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BRIEFS

On the cover:

VCU student Troy Stanford protested the anti-abortion group, the Genocide Awareness Project, in the Commons Plaza on Wednesday.

Photo by Amber-Lynn Taber

Local & VCU

Va. grants permission for operating room at Planned Parenthood clinic

Virginia's top health official has granted permission to Planned Parenthood to create an operating room at its Virginia Beach health clinic to provide gynecological services to poor women in the Hampton Roads and Peninsula areas.

State Health Commissioner Karen Remley ruled late last week that the barriers to care for poor women in the region justified a certificate of public need for the operating room, despite a general surplus of operating rooms in the region.

In granting the certificate, Remley dismissed concerns expressed by her staff and a major hospital chain in the region that the operating room was not needed, as well as accusations by anti-abortion activists that the surgical center would be used for late-term abortions.

"These patients may face barriers to accessing surgical services, and to maintaining continuity of care, making them unlikely to seek or obtain such services in traditional health care settings," she ruled. "Reasonable alternatives to care for this population do not appear to exist."

Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Virginia had sought state approval for two operating rooms at the Virginia Beach Health Center to provide diagnosis and surgical procedures for gynecological conditions such as pelvic pain, vaginal bleeding, breast masses and chronic incontinence.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Inchworms infest area but nature will take its course

If you're creeped out by this year's bumper crop of inchworms, you're not alone.

The unusually large infestation means extension agents in Hanover and Chesterfield counties have been bombarded with requests.

"Because of their lifecycle, there's not much you can do," Hanover extension agent, Jim Schroering said. "The (cankerworms) should be done here in about two weeks. The population will crash or pupate into another form and go back in the ground."

Chris Asaro, a forest-health specialist for the Virginia Division of Forestry, said the outbreak is occurring in Chesterfield, Henrico, Hanover, Powhatan and Amelia counties in many of the same areas where cankerworms were a problem last year.

The area around Richmond seems to have large buildups in cankerworm populations every 10 to 20 years, Asaro said. The outbreak typically runs its course in two or three years.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Report: NoVa healthier than southern parts of Va.

Counties and municipalities in Northern Virginia tend to be healthier than their counterparts in the southern part of the state, according to a report released Tuesday.

The report, released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin researchers, ranks counties by several health factors and other areas such as education, access to health care and unemployment.

The report declared Fairfax County the healthiest area overall, followed by Arlington and Loudoun in northern Virginia; Albemarle, in central Virginia; and York, in eastern Virginia.

At the bottom of the list is the city of Petersburg, whose premature death rate was more than double the state average and four times higher than Fairfax County. Petersburg also was last in behaviors such as adult smoking and obesity and physical inactivity, and worst in social and economic factors such as education, unemployment and poverty.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

National & International

Romney sweeps GOP primaries

Mitt Romney tightened his grip on the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday night with a sweep, winning primaries in Wisconsin, Maryland and Washington, D.C., with time left over to swap charges with President Barack Obama.

"Four more years?" Romney asked sarcastically as supporters cheered in Milwaukee.

He said Obama was "a little out of touch" after spending four years surrounded by the trappings of power and had presided over near-record job losses as well as increases in poverty, home foreclosures, government debt and gasoline prices.

In Washington, Obama said things could be worse – and he predicted they will be if Romney and the Republicans get their way.

Wisconsin was the marquee contest of the night, the only place of the three on the ballot where Santorum mounted a significant effort. Romney's victory there marked his fourth in little more than a month in a belt of industrial states that includes Michigan, Ohio and Illinois.

Brief by the Associated Press

UN: 2.4 million human trafficking victims

The U.N. crime-fighting office said Tuesday that 2.4 million people across the globe are victims of human trafficking at any one time, and 80 percent of them are being exploited as sexual slaves.

Yuri Fedotov, the head of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, told a daylong General Assembly meeting on trafficking that 17 percent are trafficked to perform forced labor, including in homes and sweat shops.

He said \$32 billion is being earned every year by unscrupulous criminals running human trafficking networks, and two out of every three victims are women.

Fighting these criminals "is a challenge of extraordinary proportions," Fedotov said.

According to Fedotov's Vienna-based office, only one out of 100 victims of trafficking is ever rescued.

Fedotov called for coordinated local, regional and international responses that balance "progressive and proactive law enforcement" with actions that combat "the market forces driving human trafficking in many destination countries."

Brief by the Associated Press

White House approves new refugee aid to Sudan

The United States is "gravely concerned" about the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and South Sudan and is sending up to \$26 million to help refugees displaced by the African border conflict, an administration spokesman said Tuesday.

President Barack Obama authorized the emergency relief for refugees from the conflict in two Sudanese border states. The money will go to the United Nations humanitarian agency effort to provide food and protection to some 140,000 Sudanese refugees who have fled bombing and desperate conditions along the border.

A day earlier, Obama had asked South Sudan President Salva Kiir in a telephone conversation to ensure that South Sudan's military exercises maximum restraint and is not involved in or supporting fighting along the border, the White House said. Obama urged a quick agreement on the flow of oil, the issue that has brought the newly separate countries close to war.

The refugees have mostly fled into neighboring South Sudan and Ethiopia. Sudan has refused to allow aid agencies into the region.

Brief by the Associated Press

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NEWS

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Graphic images draw criticism from students

Some approach university about images of abortion, genocide in Commons Plaza



PHOTOS BY AMBERLYNN TABER



The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform runs its Genocide Awareness Project on college campuses nationwide. Wednesday's display in the Commons Plaza featured photos of abortion procedures and historical genocides, including the Holocaust. Some VCU students found the display inappropriate and contacted the university to voice their complaints.

Mechelle Hankerson
News Editor

Mark Robinson
Assistant News Editor

Thousands of students took notice of a graphic display by a national anti-abortion group featuring photos of abortion procedures and historical genocides Wednesday in VCU's Commons Plaza.

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform runs the Genocide Awareness Project on college campuses, which shows photos comparing historical instances of genocide to what they consider America's contemporary genocide: abortion.

Some VCU students took offense to the group's setup in the Commons Plaza

on Wednesday, questioning not only the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform's decision to equate abortion with genocide but also VCU administration's allowance of the controversial group's display on campus.

VCU student McKenna Saady said she saw the display when she walked to her first class.

"I have never seen anything like that in my life," Saady said. "I was furious. I pay tuition to go here, and I do not think it's appropriate to show incredibly graphic images like that."

After seeing the display, Saady sent emails to the VCU Students for Life organization, which invited the Genocide Awareness Project to campus, and the Student Commons Association to

object to its placement on campus.

Saady was not alone. Fellow student Joe Woods also decided to contact the VCU Student Commons Association to object to the Genocide Awareness Project's display.

"I have attempted to raise my concerns with the sort of rhetoric they're permitting on their property," he said. "I'm just interested in hearing the logic behind why these graphic and hateful displays were permitted."

Woods said he understands that it would be unfair for the university to deny a certain group's demonstration, but he was still concerned about VCU's allowance of not just offensive content, but content Woods claims is false.

Woods stood in the Plaza with a

megaphone for part of the day letting anyone walking through know that the photos in the display are not how real abortions look.

As of press time, Woods had received no answer from VCU.

Another student, Troy Stanford, carried a sign that read "pro-choice" while protesting the group's presence.

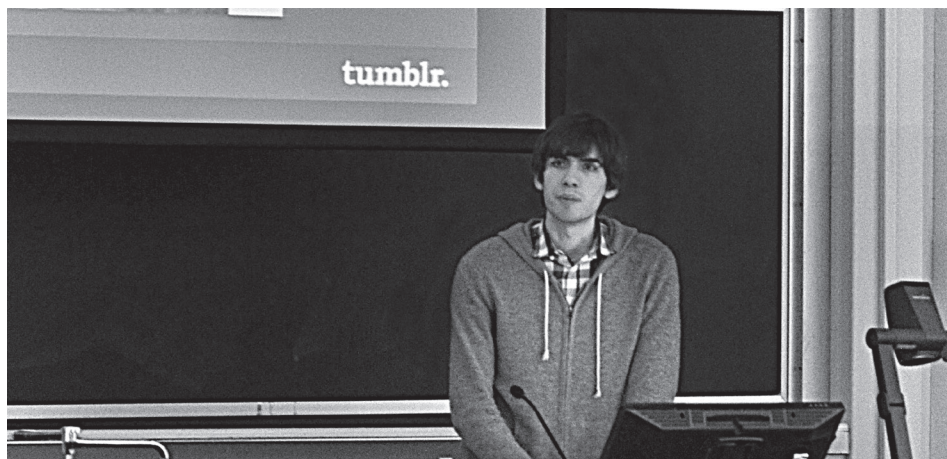
"I can't stand to look at it," he said. "It makes me sick." Stanford said he was also upset that VCU gave the space to the group.

"I think VCU should take into consideration what they allow on their campuses."

Throughout the day, the university was also hosting tours for prospective students.

Continued on page 4

Tumblr founder visits VCU for Mass Comm. month



Mechelle Hankerson
News Editor

David Karp was 17 years old when he began his own development firm, Davidville. Throughout the course of two years, Karp began thinking about blogging and how to create a blog that worked for him.

Karp said the two-year process was a “largely accidental evolution” that created a site for him to use a personal blogging platform.

Tumblr, the site that came from Karp’s self-described “selfish” development process, now hosts more than 50 million blogs with more than 20 billion posts since Karp founded the site in 2007.

Karp visited VCU Monday night to deliver the Turpin Lecture on Media Management to kick off the School of Mass Communications’ Mass Comm. month.

Karp discussed the evolution of the popular site and how it went from being his way of creating a blogging platform that fit his needs to one of the most popular platforms on the internet, generating more than 600 posts a second.

In 2011, Tumblr opened its second office in Richmond and has drawn on VCU to help staff its 30-person support team.

According to Karp, Tumblr’s support team (run strictly out of Richmond’s office) has the fastest response time of any comparable site, which includes sites like LinkedIn and Facebook.

VCU alumnae, Renee Perron, class of 2010 and Tess Shebaylo, class of 2004, are both support managers at the local Tumblr office. They said Tumblr’s goal is always to best serve its users.

“I think we can echo what David said about designing for himself and blogging for himself, asking what kind of features do I want to see, what kind of features do I want to use ... (and) keep-

ing Tumblr very pure,” Shebaylo said.

Before Karp opened an office in Richmond, he had Richmond local Mark LaFontaine working with him remotely. Logistically, Karp said it made sense to open the support office where LaFontaine was already doing the work, but Richmond also fit the many criteria for being an operational part of the Tumblr family.

“We needed to recruit people who not only understand social media and this generation of tools but also really understand the technology,” Karp said. “(We also wanted) very sympathetic humans who can appreciate the nuance of community issues and make really smart tactical decisions in very complicated areas.”

Tumblr support also hosts about a dozen different languages that allow international users to get responses in their native language. According to Karp, all support correspondence, regardless of what language it is, comes from the Richmond office.

“We just had so much luck finding a town full of people who match all that criteria across the board (in Richmond),” Karp said.

Shebaylo said Richmond’s thriving creative community also made it a good fit for the constantly evolving microblogging site.

“Richmond has always been full of innovators, and I’d love to see it get back to that ... (especially) in social media,” she said.

While Karp discussed how Tumblr is constantly changing (he said developers will be focusing on cleaning up corporate pages on the site), he said the site just reached a milestone: It officially has 100 employees and has new teams working in Berlin and Brazil.

VCU’s Mass Comm month continues on April 12, with a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame. **CT**

25-year-old Tumblr founder David Karp dropped out of high school in 2002 and now runs one of the most popular international blogging sites. Karp delivered the Turpin Lecture on Media Management for the beginning of VCU’s Mass Comm. Month.

Continued from page 3

Associate vice provost for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services Charles Klink said the university does not regulate any demonstration’s content because there is no fair way to do so. If an organization abides by the time, place and manner restrictions the university has in place, its content will not be censored, he said.

“One of the hallmarks of any university campus is the legally protected right to express a variety of opinions,” Klink said. “When you have an environment where people are able to do that, certainly some perspectives are going to be offensive to others.”

Official VCU policy states “peaceful, reasonable and lawful picketing and other orderly demonstrations in approved areas shall not be subject to interference by the members of the University community,” but also that “those involved

in picketing and demonstrations may not engage in conduct that violates the rights of any member of the University community.”

All other guidelines from the university address security and parking restrictions and policies.

Director of Virginia Programs for the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform Nicole W. Cooley said the Genocide Awareness Project aims to point out comparisons of abortion to genocide, but don’t believe they are exactly the same.

“There’s points of comparison; we’re not saying they’re identical,” Cooley said.

The group says that a denial of personhood, attempting to serve a higher purpose through genocide (attempting to get rid of “unwanted” children) and the use of dehumanizing language all bear a resemblance to historical geno-

cides like the Holocaust and Rwandan Genocide.

“In genocide you see dehumanizing language to describe the victimized class ... when we have a wanted pre-born child ... we call it a baby, if it’s not wanted, now you have a fetus, a product of conception, a glob of tissue (or) a clump of cells,” Cooley said.

Even though the group uses genocide to help explain their position, Cooley said their ultimate message is simple: “We’re saying in all cases it’s wrong to kill another human being for an arbitrary reason.”

Cooley herself had an abortion after a rape. She said she considered herself pro-choice before the incident but now could never imagine having another abortion.

“I know firsthand that abortion hurts women, and I was not educated about

the truth before I had my abortion,” Cooley said. “If I had known the truth, I would not have had an abortion, and I would not have suffered in that aftermath,” Cooley said.

Cooley said she wants to change the way society views abortion to make people see abortion as not just illegal, but also unthinkable.

“I want people to think, ‘OK, I have other options other than killing my children,’ and ... I want abortion to be at the bottom of the heap,” she said. “I want (people) to know the truth and (that) they can seek out crisis pregnancy centers (and) go talk to somebody first before they jump into a decision they can never take back.” **CT**

Mason Brown contributed to this story.

New SGA president elected; student turnout low

Mark Robinson
Assistant News Editor

Less than 3 percent of VCU students voted in the Monroe Park Campus SGA presidential election held last week between March 27 and March 29.

A total of 956 of the more than 32,000 students at VCU voted in the online election. Less than 700 students who voted in the Fall election for student senators.

Senior biology major Jae Lee received 518 votes and will serve as president of the Monroe Park Campus SGA next year. The voter turnout for the election speaks to the disconnect between the SGA and the student body, Lee said.

"With every election, it's unfortunate, but it always seems to be a low number (of voters)," Lee said. "It's a big disappointment when you don't have a lot of people voting."

Despite the turnout, Lee said he is more concerned with increasing representation from the different schools within the VCU community than the number of total voters.

The majority of candidates running for office in SGA represent the College of Humanities and Sciences. The engineering and business schools, as well as the School of the Arts, are underrep-

resented, Lee said.

"Ultimately, it comes down to getting not just higher numbers, but a wider variety of students to hear what other schools are having issues with," Lee said.

The SGA will target those schools specifically to increase student partici-

gy major, said he saw the advertisements around campus but didn't participate. A flyer is sufficient at telling people an election is happening, but not enough to persuade a student to vote, he said.

"If more people said 'It's important. We need your vote. You're an important

down. Lee applied to replace him and was chosen to complete the term.

As president, Lee said he hopes to increase transparency between the SGA and student body to improve participation in SGA sponsored events.

One of his top priorities as president, Lee said, will be to promote on-campus safety for students. Complaints about the efficiency of the VCU Escort Service should be addressed, he said. Lee said he hopes to work with VCU Police and VCU Technology Services to install a GPS tracking system for the escort service vans to improve customer service.

The promotion of new library initiatives, like iPad and Nook availability, will be a priority so students can use them in their studies, Lee said.

Lee will succeed current SGA president Asif Bhavnagri, who said the change of leadership marks a new direction for the SGA.

"I think it's phenomenal. I'm always excited about new thought processes coming into the executive positions," Bhavnagri said. "(Lee) brings something new to the table that I didn't. That's one of the greatest parts of these transition periods." **CT**

“Ultimately, it comes down to getting not just higher numbers, but a wider variety of students to hear what other schools are having issues with.”

pation next year, Lee said.

The Monroe Park Campus SGA advertised the election using social media and by posting flyers around campus. Individual candidates were expected to promote their own candidacy, Lee said. This was the first year president and vice president candidates did not run on the same ticket.

Jamison Lancaster, a junior psycholo-

asset to this voting process,' I feel like more people would be willing to vote," Lancaster said. "Advertisements are for the broad public, but what about the individual?"

Lee joined the SGA as a delegate his freshman year. He was elected as an SGA senator his sophomore, junior and senior years. At the beginning of this semester, the SGA vice president stepped

CRIME LOG

3/29 - 4/2

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Alcohol violation 7-Eleven, 1109 W. Main St. – A male visitor was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Alcohol violation At the corner of West Broad and North Lombardy streets – A female visitor was arrested for an open container of alcohol.

Fraud offense Main Street Parking Deck, 801 W. Main St. – A male employee advised that a known person drove off the deck without paying.

Grand larceny Student Commons, 907 Floyd Ave. – A female visitor advised that an unknown person(s) removed an item from an unsecured location.

Grand larceny Cary Street Gym, 101 S. Linden St. – A male student advised that an unknown person(s) removed items from a secured location.

Larceny Temple Building, 901 W. Main St. – A male student advised that an unknown person(s) removed an item from an unsecured location.

Petit larceny Cabell Library, 901 Park Ave. – A male student advised that an unknown person(s) removed an item from an unsecured location.

Petit larceny 710 W. Franklin St. – A female student advised that an unknown person(s) removed an item from a location.

Theft from motor vehicle 1333 W. Broad St. – A female victim advised that an unknown person(s) removed an item from a secured location.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Alcohol violation At the corner of West Grace and North Lombardy streets – A male student was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Fraud offense Main Street Parking Deck, 801 W. Main St. – A male employee advised that a known person committed fraud.

Grand larceny Brandt Hall, 710 W. Franklin St. – A male student advised that an unknown person(s) removed an item from an unsecured location.

Grand larceny Brandt Hall, 710 W. Franklin St. – Two male students advised that an unknown person(s) removed items from an unsecured location.

Hit and run of state property Henry Street Deck, 201 N. Henry St. – A male employee advised that a known person's vehicle struck the deck's gate.

Theft from motor vehicle At the corner of West Broad and North Pine streets – A male victim advised that an unknown person(s) removed items from a secured location.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

Alcohol violation/noise violation 706 Catherine St. – A male student was arrested for underage possession of alcohol. Two male students were arrested for maintaining a common nuisance.

Burglary 1132 W. Grace St. – An unknown person entered an apartment and removed items.

Drug offense/alcohol violation 800 block of West Marshall Street – A male student was arrested for possession of marijuana, identity fraud and underage consumption/possession of marijuana.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

Alcohol violation 5 S. Plum St. – A male visitor was arrested for underage possession/consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol violation 800 block of West Grace Street – A female student was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol violation Rhoads Hall/Brandt Hall, 710 W. Franklin St. – A female student was arrested for underage possession/consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol violation At the corner of North Lombardy and Hanover streets – A male student was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Trespassing Cary and Belvidere Dorm, 301 W. Cary St. – A female visitor was arrested for trespassing.

MONDAY, APRIL 2

Grand larceny Gladding Residence Center, 711 W. Main St. – A female student advised that an unknown person(s) removed an item from a secured location.

Burglary Rhoads Hall, 710 W. Franklin St. – A male student advised that an unknown person(s) removed items from a location.

**Compiled from
VCU Police reports**

SPORTS

In this section:

Baseball beats Liberty on walk-off squeeze bunt. • 6
College basketball's one-and-dones and their effects on mid-majors. • 8

Baseball buries Liberty for second time in a week

Jim Swing
Sports Editor

VCU junior Taylor Buran laid a slow-rolling bunt down the third-base line that nestled perfectly in an unreachable spot.

A three-run deficit, a furious comeback and a lulling rain delay had barreled down to the Ram outfielder's walk-off tapper down the life side of the field. And when it landed safely, VCU's bench stormed the wet, soggy field in jubilation as the Rams (17-12) defeated Liberty (25-7) 5-4 in the bottom of the ninth, dropping the Flames for the second time in a week.

VCU struggled to capitalize in the first three innings, leaving four runners stranded. Liberty catcher Trey Wim-

mer – who leads the Big South in throw outs – caught Joey Cujas and Bill Cullen attempting to get in scoring position in the early going.

Then the Flames made their move.

Liberty drove in the games first two runs on two hits, taking a 2-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning. The Flames were on a roll, and the Rams were left hanging dry. Zack Haley belted a double to deep left scoring Dalton Sype to give Liberty a 3-0 advantage in the top of the fifth inning.

But with two outs and a runner on third, VCU senior pitcher Seth Cutler-Voltz remained calmed, retiring the side and giving VCU a new lease on life.

Paul Nice and Bill Cullen lit up the bottom of the fifth with back-to-back

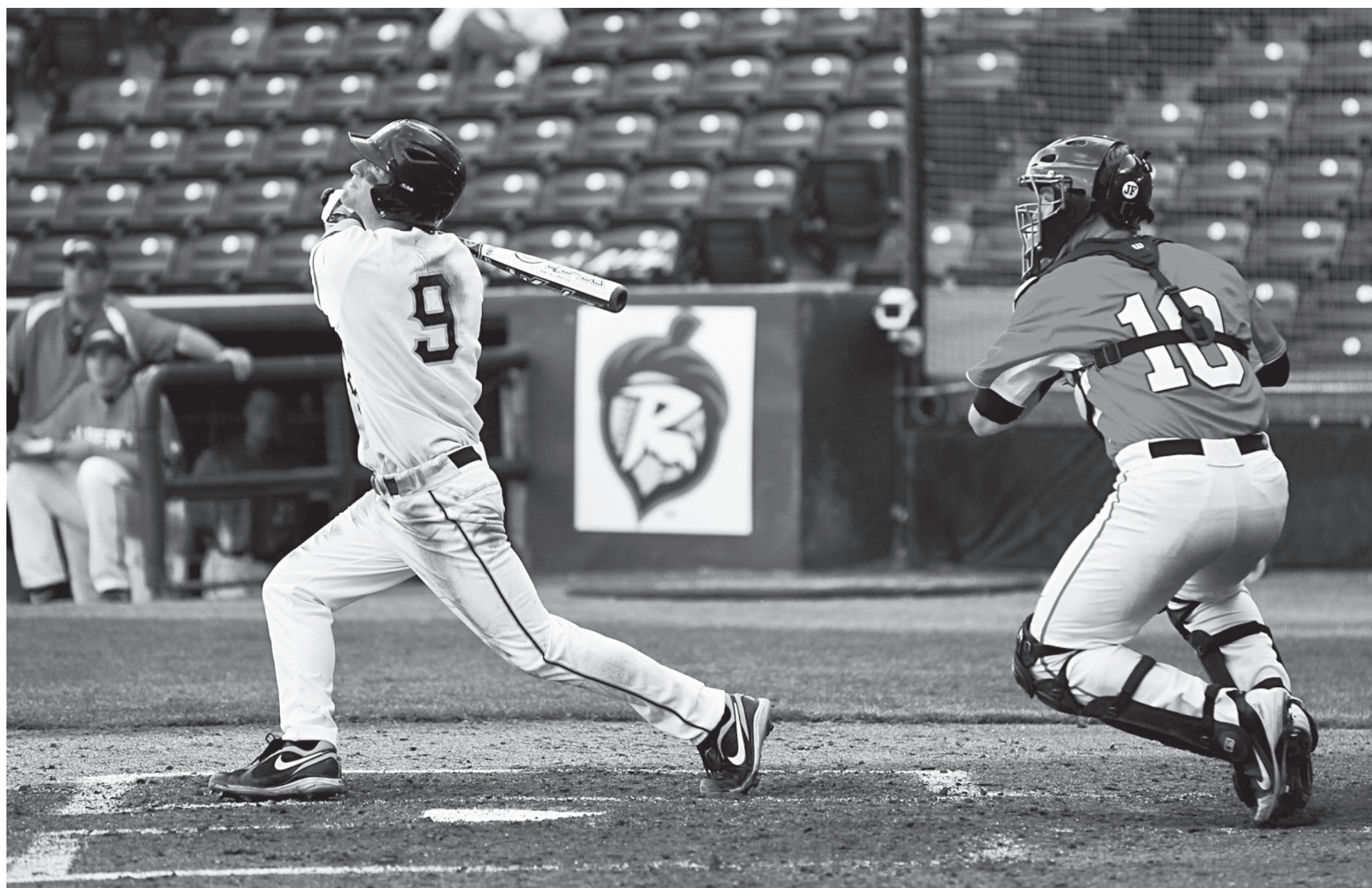
singles, which were followed by a wild pitch that scored Nice from third base to release the floodgates and cut the Flames' lead to one. Jordan Weymouth followed up with a triple to left center field that scored Cullen from third to whittle what was once a seemingly unreachable Liberty lead to one. Flames reliever Jared Lyons walked a red-hot Joey Cujas, setting up Brent Mikionis with the chance to knot the game up or even take the lead with Weymouth on third. The redshirt junior hit a deep sacrifice fly that scored Weymouth and tied the game at three runs apiece.

After allowing a single by Chris Ayers – whose become VCU's go-to situational hitter – Lyons finally escaped the inning by retiring Taylor Buran on a line drive



PHOTOS BY ZACH GIBSON

Senior Paul Nice went 1-for-4 in the Rams' second win over the Flames in a week.



Junior Jordan Weymouth had one triple and one RBI in VCU's win over Liberty.

to the pitcher's mound.

After recording five strikeouts and giving up three runs on seven hits in six and one-third innings, Cutler-Voltz was relieved by freshman lefty Matt Lees. Liberty threatened by loading the bases with two outs. Lees forced pinch-hitter Justin Sizemore into a groundout to break free from the inning. Senior right-hander Kyle Pelchy took over on the mound in the top of the eighth and took care of business, retiring the side.

Gushing rains flooded the Diamond in the middle of the eighth forcing a 33 minute rain delay.

When play resumed, Ayers once again delivered for VCU. The Chesterfield, Va. native ripped a single to left field. Liberty right-hander Trey Lambert then walked Vimal Machin before being relieved by Patrick Bankemper. Nick Abrahamson then singled up the middle into center field to give the Rams a one-run lead.

Closer Blake Hauser came on for VCU and threw a pair of wild pitches that allowed Liberty knot the game 4-4 in the top of the eighth. A catcher interference allowed Cujas on base followed by a sacrifice bunt and groundout set up Buran's walk-off.

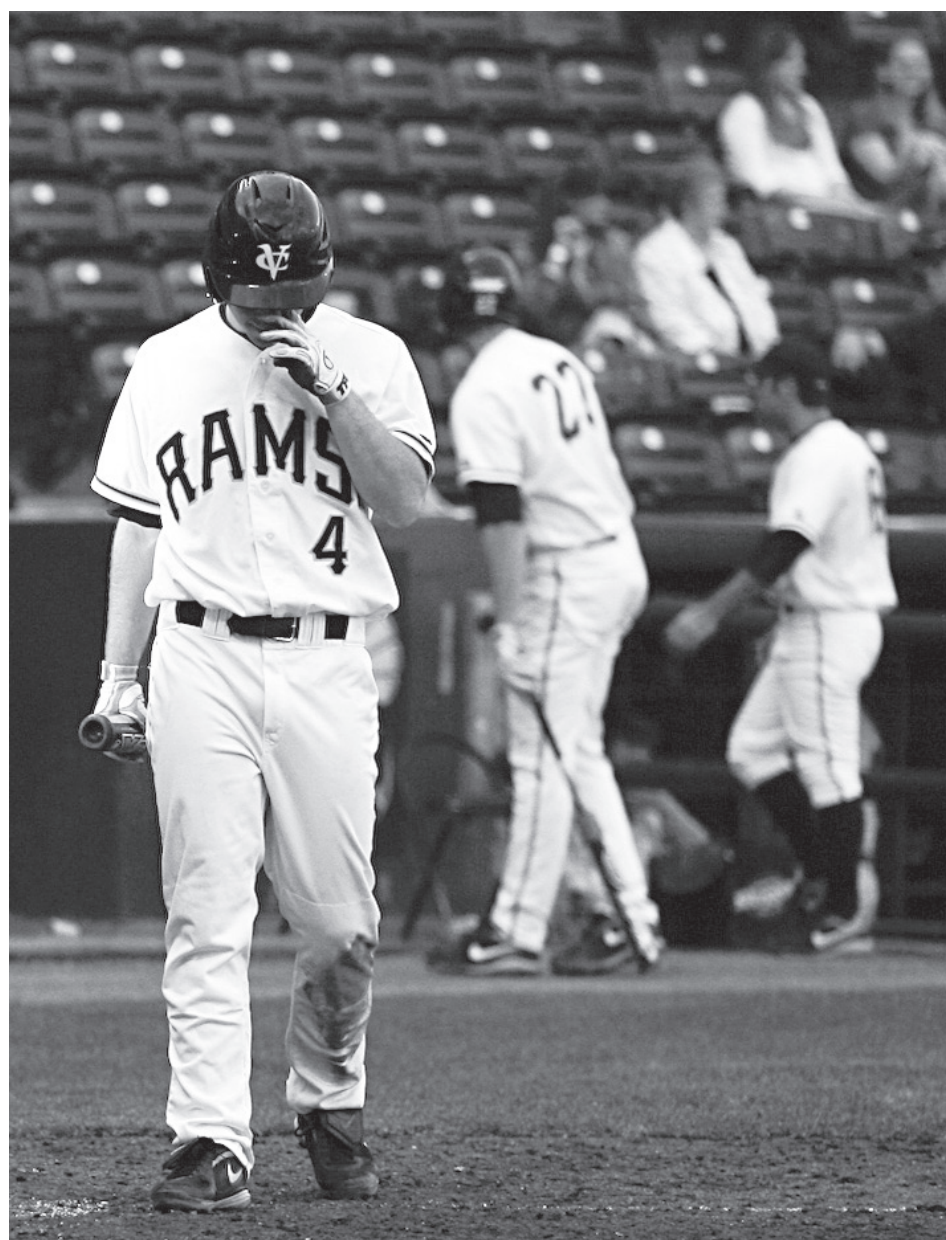
The Rams engage in a three-game weekend series with George Mason beginning Friday night. **CT**

Paul Nice and Bill Cullen lit up the bottom of the fifth with back-to-back singles, which were followed by a wild pitch that scored Nice from third base to release the floodgates and cut the Flames' lead to one.



RAMBLE: TANGIER ISLAND

A new student travel publication coming September 2012



Sophomore Joey Cujas has a hit in six of his last 12 at-bats for VCU.

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One-and-done players and the impact on the mid-major

Quinn Casteel
Assistant Sports Editor



Opinion/Analysis

For once, the one-and-done proved to be the one.

Kentucky's capture of the national title on Monday night may have validated John Calipari's rent-a-player system for a year, but it was just that — one year. It will not

change the balance of power in college basketball, and it will not eliminate Cinderella stories like Butler, VCU and George Mason.

For the first time since 2005, when the NBA stopped allowing players to enter the league directly out of high school, thus starting the trend of players spending one year in college before predictably declaring for the draft, the college national champion has been decided by that rule. In the six years the NBA age limit has been in place, before this season's Wildcats, the title was claimed by the best all-around team with the right combination of talent and experience. Upperclassmen like Kemba Walker, Mario Chalmers and Joakim Noah became the heroes of March, while one-and-done phenoms like Kevin Durant and John Wall fell short come tournament time.

In 2010, Calipari had the nation's top NBA prospect in Wall and two other freshmen who went on to be top-20 picks later that year, and still couldn't get past the Elite Eight. They had one of the best seasons in recent memory, going 35-3, but were unable to claim the elusive crown, showing once again that a team full of NBA-bound freshmen is not necessarily a quick fix to a championship.

So, why were Calipari and Co. able to win it all this year with a starting lineup composed of three freshman and two sophomores?

The answer is this year's Kentucky team was an anomaly — a glitch in the system. Anthony Davis was arguably the best freshman the sport has seen since Carmelo Anthony led Syracuse to a title in 2003, and the talent around him with Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, Terrence Jones, Doron Lamb and Marquis Teague played an unselfish brand of basketball that no one-year, stepping-stone team

has accomplished before this point.

But when all those players leave for the NBA this summer, and Calipari is left with scraps of this year's championship roster, who's to say his next batch of one-and-dones is going to be as good? And would Doron Lamb and Terrence Jones even have stuck around for this season if not for the NBA lockout?

Kentucky was the best team in the country this season and deserved to win the title, but let's not get ahead of ourselves. A team as perfect as this one is only going to come around every few years. For the other six of every seven seasons, the trophy will go to experienced, well-meshed teams. Senior-laden mid-majors like Butler, VCU and George Mason of the past several years will continue to come out of the woodwork and make deep runs in the NCAA Tournament. Coaches like Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, North Carolina's Roy Williams and Kansas' Bill Self will continue to be rewarded for getting their NBA-bound players to stick around for more than one year, and commitment and continuity will still prove valuable.

However, that isn't to say that Calipari and other coaches won't be trying their hardest to build baby NBA teams on a year-to-year basis, nor are they wrong in doing so.

This year, the strategy worked. And, as long as they follow the rules, there's nothing wrong with loading a team up with one-time players. If the NBA didn't have a rule against it, most of the players would skip college altogether. But instead, their best option is to play a year and come out. The players are victims of the rule, and coaches like Calipari are simply taking advantage of the rule.

The only problem with having these essentially professional players in college basketball is that sometimes coaches forget their ethics at the door in the recruiting game. Just think back to 2009 when an NCAA investigation showed that Derrick Rose had used illegitimate SAT scores when Calipari signed him at Memphis. The program was forced to vacate every win from that season, and Calipari had to pay \$100,000 to avoid a lawsuit with Memphis season-ticket holders, in addition to giving back his bonus for reaching the Final Four.

As Calipari and other coaches at the richest programs in the country fight tooth-and-nail to land the top recruits, it will be up to mid-major coaches like VCU's Shaka Smart and Butler's Brad Stevens to keep college basketball pure. They will do this by sticking with their programs and building teams made



Indiana's Cody Zeller is one of many one-and-dones still contemplating leaving for the NBA draft.

for long-term success, not year-to-year rentals.

Yes, the prevalence of one-and-dones has made recruiting that much harder for mid-major programs with no chance at landing the very top prospects, but it seems as though the next tier of recruits is beginning to fall through the cracks as a result.

As has become evident in recent years, the talent gap between the top and the middle in college basketball is not all that extreme. Smart, Stevens and Wichita State's Gregg Marshall have shown that there are plenty of highly talented players out there who would rather star for a mid-major than get minimal minutes at a high-major playing behind these one-and-dones. Diamonds in the rough like Gordon Hayward, Larry Sanders and Eric Maynor are prime examples. All three played at least through their junior seasons and still came out as high NBA draft picks.

Coaches such as Smart who recruit players based around a system can still have success against coaches like Calipari whose system is based around

players — so long as they sustain the system and stick with the players for four years. Regardless of how highly touted a player is out of high school, he's still four years younger and four years less experienced than a player who has been around the college game and flourished in his coach's system. That's why it's no coincidence that Calipari's teams have traditionally hit a wall at some point in the NCAA Tournament, until this season.

According to ESPN.com, NBA commissioner David Stern said this week that he wants to move the league's minimum age up from 19 to 20, which would also require players to be two years removed from high school to enter the draft — in theory, solving the dilemma of the one-and-done.

However, until that actually happens, it's going to be up to the mid-majors to keep college basketball as what it is, which is an amateur league in itself — not a developmental league, nor stepping stone to the NBA. **CT**

PHOTO BY CHRIS CONWAY

SPECTRUM

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Richmond stands for youth art exhibit

Mark Robinson
Assistant News Editor

Hundreds of people attended a scheduled art walk Tuesday night on Monument Avenue in support of ART 180, a local organization whose exhibit has become the center of controversy in the last week.

Richmonders of all ages gathered on the grassy median of the historic street to view the art of local 11- and 12-year olds as the sun set over the statues of Confederate army heroes.

One of the program leaders for the "What Do You Stand For?" project, Rob Gibson is a senior communications arts major at VCU. Gibson worked with the middle school students to develop the self-portraits during a summer program last June. His portrait is one of the 30 4-by-8-foot painted plywood panels lining the median of Monument Avenue.

Gibson said he's unsure of what to make of the controversy, but he sides with the children.

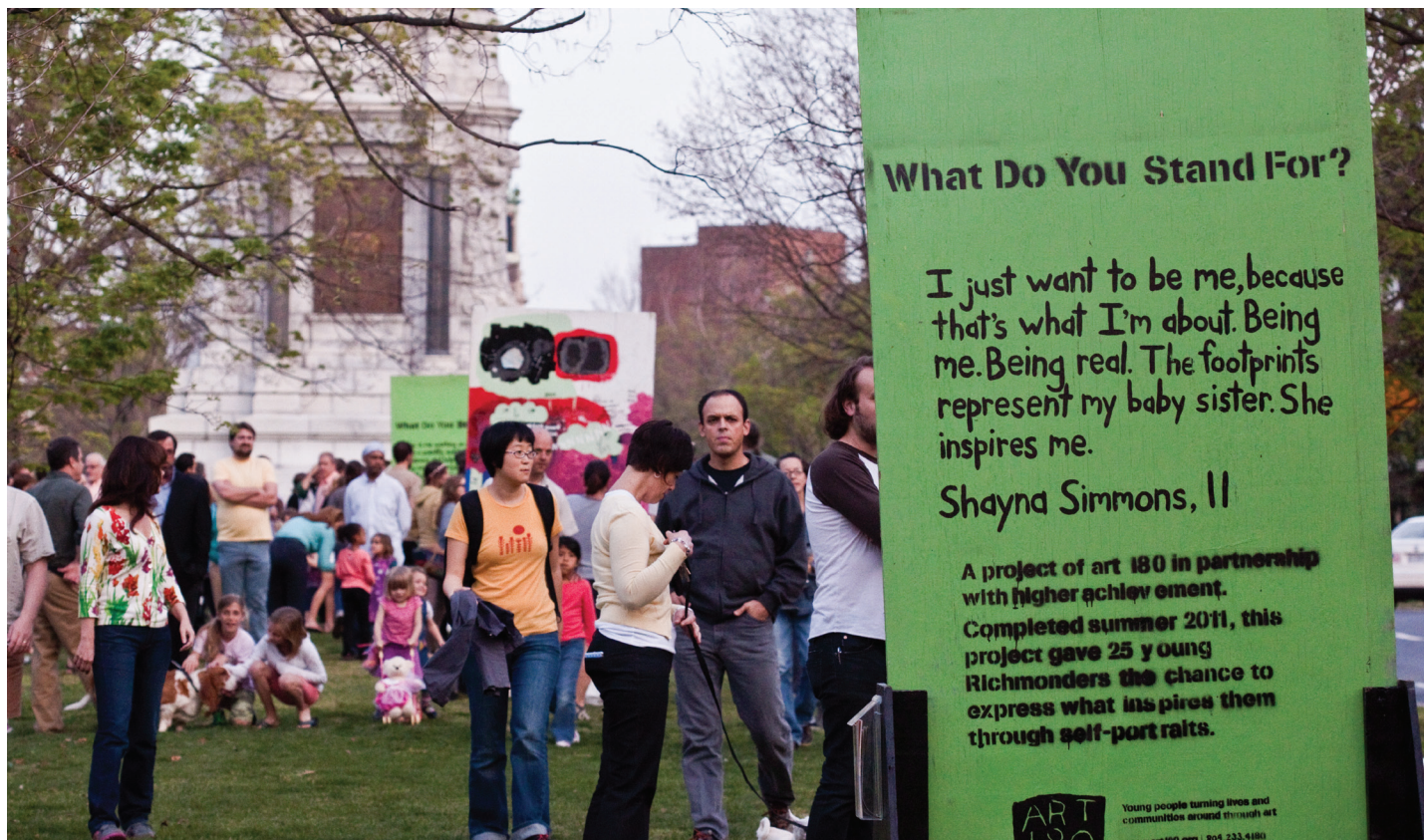
"I just hope the community can see the more this work is around, the more the kids are empowered. They're going to be our leaders," Gibson said. "These kids put hard work into it, and they challenged themselves to get this work up."

"What Do You Stand For?" is a traveling exhibit of self-portraits by inner city children who participated in a summer program with ART 180 last summer. The organization works to provide art-related programs for children who live in difficult circumstances and promote individual and community change through self-expression, according to its website.

The portraits have been in the median on Monument since March 26 and were scheduled to be on display until May 4. One of the portraits went missing hours before the scheduled event.

On Tuesday, the city revoked ART 180's permit, which it originally issued, because the art violates a Richmond city code that prohibits signs in medians or public rights-of-way.

Chief administrative officer Bryon



The crowd on Monument Avenue Tuesday night turned out to protest the city's decision to revoke a permit allowing the public exhibition of self-portraits by inner-city children.

C. Marshall said in a statement that it is "unfortunate" that the permit was issued mistakenly, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported on Tuesday.

Max Daniel, a graduate student in social work at VCU, attended the art walk. A Richmond native, Daniel said the city's handling of this situation speaks to a problem of greater context.

"These exhibits are from the youth that have not been traditionally heard in Richmond," he said. "There's a great conflict of race relations in this city. This is a reflection of a larger conflict that has been contained in our city for generations."

Second-district city councilman Charles R. Samuels said he doesn't believe class or race had any part in the decision the city made to revoke the permit from ART 180.

"If I thought there was anything nefarious about it, I'd be the first person hollering and screaming for somebody's head," Samuels said. "But I honestly think this was just a mistake."

Future conflicts can be avoided if the people responsible for issuing permits have the proper training and know the city ordinances, Samuels said.

The city notified ART 180 on Wednesday afternoon that the relocation of the portraits to lawns along Monument Avenue does not violate any city codes.

Scott Blackwell, a board member of ART 180, said countless residents of Monument Avenue have reached out to the organization to show their support for the exhibit.

"More people are seeing this exhibit

than would have ever seen it. I kind of thank the few who didn't like it because this would have never happened," he said.

The Monument Avenue Preservation Society released a statement in support of the art after a meeting Monday night.

Aaron Goldberg, a resident of Monument Avenue, said the city has a responsibility to the Richmond community to handle tough situations fairly. Goldberg and his wife Stephanie are working to recruit their neighbors to host individual pieces from the exhibit in their front lawns.

"(Richmond) is city on the upswing. The city has an obligation to continue that trend," Goldberg said. "If they made a mistake and didn't obey one of their rules, it's a pity that ART 180 has to suffer because of that."

In a statement posted on the group's Facebook page on Monday, executive director of ART 180 Marlene Paul said the organization is "abundantly sad" about the city's decision to revoke the permit. A statement posted Wednesday thanked supporters for attending the art walk.

"The community rallied together to celebrate and elevate a temporary public art exhibition on a street with permanent public art that recognizes an aspect of Richmond's history not all of its citizens choose to celebrate," Paul said.

The portraits will be on display during Sunday's Easter on Parade on Monument Avenue, but must be removed from the median by Monday. In an email sent Wednesday afternoon, Paul said Venture Richmond would pay for the equipment and labor to move the



portraits after the parade.

"We were honored and overwhelmed by all the support. It was a truly beautiful and heart-warming evening to watch hundreds of friends (new and old) gather together to enjoy the inspiring work and voices of our young people and show their support for ART 180 and specifically this exhibition on Monument Avenue," Paul said. "We feel truly blessed." **CT**

For Art Foundation students, fate delivered by letter

Michael Todd
Staff Writer

Tuesday afternoon, several VCU freshmen had their futures delivered to them in the form of singular, unsealed white envelopes: acceptance letters into their chosen major.

The Art Foundation (AFO) program population is comprised of approximately 474 students including freshmen, transfer students, continuing students and other VCU students who have transferred into the school of the arts. Each spring semester, shortly following spring break, AFO students are required to submit a 16- to 25-piece portfolio demonstrating their most mature works created over the course of school year. These pieces, along with several short-essay responses, are reviewed by committees from each department to determine the student's acceptance into his or her future major.

If accepted to their first choice, students were required to enter into that major; the same was applicable for anyone who was not admitted into their second choice. The delay time between portfolio submissions and the distribution of acceptance letters has been about a week to a week-and-a-half in recent years.

As is with the number of students admitted into the AFO program each fall, the amount of students each department can admit varies from year to year depending on the number of faculty in each department, as well as classroom space, demand, etc. With the popularity of each major changing from year to year, it is difficult to determine how many students are accepted into each department annually and, therefore, how many students received their first choices both in the past and this semester. Official statistics for this year's acceptances are as of yet unknown even to AFO faculty. A projection that generally holds true predicts that nine out of 10 students gained admittance into their top major choice. However, it is not uncommon for majors to deny students whose GPAs fall below 2.0.

There have been several steps in its evolution before the application process went entirely online three years ago. Before computers and other technologies aided the process, students would travel to each individual department for portfolio reviews of their physical work. Later the operation became more centralized and departments were invited to view physical work delivered by students in cardboard portfolios to the AFO Program, with various restric-

tions including portfolio thickness. The current system – which is the same as when students applied to the AFO program and should therefore, in theory, be familiar – is not only more convenient but also allows for departments to pay appropriate attention to video and sound pieces, three-dimensional work and detail shots.

“When we had physical portfolios to hand in, we had people that would camp out in the hallway,” said Elissa Armstrong, associate director of the AFO program. “We didn’t know they were going to do that; we would just show up in the morning, and they would be there with sleeping bags and tents. I think it was mostly that people were into the drama of it because, you know, it’s a big moment.”

Panic was not an uncommon sensation among AFO students for the past few weeks, and few would consider the emotion an exaggeration.

“I don’t curse a lot,” said Taylor Garis, who was admitted to her first choice of fashion design. “This experience was (expletive) hell.”

With acceptance letters officially distributed, students now will begin attending orientations specific to their majors in order to begin preparation for next semester. In the next week, students will officially be switched from AFO into their majors within the university system in order to enable them to register for classes.

More and more, students are expressing the desire to double major and minor in studio majors, or even in academic majors outside the school of the arts. Additionally, more students are coming in with college credits from high school that exempt them from certain classes and allow them to pursue their interests outside of art, which can at the same time inform their studio practices.

“My ranking changed pretty dramatically, and it shocked me and everyone else, but I’m happy with it,” said Danya Smith, who originally intended to apply to the painting and printmaking department but is now majoring in sculpture and extended media. “I still intend on painting, but in a more sculptural way.”

For many students, second and third choices were arbitrarily chosen, and many admit they would have been heartbroken if they had not been admitted to their top choices.

“If I hadn’t have gotten into my first choice, I just wouldn’t have done art next semester,” said Bobbie Peters, who was accepted into communication arts, her first choice. “I would have bulked up my portfolio and reapplied.”



PHOTOS BY AMBER-LYNN TABER



Panic was not an uncommon sensation among AFO students for the past few weeks, and few would consider the emotion an exaggeration. “I don’t curse a lot,” said Taylor Garis, who was admitted to her first choice of fashion design. “This experience was (expletive) hell.”

Some people don’t know exactly what they want to do with their majors; others didn’t know what they wanted to major in at all, and struggled choosing their top three choices.

“Sixty percent of students change their mind about what they want to major in from the time they come to the time they go through the application process,” said Armstrong. “This is a statistic that hasn’t changed in the past five years and will probably find the same again this year.”

Ten students, one per department, received special sticky notes with their

acceptance letters informing them that they’ve been nominated to receive one of two Dean’s Awards. These scholarships, along with other awards, will be announced next week at the AFO Show reception.

The final obstacle to overcome – and perhaps one that will be more difficult to hurdle than the application process itself – will be to finish out the semester now that acceptance letters are out.

To summarize the entire process, in the words of Danya Smith, “More money, more problems, hashtag YOLO.” **CT**

Student 1960s day to include 'I have a dream' speech reenactment

Paislee Winkler
Contributing Writer

History Now, a newly formed student organization at VCU, will bring the history of 1960s in a daylong event Friday, April 6. This showcase will have lectures, a reenactment of Martin Luther King Jr. speeches and a costume dance featuring the 1960s tribute band, The Jangling Reinharts.

"There are so many parallels to the 1960s to today this event will showcase these comparisons and hopefully educate students on an important time in our nation's history," said Debbi Price, president of History Now. "We are planning for 200 to 300 people in attendance; this will hopefully become a tradition highlighting different parts of history."

These parallels are shown with Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSPD) who will be tabling, discussing the drug war and current reform on medical amnesty.

"We are all kind of a hippie in some way, and our club presents some of the

hippie lifestyle," said Brian Gilbert, co-president of SSPD. "A hippie being someone who cares, wants change and may not shower for a few days."

Students will have the opportunity to dress like anyone or anything, such as a hippie, from the '60s in a costume-themed dance at the end of the event, local band The Jangling Reinharts, will be performing. The Jangling Reinharts, are from Richmond specializing in cover songs from the '60s. A costume contest with prizes will also be included for best group, male, and female.

Tony Crosby, an actor in the Richmond area, will be reenacting Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech along with some of King's other speeches including "I've Been To the Mountain Top" and "The Drum Major." The Black Awakening choir will also assist in the performance.

"Martin Luther King was a peacemaker; he brought the nation together," Crosby said. "His words are still prevalent to today."

Crosby has performed King's speeches around the Richmond area since the

1980s in places like city hall, churches and schools.

As part of the showcase, VCU faculty will be showing different lectures. Topics are the Civil Rights Movement, the fashion of the 1960s, the Anti-War Movement, 1960s Hollywood and the music revolution of the 1960s led by professors Brian Daughterity, Holly Price Alford, Herbert Hirsch, Emilie Raymond and Christopher Wright, respectively.

Funding for the '60s showcase was provided by the Student Government Association of the Monroe Park Campus in a special grant that is the sole contributor. History Now was founded in the summer of 2011 when a group of history major students wanted to bring smart fun and history to VCU. The name comes from the reality that history is happening now.

The event will be in the Commons plaza or, if it rains, inside the Commons. For more information, see the VCU calendar of events or the History Now group page on Facebook. **CT**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Noon to 1 p.m. – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Reenactment (Commons Plaza, outdoors)

1 p.m. to 6 p.m. – Lecture Series (Commons Theater)

1 p.m. – The Civil Rights Movement by Dr. Brian Daughterity

2 p.m. – The Fashion of the 1960s by Dr. Holly Price Alford

3 p.m. – The Vietnam War and Anti-War Movement by Dr. Herbert Hirsch

4 p.m. – Film in the 1960s by Dr. Emilie Raymond

5 p.m. – The Music Revolution of the 1960s by Dr. Christopher Wright

7 to 10 p.m. – Retro Party (Commons Plaza, outdoors)

Facebook event link: <http://on.fb.me/sGCbrpF>



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Girls just want to have fun, elbow each other in face



The jammer for River City Rollergirls team, Uncivil Warriors, calls the end to the jam, winning points for her team.

Samantha Foster
Assistant Spectrum Editor

This past Saturday, the Richmond Convention Center was crawling with women with threatening nicknames and colorful mouth guards as they skated at full speed and knocked each other to the ground.

According to some members of the River City Rollergirls, Richmond's all-female roller derby association, the sport of roller derby has been revived in the last few years partly because of the Ellen Page and Drew Barrymore film "Whip It."

"I'll admit it. I saw the 2009 movie 'Whip It,' and I thought it looked like a fun, empowering sport," said seasoned roller derby skater Terri Vernon, also known as Thistle Hurt. "I bought a cheap pair of skates, skated around my neighborhood and then tried out for the team."

Roller derby is a contact sport played with two teams skating the same direction on a flat oval track. Richmond has four separate roller derby teams. River City Rollergirls, or RCR, consists of Poe's Punishers and Uncivil Warriors. There is also Mother State Roller Derby and Seven Hills Roller Derby, although they are not affiliated with RCR.

Poe's Punishers is RCR's all-star team. They are professional group with the Women's Flat Track Derby Association. RCR's "B team" is the Uncivil Warriors. Both of these teams travel the

East Coast for matches.

Richmond's other roller derby teams include Mother State Roller Derby, who use their own names and deviated from RCR several years ago, and Seven Hills Roller Derby, formerly known as the Richmond Derby Demons. Seven Hills Roller Derby is a co-ed league who use a slightly different set of rules than the all female leagues.

Roller Derby has become known for its violent and aggressive nature, but RCR players protect themselves with helmets, knee pads, elbow pads and mouth guards and have remained relatively uninjured, they say.

"I've gotten elbowed in the face many times, once causing me to bite straight through my mouth guard into my tongue," said Lindsay Carter, or Sirius Block, a senior mass communications major and one of the few VCU students in RCR.

"When I first joined roller derby, I expected something like 'Whip It,' with fighting and makeup and fishnets," Carter said. "The aggression, fun names and fishnets are clearly still there, but it's much more of a strategic sport than I imagined. I love every part of it."

Each roller derby game consists of two 30-minute sessions with five players from each team on the track at a time. The basic concept is for the jammer from each team to get past the other players to earn points, all while skating around an oval track on a flat cement floor.



River City Rollergirls all-star team, Poe's Punishers, won in their Saturday game against the Maryland team Mobtown Mods.

The violence of roller derby comes from the other players trying to block the jammer and shove the other team members off the track. Once a player is off the track, they must re-enter the track behind the player who pushed them out.

Roller derby is not all skates and fights, however. RCR works to inspire a family and community atmosphere. They encourage a sense of commitment and teamwork and a development of personal character.

"You may hate your opponent on the track, but you're going to dance with her at the after party, and she might become your new best friend or derby crush," said Carter.

RCR also supports gender equality on and off the track.

"These are real women. They're not paid. They have real jobs and real lives. ... What makes derby unique is that there is a place for every person who identifies as a woman. There are plenty of transgender skaters and a huge LGBTQ population within the derby community," said Carter. "There is a special place for every body type. You can be good at something derby whether you are tall, short, big, small, whatever. It all works."

RCR is also a non-profit organiza-

tion. Every year, RCR picks a new charity to which they donate their time and profits. This year their charities are the Virginia Food Bank and Kill the Vein, Save the Brain. Kill the Brain, Save the Brain is an unofficial charity as it does not have nonprofit status. A former RCR skater suffered an aneurysm during a game last year and RCR donates money to her ongoing medical expenses.

The average RCR member donates six hours a month to volunteer work and a portion of each ticket sale goes to the charity.

Those interested in joining RCR must first go through a Fresh Meat training session. No previous skating skills are required for Fresh Meat. The only prerequisites are to be over the age of 18 and to first attend an interest session. RCR is also currently looking for male or female referees.

"I didn't know how to skate very well at all when I started, but I was welcomed with open arms and received all the training I needed to be successful," said Vernon. "(Roller derby) has changed my life for the better." **CT**

The next interest session is Thursday at 7 p.m. at RollerDome Skating.

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OPINION

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How much ink is too much ink?

Kimberley Glascoe
Columnist

We come to college to gain knowledge in the fields we've chosen and become employees in the high paying careers we've always wanted.

Yet walking around campus, especially during spring, my eyes become glued to the numerous body parts of students adorned with tattoo ink. I love it, but there's a fine line between professionalism and expression.

We've been traveling on the road of self-expression with no signs of detouring at corporate America. To be hired in a certain industry, we have to appear a certain way. A social stigma regarding tattoos has always been drilled into our heads by society. If you have too many tattoos in the wrong places, you can kiss the job at a Fortune 500 company goodbye, plain and simple.

It's bad enough that the economy is the way it is and there aren't as many jobs as we'd like there to be. Employers are only going to pick the most qualified candidate for the job, and even if you fit the bill, having a tattoo that means the world to you might exclude you from being chosen. It is unfortunate that society has subconsciously trained us to stifle our creative voices.

If your plan is to work in a tattoo

shop, open your own business or become an entertainer – all professions where self-expression is encouraged – then visible tattoos are fitting.

But what about the law student with the tattoo of a dragon on his neck that even a freshly ironed, white, collared shirt can't cover? How seriously will potential employers take him? Professional appearance is necessary, but

why does it have to be at the cost of our self-expression? People can do their job correctly with a body full of tattoos.

Societal expectations of what a professional should look like shouldn't weigh in so heavily when it comes to jobs. Many of these expectations have to do with stereotyping. If you have several tattoos, people might identify you with a certain level of class. That's

unreasonable.

I have 11 tattoos of my own, all of which are easy to cover. I've been getting tattoos since I was 17, and I've learned to compromise when it comes to expression and my future career goals. First impressions are everything, so I live by the motto that if I can cover it up easily, I can get it.

Tattoos are more than ink splattered on our bodies; they are art, they are meaningful, and they are part of our culture. We come from a generation of self-expression. We should be able to feel comfortable in our own skin by having our self-expression and professional side coexist.

Times have changed, and I see more people with good jobs and tattoos that go against the "status quo," but our glory days will only last so long until we are forced to join the real world. When someone goes in for that interview and has to explain to employers why he chose to get the tattoo of a bird on his forearm or his mother's name on his neck, even the best explanation, unfortunately, may not be enough to land that position.

Priorities and consequences usually go hand in hand when it comes to tattoos, and the fewer self-created barriers that prevent us from getting the job we want, the easier it will be in the long run to get it.

Decide what's more important: yourself or your career. **CT**



ILLUSTRATION BY MARLEIGH CULVER

Anti-abortion protesters display, emanate negative values

Shane Wade
Opinion Editor

Where do we draw the line between a sensible demonstration and a disengaged display of propaganda?

Our campus has welcomed many abortion-rights and anti-abortion demonstrations for the past week, with some of the latter being much more graphically depictive than the former. But the issue runs apart from whether you are for abortion rights or anti-abortion. It's about respectability, accuracy and due justice for your cause.

Images of an aborted fetus, bloodied bodies and the preaching of an ongoing genocide: These are the things that we have witnessed from the visiting anti-abortion groups. These are the images they display and the images they choose to represent their cause.

But at a certain point, demonstrations like these become overly emotional and passionate. They become more focused on venting and ranting about one's own views, indiscriminate as to whether the cause might bring recruits and uncaring as to the feelings of others. To show such images and preach the words we've heard shows a level of disrespect to the innocence of common space, to the very values being preached and to the overall message being sent.

Anti-abortion supporters do themselves a grave disservice to their cause when they employ such means to advertise their views. These are no longer demonstrations; they are outbursts: blunt, loud, veiled and clad in the very values antithetical to the

Christian religion that anti-abortion supporters espouse. They may "oppose the violence of abortion," but they do support the silent violence of distortion in their attempt to orchestrate an indictment of a culture.

A protest of what one group perceives to be a war has become a rally for unbounded, passionate hatred, boiled to the perfect temperature for both sides.

Even though those protesters have the proper permits and second-amendment rights to be there, you can still let VCU and the Richmond community at-large know that you reject both the narrative and the manner of presentation.

All of this to say, I do believe and encourage the exercise of free speech. In fact, I encourage every student that so believes to take part in a form of protest.

You need not be silent. You need not mutter and rant through the paradoxical silence that social media offers you. If you believe in a woman's choice, the right to an abortion or peaceable demonstrations without the vulgarity of distorted words and misshapen images, do your own cause due diligence. If you are strongly opposed to a cause, show it. Go out and start your own demonstration. Protest a protest.

If a single good comes out of this ugliness, let it be the freedom of your own speech, the expression of yourself and the voice of a strong student body viscerally against what amounts to nothing more than a wanton, gaudy show. **CT**

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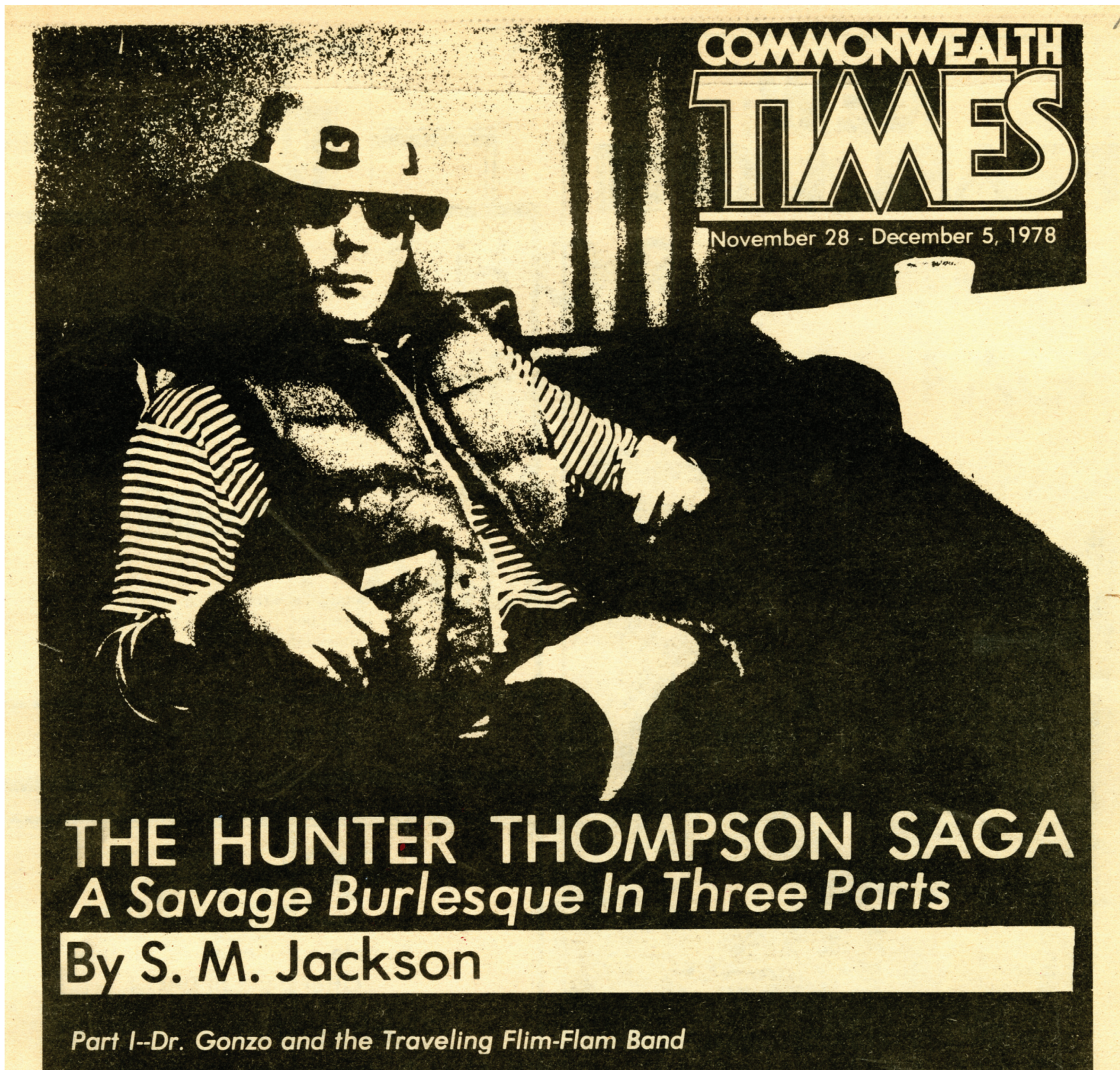
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