and faculty speakers.

Several students read poems, sang songs and other student organization members joined the rally to show their support. SSA members gathered signatures for a petition against education cuts, which they will submit to the main offices of the General Assembly.

STUDENT PROTEST continued to CT6



Mel Kobran photo

VCU's Day of Action drew a smaller than expected crowd to the Commons Plaza.

Student-led protests vary from state to state

- According to the Associated Press, protests ranged from peaceful to violent at universities nationwide.
- In Oakland, protesters gathered on Interstate 88 forcing the closure of the freeway in both directions for more than an hour and causing traffic to back up for miles. Police arrested more than 150 people.
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee police arrested at least 15 people protesting tuition hikes after protesters tried to enter an administrative building to deliver petitions to the school chancellor.
- In Northern California, University of California Santa Cruz protesters blocked major gates at two universities and smashed the windows of a car. No arrests had been made.
- At the University of California, Berkeley, a small group of protesters formed a human chain blocking a main gate to the campus. Later in the day, hundreds gathered for a peaceful rally in the middle of a busy intersection near Sproul Plaza.
- At UC Davis, about 75 police officers were called to the scene after nearly 300 students tried to block a freeway onramp near campus, said university spokeswoman Claudia Morain. A standoff between students and police ended after police fired pepper spray into the crowd and one female student was arrested, Morain said. There were no reported injuries.
- At the University of Illinois, about 200 professors, instructors and graduate faculty marched through campus carrying signs that read "Furlough Legislators"—a reference to recent furloughs and 4 percent pay cuts imposed on thousands of university employees.
- In Olympia, Wash., a group of about 75 protesters arrived at the Capitol bearing a faux coffin emblazoned with the slogan "R.I.P. Education." They were later ejected from the state Senate gallery after interrupting a debate with a protest song that followed the tune of "Amazing Grace." Several Democratic senators applauded the performance, as security guards escorted the protesters from the building.
- At the University of Texas at Austin, about 100 students and staff rallied on campus to protest a 5.4 percent hike in tuition and fees approved by regents a day earlier. Protesters complained the quality of education was taking a backseat to the university's bottom line.
- In Alabama, Broderick Thomas, a 23-year-old Auburn senior, attended an annual higher education rally in Montgomery and said he feels "it's the moral duty of the state to give back what they promised."
- Hundreds of students, teachers, parents and school employees from across California gathered in Sacramento for a midday rally at the Capitol to urge lawmakers to restore funding to public schools.

Information provided by Associated Press
news · commonwealthtimes.org · CT5

photo poll

As a VCU student, what would you like to see the university do?

news

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is asking the state's public colleges and universities to rescind their policies banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Cuccinelli sent letters telling Virginia institutions of higher education they do not have legislative authority to prohibit

discrimination against people based on sexual orientation or gender expression.

VCU President Michael Rao sent an e-mail Friday afternoon informing all students, faculty and staff at the university and MCV about Cuccinelli's letter.



Gabrielle Latora, a freshman biology major

"I think we should stand up to (the request). I don't think it's necessary to change the policy. It's sort of an insult."



Phillip Shepard, a freshman mass communications major

"It seems like the administration is trying to avoid (the letter) and not talk about . It seems like a move toward ignorance and not acceptance."



Sean Williams, a sophomore psychology major

"(A policy change) might open the door to more discrimination. I don't think VCU students will let this fly."



Arqao Hasan, a junior philosophy major

"Students aren't affected as bad by (the requested policy change) as employees are. Students should always should make statements and get involved. The administration should have some statement against the policy."



Max Daniel, recent graduate and graduate school applicant

"I'd like to see a lot of direct action. The more that people speak out about (the letter) and write their legislators, the better off we'll be. Never underestimate the power of the student population."



Hannah Weber, a freshman dance major

"People should pay attention to (the letter). This is kind of a time to realize your sexual orientation and take pride in it."

Human rights advocate speaks out against femicide

MIKE BAKER
Contributing Writer

She held her lacerated jaw closed with a blood-soaked towel in a desperate effort to cry for help as her children were being stabbed to death by their own father. Her name was Rosa Maria, and she and her children fell victim to the rampant femicide and violence that is occurring in Guatemala today.

Norma Cruz, an internationally recognized advocate for victims of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking and illegal adoption, spoke at the Pace Campus Ministry on Tuesday, March 2. Rosa Maria's story is one of the testimonials that Norma Cruz used in her speech to portray the horrifying reality of femicide in Guatemala.

Guatemalan society is that of a highly patriarchal stature, Cruz said, where women are regarded as property and virtually have no rights.

"When a woman is pregnant, way say, if it's a boy, 'We're going to kill the hen.' And that means that we are going to have a party to celebrate the welcoming of the little boy. But if it's a girl, there is no party," Cruz said. "Why? Because if a girl is born, it means that the parents are going to have to make an investment, so that she can get married and leave."

This societal view makes it possible for men to commit violence on and murder women with no consequence. According to Cruz, Guatemalan authorities are of no help either.

"(A man) feels the right to, if he sees a woman that he likes, hold a gun

STUDENT PROTEST continued from CT5

"I didn't think the cuts would affect us but they do and it seems like no one cared," said Ashley Collier, the president of SSA and a senior sociology major. "I went into the commons to tell people to come out but only one person came up to me and asked, 'They're going to raise tuition?'"

However, Collier said the rally did "kind of spring up" and despite the SSA's publicity efforts, the short notice might have affected the turnout.

Collier said in order to organize the rally, SSA members had to go through a lot of "bureaucratic hoops." Group members had to obtain a permit to hold the rally in the plaza, publicize the rally and tend to other formalities. She said SSA tried to involve other student organizations but none were able to co-sponsor the rally.

Nantasha Williams, Student Government Association senator and junior political science major, said, like the SGA, other student organizations were aware of the rally but chose not to participate.

Williams said a lot of the organizations might have been doing "their own thing" for the national

movement and the lack of participation was not perceived to have caused tense relations.

Ava Stone, an SSA member and a sophomore Spanish major, said SSA expected a larger turnout but agreed the SSA is still on good terms with their fellow student organizations. She said the main objective was to reach students, which they did.

"The national movement is beautiful but it's not so big on the East Coast," Stone said. "We want to prepare the student body. If it's happening in California, VCU is not immune to cuts or program cuts."

Shawn Utsey, a professor of African-American studies, spoke at the rally. He said the rally addressed the budget cuts and students' development as responsible citizens.

"The budget cuts are very important and affect (students) directly and affect all of us directly, but I also like to see students get involved and be proactive and have a sense of agency," Utsey said. "I'm really impressed with the students' commitment to this issue, that someone is standing up to speak

out. I'm saddened by the lack of participation of other students. I don't think they understand how important this is and how it affects their future livelihood but I'm hopeful."

Omid Khanzadeh, a junior English major, read several poems at the start of the rally to support education and try to pump up student involvement.

"No one really knows about the financial issues that we have," Khanzadeh said. "I think people need to do more research on it because it affects us all."

Josh Haskins, a mass communications and political science double major, performed two songs at the rally.

"It's great to know that we have a group of people that are revolutionary in their pursuit of change and protest," Haskins said.

Stone shared that uplifting sentiment. She said the budget cuts are going to be a longer-term problem and people will continue to advocate for education and fight budget cuts.

"It's the start to a campaign that's not going to stop," Stone said.

FEMICIDE continued from CT5

to her and get her into the car and rape her. And if she tries to fight back, he kills her. And nothing happens," Cruz said. "The police will never catch him because they don't know how to do an investigation and they're not interested in investigating."

In 2009 alone, there were 708 reported cases of femicide in Guatemala, and many of the cases are not reported, said Karen Rotabi, an assistant professor in the VCU School of Social Work. The number of cases has been significantly increasing over the years, and it has nearly doubled since 2001.

With no signs of femicide in Guatemala dwindling, Cruz' nongovernmental organization, Survivors Foundation, is taking to Capitol Hill to push for U.S. government support in aiding women's rights groups around the world.

"U.S. policy in Guatemala and throughout Central America has been focused on supporting military regimes and supporting the rights of corporations to

extract minerals from an extremely (resource) rich country, to benefit the corporations and not the people," said Amanda Martin, a human rights activist and Guatemala Human Rights Commission member.

"We should not allow that any country in the world be converted into what Guatemala is today," Cruz said. "Por favor, por favor."

For more information visit the following Web sites:

Executive summary and report on femicide:

www.ghrc-usa.org/Programs/ForWomensRighttoLive/2009VAWReport_execsum.htm

Guatemala Human Rights Commission: www.ghrc-usa.org

The Survivors Foundation: www.sobrevivientes.org

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VCU tournament dreams cut short in instant classic with ODU

TAYLOR HOWSMON
Sports Editor

Sunday the storybook closed.

What seemed like a weekend of destiny for VCU came to an unceremonious and abrupt end when the Rams lost to archrival ODU in overtime, 73-69.

"We had a goal of winning four games in four days and I think that was a very very realistic goal for us," said VCU coach Shaka Smart. "We just came up short."

After 44 minutes of barn-burning basketball, the 45th would be the most exciting. After ODU's Ben Finney nailed a three with 1:08 left, VCU put it in the hands of its hero from Saturday, Brandon Rozzell

(Richmond/Highland Springs). The junior delivered, banging home a 30-plus foot three with just 34 seconds left to bring VCU to within two.

An enormous five second inbound violation by ODU's Gerald Lee gave VCU the ball and 33 seconds to tie or win it. However, junior Ed Nixon (St. Petersburg, Fla./Lakewood) missed and Bradford Burgess' (Midlothian/Benedictine) tip in also came up short.

After Lee hit two free throws, it was all she wrote for the Rams' CAA tournament dreams.

Result aside, both the Rams and the Monarchs played quite possibly the game of the year and repeatedly traded blows all afternoon.

In front of a Coliseum sell-out crowd of more

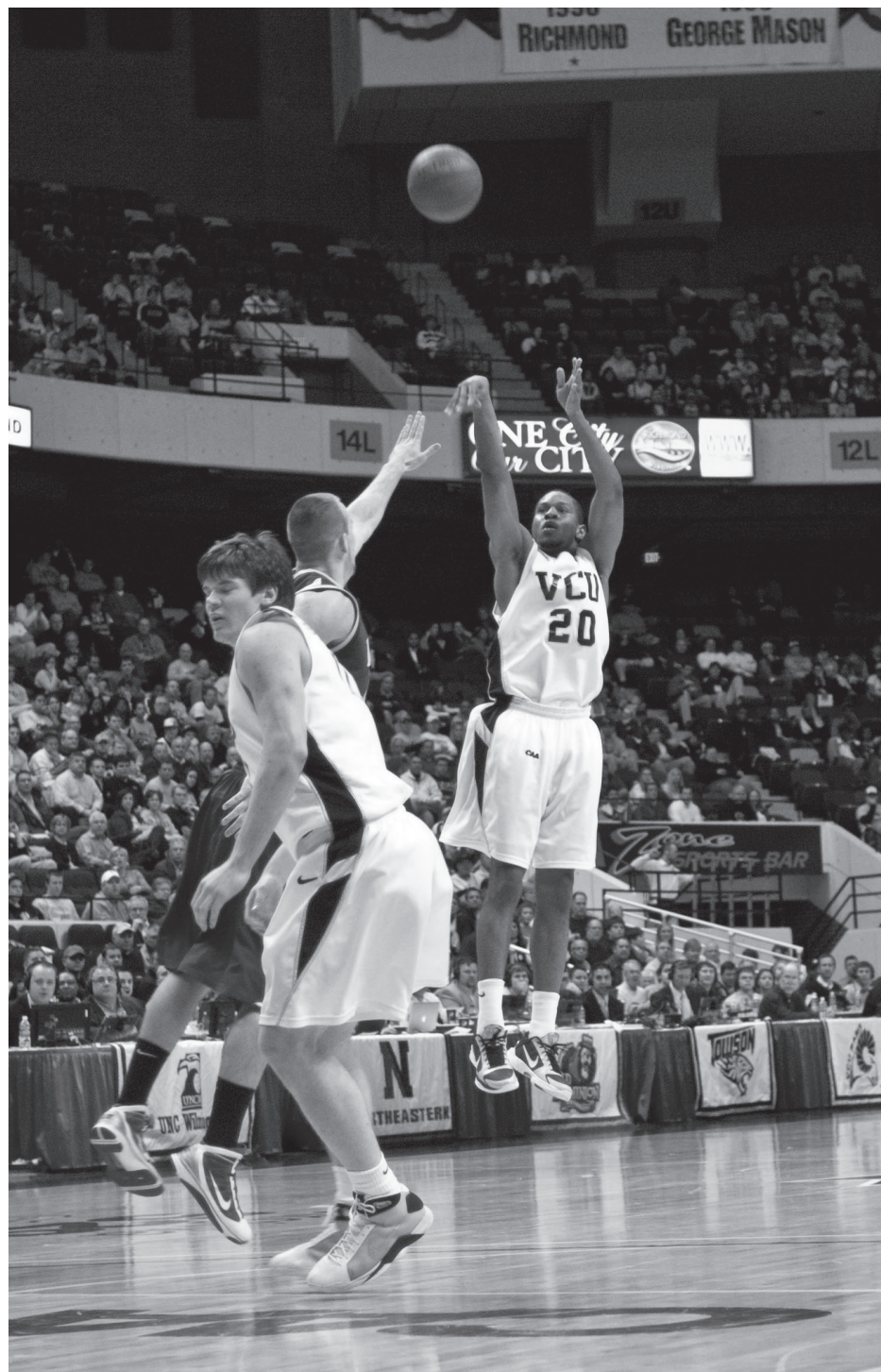
than 11,000, VCU played nip-and-tuck basketball throughout the first half, as neither team struggled to find shots as each shot under 42 percent from the floor.

ODU did outscore the Rams by three in the first but that deficit would quickly be erased.

VCU came out of the locker room in the second half like a team possessed, opening the half on a 13-4 run and eventually outscoring the Monarchs 22-8 through the first eight minutes of the half. A dunk by T.J. Gwynn (Burlington, NC/Cummings) gave the Rams their largest lead of 12 at 52-40 and responded to the tune of 22-10 in the final 11 minutes.

BASKETBALL continued to CT9

CAA coliseum clashes



Jake Cunningham photo



Kyle Laferriere photo

VCU's Brandon Rozzell (above) and Brandford Burgess (left) fire shots.

CAA continued to CT10

BASKETBALL continued from CT8

After a Lee field goal with 1:55 left each team failed to capitalize and win the game and the score was knotted at 62 at the end of regulation.

The game, which had already been a good one, had now become great and the exhilarated Coliseum crowd buckled up for the final five minutes.

The Monarchs and Rams continued like two heavyweight fighters, each team trading haymaker after haymaker. However, after taking a 68-66 lead, ODU got a defensive stop and looked to land the knockout blow.

Point guard Darius James' pass flew just past the out-stretched right hand of Burgess and into the hands of his teammate, Finney. With basket in sight,

Finney nailed the three-ball and the Monarchs took the 71-66 lead.

Rozzell would hit a deep three, but after Nixon's missed runner fell off, the effort was just not enough.

The Rams lost the game and their dream of becoming the first team to win four games in four days in the CAA tournament.

Lee was absolutely fantastic for ODU. He scored 26 points on 10-13 shooting. Finney and Neely each scored 11 for the Monarchs. Nixon led the VCU scoring with 14; Burgess and Joey Rodriguez (Oviedo, Fla/Lake Howell) each scored 13 and Jaime Skeen (Charlotte, NC/Wake Forest University) had 11.

The Rams (22-9) now look forward to bids in possibly the National Invitational Tournament or the College Basketball Invitational if they choose to accept them.

RIGHT UNCW's Dominique Lacy fights for the rebound.

FAR RIGHT Hofstra's Kanacevic scores against Georgia State.

BELOW Drexel's Jaime Harris drives into JMU's Ben Louis.

Jake Cunningham photos





FAR LEFT ODU's Kent Bazemore fights through Towson defenders.

LEFT Matt Janning of Northeastern fires a jumper.

BOTTOM RIGHT Sanders slams over Mason's Kevin Foster.

Jake Cunningham photos



This week

Upcoming events

Women's basketball

Fri.-Sun. March 11-14, CAA women's basketball tournament, Harrisonburg, TBA

Baseball

Tues. March 9, Randolph-Macon, The Diamond, 6 p.m.

Wed. March 10, Quinnipiac, The Diamond, 3 p.m.

Men's track and field

Fri.-Sat. March 12-13, NCAA Indoor Championships, Fayetteville, Ark.

Women's track and field

Fri.-Sat. March 12-13, NCAA Indoor Championships, Fayetteville, Ark.

Men's tennis

Thurs. March 11, SMU, Thalheimer Tennis Center, 2 p.m.

Women's tennis

Sat. March 13, ODU, Norfolk, 1 p.m.

Thurs. March 18, TCU, Fort Worth, Tex., 2 p.m.

spectrum

theater review



'The Vagina Monologues' tackles cultural taboo

ERIKAWILKINS

Spectrum Editor

Culture renders women as emotional beings who love deeply and profoundly—uninhibited about their “feelings.” In some respects, considering the mothers and caretakers who so often depict them, these stereotypes seem to hold true.

When it comes to love of self however, the convention disintegrates. Thursday night, “The Vagina Monologues” at Shafer Street Playhouse begged the question, are women afraid to love?

Dressed in varying shades of red and pink, the actors in “Monologues” descended from the stage, taking their places around the audience as the director, Elizabeth Popp, wished the crowd a “vag-tastic” evening. And a “vag-tastic” evening it was.

From aptly titled segments like “Because He Liked to Look at It” and “The Flood” to the outstanding acting from Martha Johnson and Liz Venz, among others, the show was one delightful commentary after another.

First the players rattled off colloquial terms for vagina – poochie, pussycat, front butt – then moved to musing on what, if anything, your vagina might dress itself in; diamonds or machine-washable cotton perhaps? Though the introspections might seem trivial on the surface, in reality, they shed

light on a conversational taboo.

For some women, the word “vagina” solicits a visceral physical reaction. For some, the thought of seeing a vagina in print or on film is less desirable than a yearly mammogram. For some, the idea of looking at their own vagina is both outrageous and unnecessary.

Why are women so afraid to love their vaginas? Eve Ensler’s script gives myriad possible answers to that cultural phenomenon. But her script alone is just brilliant—it isn’t charming. It requires engaging, believable actors with a requisite level of familiarity (if you’re going to discuss the personal intricacies of your vagina, you’d probably prefer to talk with your friends than your gynecologist).

It is a challenge Popp met head on. The actors weren’t perfect (they even read from note cards) but their gritty realness and unabashed sentiment for the dialogue was magnificent. It was obvious that all of the participants took the material seriously.

In the end, this rendition of “The Vagina Monologues” was more than just another production. It opened the gateway for conversation on all things vagina, and left each audience member with the parting feeling that it is not only OK to talk about vaginas, but to know and enjoy them. After all, “If you don’t use it, you lose it.”

Melissa Tablante Illustration

Burton's latest *almost* a 'Wonderland'

SEAN COLLINS-SMITH
Staff Writer

Neither a sequel nor a prequel, "Alice in Wonderland" is another one of director Tim Burton's infamous re-imaginings. He often revamps popular works, to varied effect: see "Planet of the Apes" for a misfire, or "Sleepy Hollow" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" for faithful renditions. With "Alice," he lands somewhere in the middle.

Like in most films Burton undertakes, he's crafted landscapes and character designs that are far-and-away some of the coolest things you'll see in a theater this year. Sadly, the film is marred by creaky effects that end up being distracting to the viewer; hindering what might have been a more solid remake.

The film begins 13 years after the events of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." Now all grown up and being forced into a marriage she doesn't want, Alice (played gracefully by newcomer Mia Wasikowska) starts remembering her strange experiences as a child. She dismisses them as dreams, until the White Rabbit starts making appearances at her engagement party. Alice follows him and again travels down the rabbit hole, slowly remembering the events in her past.

No doubt some might be disappointed that this isn't a straight telling of Carroll's popular fantasy. However, considering there were more than a dozen film adaptations in the last century, it isn't that much of a loss. This grants Burton and screenwriter Linda Woolverton some flexibility with the characters' arcs, adding and subtracting things as they see fit. It works rather well, giving each creature and person their opportunity to shine.

Helena Bonham Carter, as the Red Queen, comes closest to stealing the show. With her bulbous head and deliciously autocratic cries (she can often be heard yelling, "Off with his head!") she is quite possibly the best character Bonham has played yet. Johnny Depp goes psychedelic and is as potent as ever, going in and out of a manic accent and proclaiming to Alice, in the film's best line delivery, that when the White Queen returns, "I shall Futterwacken—vigorously."

The voice talent is superb, with the likes of Christopher Lee (Jabberwock), Alan Rickman (the Blue Caterpillar), Michael Sheen (the White Rabbit) and the glorious Stephen Fry (Cheshire Cat) all adding authenticity to their characters.

"Alice's" one misstep is in one of the effects themselves. While most come across as magical, some are rigid and

outright distracting. Crispin Glover, as the Knave of Hearts, gives a good performance, but his animation at times is so bad that it seems incomplete. His character's movements are unnatural, with his arms and legs moving unlike anyone else's in the movie. The effect Burton was going for — the Knave has elongated limbs — would have been better suited with James Cameron's motion capture system, which so flawlessly transformed Zoe Saldana and Sam Worthington into the limber Na'vi. As it is, the Knave seems completely computer generated.

Other than that, the effects are marvelous, from the playing cards that guard the Red Queen to the chess pieces that guard the White Queen. Burton's knack for imaginative sets and character design come through un-tethered (the film's budget: a whopping \$200 million).

"Alice" further cements Burton as a wielder of magnificent color palettes; as Wonderland, home to an amalgam of grays, reds and blues, transports the viewer to a truly otherworldly land.

Grade: B

"Alice in Wonderland" is rated PG for mild violence (and a couple eye removals). Now playing in IMAX 3D, 3D and standard 2D.

Melissa Tablante Illustration

'Alice' breaks opening-weekend records

Walt Disney and Tim Burton should collaborate more often. The first of their two-picture deal under the Disney Digital 3-D moniker made an estimated \$116 million over the Friday-Sunday period, making it by far the largest opening of Burton's career, and the biggest

opening for a 3D film. It was the second best opening for Johnny Depp, who portrayed the Mad Hatter, behind "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest."

The film also set records for IMAX (\$11 million on the weekend) and boasted the largest March opening ever. Worldwide, it has accumulated \$210 million, with many markets yet to come.

'Model Citizen' raises awareness of Richmond artists



CHRISTINE BILLARD
Contributing Writer

Gallery5's First Friday exhibition was comparable to any standard Richmond house party: Smokers and stumbling art-goers surrounded the entrance, hundreds meandered throughout the two-story building listening to live music, and enjoying plenty of PBR to accompany the arts.

Two bands, Les La Britanica and Jan and Dan played live for a constantly packed audience of dancers. The downstairs not only offered music but also refreshments. The battle to get up and down the stairs didn't negatively affect the night as people moved back and forth between the live music and the fashion exhibit held upstairs.

Gallery5 hosted a silent auction of "The Artists in Exile: Forgotten Iraqi Refugees in Syria." The collection featured 20 Iraqi refugee artists who have since relocated to Syria to avoid the widespread violence that resulted from U.S. invasion in 2003. The works had sign-up sheets for patrons to openly write bids. While some more expensive pieces had suggested prices of around \$500, many had no suggestion—making it an affordable auction for students with pieces being sold for as little as \$35.

The Cherrybomb DJs loudly entertained the ears, and live models entertained the eyes in Gallery5's first annual "Model Citizen" exhibit. It was disappointing to only see three live models in mediocre dresses, however the layout of the gallery, the fashion photography and the local vendors,

made up for the lack of garments.

Many parts of the gallery were creatively staged closets, with shelves containing fashion accessories and hangers holding several photographs of unique fashionistas from throughout the VCU and Richmond community. Professional fashion photography decorated the walls depicting everything from quirky and cute to haute couture models.

The primary goal of "Model Citizen" was to raise awareness of locally owned businesses, student design work and Richmond fashion. There were multiple vendors—each selling personal, hand-crafted jewelry, accessories, clothing and even henna tattoos by Helen Rogers, a Mehndi artist. Among many in this eclectic mix of fashion, Dear Amelia sold her hand-made, cloth flowers meant for "the nostalgic at heart," adorning headbands, shirts and charms. Her work is usually sold at Rumors on North Harrison Street.

Right Paw, Left Paw sold crocheted stuffed-animals, fruits and vegetables with faces a.k.a. "smilie happy foodies." These happy bananas, pears, watermelons, and carrots had catnip or rattles inside to make fun play toys for animals or children.

Ann Drawing's Dream Spiral Art Jewelry was also for sale. She describes her work as "modern organic, art-metal" and is made from the various materials of copper, wood, recycled metal and jewels. This diverse group of local business owners were of all ages, races, and genders. No theme could categorize them as whole, much like the nature of Richmond itself.



Christine Billard photos
Monday, March 8, 2010



STREET STYLE

ERIKA WILKINS
Spectrum Editor

LEFT Fashion merchandising major Matt Wilkinson looks like he's waiting for spring in his kale-green cardigan and Richmond skinny-jeans.

ABOVE RIGHT Remember Mary-Kate and Ashley's goggle glasses? Fashion merchandising major Harlee Kocen pairs them with a heather-gray sweater, soft white top and blended Starbucks drink, taking us back to 2004.

BELOW RIGHT I've long been a believer that less is more. The simplicity of math major Johnathan Bennett's distressed denim jacket, forest-green slacks cowboy belt and tee is fabulously uncomplicated.



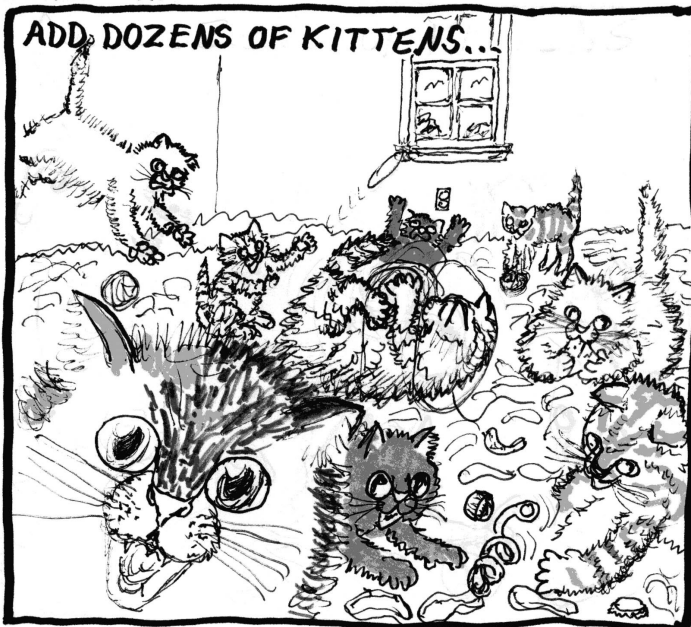
Kyle Laferriere photos
Monday, March 8, 2010

comics

Pizza from Scratch

© 2010 Bill Lemmond

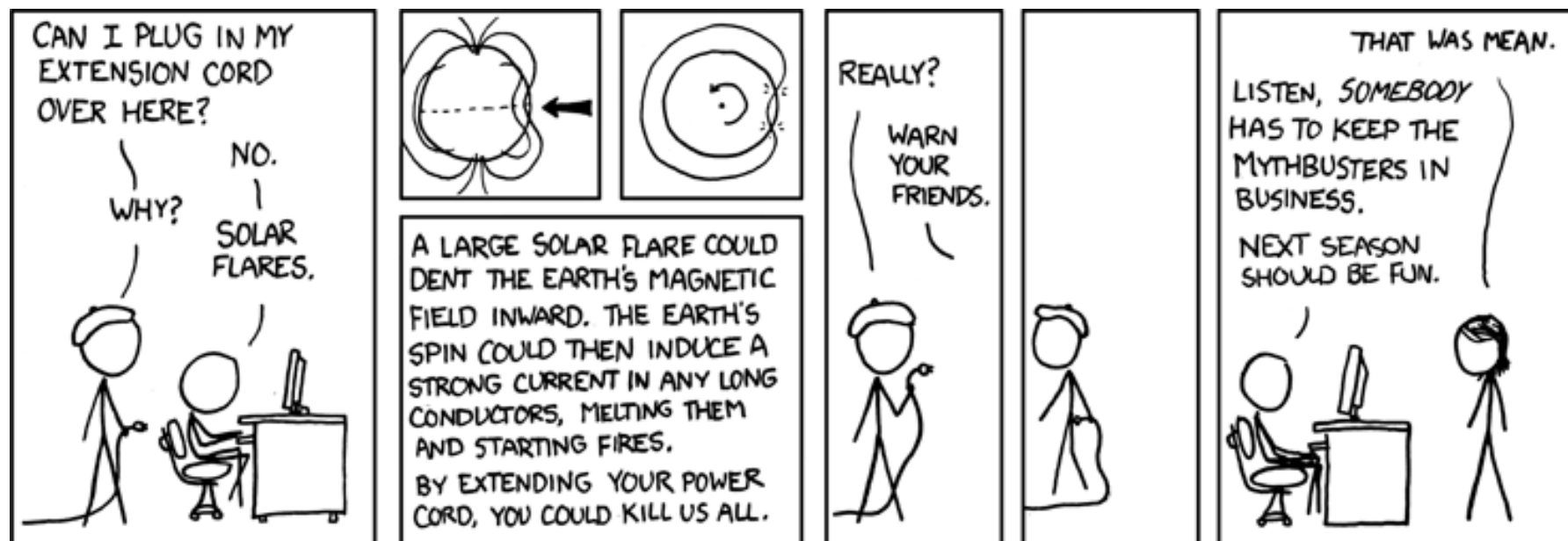
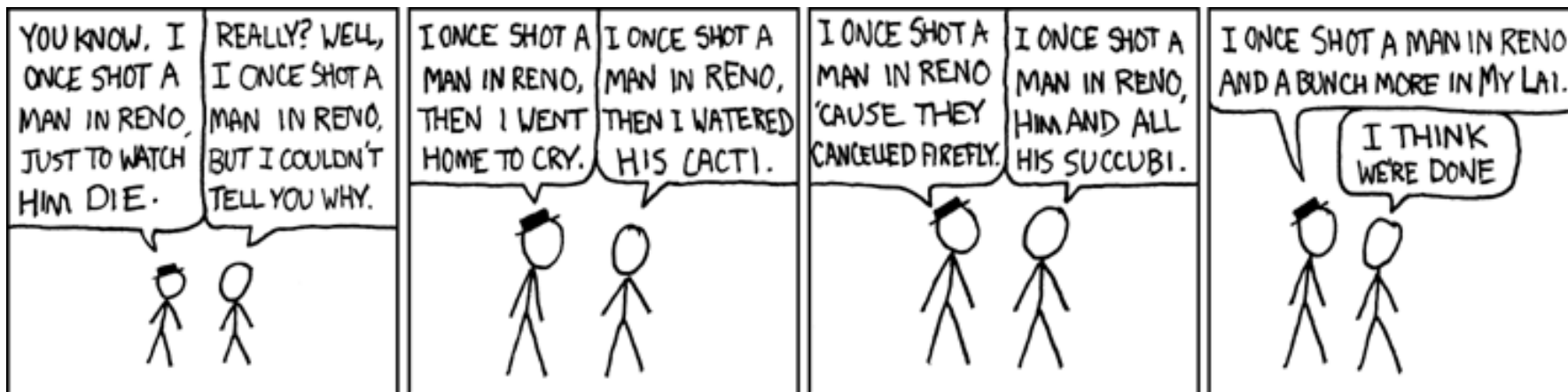
I NEED A BREAK, SOMETHING QUICK AND FUN.



6-7 MAR 2010 WPL II

xkcd

Randall Munroe





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Add your voice

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Comics must be sent from a valid VCU e-mail address or signed with daytime and evening telephone contact. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, style and space.

Roberto Curtis
Executive Editor

Caroline Evertz
Production Manager



opinion

He who controls the present controls the past Turkish government claims no Armenian genocide

ERIC HILL
Opinion Editor

Quite a lot of history is autobiographical. It writes a loose interpretation of its true self many years after the people who would remember it best have passed away. For those of you who recognize the maxim in the title, it also re-affirms another basic principle of history: The past is written by the “winners.”

This past Thursday the United States took some flak in the foreign policy arena when the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs passed a non-binding resolution to henceforth refer to the 1915-19 treatment of Armenian citizens by the Ottoman Empire as “genocide.” The government of Turkey takes issue with this use of this word, because it sees itself as the contemporary incarnation of the

Ottoman territories.

I am not an expert on genocide, but arguably one doesn't need to be an expert to know whether more than one million people being tortured, raped and slaughtered before being marched into the Syrian desert constitutes “genocide.” Not to mention the fact that virtually all of those people were Armenian Christians. If the language is too drastic for modern Turkey to deal with, we could call it, “a four-year survival walk” or “serving at the pleasure of nationalism and paranoia.”

While there really is no argument against the label of genocide, the Turkish government recalled its U.S. ambassador, Namik Tan, according to the Al-Jazeera news agency. It was also reported that protestors gathered in front of the U.S. embassy in Ankara, Turkey, chanting, among other

things, “God damn American imperialism!”

Though this response might seem radical, in retrospect Turkey is not making unwarranted accusations. Americans have a history of painting certain nations as “bad guys” belonging to some constantly changing “axis of evil” and then sanctioning, embargoing and invading those nations. Recently, however, the United States and Turkey have been on good speaking terms; President Barack Obama was well received when he held speeches in Turkey addressing “the Muslim world” shortly after his election, and Turkey has aided with NATO campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. The real reason why the Turkish government sees the word “genocide” as such an insult has more to do with contemporary politics than actual history.

To date, the border between Armenia and Turkey is closed. Even after nearly a century there remains an ultra-nationalist movement in Turkey, albeit a small one. The wounds run deep in Armenia, and its people refuse to seal those wounds until Turkey takes responsibility for what happened.

Turkish President Abdullah Gul released a statement saying that the adoption of the word genocide,

GENOCIDE continued to CT19

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ROBERTO CURTIS
Executive Editor

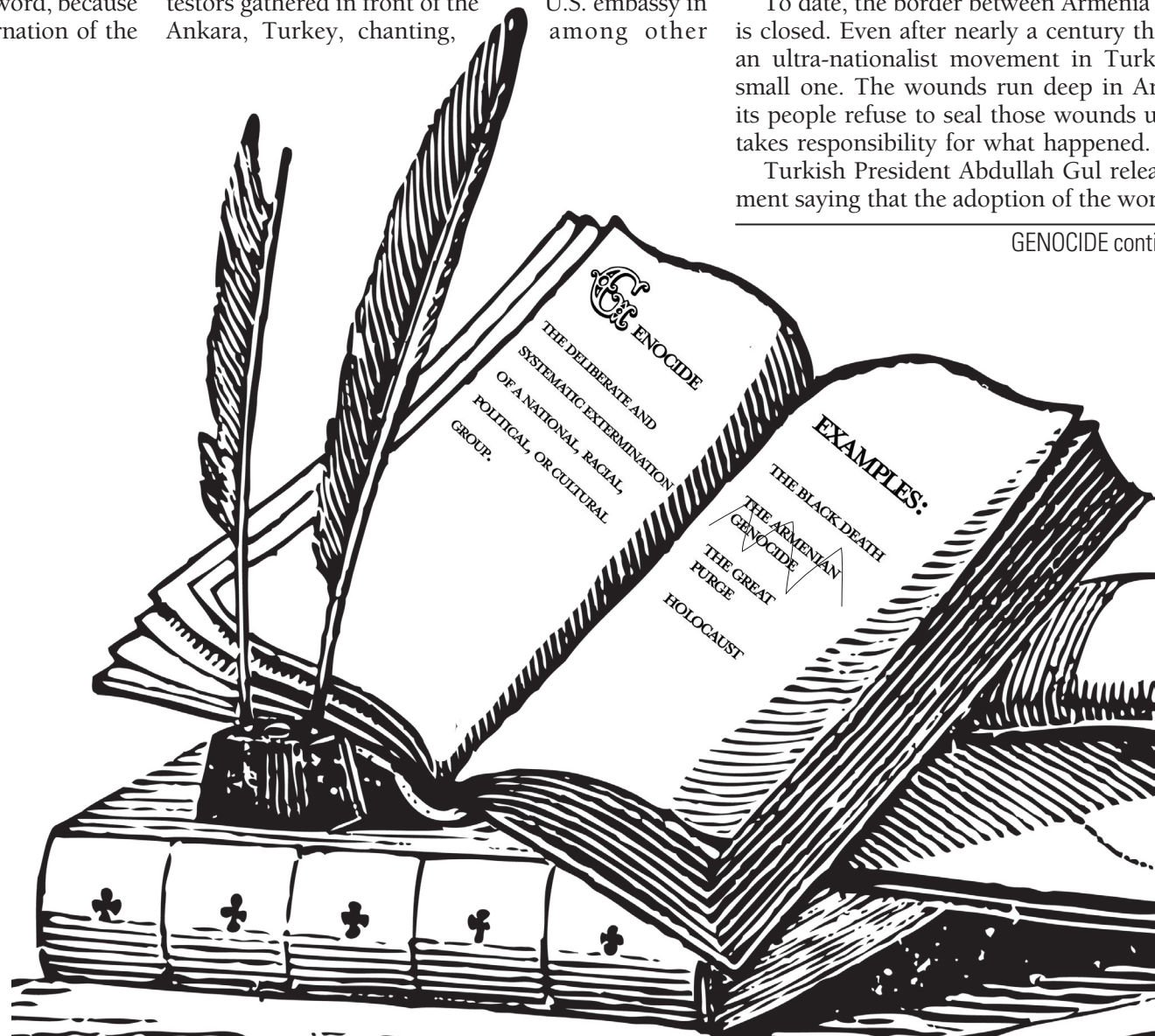
ERIC HILL
Opinion Editor

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Caroline Evertz illustration

Stuart Court comes up short

ERIC HILL
Opinion Editor

Last week Jeff Luedecke stood outside Stuart Court Apartments at the corner of Shafer and Franklin streets holding a sign that read, “Stuart Court apartments owes me \$25,000 and won’t pay.”

Luedecke said he renovated five apartments for Stuart Court and Chesterfield apartment buildings in 2008 but was never paid for services rendered. In December of 2008 he filed suit against Stuart Court for failure to pay their debts, according to Richmond City circuit court documents.

he documents state in February of 2009 the defendants failed to appear, answer or plead a case against Luedecke, resulting in a default judgment.

Luedecke said, Stuart Court has not paid Luedecke, despite it being more than a year since the court ruling. Luedecke said he had hopes to use the money from this work in order to pay for his son’s tuition at VCU. His son will be graduating from high school this spring.

The owner of the property that was renovated by Luedecke is listed as Luis Cazzo, a prominent acquisitions banker in Philadelphia. Cazzo was not available for comment.

Luedecke says he is simply asking he be paid for the work that he completed. He had to pay his workers on a credit card, and said he worries that he will not be able to receive his payments before his son is enrolled in college.

It cannot yet be said whether this is a purposeful attempt to deprive Luedecke of his livelihood, but regardless that is what has occurred, one can only hope he will receive the payment that he deserves, and his protests are heard. At a time when so many wonder how they will make ends meet, it is a sobering to see a man protest for the honest wage he was promised.

Clarification

The Commonwealth Times ran a story on the VCU Vegetarian club taking action against McDonald’s (March 4 News Section) in which the Vegetarian club requested that Aramark remove the McDonald’s at the VCU Medical Center. The request was intended to be addressed to VCU Business Services.

Correction

In the cutline accompanying the review of “Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake),” the actor who is credited in the photo is not Frank Creasy, but Matt Hackman. The CT apologizes for the error.

GENOCIDE continued from CT18

“is one-sided and far from the historical truth.” The official position of the Turkish government is that the deaths of Armenians during and after World War I was incidental, and was not the result of any organized systematic extermination. Not ironically, while the Turkish government has qualms about the label of genocide, the Armenian government issued a statement to the BBC saying the U.S. resolution “Is an important step towards the prevention of crimes against humanity.”

Even though this resolution passed in committee, it has yet to pass a general vote in the House. Already the White House has issued a contrary statement, which Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered on Friday, saying, “The Obama administration strongly opposes the resolution that was passed by only one vote in the House Committee, and we’ll work very hard to make sure it does not go to the House floor.”

Based on the narrow passage of the resolution in committee and the overall sense that Congress is sticking its nose in the wrong debate at a very bad time, it is unlikely that the resolution will ever become binding. Yet this series of events contains an Orwellian undercurrent that has to be remarked on. The deaths of nearly 1.5 million Armenians is not something that can be excused; all of their property, their homes, their neighborhoods were utterly destroyed and never returned.

Humans periodically and conveniently forget events in order to justify actions in the present. Governments rewrite the past to create an idyllic national dream that they can sell to people when they feel a need to go to war, or commit

atrocities. Western imperial colonialism killed somewhere between 10 million to 100 million Native Americans according to most estimates but even so, those figures cannot be verified with any certainty (we didn’t count the bodies). The U.S. government is no exception, having committed genocides, declared unjustified wars and lied to the American people when they could get away with it. That does not necessarily mean that the rest of the world has forgotten that those are convenient lies to protect the legitimacy of their authority.

The sadness of this debate isn’t that we cannot forget the past, or even whether it is in the interest of the United States to call historical events genocide or otherwise. The sadness in this debate is that without apology and admittance of guilt, the world will only continue to produce more prideful and obstinate atrocities. It is the same for all nations. If, in 20 years, the U.S. cannot admit that it unjustly invaded two countries because it felt threatened by Islamic radicals, then the U.S. will be as guilty as Turkey for not admitting that it unjustly detained and eliminated Armenian Christians a hundred years ago because it felt threatened during a time of war. Even today we cannot completely admit that the U.S. unjustly invaded Vietnam because we were afraid of communism.

He who controls the past, controls the future. We should rise above our pasts by admitting that they are tarnished, tattered and covered in blood. Nations do not have clean records, they must atone for them. The cost for atonement is exceedingly greater than the cost to commit a crime—that is what Turkey and all other countries are refusing to accept. In the false hope that we can forget the past, we run the risk of repeating it. It has been a long and terrible century.



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