

the ct

2011 SESSION INTRODUCED

14100039D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1775
Offered January 12, 2011
Prefiled January 11, 2011

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-3.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-208.01, relating to the immigration status of the parents of enrolled students.

Patrons—Gilbert, Cole, Cosgrove, Cox, M.K., Landes, Oder, Pogge and Poindexter

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-3.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-208.01 as follows:

§ 2.2-208.01. Annual legislative report on enrollment data.

On or before November 30 of each year, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the number of children whose parents lack citizenship or lawful immigration status documentation attending public schools in the Commonwealth and the approximate cost of such students' education. The report shall aggregate the information by school division.

§ 22.1-3.1. Birth certificates required upon admission; required notice to the local law-enforcement agency.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no pupil shall be admitted for the first time to any public school in any school division in this Commonwealth unless the person enrolling the pupil shall present, upon admission, a certified copy of the pupil's birth record. The principal or his designee shall record the official state birth number from the pupil's birth record into the pupil's permanent school record and may retain a copy in the pupil's permanent school record. If a certified copy of the pupil's birth record cannot be obtained, the person so enrolling the pupil shall submit an affidavit setting forth the pupil's age and explaining the inability to present a certified copy of the birth record. If the school division cannot ascertain a child's age because of a lack of a birth certificate, the child shall nonetheless be admitted into the public schools if the superintendent determines that the person submitting the affidavit presents information sufficient to estimate with reasonable certainty the age of such child.

Additionally, the person enrolling the pupil shall indicate on the official enrollment paperwork the citizenship or immigration status of the child's parents under federal law. The children of parents lacking citizenship or lawful immigration status documentation shall nonetheless be admitted into the public schools.

However, if the student seeking enrollment is a homeless child or youth, the school shall immediately enroll the child.

INTRODUCED
HB1775

2011 SESSION LEGISLATION

11102474D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1465
Offered January 12, 2011
Prefiled December 6, 2010

A BILL to amend and reenact § 23-9.2:3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the admission of aliens at institutions of higher education.

Patrons—Peace, Athey, Cosgrove, Cox, J.A., Crockett-Stark, G...

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 23-9.2:3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 23-9.2:3 as follows:

§ 23-9.2:3. Power of governing body of educational institution to enforce rules on property of institution; state direct student fees; and power of governing body of educational institution to establish rules on property of institution.

A. The governing body of an educational institution shall have the power:

1. To establish rules and regulations for the acceptance and enrollment of individuals who have failed to meet the federal requirement to receive any state direct student assistance; (ii) an individual who is not a citizen of the United States shall not be eligible for admission to any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth; (iii) the accreditation status of a Virginia public institution of higher education shall be a factor in making admissions determinations for students who have earned credit at another institution of higher education.

2011 SESSION INTRODUCED

11102044D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1934
Offered January 12, 2011
Prefiled January 11, 2011

A BILL to establish the responsibility of the Superintendent of State Police to enter into an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement concerning the enforcement of immigration laws.

Patrons—Miller, J.H., Athey, Bell, Robert B., Cox, J.A., Crockett-Stark, Landes, Lingamfelter, Poindexter, Rust and Sherwood

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. That the Superintendent of State Police or his designee shall on behalf of the Commonwealth seek to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as authorized under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g), to permit the State Police to perform federal immigration law-enforcement functions in the Commonwealth.

INTRODUCED
HB1934

2011 SESSION

1110625D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1430
Offered January 12, 2011
Prefiled November 2, 2010

A BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-83.2 of the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-83.2, relating to citizenship of arrestee by arresting officer.

Patrons—Alto, Anderson, Athey, Bell, Richard P., Cleaveland, Hugo, Lagimodiere, Jones, Landes, Lingamfelter, Marshall, R.G., M... Rust and Witt

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 19.2-83.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-83.2, relating to citizenship of arrestee by arresting officer.

§ 19.2-83.2. Jail officer to ascertain citizenship of inmate.

Whenever Unless such inquiries have already been made for purposes of the Enforcement Support Center of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a person is taken into custody at any jail, the sheriff or other official shall inquire as to whether the person (i) was born in a country other than the United States; (ii) is a citizen of a country other than the United States. The sheriff or other official shall then make an immigration alien query to the Law Enforcement Support Center of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and (iii) if the answer to (i) or (ii) is unknown, the sheriff or other official shall make an immigration alien query to the Local Inmate Data System of the Department of Corrections. The sheriff or other official shall make an immigration alien query to the Law Enforcement Support Center of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and (iii) if the answer to (i) or (ii) is unknown, the sheriff or other official shall make an immigration alien query to the Local Inmate Data System of the Department of Corrections.

Immigration bills killed by Senate panel

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Photo illustration by Mel Kobran and Mark Jeffries

Local & VCU

Chesterfield man faces illegal dentistry charges

A Chesterfield County man is charged with performing dental procedures on patients without a license inside his Hull Street Road home, from which police have seized dental equipment, supplies and records.

Jose A. Hernandez, 52, of the 7900 block of Hull Street Road, was arrested Feb. 11 after police received a complaint about him from the Virginia Department of Health Professions, Chesterfield police Sgt. David Higgins said Friday.

"We received information that he was targeting individuals without dental insurance," Higgins said.

After further investigation, police determined that Hernandez was performing "invasive dental procedures," such as tooth extractions and fillings, inside his residence, Higgins said. Police have charged Hernandez in connection with at least one patient but suspect there are many other.

Briefs by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Benedictine considers move to Goochland abbey

Two years after committing to stay in Richmond for the long haul, Benedictine High School is moving forward with plans to relocate the military academy to Goochland County and sell its city property to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

The 100-year-old school would move into the abbey for the Benedictine Society of Virginia, the monastery in charge of the school. Most of the academy's extracurricular activities, including all sports except basketball, already are held on the 50-acre parcel on River Road.

VMFA would use the North Sheppard Street school building located directly behind the museum to stage exhibits, freeing up coveted museum space.

The museum and the high school have discussed the idea for years but agreed in writing Thursday to pursue the sale for an undisclosed price, said Bryan Walsh, financial adviser for the society. The property is assessed by the city at \$7.8 million.

The high school sent an e-mail to parents Friday announcing a Tuesday meeting to lay out its plans, which call for moving the school by the start of the 2012-13 school year.

Briefs by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Anderson Cooper addresses Richmond Forum

Speaking to a packed audience at Richmond's Landmark Theater on Saturday night, Anderson Cooper, whose career has since taken him into disaster and war zones all over the world, described how he sat in a hut in Somalia with a husband and wife whose young son had just died of starvation.

"They were using what little water they had left to wash his body," Cooper said. "You could see the hollowed-out circles around his eyes ... I will never forget his legs were as thin as the twigs in the outer layer of the hut they were living in."

Cooper, who spoke as part of The Richmond Forum series, urged the audience not to turn away from the tragedies reported every day.

"It is very easy in this day and age to kind of look the other way," he said. "I think it is important for us not to look away, but to look directly at the things that frighten us most."

Cooper charmed the crowd with stories of how he stumbled into becoming a broadcast journalist. He didn't set out to be a TV anchor, he said, and he is suspicious when aspiring young reporters tell him that's what they want to do.

"It's like a kid telling me they want to be a politician," he said. "I think you need to be a real person before you want to become a fake one."

Briefs by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

National & International

A driving question for Colo. marijuana users

The surge of medical marijuana use in Colorado has started another debate in the state Legislature: What constitutes driving while high?

Lawmakers are considering setting a DUI blood-content threshold for marijuana that would make Colorado one of three states with such a provision in statute – and one of the most liberal, according to Rep. Claire Levy, one of the bill's sponsors.

Under the proposal, drivers who test positive for 5 nanograms or more of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, would be considered too impaired to drive if the substance is present in their blood at the time they're pulled over or within two hours.

While it's already illegal to drive while impaired by drugs, states have taken different approaches to the issue. Twelve states, including Arizona, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and Rhode Island, have a zero-tolerance policy for driving with any presence of an illegal substance, said Anne Teigen, policy specialist at the National Conference of State Legislatures. Minnesota has the same policy but exempts marijuana.

Brief by The Associated Press

Wisconsin governor seizes chance to take on unions

It took Scott Walker only a few weeks to push the Capitol into political chaos.

The newly-elected Republican governor of Wisconsin has set his sights on forcing public workers to pay more for benefits as he looks to balance the state's budget – savings he needs to help cover the cost of tax cuts he demanded the day he took office.

Walker insists that his push to force concessions from public employees by doubling their health insurance contributions and requiring them to pay half their pension costs is all about balancing the budget and not busting unions. But the bill also would strip them of most collective bargaining rights.

Wisconsin faces a \$137 million budget shortfall by July. The concessions Walker seeks from the state workers would save \$30 million over four months. He would balance the budget this year mainly through refinancing debt.

The increased pension and health benefit costs would save Wisconsin \$300 million over the next two years, which would help buy down a projected \$3.6 billion shortfall.

Brief by The Associated Press

Thousands march in Morocco to seek reform

Thousands of people marched in cities across Morocco on Sunday, demanding a new constitution to bring more democracy in the North African kingdom amid the wave of Arab world upheaval.

Demonstrators shouted slogans calling for economic opportunity, educational reform, better health services and help in coping with rising living costs during a march on central Hassan II Avenue in the capital, Rabat.

The day of demonstration was Morocco's entree into the series of protests that have swept up North Africa and the wider Arab world after popular uprisings brought down long-time autocrats in Tunisia and Egypt.

The main target of Sunday's rallies was parliament, where many Moroccans fear their voices are not heard. The protests are likely to pressure King Mohammed VI, who has been seen as a reformer compared to his iron-fisted father, Hassan II, and who holds absolute authority.

Most marches took place peacefully, officials said.

Brief by The Associated Press

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NEWS

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Senate panel is immigration bill graveyard



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITOL NEWS SERVICE

Delegate Joe Miller, right, discusses immigration after the subcommittee's hearing.

Jeannette Porter
Capital News Service

On Wednesday afternoon, the Senate immigration subcommittee became the place where the House's immigration bills went to die.

As the clock ticked toward 6 p.m., when the Senate was due to reconvene, the bills' patrons were heard, and partisans on both sides of the issues lined up to give rapid-fire testimony. All but two of the bills sank under the weight of the subcommittee's Democratic majority.

"That's why they stacked it that way, in a small subcommittee to kill those bills," Delegate Jackson Miller, R-Manassas, said in a Thursday phone interview.

The two survivors of the subcommittee:

- HB 1651, sponsored by Delegate John Cosgrove, R-Chesapeake, which would give the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles the power to cancel any license issued to an individual if notified by a federal agency that the individual is not legally present in the United States. On a unanimous voice vote, the subcommittee advanced the measure to the full Senate Courts of Justice Committee.

- HB 1859, known as the Virginia Public Procurement Act, sponsored by Delegate Rich Anderson, R-Woodbridge, also received the subcommittee's unanimous endorsement by adopting the language of SB 1049, introduced by Sen. George Barker, D-Alexandria. "The Barker bill," as it was referred to, requires any employer with an average of more than 50 employees entering into a contract greater than \$50,000 with any state agency to participate in E-Verify, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's voluntary work-eligibility verification program. SB 1049 is scheduled to be heard by the House Courts of Justice Committee on Monday, Feb. 21.

But the Senate subcommittee killed the other immigration-related bills that had been approved by the House. They included:

- HB 1421, sponsored by Delegate David Albo, R-Springfield, which would

require all localities to conform to federal immigration law. Albo, a Republican from Springfield, acknowledged that his bill was aimed at Arlington's so-called "sanctuary city" status. No one on the subcommittee made a motion to approve the measure, and so it failed.

- HB 1430, also sponsored by Albo, which would supplement existing law by requiring that all persons arrested have their legal presence status checked, regardless of whether they receive cash bond, personal recognizance bond or are jailed. The subcommittee made no motion on this bill.

- HB 1465, introduced by Delegate Christopher Peace, R-Mechanicsville, would require all Virginia public colleges and universities to have written policies against enrolling illegal immigrants. Witnesses against the bill included the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia, the Virginia Interfaith Center and the Laborers International Union. The subcommittee made no motion on this bill.

- HB 1775 had been radically amended from its original format by its sponsor, Delegate Todd Gilbert, R-Woodstock. As the subcommittee considered it, the proposal directed schools to collect and publicly report data on the number of students enrolled without a birth certificate. "I'm trying to get a handle on the 'anchor babies' and on the costs of educating these kids," Gilbert said. The subcommittee made no motion on this bill.

- HB 1934, introduced by Miller, to authorize a "287(g)" agreement with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency so that Virginia State Police could enforce federal immigration laws. ("287(g)" refers to the section of U.S. code that authorizes such agreements.) The American Council for Immigration Reform supported the bill; the Virginia Poverty Law Center, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations and the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance opposed it. Sen. Frederick Quayle, R-Suffolk, moved that the bill be reported, but there was no second.

When the meeting drew to a close, Latino members of the standing-room-only crowd applauded the outcome.

Others — such as Delegate Scott Lingamfelter, R-Woodbridge — were not so enthusiastic. The subcommittee had voted to "pass by indefinitely" HB 2332, Lingamfelter's proposal to have police statewide check the immigration status of arrestees, as Prince William County does. Lingamfelter thanked the subcommittee for its consideration and said, "We're going to keep doing this, and hopefully this will be universal practice in the state eventually." **CT**

Delegate Miller says Senate 'let us down'

Jeannette Porter
Capital News Service

Delegate Jackson Miller, R-Manassas, was clear about how he felt after a Senate subcommittee killed his legislation and other House proposals to crack down on illegal immigration.

"The state Senate has let us down again," he said. "They've chosen political correctness and expediency over public safety. More Virginians will die, and more will be raped, as a result of their actions — or should I say, failure to act."

Miller's comments came on the heels of an impassioned address to the House of Delegates in which he reacted to the Feb. 10 shooting in Manassas that left three people dead and three wounded.

"I've run three elections in the last five years. My district is a swing district; it went 60 percent for Obama and 60 percent for McDonnell. The polling on the immigration issue is overwhelmingly in favor of cracking down on criminal illegal aliens."

Police have charged Jose Oswaldo Reyes Alfaro, a native of El Salvador who was in the U.S. illegally and ordered deported in 2002.

In his speech to the House on Monday, Feb. 14, Miller called the crime a "violent heinous atrocity."

"My city is falling apart," he said. "What else is there to do but stand and scream?"

Miller cited eight instances since 2007 of violent crimes committed by "illegal criminal aliens with previous contact with the Virginia police."

From 2000 to 2010, the number of Hispanics in the city of Manassas has more than doubled. In Manassas Park and Prince William County, the number of Hispanics has tripled.

This session, Jackson sponsored House Bill 1934, which sought to allow Virginia State Police to work with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency in enforcing federal immigration laws. On Wednesday, the immigration subcommittee of the Senate Courts of Justice Committee killed the proposal.

"My bill had to do with illegal immigrants who are committing crimes," Miller said. "The fiscal impact would have been minimal." He believes that federal authorities are doing the right thing by offering localities the cooperation of ICE in enforcing immigration law, but said "it's up to us to ask."

Miller said that his bill was not anti-Latino but anti-criminal and that it had broad constituent support.

"I've run three elections in the last five years. My district is a swing district; it went 60 percent for Obama and 60 percent for McDonnell. The polling on the immigration issue is overwhelmingly in favor of cracking down on criminal illegal aliens."

"A huge cross-section of my district supports it. African-Americans support it. I'm working with the Latino community as hard as I can. The majority of the Latinos in my district are here legally, but the politically-correct forces you saw at that subcommittee hearing are convinced that the bills are anti-Latino. They're not. I've tried to emphasize: We're dealing with criminal illegal aliens."

Miller said he believes that had his bill cleared the subcommittee, it would have passed 30-10 on the Senate floor. He has not given up, either: "The Redskins are a pretty lousy team, right? But guess what? They beat the Packers, who won the Super Bowl. That's why they play the game, every Sunday. And that's why I play this game, Monday through Friday." **CT**

Teachers rally for public school funding



PHOTO BY MICHAEL WHITE/GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

McDonnell has said that scholarships supported by tax credits would help provide more opportunities for low-income students.

Meredith Riggsby
Capital News Service

A crowd of more than 200 people chanted, "Senate stand firm!" as the last speaker stepped off the podium and into the swarm of Virginia Education Association members and supporters at a Capitol Square rally this week.

The rally, which took place Monday at the Bell Tower on the Capitol grounds, focused on funding for public education in kindergarten through high school. Educators bemoaned budget cuts that public schools have experienced in recent years and said the trend must be reversed.

Ten speakers at the rally urged support for the Senate's version of the 2012 state budget – instead of the House's version. The Senate plan would increase funding for public schools. The advocates included the presidents of the Virginia NAACP, the Virginia School Boards Association and the Virginia Association of School Superintendents.

"We expect education to be the top priority of our legislature and make sure that education gets a fair share," said Marie Harris-Jones, a Petersburg resident representing two nonprofit groups – JustChildren and the Alliance for Virginia's Students. "Our children and

the long-term health of our community are depending on it."

At the rally, speakers said budget cuts already have damaged public education in Virginia:

- More than 4,400 positions have been eliminated in the state's public schools during the past two years.
- Class sizes have increased, reducing the attention each student can receive from the teacher.
- School divisions have been forced to cut programs, eliminate electives and increase student fees.
- Instructional supplies and equipment funding have been cut.
- Per pupil funding has decreased from \$5,300 in 2008-09 to \$4,500 in 2011-12, a reduction of 15 percent.

Speakers said it's time to undo the damage, not make it worse.

"You can't have a good community if you can't have good schools," said Edwin Daley, vice president of the Virginia Municipal League.

The General Assembly is amending the state's budget for the 2012 fiscal year. Gov. Bob McDonnell has requested \$5.5 billion for K-12 education. The Senate's amendments would provide additional funding of more than \$100 million for public schools.

In contrast, the budget amendments

approved by the House of Delegates would provide about \$93 million less than the governor's proposal. A committee of senators and delegates is negotiating on a final budget.

Besides school funding, speakers turned the crowd's attention to House Bill 2314 sponsored by Delegate James P. "Jimmie" Massie III, R-Henrico.

The bill would establish a tax credit for corporations that donate to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships to low-income students to attend nonpublic elementary and secondary schools.

The VEA and its supporters oppose the bill because they say it would benefit private schools and undermine public schools. VEA President Kitty Boitnott said the state-assisted scholarships in effect would be vouchers for students to attend private schools.

"When did we last have school vouchers in Virginia?" Boitnott asked.

She said that Rev. J. Rayfield Vines Jr., president of the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP could tell us: "in the era of Massive Resistance, when many public schools were closed rather than letting children of color into the classrooms of Virginia. Now the House wants a voucher rebirth in Virginia."

Boitnott called HB 2314 "a school

voucher bill in the guise of tuition tax credits, and our governor supports it."

McDonnell has said that scholarships supported by tax credits would help provide more opportunities for low-income students.

"This tax credit will open the door to new educational opportunities for more of our young people. By incentivizing business leaders to donate to organizations that provide scholarships, we will help our children gain access to new educational opportunities with no cost to the state," the governor said last month in laying out his education agenda. "Education is opportunity, and every student deserves the opportunity of the very best education we can give them."

Massie agreed, saying, "Too often students aren't able to reach their full potential because the school they attend is not the best fit and their families can't afford to send them to a nonpublic school. By providing this tax incentive for employers, we will be able to provide school options for students and their parents, in order for them to get the education they deserve at no cost to the state." **CT**

'Outwork everyone else,' CNN anchor tells students



Emmy-winning CNN anchor Anderson Cooper spoke to students at the Richmond Forum on Saturday night.

PHOTO BY VASILIOS SFINAROLAKIS

Katherine Coates
Capital News Service

Follow your bliss.

That was just one piece of advice Emmy-winning journalist and CNN anchor Anderson Cooper gave students during his visit to Richmond this weekend.

Cooper discussed topics ranging from world affairs to journalism careers to family relationships at the Richmond Forum, a speaker series at the Landmark Theater. But first, he engaged in a forum tradition – a question-and-answer session in the “student room.”

The forum’s organizers allow students to meet with speakers in a more intimate setting in a room above the theater before they address the larger crowd below.

Lorisa Francios, 15, a sophomore at Henrico High School, was invited to the student room as part of Partnership for the Future, a program to help students in their journey from high school to college. Francios is thinking about becoming a journalist, and she asked Cooper for advice.

Never underestimate the value of just out-hustling everyone else,” Cooper said. “Just outwork everyone else around you – coming in before everyone does and leaving late. I feel like I only got a job at CNN because I kept volunteering for the shifts no one really wanted.”

Francios said she was nervous about asking her question, but the advice from Cooper is something she will treasure.

“I really wanted to hear his encouragement,” Francios said. “I’ve been contemplating if my words will be enough to survive in the journalism world.”

Cooper began his journalism career when he was 23 years old and used forged press credentials to cover the war in Myanmar.

“If no one would give me an opportunity, I had to make one,” Cooper said.

He spent the next 18 years covering wars and conflicts in some of the most violent places in the world. During his Q-and-A with students, Cooper addressed the fears that come along with covering such hostile environments.

“Kidnapping is the one thing that really freaks me out, so I hope to never experience it,” he said.

After appearing in the student room, Cooper gave a presentation to a sold-out crowd in the Landmark Theater. The presentation was followed by another onstage Q-and-A led by Marcus Messner, a professor of mass communications at VCU.

In his presentation before the forum, Cooper recounted the graphic violence and injustices he saw over the course of his career. He also spoke about the attacks on journalists during the recent revolution in Egypt.

“I was in Egypt just two weeks ago, and I was attacked twice,” Cooper said. “Reporters more and more are becoming targets. Just about every reporter I know in Egypt was targeted at one time or the other by mobs of people.”

Cooper described his career as “running towards what everyone else is running away from.”

He also discussed lighter topics including his “60 Minutes” interview with singer Lady Gaga and his often-strange relationship with his mother, Gloria Vanderbilt, a socialite, actress and fashion designer.

“Apparently she has a cardboard cutout of me in her apartment,” Cooper said.

Cooper said he first heard the phrase “follow your bliss” from his mother. She offered those words when he needed guidance on what to do with his life after college.

Cooper said he found his bliss telling stories from around the world. Perhaps the students he spoke to will find their bliss the same way. **CT**

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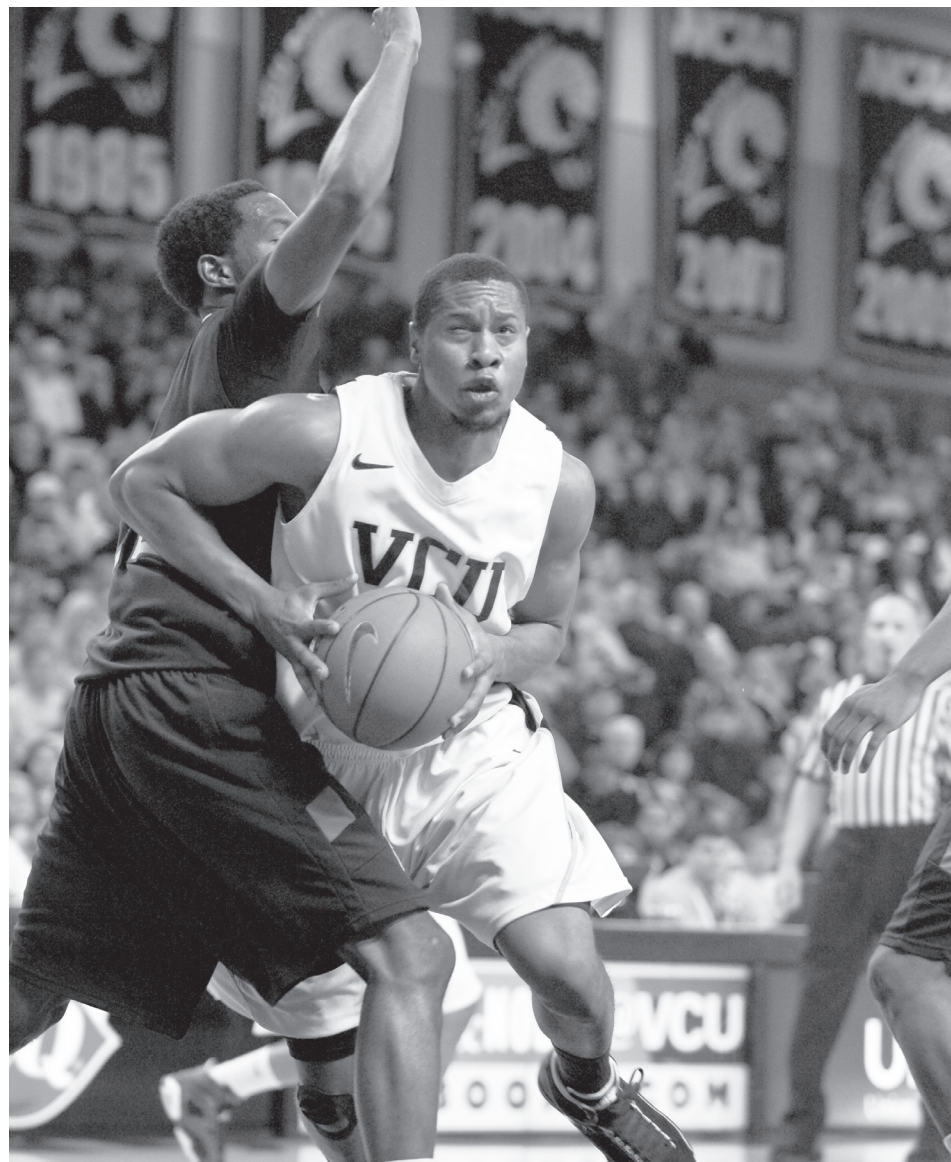
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Commentary

Wichita Revival: VCU 'shocks' life back into season with win over WSU



Junior forward Bradford Burgess scored a game-high 17 points against the Shockers.

PHOTO BY KYLE LAFERIERRE



Senior guard Brandon Rozzell scored 10 points off the bench Friday night.

PHOTO BY KYLE LAFERIERRE

Adam Stern Sports Editor

No more than a week ago, VCU's men's basketball had everything to lose.

They had a grip on first place that they'd held for a month, as well as the nation's fourth-longest active home winning streak. They also hadn't lost two games in a row since last season and, perhaps most importantly, possessed an increasingly likely look at an at-large bid into the NCAA Tournament.

But by the time the final seconds crept off the clock last Tuesday – in a literally deserted Siegel Center – after George Mason slaughtered the Rams, the answer to the question of what VCU had to lose in their season suddenly became dead apparent.

Nothing.

They played like it in their 68 - 67 against Wichita State Friday night.

The result is a godsend for VCU, who had not just their season, but their aspirations turned upside down in such

a short span of time.

The Rams proved that a sense of urgency with a rekindling of confidence can be a deadly combination.

Yet the question can't be erased at this point: Where do they go from here?

The Rams' BracketBusters win this year is critical. But overall, success in the competition hasn't proven to be purposeful.

"I think you'd have a hard time of finding evidence that has it ever helped anybody," said Jerry Palm, owner and operator of CollegeRPI.com.

At the very least, the win will bring VCU some much needed rebounding in their RPI score, which took a nosedive after last week's losses to Old Dominion and George Mason, in addition to their road loss to Northeastern earlier this month.

"I thought as long as (VCU) won the league, they had a shot," Palm said in reference to VCU's chances before their losses last week. "Once you fall out of first place, it's very difficult because they

didn't do much out of conference, so they were really going to have to do it in the league."

Palm didn't think the Rams' shot at an at-large bid were dead, but he said they were on their last lifeline. And even though the conference is having one of its best seasons ever, he is convinced the conference will be as well represented in the NCAA Tournament as they should be.

"It's high major-centric because that's where the best players and teams are," Palm said. "I think non-majors are represented as well as they can be, but the reality is the vast majority of the best players are at the big schools."

George Mason should join those ranks soon. The Patriots are riding a 13-game winning streak, the longest in the nation, and they are blowing out opposing teams in the process.

Are they now the proverbial lock for the field of 68?

"I think if they get through the rest of the season without a bad loss, they're

probably a lock," Palm said. "When you play in leagues like the CAA, the worst thing you can do is take bad losses because you don't have a lot of chances to make up for them."

Palm said he currently has Old Dominion and George Mason in his projected field, with eight and nine seeds respectively.

VCU's chances remain, but they almost certainly now run through the conference tournament.

Friday's win – as tough a victory as the Rams have had to grit out this season – ensured they do remain and that they still haven't lost three games since December 2004 during the Jeff Capel era.

Records remain intact; and VCU will be one of the favorites to win the conference title. There are still things to play for.

For now, that's all that matters. **CT**

Women's basketball's season sweep of ODU reverses history



Sonia Johnson collected five rebounds and four points against Old Dominion Thursday.

PHOTO BY KYLE LAFERIERRE



Redshirt junior Andrea Barbour posted 19 points in both games against Old Dominion this season.

PHOTO BY KYLE LAFERIERRE



PHOTO BY KYLE LAFERIERRE

Ebony Patterson is slowly working her way back into the lineup after missing the first 22 games of the season due to tearing an Achilles tendon.

Jim Swing Assistant Sports Editor

For decades, the Old Dominion women's basketball team terrorized VCU in CAA conference play.

This season, however, the Rams made it a point not to allow the Monarchs to dominate the annual two-game series for the 16th straight season.

After edging ODU in a hard-fought 63-60 victory in Norfolk on Jan. 20, VCU gave itself a little more breathing room Thursday night in a 74-53 rout of the Monarchs at the Siegel Center that captured the season sweep for the Rams for the first time since the 1972-73 season.

Following the game, the smile on eighth-year head coach Beth Cunningham's face displayed her excitement.

"They've had our number for a lot of years, so it's nice finally to be on the other side; they have such a history," Cunningham said. "Wendy (Larry) has done such a great job, year in and year out, and they're always at the top of the conference, so to be able to get a big win on the road when we won at their place, then turnaround and get this win today, every game is so critical - it feels good."

The season sweep comes as just the third and fourth wins over ODU during Cunningham's tenure at VCU, two of which Cunningham and her team find truly invigorating due to the rough trends of recent history.

As they have all season, the Rams leaned on junior leading scorer Courtney Hurt who torched the Monarchs for 46 total points over the course of the series.

Hurt - a player in which sour ODU head coach Wendy Larry called out for flopping after the game - posted her NCAA-leading 20th double-double Thursday night with 27 points and 19 rebounds.

"I'm just going out and trying to win a game," Hurt said. "Going into the game, I knew I had to rebound because they're big inside and getting them in foul trouble; my shot wasn't falling as well as I'd liked, but I tried getting to the rim and get their post players in foul trouble."

Throughout the series with the third-place Monarch team, VCU depended largely on its defense, which came through in a staggering fashion and forced a total of 40 ODU turnovers over the course of two games.

After pressuring the Monarchs into committing 19 turnovers at the Ted Constant Convocation Center nearly a month earlier, the Rams fed off of an energizing Siegel Center crowd that helped make things difficult on the offensive end for ODU, which gave up the ball on 21 separate occasions.

"It's great to have their support, and I think that's what helped us as far as momentum," Hurt said, referring to the crowd. "It was a great feeling - something I want to get used to definitely, but it's good that we went out there and played hard, so hopefully they'll come back."

The Conyers, Ga. native - who has provided constant leadership for VCU all season - said she was aware of the dominance ODU had displayed against the Rams program in the past, which added a special touch to the pair of wins.

"When I came here I knew they had a history of winning," Hurt said. "It's just like any other game - a win, a loss is a loss, but it's always a great feeling to beat a very talented and organized team." **GT**

Women's basketball (16-9, 11-4) will be back in action Thursday night when they travel to Delaware (15-11, 8-7) for a 7 p.m. tilt.



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Baseball drops season-opening series to Fordham

Staff Reports

Following Friday afternoon's season-opening victory over Fordham University, the VCU baseball team's weekend looked promising.

Juniors Taylor Perkins and Taylor Buran had just recorded three hits apiece, and the Rams sent a season-opening statement with a 6-3 victory over Fordham.

The weekend took a turnaround Saturday afternoon as the Rams dug themselves an early 6-0 hole that they eventually couldn't fill in a 6-4 loss to Fordham.

Sophomore Ryan Farrar was on the mound for VCU and allowed six hits and five runs - three earned - in five innings.

Fordham starter Max Krakowiak was staggering, throwing for five innings and limiting VCU to an infield single.

From the dwellings of the bullpen, sophomore Blake Hauser, freshman Chris

Skaklee and senior Jonathan Watson combined to allow just one run and seven hits while striking out 10 batters over the course of six innings.

With the third and final match of the three-game series came the rubber match.

Fordham struck first, scoring a run in each of the first three innings off of VCU pitcher Kyle Haynes who allowed five hits and three runs on five innings pitched.

VCU attempted to pull back in the fifth inning when senior John Lenherr singled to third base, scoring freshman Bill Cullen to cut the lead to two runs.

Fordham's pitching staff would hold strong in the final four innings, not allowing VCU to score another run, sealing the 3-1 victory and the series win.

VCU baseball (1-2) will be back in action this weekend in a three-game series with Monmouth University at the Diamond. **CT**



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SPECTRUM

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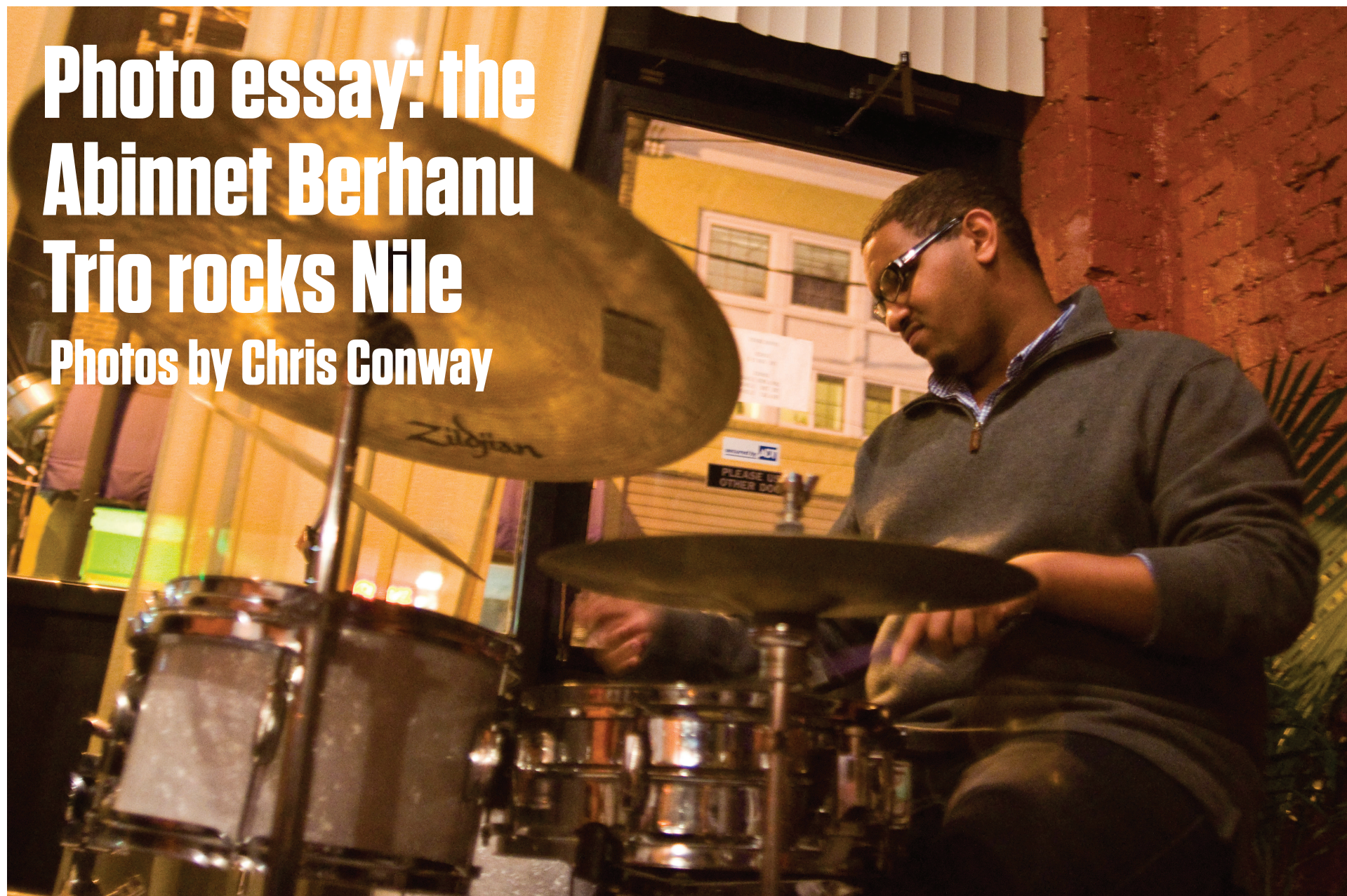
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Photo essay: the Abinnet Berhanu Trio rocks Nile

Photos by Chris Conway



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CONWAY



The Abinnet Berhanu Trio, who performed at Nile on Laurel Street last Thursday, Feb. 17, featured Evan Sarver on bass and Ben White on piano, and was headed by Abinnet Berhanu on drums - all current students with VCU Jazz.

Jazz, hip hop and some infectious combinations thereof are among the group's staples - in the tradition of local celebrities No BS! Brass (VCU Jazz alums themselves), the trio finds their calling in an explosive yet seemingly effortless cross-section of the sounds they know and love best.



The Abinnet Berhanu Trio is set to appear again at Nile on a to-be-announced date next month.



In VCU's Jazz department, playing in intimate ensembles and combos isn't just a necessary skill, it's a part of the curriculum. In addition to school-sanctioned Small Jazz Ensembles, whose members rotate every semester based on auditions and perform a joint concert at the Singleton Center, VCU Jazz students are independently active performers outside of school, notably in local venues like The Camel.



The "VCU Jazz at The Camel" series, which takes place the third Wednesday of every month, is curated by VCU Jazz Studies major and trumpeter Lucas Fritz, whose goal is to allow student-run ensembles to perform full sets of music in a real, professional environment that is conducive to their music. ☐

“Gardens for Life” completes phase two

Students plant VCU’s first rain garden, reduce water pollution

Emily Satchell
Contributing Writer

About 30 students planted VCU’s first rain garden this Saturday in front of Harris Hall — a project that has been in the making since last spring.

VCU has been doing a lot to “go green” and transition to becoming a more sustainable institute. The Green Unity 4 VCU Team was responsible for organizing this particular project, while the VCU Life Sciences Center for Environmental Sciences sponsors the rain garden.

“There’s a group of people working on this, and we’re all part of the sustainability committee,” graduate student Amanda Schute said. “We just do work in separate departments.”

The garden features a variety of flowering native species of plants including daffodils, day lilies and lirioppe. Its purpose is to capture runoff from impervious or paved surfaces. The plants in the garden are capable of filtering the runoff and retaining it in the soil, whereas normally this runoff would make its way into a storm drain and eventually lead to the James River and Chesapeake Bay. The rain garden reduces the amount of contaminated runoff getting into these bodies of water.

The garden was part of a two-phase project presented by Schute and fellow Environmental Studies student, William

Isenberg, called “Gardens for Life.”

Last spring, the first phase was completed outside of the Trani Life Sciences building by building basescapes.

This began as a project for students, but when presented to Facilities Management, it was voluntarily taken over and funded.

“When we brought this project to the biology faculty and to some folks at Facilities Management, they were like, ‘We’d love to do this,’ and we offered to find funds for it through SGA and other routes, but they said they were really interested in the project for the sake of the project and wanted to fund it, so they took it over at that point,” Schute said.

Though landscaping took about a semester, the landscapers left some Japanese Maples in the area, since, according to Schute, it didn’t make sense to pull up any trees.

Schute said it was important for students to stay involved, so Facilities Management kept them up-to-date with the progress to plan a date to actually plant.

“They brought trowels and gloves and everything we needed and sort of watched us plant,” Schute said.

According to Schute, there will be other gardening opportunities available to students, including installing plants on the vegetative roof that is set to be put on the roof of the Pollak building. **CT**

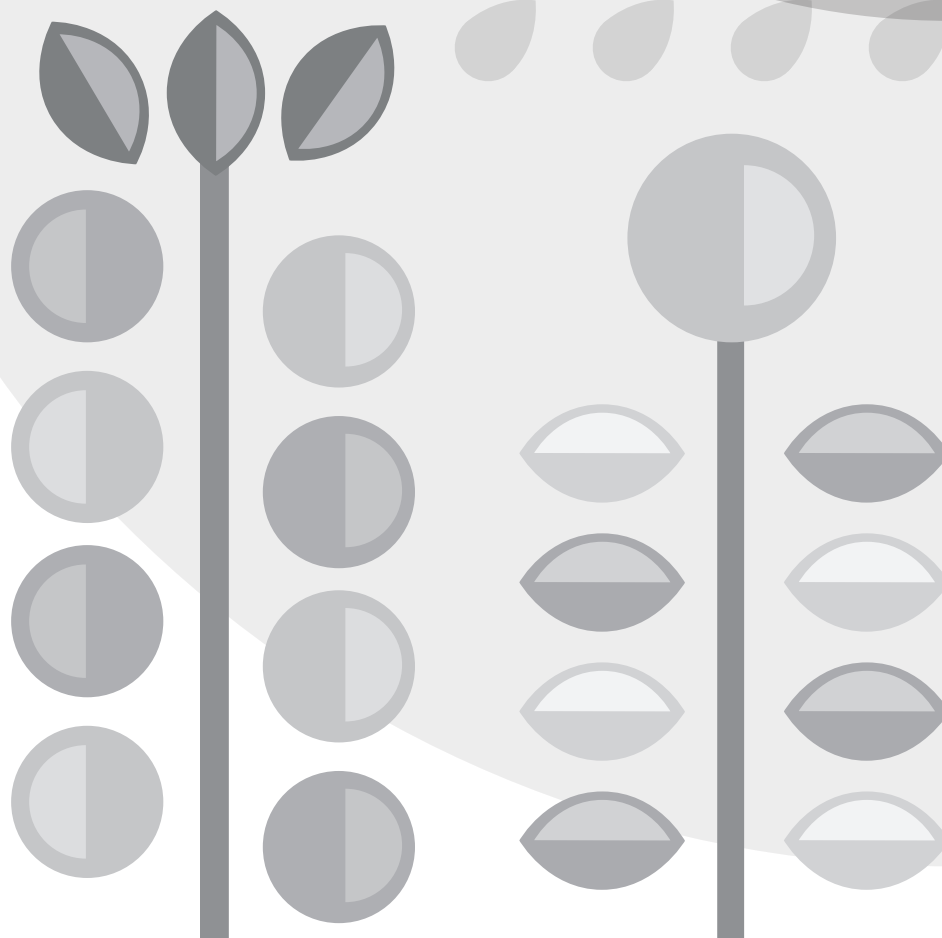


ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH SWANN



IMAGE COURTESY OF NEWSONE.COM

Student group will focus on director/actor Tyler Perry during Monday night's discussion and will show clips of Perry and others' films.



IMAGE COURTESY OF TYLERPERRY.NET

VCU NAACP to celebrate African-American filmmakers

Mechelle Hankerson
Assistant Spectrum Editor

Every February, VCU's student chapter of the NAACP celebrates NAACP Week at the beginning of the month to kick off a month-long celebration of African-American culture, accomplishments and progress.

The VCU NAACP student chapter will continue its celebration of NAACP Week and the organization's 102 years of existence this Monday night with Hollywood Heritage, an event in which they will celebrate the accomplishments of African-American actors, actresses and directors.

"Over the course of the week, we've celebrated the arts, we've celebrated the past ... and this event is celebrating film," said VCU NAACP President, Amanda Wilson.

The event will be held in Richmond Salon III in the Student Commons and will feature clips from different films, present facts and include a game similar

to Jeopardy with prizes available for winners.

Wilson said that an example of someone the event will focus on is Tyler Perry.

"We focus on Tyler Perry who came from a very hard upbringing ... he basically boomed as an African-American director as well as actor," Wilson said. "He has given a lot of chances to a lot of new actors and actresses."

The NAACP at VCU will continue their events until the end of February, with Soulful Cafe on the 28th, which is an open-mic event.

According to Wilson, it is for any type of performer and will feature a live band.

"It's a kind of setting like a lounge," she said.

Also on Feb. 28, the organization will host speaker Sherman Boone, the coach of the Titans as portrayed in the 2000 movie, "Remember the Titans." **GT**

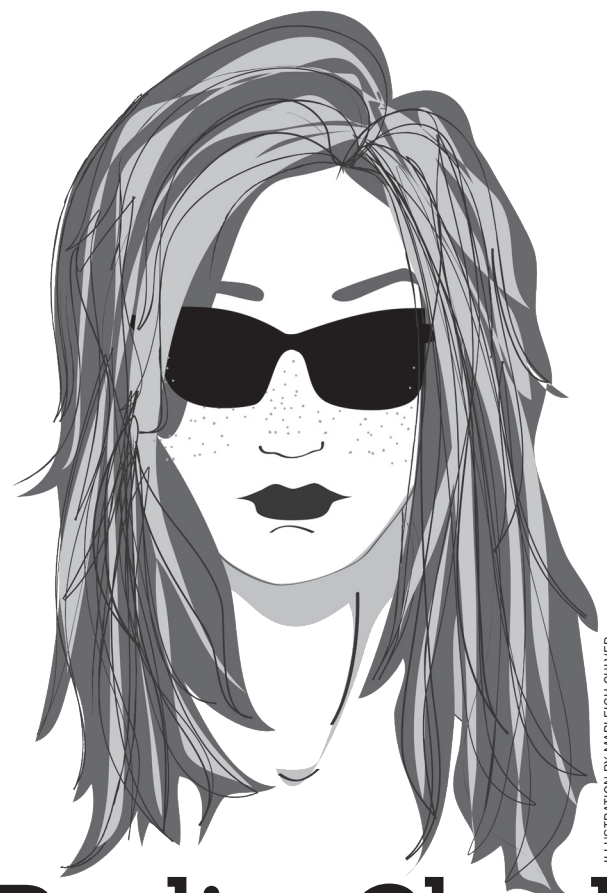


ILLUSTRATION BY MARLEIGH CULVER

Reality Check with Sadie Zarkin

Dear Sadie Zarkin,

I have been seeing this guy for about two months now. The love between us is like nothing I have ever experienced.

We always have so much fun together, and he's said I am "his everything," and that "without me he would have no reason for being." What's more, we've done things with each other that would send Dr. Ruth into hot flashes.

The problem with this setup - he insists on keeping us a secret from everyone.

When he sees me at school or at work he will stand there and pretend like the things we did the night before never even happened.

The bigger problem is that he keeps insisting to everyone, including himself, that he's straight, which is just more comical than anything.

How can I get this guy to man up and tell people about me?

-Dirty Little Secret

Secret,

While it is a terrible thing to not be able to publicly express your feelings for someone, this issue is clearly more about your man than it is about you. If he is not ready to admit to the world (or even himself) that he has feelings for another guy, there really is not much you can do about that.

While you may be able to give him some insight into how best to come to terms with his sexuality, he has to be ready to accept that, and on his own time.

Ultimately though, since you are clearly unhappy being in a secret relationship, I think you need to end it, at least as long as it remains under these veiled circumstances.

Do you or "someone you know" have problems?
Write to ctadvice@gmail.com



Jacqueline with Crossed Hands, June 3, 1954, Pablo Picasso (Spanish, 1881–1973), oil on canvas, 45 11/16 x 34 13/16 in. (116 x 88.5 cm). Musée National Picasso, Paris. ©2010 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Réunion des Musées Nationaux / Art Resource, NY



Reading, January 2, 1932, Pablo Picasso (Spanish, 1881–1973), oil on canvas, 51 3/16 x 38 3/8 in. (130 x 97.5 cm). Musée National Picasso, Paris. ©2010 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo: Réunion des Musées Nationaux / Art Resource, NY

The VMFA welcomes international Picasso exhibit

Julie Dinisio
Contributing Writer

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts opened its highly anticipated new exhibit, “Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso Paris” while celebrating its 75th anniversary on Saturday, Feb 19.

Declared as a “landmark exhibit” by the VMFA’s website, the Picasso collection showcases 176 pieces and is traveling to seven cities across the globe while the Musée National Picasso Paris is remodeled.

The VMFA describes the collection as “the largest and most significant repository of the artist’s work in the world,” showing personal works of Picasso.

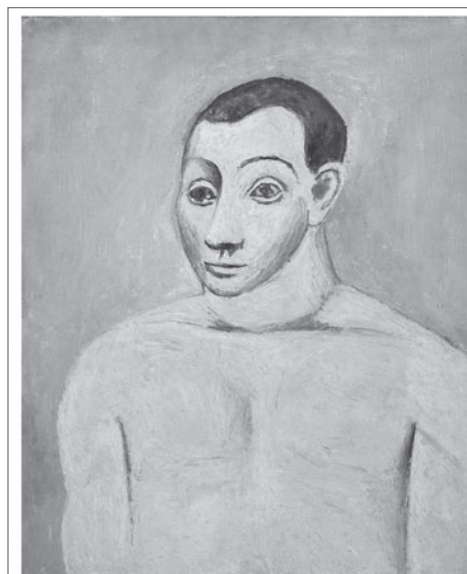
Suzanne Hall, from the Communications Office of the VMFA, said, “This is the largest and most prestigious exhibit in the history of the museum.”

She also stated the exhibit is “the

cream of the crop from the Musée National Picasso’s collection.” According to Hall, the exhibit is a \$5 million dollar commitment for VMFA and the most expensive exhibition in the museum’s history.

The museum set aside 10 rooms for the exhibit, which include eight decades worth of the artist’s work. Though Picasso is most famously known as being a founder of the Cubist movement, his personal collection encompasses all of his many artistic styles, like “Celestina, the Woman with One-Eye,” a realistic painting from his Blue Period.

Picasso’s friends and mistresses greatly affected his artistic expressions. The exhibit includes both paintings and photographs of Olga Khokhlova, a Russian ballerina and his wife. “Reading (La Lecture)” is an abstract portrait of his 17-year-old mistress, Marie-Thérèse



Self-Portrait, Autumn, 1906. Oil on canvas. Following his Blue Period, Picasso began painting in light pink tones as shown in his self-portrait.

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Walter. Later on in his life, Picasso was inspired by political activist Dora Maar and assigned her a particular style, most famously exemplified by his work “Portrait of Dora Maar.”

“Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso” also features Picasso’s sculptures, like “The Bathers.” This set of sculptures shows six bronze figures made up of mundane objects like broom handles and shovels. Many of Pablo Picasso’s quotes are

placed on the exhibit walls. Overlooking one room is Picasso’s statement, “Every act of creation is first of all an act of destruction.” His words flow from room to room with his vast array of sketches, paintings and sculptures. **GT**

This acclaimed exhibit will be at the Virginia Museum of Fine Art until May 15. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$16 with a valid student ID and entry is free for VMFA members.

OPINION

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VCU overloads while considering Martinsville campus

Colin Hannifin
Columnist

Martinsville is a small city in south central Virginia. The city itself has a population of just fewer than 14,000, while the surrounding area's population hovers right around 75,000.

It may be best known for its NASCAR track, the Martinsville Speedway, which is the shortest track in all of NASCAR. So why is Martinsville drawing attention from VCU, Virginia State University, Radford University, Old Dominion and George Mason?

Located in the relatively non-descript Martinsville is a young college, known as New College Institute (NCI). It's not yet a decade old and provides the people of Southern Virginia access to bachelor's and master's degree programs through partnerships with other universities, including VCU.

For example, a student can currently earn an accounting degree from VCU while attending NCI. Other colleges and universities have similar programs set up with NCI, including Longwood University, UVA, Radford, James Madison and ODU. The Virginia universities listed previously (VCU, VSU, Radford, ODU and George Mason) have now all expressed interest in acquiring NCI as a branch campus.

It comes as little surprise that VCU has expressed interest in expanding, as the university is constantly looking for ways to spread its base of students and offer new opportunities.

The real question is whether this is a good opportunity for VCU. The answer is no.

VCU's president emeritus, Eugene Trani, is the chairman of the The Harvest Foundation, which has been charged with examining the possibilities for NCI to become a branch campus, though it's important to note that this indicates no favoritism toward VCU. Emphasis has been placed

STORY CONTINUED ON PG. 15



ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH SWANN

on the fact that it would offer third- and fourth-year courses – that is, courses in a particular major. The general education requirements would have to be fulfilled at a local community college.

Furthermore, adoption of NCI as a branch campus would render the university financially and legally responsible, according to Trani, and residential faculty would have to be established. Currently, much of the teaching is done via teleconference. This could be done on a limited basis if it were to become a branch office.

For all the opportunity this offer holds for VCU, the university would be wise to turn it down. While it does offer a chance to cover more students

in the state of Virginia and truly move toward becoming a state-wide university, with the degree of expansion and work on the MCV and the Monroe Park campuses, it would be unwise for VCU to shift attention away from its core in Richmond.

This is particularly true in light of VCU's financial issues, which include Gov. McDonnell's plan to withhold \$17 million in state funds from VCU in fiscal 2012 that he announced earlier during this year's General Assembly session.

No matter where the blame lies, the fact is that VCU is strapped for cash. The partnership with NCI currently works well for VCU, chiefly because VCU faculty teach from afar while hold-

ing none of the financial responsibility of the institute. If possible, it would seem that this is the relationship VCU should strive to maintain with NCI.

“No matter where the blame lies, the fact is that VCU is strapped for cash.”

It appears that VCU is constantly focused on growth. Every day around campus we hear the bulldozers and construction workers outside VCU's next dormitory or parking garage. The VCU Monroe Park and MCV campuses educate more than 30,000 students. While a Martinsville branch would be a great opportunity to spread the VCU brand, the additional 400 students' tuitions it would supply to VCU is almost certainly not worth the financial responsibility it would require. **CT**

The underground as the new mainstream

Introducing music as the center of youth counterculture

Robert Showah
Opinion Editor

It was the mainstream music industry's biggest night, the 53rd annual Grammy Awards.

Everyone arrived either at the Staples Center in Los Angeles or at their television sets with expectations. Even the press and league of superficial blonde women who host those entertainment shows had expectations. So entrenched within their own bubble, these people would have scoffed at the idea that an artist with whom the establishment was not familiar could win the evening's largest honor.

Yet that is what happened when Arcade Fire became the first artist on an independent record label to win Album of the Year.

Last semester, I wrote a column about the new youth subculture that has rapidly developed over the past five years and how it is defined largely by a rebirth of the hipster subculture that boomed in the 1960s. This time I want to take that same conversation and apply it to how “the underground” – or the world of indie music, art, fashion and culture – is becoming the new mainstream and how we all will deal with it.

It is difficult to say that this subculture has not made a huge impact. Arcade Fire's humble and perfectly anticlimactic acceptance speech indicated not only their genuine love of music, but their reluctance to embrace a reward that is seen by their listeners as meaningless. This was demonstrated perhaps when Win Butler, Arcade Fire frontman, carelessly placed his Grammy

on top of an amp just before beginning another song.

Arcade Fire's victory is another crack in the glass ceiling, a small indication and reminder of the times we now live in. It reminds us that the youth of today are not the same as they were 15 or even 10 years ago and that a shift in youth subculture is gaining momentum rapidly. The problem lies in how members of the mainstream and members of the underground are adapting to this change: of which the music industry lies at the center as the biggest influence in youth culture.

If the mainstream represents music for profit and the underground represents music for pleasure, then the mainstream has been dealing with this youth subculture shift since the beginning of the decade when Napster allowed everyone to share music for free.

Soon after, the underground started to shake when indie artists started appearing on more iPods and venue schedules. Those artists would almost inevitably reach the threshold where they would be branded “sell-outs” for gaining mass followings.

These challenges both sides have faced, and continue to face, have now only been exacerbated. How so? Because of the social-networking, file-sharing and telecommunications boom, music is easier to access through various means at cheaper prices relative to 12 years ago. This has made the mainstream far more vigorous in their attempts to turn a profit. One way they've been able to do that is by introducing artists with different sounds, like Lady Gaga, who would have never existed in the mainstream 10

years ago and is a star today because of the youth subculture's championing of unconventionalism.

While the underground is gaining more followers by promoting a healthier music environment that encourages people to listen to music as an art rather than as a popularity contest or profit goal, it has conversely and perhaps inadvertently turned many of its listeners into pretentious assholes.

The more mainstream exposure certain indie bands receive, the more angered members of the underground turn to even more obscure artists to get their fix. This ultimately gets to the point where members of a subculture, which once seemed to promote the idea of accepting people for who they are, instead become overtly superficial and paranoid about how everyone is trying to be exactly like them.

Everyone within the underground will have to come to terms with the fact that nobody was born the way the youth act today. Everyone made the choice to wear flannel, grow beards and listen to Arcade Fire because it is all a trend that gets into some people's heads more than others. Within the last five years, we've milked irony for all its worth. Now, it almost means nothing.

While I am not a fan of the sweeping and condescending generalizations professors make in the classroom, one whom I've had said, half-kidding, “You all think you are different, but you all dress the same, talk the same, listen to the same music. You're being different together.”

As long as we all continue to be different together, we'll end up more or less the same – stuck in the middle of a trend that will inevitably end in a totally different place than where it began. **CT**

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