



the
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A LOST CAUSE?

Examining the situation:
Kony 2012

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BRIEFS

On the cover:

Invisible Children co-founders Jason Russell, Ben Keesey and Laren Poole have been criticized for the Kony 2012 campaign.

Illustration by Ying Jun Cheng

Local & VCU

Richmond prosecutor plans to try ultrasound protesters

Richmond's top prosecutor said he sympathizes with the 30 women's-rights protesters arrested at the state Capitol but plans to move forward with the prosecutions.

Commonwealth's Attorney Michael N. Herring, a Democrat, said that he – like the protesters – disapproves of the Republican-sponsored bill requiring women to undergo an ultrasound before getting an abortion.

“I thought it was an awful piece of legislation,” Herring said last week. “In another life, I might be out there with the protesters.”

But Herring said his opinion of the legislation will not affect how his office handles the cases in court, although he added that he is somewhat reluctant to prosecute a group of people who were holding a nonviolent demonstration. Herring also discussed his view of the criminal cases and said police handled themselves appropriately during the March 3 rally, which drew hundreds of protesters to Capitol Square.

Seventeen women and 13 men ranging in age from 19 to 76 were charged in the Capitol protest. Two-thirds of the protesters are in their 20s, and all but a handful are from the Richmond area. The others are from the Charlottesville area, Chesapeake or Winston-Salem, N.C.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Child's death prompts review of Va. Beach agency

A 10-month-old boy's death in foster care has prompted a review of the Virginia Beach Human Services Department.

The review will be conducted by the Washington-based Child Welfare League of America.

Human Services director Bob Morin said the league's findings will be made public.

The department also is the target of an administrative review by the Virginia Department of Social Services.

Kathleen Ganiere, 30, is serving a 10-year sentence for voluntary manslaughter in the 2010 death of 10-month-old Braxton Taylor.

The boy's biological mother, Kristen Wall, 30, has said she noticed bruises on him during a supervised visit and notified a social worker. The boy died two weeks later.

Brief by the Associated Press

Protesters want Confederate flag to fly over Virginia museums

Twice a week, about a dozen people stand alongside Richmond's Boulevard to protest the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' removal of a Confederate flag from the Confederate Memorial Chapel on the museum grounds.

Now the group, Virginia Flaggers, is taking on the Museum of the Confederacy, which is opening a museum in Appomattox next week. The group plans to protest the branch's opening because, despite its request, a Confederate flag will not fly in front of the museum.

S. Waite Rawls III, president and CEO of the museum, said the group has not responded to his offer to see the plans for the Appomattox museum. He said 22 Confederate flags are on exhibit inside the museum.

The Museum of Confederacy-Richmond is working to attract a wider audience, in part, by including more diverse stories of Southerners' roles in the Civil War, including those of African-Americans and women. By opening an Appomattox site, the museum is also taking its enormous collection of artifacts directly to Civil War tourists

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

National & International

Cheney receives heart transplant

Former Vice President Dick Cheney had a heart transplant Saturday and is recovering at a Falls Church hospital, his office said.

An aide to Cheney disclosed that the 71-year-old, who has had a long history of cardiovascular trouble including numerous heart attacks, had been waiting for a transplant for more than 20 months.

“Although the former vice president and his family do not know the identity of the donor, they will be forever grateful for this lifesaving gift,” aide Kara Ahern said in a statement that was verified by several of the Republican politician's close associates.

Cheney was recovering Saturday night at the intensive care unit of Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church after surgery earlier in the day.

The former vice president suffered a heart attack in 2010, his fifth since the age of 37. That same year, he had surgery to have a small pump installed to help his heart keep working.

Brief by the Associated Press

Report: Sandusky called ‘likely pedophile’ in ‘98

A psychologist who looked into a 1998 allegation against former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky told police at the time that his behavior fit the profile of a likely pedophile, NBC News reported Saturday.

Yet Sandusky was not criminally charged, nor placed on a state registry of suspected child abusers, and prosecutors say he continued assaulting boys for more than a decade until his arrest in November.

NBC obtained a copy of the campus police department's investigatory report on an encounter in which Sandusky was accused of having inappropriate contact with an 11-year-old boy with whom he had showered naked on the Penn State campus.

Centre County prosecutors ultimately decided not to charge Sandusky, and the case was closed until a statewide grand jury accused the retired defensive coordinator of abusing the boy and nine others over a 15-year period. Sandusky, who faces more than 50 counts of child sex abuse, has pleaded innocent and awaits trial.

Brief by the Associated Press

Guatemala leader asks US to pay for drug seizures

Guatemala's president proposed Saturday that the United States and other “consumer” countries pick up the tab for the cost of drug seizures.

Otto Perez Molina made the comment during a Central America meeting that he called to discuss his earlier proposal to legalize drugs, a meeting that drew only two of his counterparts from the region.

“For every kilo of cocaine that is seized, we want to be compensated 50 percent by the consumer countries,” he said.

The Guatemalan leader said the United States has a “responsibility” because it has one of the highest rates of drug use.

Perez Molina said the fight against drug trafficking has failed and governments need to look for alternatives.

Perez Molina first made the drug legalization proposal in February. It has received lukewarm response in the region and opposition from the United States.

He said Saturday that legalization of drug use should be accompanied by a system to regulate the production and consumption of drugs. He also suggested the region decriminalize drug trafficking and instead set up a specific transit corridor with border controls for the registration of drug shipments.

Brief by the Associated Press

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NEWS

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Marijuana use more evident than alcohol use on VCU campus

NCHA VCU Marijuana use 2011, undergrad only

54.5% never used

24.2%

have used, but not in last 30 days

1-to 2 days	6.1%
3-to 5 days	3.6%
6-to 9 days	2.2%
10-to 19 days	2.5%
20 to 29 days	3.1%
used daily	3.2%

VCU's National College Health Assessment from spring 2011 asked 1,847 randomly selected students, undergraduate and graduate, to report their behaviors. Statistics at left used the responses from 1,289 undergraduate students.

ter, it's matter of visibility, not prevalence when comparing marijuana use to things like alcohol use.

"Although there are many reasons for the difference in use some of the major reasons for the difference are pot is illegal, it's use has bigger consequences, plus you have to light organic matter on fire and suck it into mucous membranes," Hancock said. "Many people just won't smoke. They have asthma (or) they worry about carcinogens."

She said that the comparison of marijuana and alcohol violations "is like comparing apples and oranges."

According to Hancock, it's hard to compare the two due to confounding variables that blend users into one group instead of separate ones.

"What you find is people who take risks take all the risks," she said.

Reported incidences of marijuana use and alcohol use can seem drastically different because while alcohol is legal for some, marijuana is illegal for everyone, Hancock said.

"Pot use is illegal at any age, and even if only consuming a little..." she said. "Plus, half of VCU students are of legal age to drink and as long as they don't break any laws about public drunkenness and don't drink and drive or do something stupid, it is legal for them to drink." **CT**

Mason Brown
Staff Writer

While responding to a noise complaint on West Cary Street earlier this month, VCU Police arrested a student for multiple drug offenses.

The police seized a "large quantity" of marijuana, marijuana seeds for planting, a hydroponic grow kit, \$4,130, three amphetamine pills (one packaged for sale), scales and packaging material.

The bust resulted in the resident was later being turned over to the Richmond Sheriff's office.

VCU Police declined to comment at

this time due to pending adjudication on the case but a VCU Police newsletter disclosed the details of the bust.

VCU Police officers Joel Jeffress and Jomo Raqib with Corporal Powell approached the residence, 725 W. Cary St. to enforce city noise ordinances.

While closing in on the house they identified the smell of burnt marijuana, according to VCU Police's bi-weekly newsletter, The Grey Stripe.

In Virginia, intent to sell more than half an ounce but less than five ounces include a fine of up to \$2,500, between one and 10 years in jail or both.

Selling paraphernalia may be pun-

ished with a fine of up to \$2,500, up to one year in jail or both. First conviction possession carries a penalty of a fine of up to \$500, up to 30 days in jail or both.

This drug bust, unlike the one last fall which was the result of a coordinated effort of VCU Police undercover officers, happened by chance.

In February, VCU Police reported a total of 20 drug offenses for the month. So far, they have reported nine through March 23.

VCU Police's reported drug offenses are almost exclusively marijuana use.

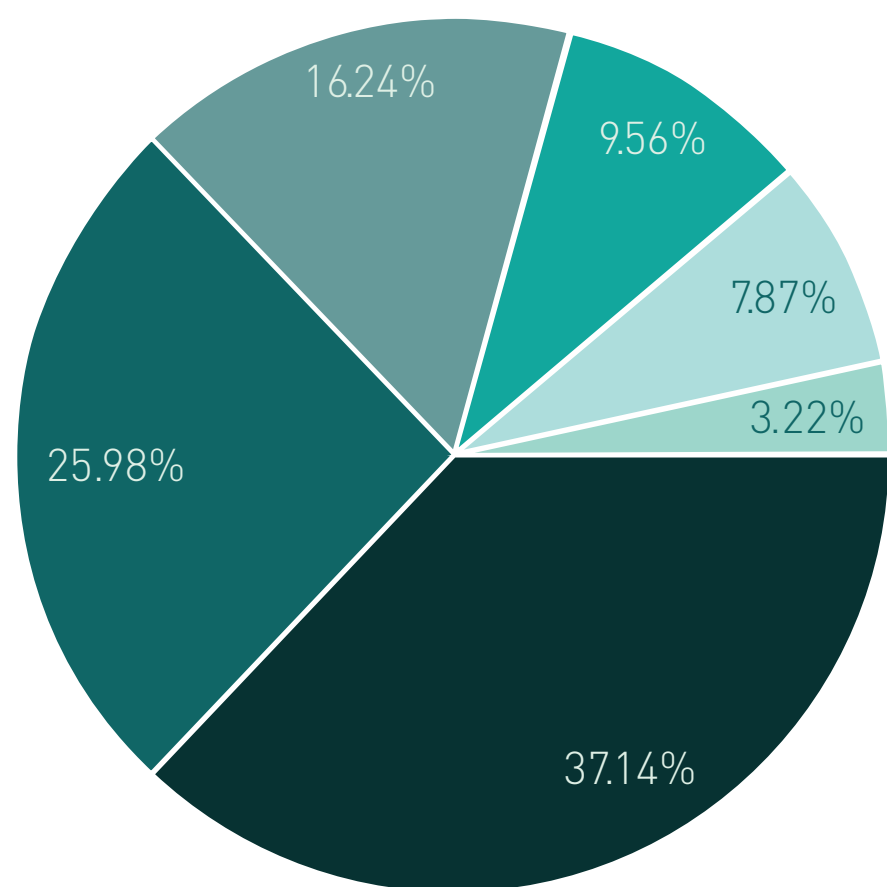
According to Linda Hancock, Ph.D., director of The Wellness Resource Cen-



Invisible Children club drops affiliation, cancels screening amid Kony 2012 criticism

VCU community responds to Invisible Children campaign

Breakdown of Invisible Children expenses



Central Africa Programs
\$3,303,228

Awareness Programs
\$2,310,488

Management & General
\$1,444,567

Awareness Products
\$850,050

Media & Film Creation
\$699,617

Fundraising
\$286,678

INFO COURTESY OF INVISIBLE CHILDREN, GRAPHIC BY YING JUN CHENG

Mark Robinson
Assistant News Editor

A social-advocacy campaign that promotes catching the “worst living criminal” has created a firestorm of controversy for its organizers in the last month.

“Kony 2012,” the latest documentary by the Invisible Children organization, calls for the capture of Joseph Kony, a Ugandan warlord who has ravaged central Africa for the last three decades.

Kony is the leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army. He was indicted by the International Criminal Court in 2005 for crimes against humanity that include the kidnapping and brutalization of more than 30,000 children. President Barack Obama sent 100 armed troops to Uganda last October to aid attempts to capture Kony.

In the 30-minute video, Invisible Children co-founder Jason Russell calls for 2012 to be the last year Kony roams free.

The documentary marked the launch of a social-media campaign to persuade famous entertainers and politicians to “make Kony famous” so that he could no longer exist inconspicuously.

In the weeks since the release, the Invisible Children organization has been criticized about finances, intentions and credibility. The founders released a response to the criticisms on the organization’s website, but their reputation was already in question.

As a result, the VCU Invisible Children club will no longer affiliate or directly support the Invisible Children organization.

Ashley Zehrt, the club’s president, said the decision to cut ties with organization is based on the politicized stance taken in “Kony 2012.”

By emphasizing the power of politicians and entertainers, Zehrt said, Invisible Children devalued the voice of its strongest ally: the youth.

“Kids have put so much effort and money and time into supporting Invisible Children, and their change in motivation has really taken away from the voice of the youth,” the junior international studies major said.

Invisible Children was scheduled to screen “Kony 2012” at VCU in the Commons Theatre on Tuesday, but the club chose to cancel the event, Zehrt said. The showing would have been “irrelevant,” Zehrt said, because everyone has seen the video.

Zehrt said she thought the “Kony 2012” documentary painted a picture of the Ugandan children as objects of pity, which the club rejects.

“It was misleading, and I don’t know if it was intentional, but it seemed manipulative,” said Zehrt, a supporter of Invisible Children for the last nine years. “That’s why we need to change our group. ... There is still rebuilding that needs to be done in Uganda. If kids totally lose their momentum in this cause, then it’s a tragedy.”

After “Kony 2012” debuted, membership in the VCU club swelled to more than 250 members. But criticisms of Invisible Children’s finances caused some to question if more money should be going directly to Uganda, Zehrt said.

Reports have cited the organization’s financial records – which are available on their website – that show only 37 percent of their money goes to programs on the ground in Central Africa.

The club will now directly support an orphanage or secondary school in Uganda, which they are in the process of choosing, Zehrt said.

Ugandan criticism of the Invisible Children campaign played a major part in the club’s decision to drop affiliation, Zehrt said.

Not all Ugandans agree on the matter, though.

Rogers Kasirye is the executive director of the Uganda Youth Development Link and the chairperson of the East Africa Policy Alliance.

Kasirye moved from Kampala, Uganda to Richmond last summer after being named one of eight VCU Humphrey Fellows. The program brings midcareer professionals from developing countries to the university to pursue further research and training in their field.

Despite the organizational criticism of Invisible Children, Kasirye said the Kony 2012 campaign has brought international attention to the exploitation of children as pawns of war.

“The subject of recruiting and using children in armed forces is now on the table,” Kasirye said. “We are going to begin to ask to what extent were our children exploited? Why are children generally, all over the world, being used in war?”

“We, as people and members of civil society, (must ask) what can we do to prevent such a heinous crime from happening,” he said.

In 2007, Kasirye headed a study about child trafficking in northern Uganda on behalf of the International Labor Office. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

For a section of the study, researchers interviewed 47 former child soldiers in northern Uganda, some as young as 12 years old. Seventy-four percent said they were orphans; more than half said they

“The subject of recruiting and using children in armed forces is now on the table. We are going to begin to ask to what extent were our children exploited? Why are children generally, all over the world, being used in war? We, as people and members of civil society, (must ask) what can we do to prevent such a heinous crime from happening.”

- Rogers Kasirye
2011-12 Humphrey Fellow

were kidnapped and forced into ranks with the LRA and other militias, the study shows.

Aside from being forced into militias, some children were used as sex slaves or trafficked for weapons and other valuables, the study shows.

At the time of publication, the study said that the LRA was responsible for abducting 30,000 children, a number that is consistent with the figure provided by Invisible Children in “Kony 2012.”

Invisible Children has been criticized for exaggerating the influence of Joseph Kony and the LRA in the region, but Kasirye’s study explicitly calls for Kony to be brought to justice for “heinous crimes done with impunity against humanity.”

Kony did leave northern Uganda in 2006, prompting some to question the Invisible Children campaign’s relevance; Kasirye is not one of them. If even one child is unaccounted for, he said, Kony should still be a priority.

“I think the use of social media is a very strong force, a strong power, and the people who abuse children, who exploit children, the dictators that we have in Africa, must know that today

if you commit a crime, in two minutes people will know all over the world,” Kasirye said.

“Kony 2012” has more than 100 million combined views on YouTube and Vimeo. It’s the fastest video to hit that mark in the history of the Internet.

Still, critics of the Invisible Children campaign question its ability to accomplish anything further. The organization and its supporters have been maligned for promoting what some critics call ‘clicktivism’ or ‘slacktivism’ – the idea that one can change the world by reposting a video on a social network.

Tracy Ta, a freshman psychology and criminal justice double major, is the vice president of the VCU Invisible Children club. She said the ‘slacktivism’ criticism is unwarranted.

“I think realistically there are people who will share (the video) and then do nothing else. ... What I hope is that while this energy is still up, we can keep people energized so they don’t just trickle away with the press,” she said.

Chief among critics’ concerns of “Kony 2012” itself is the filmmaker’s depiction of the conflict as an oversimplified version of a complex problem.

David Lett, a sophomore political

science major, said Invisible Children did oversimplify the conflict in the video.

Even so, he sees the documentary as an entry point into the conflict for people who didn’t know about it before. It’s the individual’s responsibility to do their own research about the issues the organization raises, he said.

The message of the campaign is getting lost amongst the criticism of the messengers and the manner in which it was delivered, Lett said.

“With a lot of the criticisms I think people are missing the point, whether it be where the money is going, or if Invisible Children supports the Ugandan government. They’re overcomplicating the problem and missing the bigger picture,” Lett said. “Kony is a bad guy. He needs to be stopped, point blank.”

In “Kony 2012,” the filmmakers call for supporters of the campaign to go out at midnight on April 20 and cover every surface of their town or city with posters of Kony’s face to make him famous. The intent is to prompt action that will eventually lead to his capture, the filmmakers said.

Several “Cover the Night” Facebook events in Richmond have hundreds of

people who plan to participate; Lett is one of them, in spite of the possible legal consequences. He hopes the police use discretion in handling the event, he said.

In the city of Richmond, it’s illegal to put posters on public property. Each offense is punishable by a \$50 fine.

Charles Klink, Ph.D., associate vice provost for student affairs and enrollment services at VCU, said the university can punish anyone who is charged and convicted of an offense outside of the university, including illegally placing posters.

He challenged supporters of Invisible Children to do something more substantive to contribute to the campaign.

“In my mind, there are environmental issues when you do something like that. Then there’s a social justice issue because someone is going to have to clean it up and pay for it,” Klink said.

On Friday, the African Union said it would send 5,000 troops to hunt for Joseph Kony, the Associated Press reported. As of press time, Invisible Children has not made an official statement about the announcement. **BT**



LEFT: Invisible Children at VCU club president Ashley Zehrt (right) and vice president Tracy Ta (left) moderate a meeting last Wednesday night in Virginia Room A in the Student Commons. **RIGHT:** Zehrt discusses a new name for the Invisible Children club at VCU. The club plans to drop its affiliation with the Invisible Children organization following criticism of the “Kony 2012” video and campaign, Zehrt said.

Chahal faces higher charge in death of fellow student



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHMOND POLICE

Varinder 'Vick' Chahal, the accused driver of the car that hit the car Carolina Perez was in, now faces an aggravated involuntary manslaughter charge.

Mark Robinson
Assistant News Editor

Varinder "Vick" Chahal now faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison for his role in a drunken-driving crash last month that killed a fellow VCU student and left two others injured.

Chahal, a senior accounting major at VCU, was indicted on a charge of aggravated involuntary manslaughter at a hearing Thursday morning in Richmond Circuit Court.

Prosecutors dropped Chahal's lesser charges of involuntary manslaughter, driving under the influence and refusal to submit to a breath or blood test.

Last month, Richmond Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Tracy Thorne-Begland said he would look to raise the charge based on the amount of alcohol consumed "as well as the aggravated driving behavior of accelerating into an intersection against the red light," the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

Ed Riley, Chahal's attorney, said he plans to contest the charge.

"We'll see how the case develops, how the evidence plays out," Riley said. "At this point, we're looking at the charges and we're going to see what the government can prove."

Chahal is the accused driver of a Mazda 6 that ran a red light at the intersection of South Second and East Canal streets around 12:37 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22. His car T-boned a Toyota Yaris, which spun into a nearby brick building. Richmond police said one of their officers witnessed the crash.

Carolina Perez, a sophomore biology major at VCU, was riding in the back-seat of the Yaris at the point of impact. She was taken to MCV but died shortly after the crash.

Neither Chahal, nor any of his four passengers in the car were injured in the crash.

The police had to get a search warrant for Chahal's blood because he refused to submit to blood or

breath tests. After Thursday's hearing, Thorne-Begland told the Richmond Times-Dispatch he is waiting for the results of toxicology tests that he expects will show Chahal's blood-alcohol level at the time of the crash.

Chahal is free on \$25,000 bond. VCU cannot confirm if he has returned to the university, but public relations specialist Mike Porter said Chahal is still enrolled.

Riley said he doesn't know about Chahal's academic standing with VCU. Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the university cannot disclose a student's grades or personal information.

"As I understand, one of the things (Chahal) wants to try and do is finish up his degree because he's very close to graduating," Riley said. "He'd like to do that if possible."

According to Riley, Chahal and his family are "devastated" by the situation. The Chahal family has expressed a desire to reach out to the Perez family about the crash, Riley added.

"Unfortunately, honest people make mistakes," Riley said. "The commonwealth has certainly leveled the charges, and (Chahal) is going to have to deal with those charges."

Chahal's next court date is set for Wednesday, May 2. **CT**

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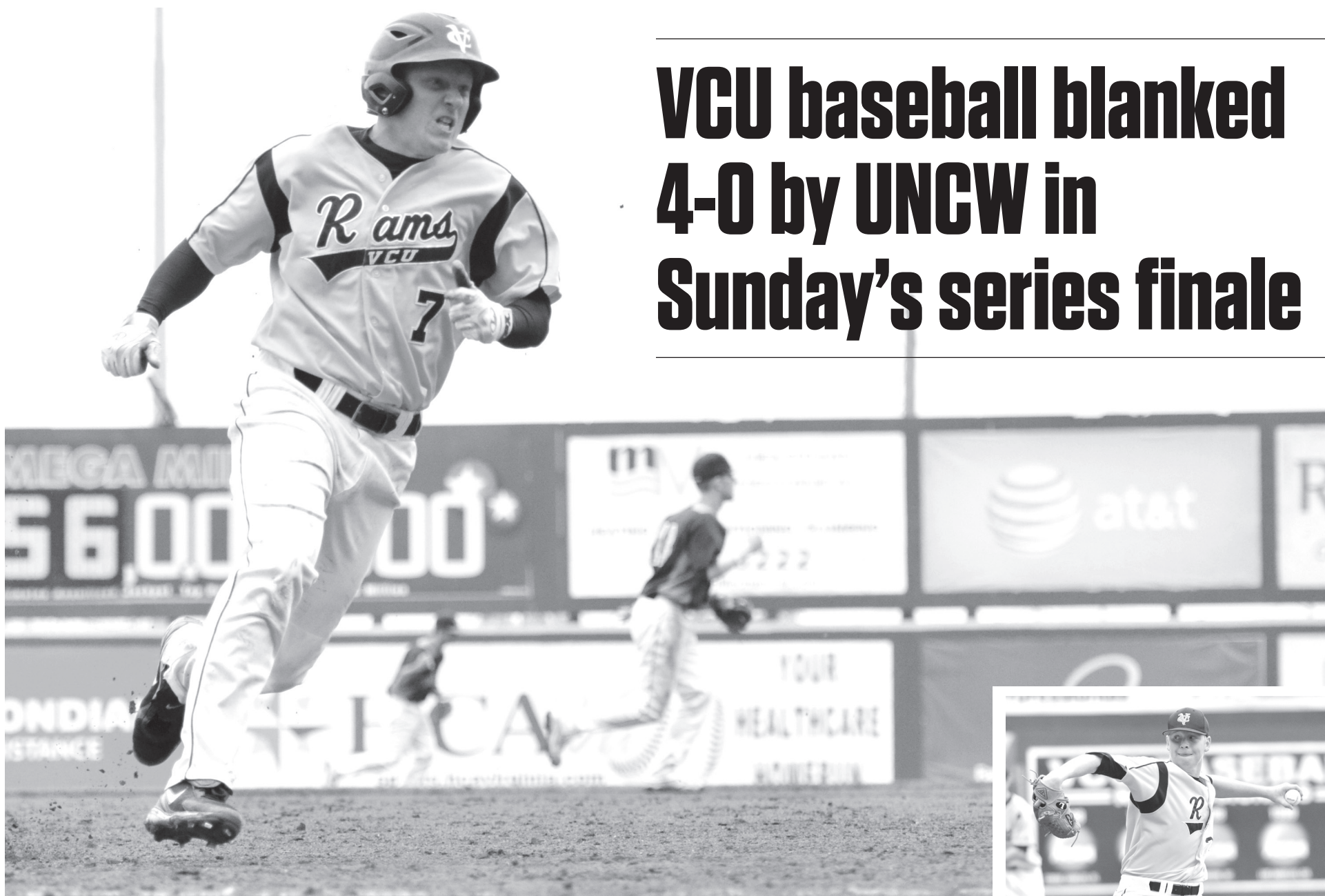
SPORTS

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VCU baseball blanked 4-0 by UNCW in Sunday's series finale

Quinn Casteel
Assistant Sports Editor

The VCU (12-12, 3-6) baseball team allowed three unearned runs in a 4-0 loss to UNC-Wilmington (12-11, 7-2) on Sunday afternoon, dropping the game and also the series as the Seahawks left Richmond with two wins in three days over the weekend.

After winning a 12-inning thriller over the Seahawks on Saturday, the Rams were without answers all afternoon for UNCW starting pitcher Jordan Ramsey, who gave up three hits and walked just one in 7.1 innings of work. Ramsey struck out six VCU hitters and lowered his ERA to 2.3 as he earned the second win of his young career.

"He was really outstanding. Probably the best game he's thrown for them all year," VCU head coach Paul Keyes said on Ramsey. "I was a little disappointed we weren't able to get to his fastball more."

Ramsey's performance overshadowed that of his VCU counterpart, fellow freshman Heath Dwyer, who went seven innings and gave up just one earned run.

In the second start of his career, Dwyer fanned five batters but took the loss as his team went scoreless for the first time all season.

"I thought he was great, and if we had played a little tighter defense, I don't know if they score," Keyes said of his freshman pitcher.

"I'm happy with my outing, but I want to see the team win," added Dwyer.

A throwing error by catcher Nick Abrahamson on an attempted steal of third in the top of the first led to UNCW's first run, and then two more miscues in the seventh allowed the Seahawks to extend the lead to four. Dwyer gave up an RBI double early in the inning, but a misplay at first base by Taylor Perkins, followed by a poor throw from second baseman Jordan Weymouth, accounted for two more unearned UNCW runs.

"On days like today where it's misty, The Diamond will play where the team that makes the mistakes on the defensive end will lose the game, and that's what happened to us today," Keyes said. "You can say we gave it to them, which we did, but I thought it was a pretty

Top: Sophomore catcher Chris Ayers recorded one of VCU's four hits in a loss to UNCW Sunday afternoon.

Bottom: VCU has now lost six of its last seven games heading into a game at Liberty Tuesday.

good ball game. If we had kept it a little closer I think we would've got them at the end but we were not able to."

Despite the continuous offensive struggles for VCU, stringing together just four hits in the game, they managed to load the bases and bring the potential tying run to the plate in the bottom of the ninth. However, UNCW closer William Prince came in to record the final out and earned his third save of the year, getting Weymouth to ground out to end the game.

With the loss, the Rams have now dropped six of their last seven games. They are 10-4 at home but struggle on the road, having won just two of 10

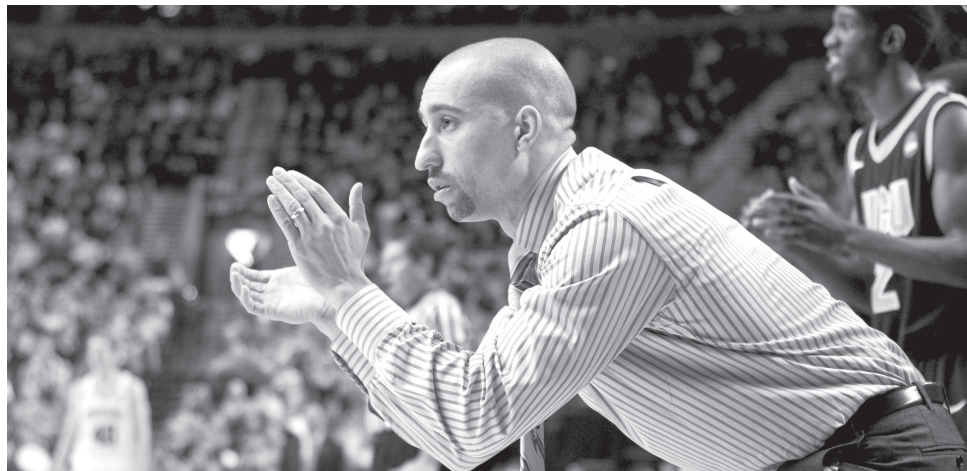
away games. They go back on the road this week for a game against Liberty, followed by a weekend series in Boston with Northeastern.

"We're just not ready to go when we're on the road," Dwyer said. "We haven't had the mindset coming into a hostile environment. That's always the biggest challenge playing on the road, but we just need to take it as another baseball game."

Eight of the Ram's next 13 games will be on the road, giving them plenty of time to get their struggles away from The Diamond sorted out. VCU faces Liberty on Tuesday at 6 p.m. **CT**



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CONWAY



Pop Champaign: VCU's win a win for all mid-majors

Adam Stern
Executive Editor



Opinion/Analysis

VCU fans had seen this gut-wrenching nightmare before – they were all too familiar with it, actually – and, by golly, they were determined not to go down that path again.

A beloved coach about to be sucked into the vacuum of multimillion dollar deals, the story went: The tale VCU fans have been waking up in cold sweats to for years now, it seemed about to happen once more.

“Here we go,” the thought was. A third coach in the last decade was to be usurped away to the purportedly greener pastures of high-majors, cruelly ripped away just when roots were beginning to take hold with emotions beginning to harden.

And VCU fans didn’t want to be hurt again.

So the old cliché came into play:

Fool me once: Shame on you.

Fool me twice: Shame on me.

VCU fans were done with that.

After Jeff Capel and Anthony Grant, they didn’t want to feel that feeling a third time or, to be frank, ever again.

Paranoia set in.

“He’s leaving,” became the rampant fear. “He’s done here,” others thought.

And who could blame them? After all, the notion of “he’s just like the rest of the cash-grabbers” was the notion that nearly every mainstream media member implied for the last two weeks.

Yet Shaka Smart was never that.

That’s what people forgot. But it’s understandable, in large part because, in this day and age, the common mentality is “cash rules everything around me,” no matter whom you are.

But Smart is a modern-day Renais-

sance man and is truly one of a kind.

A person who counts collecting famous, intellectual quotes as one of his pastimes, Smart is a cerebral man who has deep values that stretch far beyond the purse strings.

The Wisconsin native was accepted to Harvard for college and turned it down because he cared so deeply about the connection he had with a local coach he had met at Kenyon College closer to his home in the Midwest.

Additionally, he never played Division I basketball and thus doesn’t have the inherent – and, at times almost subservient and elitist – loyalty to high-major programs.

Most of all, he’s always been someone with a chip on his shoulder.

So it was more like a dream, then, when Smart came out with the news Wednesday that he’d rejected Illinois’ deal – not just for VCU fans but fans of all mid-majors.

Finally, we – not just VCU fans, but mid-major fans – had somebody whose loyalty ran deeper than their bank account.

Finally, we – not just VCU fans, but mid-major fans – had someone who saw as much in this so-called mid-major university as they did in any other school across the country.

Finally, we – not just VCU fans, but mid-major fans – have a David ready to slay Goliaths.

Smart’s move is a rare move, but it’s an important one, because it lets us know the truest of people still exist, however rare the may be. Loyalty can still run deep, Smart’s tale teaches us.

Community and camaraderie – they can still be thick.

So, after the painful turn of events versus Indiana in the NCAA Tournament, VCU fans will be glad to turn to a good tale, one that for now is complete with a happy ending.

Yes, for now, VCU fans can get back on with their journey of a lifetime – and, by extension, so can all fans of mid-majors. **CT**

Headline sent in via Twitter by @Destry-White. Follow @TheCT_Sports on Twitter for future contests.



Shaka Smart turned down a multimillion dollar offer from Illinois last week.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS CONWAY

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UVA Asthma and Allergic Diseases Center
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PHOTO ESSAY

Chris Conway
Photography Editor

Shooting baseball always presents new challenges for me as a photographer. It's one of those sports where as a photographer you have to be very sharp due to the fact that a play can suddenly come from nowhere, and if you aren't ready for it, you will miss it. The cloudy

weather Sunday afternoon was great for me as a photographer since it takes out the the challenge of the ever-changing light you typically get on a sunny day. I look forward to my next baseball shoot and the challenges it will present. **CT**





VCU Men's April baseball schedule

March 27	at Liberty	6 p.m.
March 30	at Northeastern	3 p.m.
March 31	at Northeastern	12 p.m.
April 1	at Northeastern	1 p.m.
April 4	Liberty	6 p.m.
April 6	George Mason	6 p.m.
April 7	George Mason	3 p.m.
April 8	George Mason	1 p.m.
April 10	VMI	6 p.m.
April 13	at Delaware	3 p.m.
April 14	at Delaware	1 p.m.
April 15	at Delaware	1 p.m.
April 17	at Longwood	7 p.m.
April 20	William & Mary	6 p.m.
April 21	William & Mary	3 p.m.
April 22	William & Mary	1 p.m.
April 27	at Old Dominion	6 p.m.
April 28	at Old Dominion	6 p.m.
April 29	at Old Dominion	2 p.m.

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SPECTRUM

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PHOTOS BY AMBER-LYNN TABER

Dr. Sketchy's: an out-of-this-world drawing class

Samantha Foster
Assistant Spectrum Editor

The stage of Strange Matter, normally used for concerts and beard competitions, held a different sort of entertainment this past Thursday.

Hot Tottie Holly, more commonly known as Holly Sullivan, was clad in a bombshell-blond wig and homemade supersuit she made to resemble the outfit of Barbarella, the glamorous space-traveling sex warrior. “Barbarella” is a 1968 cult classic film starring Jane Fonda as a sex-crazed astronaut.

“I’ve modeled before, but not in front of this kind of audience,” Sullivan said. “It’s so amazing. The models dress in costumes, and it’s fun to be surrounded by that and still brush up on your drawing skills.”

Dr. Sketchy’s Anti-Art School, founded in 2005 in a bar in Brooklyn, is now a worldwide alternative drawing movement with locations in over 100 cities, including Richmond. Artists, both professional and novice, gather every month to draw fabulously costumed models, burlesque dancers,

drag queens and many other types of “underground” performers – including Hot Tottie Holly.

The Richmond branch of the Anti-Art School is currently owned by headmistress Deanna Danger, but it passed through several owners before she adopted it. Danger took over the Richmond branch in January 2011, after having been a model for a drawing session.

“It’s special to Richmond, so I picked it up and helped revive it,” Danger said.

Danger is the owner and instructor at Boom Boom Basics Burlesque Studio and Richmond’s only full-time burlesquer. She also works as a model, aerialist, producer and designer.

For the past three years, Dr. Sketchy’s Richmond has been held at Strange Matter on the third Wednesday of every month. Attendees must bring their own drawing or painting supplies.

Each session is three hours long and includes two-minute, five-minute, 10-minute, 15-minute and 20-minute sessions. Tickets are \$7 or \$5 with student ID.

“Artists who come out to draw at our

sessions have a chance to meet, mingle, eat and drink, share their work and get a great experience drawing figures and poses far outside the norm of regular college or studio figure-drawing sessions,” Danger said.

Models for Dr. Sketchy Richmond vary every month, and the same model has never been used twice, except for Danger. Other models have included burlesque stars Cherrie Canary and Indy Go-Go, belly dancers, circus artists, cosplay models, fetish models and men.

“(The male models) tend to wear less than the girls,” Danger said. “At any given Dr. Sketchy’s Richmond session, one can expect a professional and talented model, wearing an extravagant or unique costume of sorts, to model and pose in a theme for the artists to draw, sketch or paint.”

Artists also have a chance to win prizes for their sketches. During one of the longer sessions, Danger announces a theme or invented setting for the artists to incorporate into their drawing.

“I like to be silly with it,” Danger said. “It’s all light hearted.”

Prizes have included a book from

Dr. Sketchy’s Anti-Art School is a once-a-month, live-model drawing session, featuring Richmond’s finest underground performers.

Baby Tattoo, burlesque show tickets and items from local artisans.

All levels of artists are invited to attend Dr. Sketchy. Every session is all ages since models do not disrobe because of state laws on nudity.

“We get lots of regulars, but we’re always getting new people coming out,” Danger said.

Most attendees are college students or post-graduates, but Dr. Sketchy also draws in a crowd of professional illustrators and art lovers.

AFO student Scott Mitsching came to his first Dr. Sketchy session this month.

“It’s really fun, more fun than the nudes in drawing class,” Mitsching said. “They just kind of sit there.”

Dr. Sketchy will be offering a free drawing session April 1 at the Virginia Comic-Con.

“I would encourage anyone who draws or would like to try drawing, who also likes beautiful, funny and elaborately costumed models to come to our sessions,” Danger said. “We are open to all.” **CT**

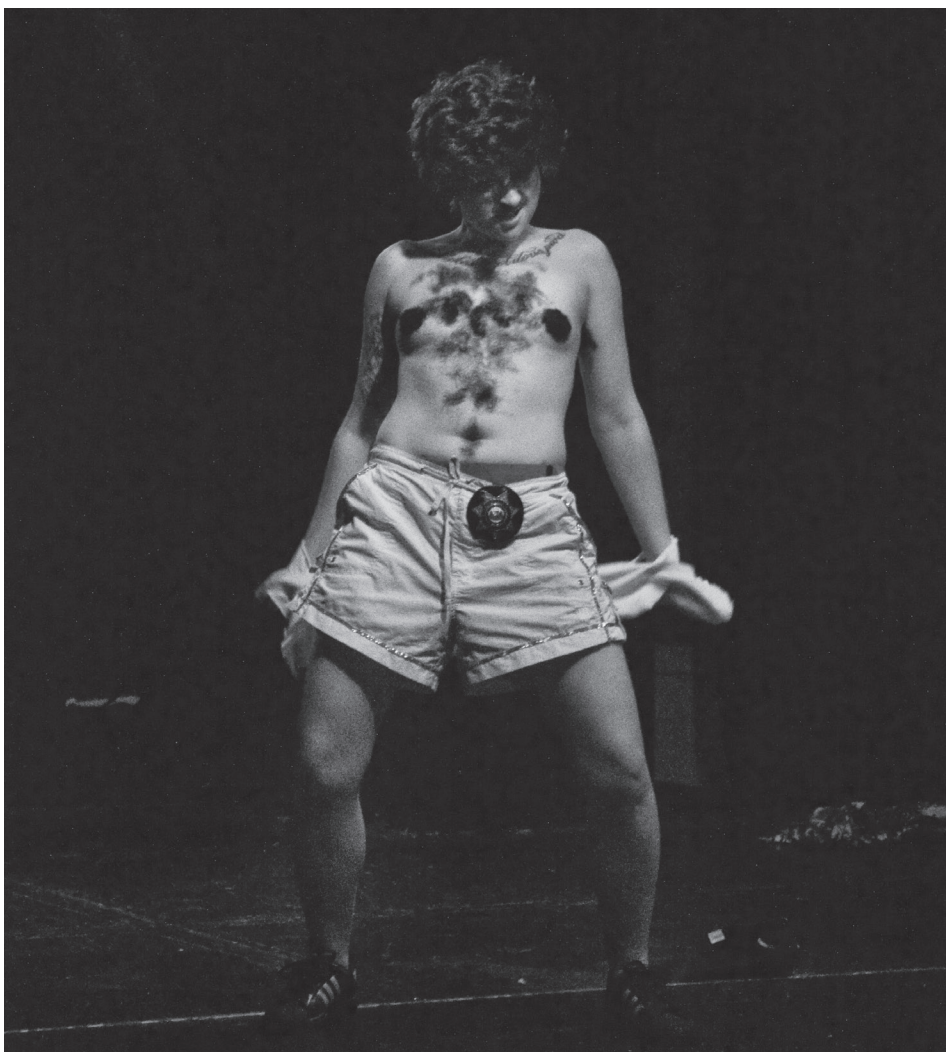


PHOTOS BY AMBER-LYNN TABER



Local model Hot Tottie Holly posed as the sex-crazed astronaut Barbarella for this month's Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School session.





Producer Deanna Danger struts her stuff in her burlesque act as a male police officer.



PHOTOS BY AMBER-LYNN TABER

Burlesque, 'boylesque' raise money for Fan Free Clinic

Samantha Foster
Assistant Spectrum Editor

The second annual gender-bending burlesque, boylesque and drag show, Androgenesque, entertained a standing room only crowd this past Saturday at Gallery5.

Androgenesque was produced by the owner and instructor of Boom Boom Basics Burlesque Studio, Deanna Danger. Danger, a model and Richmond's only full time burlesquer, is also the owner of Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School.

Androgenesque benefited the Fan Free Clinic. The Fan Free Clinic was founded in 1968 and works to provide medical treatment, health education and social services to Richmond.

GayRVA, Richmond's news source specifically for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community, sponsored Androgenesque.

Androgenesque is a part of Fun for a Cause Week. Fun for a Cause is Richmond's biggest drag show fundraiser. On March 27, Fun for a Cause will have its fourth annual show at the Renaissance Conference Center. Fun for a Cause benefits local LGBT non-profits including the Fan Free Clinic and the Gay Community Center of Richmond.

All raffle proceeds from Androgenesque benefitted the Fan Free Clinic. Prizes included tickets to Fun for a Cause, gift certificates to Boom Boom Basics Burlesque Studio, and a set of pasties.

Host of Androgenesque and Fun for a Cause and local drag star Natasha Carrington prepared the audience for the show by warning them that it was "an evening of pure confusion." She also proceeded to call out members of the audience and encourage lap dances from the performers.

"I am a boy in a dress," Carrington said, addressing a heckler in the audience. "My (breasts) weigh more than both of yours, mostly because they're all silicon."

Androgenesque consisted of various types of performance art, including lip syncing, burlesque and boylesque. (Whereas burlesque is the art of women dressed as men shedding their clothes until they were down just to pasties and a thong, "boylesque" refers to men shedding their normal, male clothes until they are also down to pasties and a thong.)

"Burlesque lets you explore those gender and sex roles," Danger said.

Danger performed several burlesque acts, including one Aladdin-themed performance with fellow burlesque star, The Muse. For her second act, Danger had covered her chest in a carpet of dark hair.

Drag performer Michelle Livigne had the audience screaming during her lip syncing of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance," as did variety show performer Buster Britches during his lip sync and boylesque performance of "Money" from Cabaret.

Performer Jebediah Stone performed a boylesque routine, which took him from a three piece suit and tie to an orange and white dress, while still break dancing the whole time.

From Raleigh, N.C., burlesque dancer Meka La Creme ended the night with a moment of pure confusion. Her man to woman burlesque performance ended with another actor dressed as Jesus pouring chocolate syrup down her front and carrying her off stage.

"Our aim is to push all the boundaries," Danger said. "It's celebrating the fact that it's okay to dress differently. It's all beautiful and it should all be celebrated." **CT**



Meka La Creme came from Raleigh, N.C. to perform her burlesque act and coat the audience in confetti.



Jebediah Stone's "boylesque" act at this year's Androgeneseque included him changing from a three-piece suit to an orange sundress.

PHOTOS BY AMBER-LYNN TABER

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STILLS COURTESY OF ALLIANCE FILMS

Film Review | The Hunger Games, part I

Michael Todd
Staff Writer

Beginning with the midnight premiere this past Thursday, movie goers have been battling over tickets to view the much-anticipated first film in The Hunger Games trilogy franchise.

"The Hunger Games" tells the story of a future dystopian society called Panem. Panem's 12 districts, in atonement for revolting against the glamorous and corrupt Capitol decades earlier, must annually offer up one young male and female to fight to the death for a nationally televised reality show.

Both the novel and film center on Katniss Everdeen, portrayed by Jennifer Lawrence, a citizen of the poorest district who supports her mother and sister by illegal hunting outside of Panem's boundaries.

The first hour of the film progresses in a slow-but-engaging build up of overall well-done cinematic moments, including the heart-stopping Reaping scene in which Katniss volunteers to take her younger sister's place when she is selected as a tribute for the Games.

"The Reaping was definitely a highlight of the film," said biology major Will Harriman. "All the actors did such a wonderful job, it was just amazing to see the characters come to life."

VCU student complaints surrounding the film have been minor. Many students agreed Thursday night the film's PG-13 rating may have prevented it from reaching its full potential.

"If they had given the movie a rating of R, I feel like (the film) would have been truer (to the novel)," said Megan Meszaros, one of a group of theater majors who attended the midnight

premiere in full tribute costume, right down to the gash above her eyebrow.

"That is not to say that it did not meet my expectations," "Truthfully I was terrified that they would cater things to the younger readers ... But they did a marvelous job."

While remaining faithful to the novel, the violence and trauma of the film was not fully realized, according to viewers such as Meszaros. For instance, the deaths of Rue, a child tribute befriended by Katniss, and Cato, a tribute trained by his district for the glory of fighting in the games, should have been bloodier and more gruesome. The truth of the matter is that The Hunger Games are supposed to be a gruesome fight to the death between children; this can't be properly achieved with a PG-13 rating.

Another common criticism of the film was a lack of development of the characters. While it has been practically unanimously agreed upon that the cast selection was nearly flawless, some students complained that the characters were not able to grow over the course of the film. Whether or not this is a fault of the actors or a product of the nature of the film, is hard to say.

"For the most part, (the characters) stayed pretty one level throughout the whole ordeal," Meszaros said.

"Some may say that Jennifer Lawrence was deadpan," Harriman said, "but that is unfortunately the character of Katniss."

On the plus side, the film translated as considerably less melodramatic than the novel due to the absence of Katniss' inner dialogue and constant internal struggle over who to trust and what actions to take. For better or worse, this allowed for a higher emphasis on the

actual events of the Games.

The most appreciated attributes of the film were the artfully crafted scenes that foreshadow events of the future films, "Catching Fire" and "Mockingjay." The inclusion of the scenes such as the citizens of District 11 revolting after Rue's death seem to promise a firm

foundation for the remainder of the trilogy, as well as an increased level of continuity between each film.

To the excitement and surprise of the fandom, the movie adaptation of the first novel in The Hunger Games trilogy was an immense success. As for "Catching Fire," the second film in the trilogy, which is set to premiere in fall of 2013, "May the odds be ever in your favor." **CT**



Student literary journal prepares for open-mic night

Alex Carrigan
Contributing Writer

VCU's artistic literary anthology, Poictesme, will hold its open-mic night Monday March 26th at 8 p.m. in anticipation of the release of its latest yearly installment.

Set to occur at Rev it Up! Café on Main Street, the event will feature readings from a number of student writers whose work has been selected for this year's Poictesme (pronounced pwa-'tem), as well as anyone else who wishes to share readings, music or performances of any kind.

Every year, the staff of Poictesme takes in a wide array of student submissions. Having now finalized their decision on which of the poetry, short fiction, photography and art work they will publish, the Poictesme staff planned the open-mic night in an effort to draw

interest for the journal.

"As much a chance as it is to share people's work, it's just as much a chance for the people who got in to the journal and who helped make this journal such a success," said Amy Sailer, Poictesme editor-in-chief.

Sailer said she chose Rev it Up! as the event location due to its location near campus, its great music selection and the spread of food and drinks to be served at the event.

Rev it Up! general manager John Hartman said the café will prepare for the event in several ways: Aside from a custom menu, which includes a massive bread and toppings buffet, the café will also take down their usual wall hangings to

substitute student artwork accepted for publication in the journal.

The event will also be utilized in part to attract new staff members and volunteers, Sailer said. **CT**

WHAT: Poictesme Open-Mic Night – bring writing, music, and all creations

WHO: Poictesme student literary journal

WHERE: Rev It Up! Café on Main Street

WHEN: Monday March 26 at 8 p.m.



To the excitement and surprise of the fandom, the movie adaptation of the first novel in The Hunger Games trilogy was an immense success. As for "Catching Fire," the second film in the trilogy, which is set to premiere in fall of 2013, "May the odds be ever in your favor."

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OPINION

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Media sniping and inaccurate reporting kills a just cause • 18

“Trying Too Hard” comic • 19

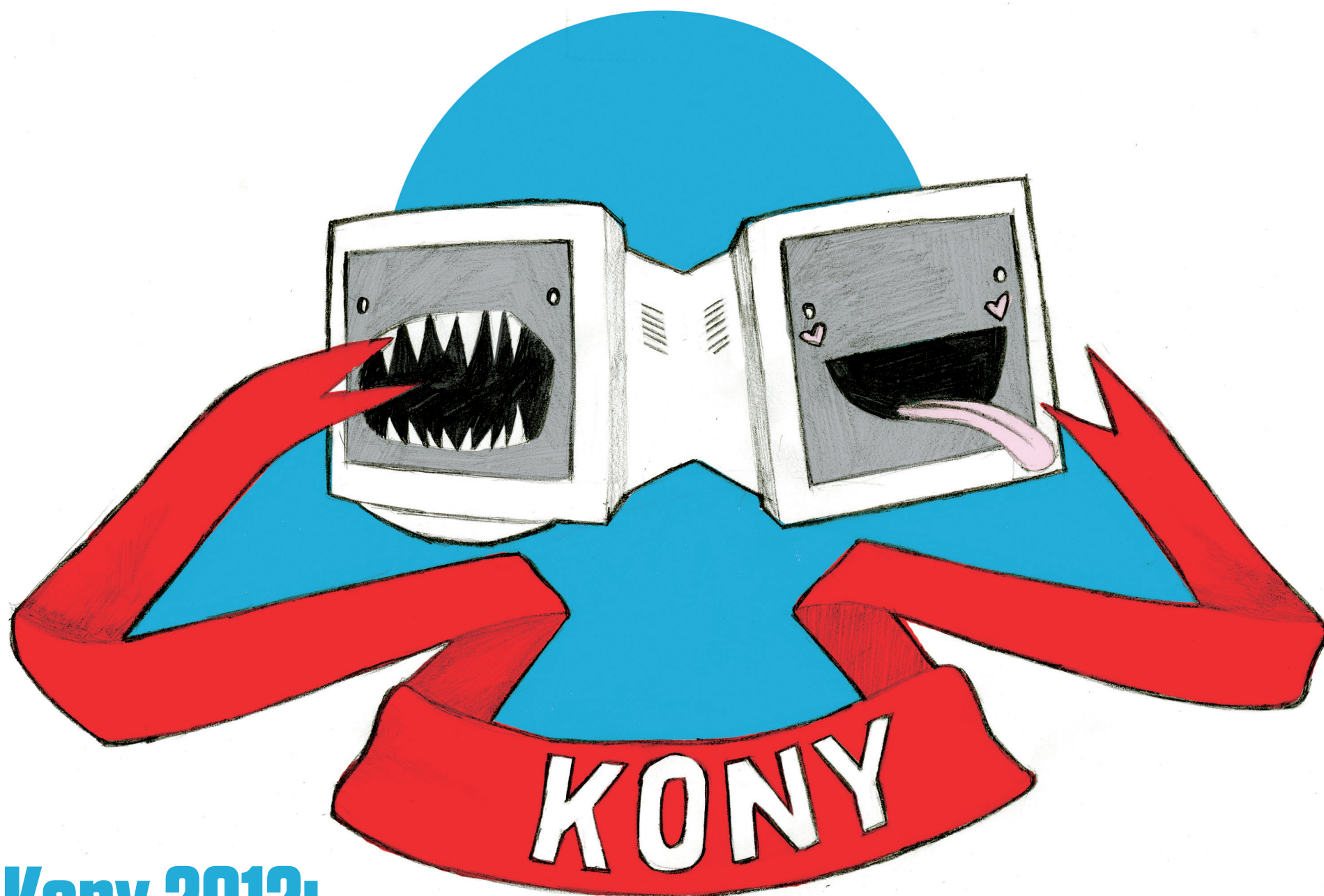


ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH SWANN

Kony 2012: a just cause, a lost cause

Shane Wade
Opinion Editor

You've probably watched or heard about the "Kony 2012" film that's been making rounds on the Internet. You've also probably heard the criticism that detractors have leveled against Invisible Children and the film's director Jason Russell.

But after all that, what good has been done? Are you any better informed? Who has benefitted from the Kony 2012 movement?

Not you, not Invisible Children and not the people suffering overseas.

Why? Because in the weeks following the release of "Kony 2012," detractors and critics have so aggressively fact-

checked and worked to discredit Invisible Children that the focus of "Kony 2012" has turned from helping children in Uganda to debating the merits of any and all social movements.

The initial backlash from Invisible Children against Kony has led to backlash of Invisible Children by critics. Then there was a backlash against those critics by supporters, followed by a backlash against both critics and supporters by those that disapprove of both critics and supporters for detracting away from the central issue with their petty snipes.

Invisible Children did their job, and informed otherwise uninformed people about something that matters. But in the course of that duty, they cut ethical

corners to make a film so heart-renderingly poignant that they didn't tell the full, unabridged story.

Three backlashes. That's all it took to distract us.

The initial fact-checkers did their job, and informed people about the finances and work of Invisible Children. But they also cut corners in the course of that duty and didn't give the organization its due credit to directly respond to criticisms before the articles were published.

Everyone did their job, but did so insufficiently. By using the power of social media to negate the power of social media, a chain of cynicism has been formed.

Two wrongs don't make a right.

When media outlets began to report and opinion writers began to comment on "Kony 2012," they did a grave disservice to themselves, social media, and a generation of optimistic youths by not doing their due diligence in accurately reporting.

Here are the facts: Invisible Children's main function is to inform people about occurrences involving child labor or child slavery. There is no war in Northern Uganda right now. Joseph Kony is on the run. In October 2011, the United States sent 100 military advisors to aid the Uganda government in their effort to capture Kony and defeat his Lord's Resistance Army. Uganda has a multitude of other problems, including government corruption, disease and

poverty. These are the uncolored facts that can lead to you making an informed decision about "Kony 2012."

But we've so effectively corralled social media to advocate and dismiss causes that we're immediately able to both negate any good that's been done and detract from the heart of the issue.

Today, it appears that the facts don't

matter; only how they are presented. "Kony 2012" represents the inelastic demand that is the future of social media. As situations and events are appropriately reported on, two camps – supporters and detractors – will vehemently engage in a race to outwit, fact-check and discredit the other.

Thus, we are witness to the double-

edged sword of living in an age of instant access to information: Anything that can be achieved through quick re-blogs, retweets or Facebook shares can also be defeated.

At the end of the day, the original cause is lost and ignored.

The media will instead report on the battle between the two opposing

advocacy groups. Citizen observers will groan and tire of the fight. Optimistic youth will turn cynical as once again, the thing they care about is co-opted by the establishment.

At the end of the day, a cause is lost for want of a cause. **CT**

COMICS

"Trying Too Hard" by Andy Kay



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