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BRIEFS

On the cover:

VCU volleyball senior Anett Farkas has led the Rams to a 12-1 record to open the season, their best start in team history. Photo by Chris Conway.

Local & VCU

Obama maintains lead over Romney in new poll; Kaine ahead of Allen

A new poll shows President Barack Obama with a 4-point lead over GOP challenger Mitt Romney in Virginia and Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Timothy M. Kaine with a 7-point advantage over Republican George Allen.

Obama edges Romney 50 to 46 in a Quinnipiac University, New York Times and CBS News swing state poll of Virginia, Wisconsin and Colorado taken Sept. 11-17.

In the Senate race, Kaine leads Allen 51-44. This latest survey tracks others recently showing Obama with an advantage in Virginia. He posted an 8-point lead among likely voters in a Washington Post poll conducted Sept. 12-16. An NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist poll released late last week showed the president leading Romney by five points in Virginia among likely voters, 49-44.

In the Quinnipiac poll of 1,474 Virginia likely voters, the president leads on who would do a better job on national security, health care, Medicare, taxes, women's reproductive health issues and the economy -- though by a slim 49-47 percent. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 2.6 percent.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Petersburg man gets 30 years in slaying of cab driver

A Petersburg man was sentenced to 30 years in prison today for fatally shooting a Boulevard Cab driver during an attempted robbery with the same gun he used to rob another Boulevard driver 10 days earlier.

Petersburg Circuit Judge James F. D'Alton Jr. affirmed a jury's recommended sentence against Leonard R. Stephens-Staton Jr., 21, in the March 16, 2011, slaying of Raphael Cudjoe, 36, whose body was found slumped in his cab after in the 1800 block of Boydton Plank Road. He had been shot in the head.

In June after a two-day trial, a Petersburg jury found Stephens-Staton guilty of first-degree murder, attempted robbery and two felony firearm offenses. The panel recommended a sentence of 20 years for the murder, two years for the attempted robbery and eight years for the two firearm counts -- the minimum sentence possible for the combined offenses.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Judge rejects suit challenging lethal injection in Va.

A judge said today that he did not need to hear any evidence before concluding that lethal injection in Virginia does not amount to practicing medicine without a license.

The lawsuit, filed in April, claimed that the methods used by Virginia to execute condemned inmates amount to the unauthorized practice of medicine, pharmacy and anesthesiology. The plaintiffs and Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, said they are aware of no other challenge that has claimed executioners are violating medical licensing laws and regulations.

Rupe said he could require Department of Corrections officials to appear in court to defend the way they carry out death sentences, but the question would ultimately come down to whether he believes lethal injection is the practice of medicine.

"It is not," the judge said in dismissing the lawsuit filed by attorneys Meghan Shapiro and Christopher Leibig.

Shapiro said after the half-hour hearing that she and Leibig "respectfully disagree" with Rupe's conclusion and are considering an appeal.

Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch

National & International

Zuno Arce, convicted for DEA agent slaying, dies

U.S. prison authorities say a Mexican man convicted in the 1985 torture-slaying of DEA agent Enrique Camarena has died at a federal correctional facility in Florida.

Ruben Zuno Arce was serving a life sentence for conspiracy and kidnapping.

Zuno Arce's 1992 conviction drew attention partly because he was a brother-in-law of former Mexican President Luis Echeverria, who governed from 1970 to 1976.

U.S. Bureau of Prisons spokesman Chris Burke said Wednesday that Zuno Arce died Tuesday but did not specify the cause of death. He said Zuno Arce was 82.

Camarena was kidnapped and killed in western Mexico by drug lords in retaliation for anti-drug raids.

His death sparked a large-scale investigation that toppled some of Mexico's top capos and included allegations that members of Mexico's political elite were involved.

Brief by the Associated Press

Colombia says last big drug lord has been capture

President Juan Manuel Santos announced Tuesday evening that a man he described as Colombia's last big-time drug lord had been captured in neighboring Venezuela. It was the third arrest of a purported Colombian drug boss in the last year.

Santos said alleged drug boss Daniel "Loco" Barrera was arrested in the Venezuelan city of San Cristobal after months of multinational cooperation that included help from the United States and other nations.

"The last of the great capos has fallen," Santos said in a brief statement to journalists. He didn't answer questions.

Gen. Jose Roberto Leon, director of the National Police, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview later that the 50-year-old Barrera did not resist when he was caught alone on a road in San Cristobal, which is near the Colombia-Venezuela border. Leon said he expected Venezuela to deport Barrera, but didn't know when.

Barrera was one of Colombia's most wanted fugitives. Early last year, authorities announced a \$2.7 million reward for information leading to his capture, but Colombian officials didn't say whether any tips from informants led to the arrest.

Brief by the Associated Press

Man indicted in NYC Central Park attack

New York City prosecutors say a grand jury has voted to indict a drifter on charges he sexually assaulted a 73-year-old birdwatcher in Central Park.

The indictment naming David Albert Mitchell was announced in court on Wednesday without the defendant there. The 42-year-old has been jailed since his arrest last week on rape and other charges.

Manhattan prosecutors have accused Mitchell of assaulting the woman in broad daylight on Sept. 12. They say the attack occurred about a week after she photographed him exposing himself.

There was no immediate response to a phone message left Wednesday with Mitchell's attorney.

Authorities in West Virginia have said Mitchell was acquitted of a murder charge two decades ago and was considered a person of interest in another slaying that remains unsolved.

Brief by the Associated Press

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NEWS

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PHOTOS BY AMBERLYNN TABER

VCU and Aramark will renegotiate the Dining Services' contract by June 30, 2013.

Dining Services' contract renewal could land Taco Bell on campus

Michael Pasco
Contributing Writer

VCU could be the next college to receive an on-campus Taco Bell. In fact, there's a possibility for many of VCU's dining locations to change next year.

The current contract with Aramark Educational Services, the company that provides for VCU's dining locations, expires this summer. All vending, catering and dining locations on the Monroe Park campus will be renegotiated by the contract's expiration on June 30, 2013.

According to a VCU official at a Student Admissions Ambassadors' meeting last Monday, Taco Bell's corporate office did say VCU could have the restaurant on campus -- but the university will not be able to promise students a Taco Bell until February at the earliest, according to Business Services assistant director Dan McDonald.

"Just because VCU Dining Services has approval from the corporate offices of brands like Taco Bell doesn't mean that they will definitely be part of the dining program next year," said Tamara Highsmith, manager of sales and customer service for VCU Dining Services.

"I would love having a Taco Bell on

campus because it's my go-to place for a late night meal," said Student Ambassador Joanna Santorum.

Students attending the meeting turned to Twitter and Facebook to talk about this development. In a couple hours, the rumor quickly became "We are definitely getting a Taco Bell."

"Taco Bell is perfect for college stu-

"Just because VCU Dining Services has approval from the corporate offices of brands like Taco Bell doesn't mean that they will definitely be part of the dining program next year."

- Tamara Highsmith

dents. It doesn't cost much and tastes great," VCU student Anthony Jones said.

Aramark has provided dining services for VCU under several contracts since the 1980s, and renegotiates contracts every decade. The company has brought

many national brands to campus and provides supplies for Shafer, Cary Street Market and Deli, Commons Convenience, Jonah's and Nao and Zen.

When deciding upon new restaurant locations on campus, national brands -- such as IHOP, Pizza Hut and Chik-fil-A -- can work with Aramark to get a location at VCU, or the university may make a request to the brand through Aramark as well. Those companies that do respond present ideas to the university as how to best implement their establishment on campus, Highsmith said.

A group of students, staff and faculty members will be deciding on potential new dining locations with VCU's interests in mind. A separate committee of students and staff members will still need to approve these ideas, said Kristan Cole, Public Relations Manager for VCU Dining Services.

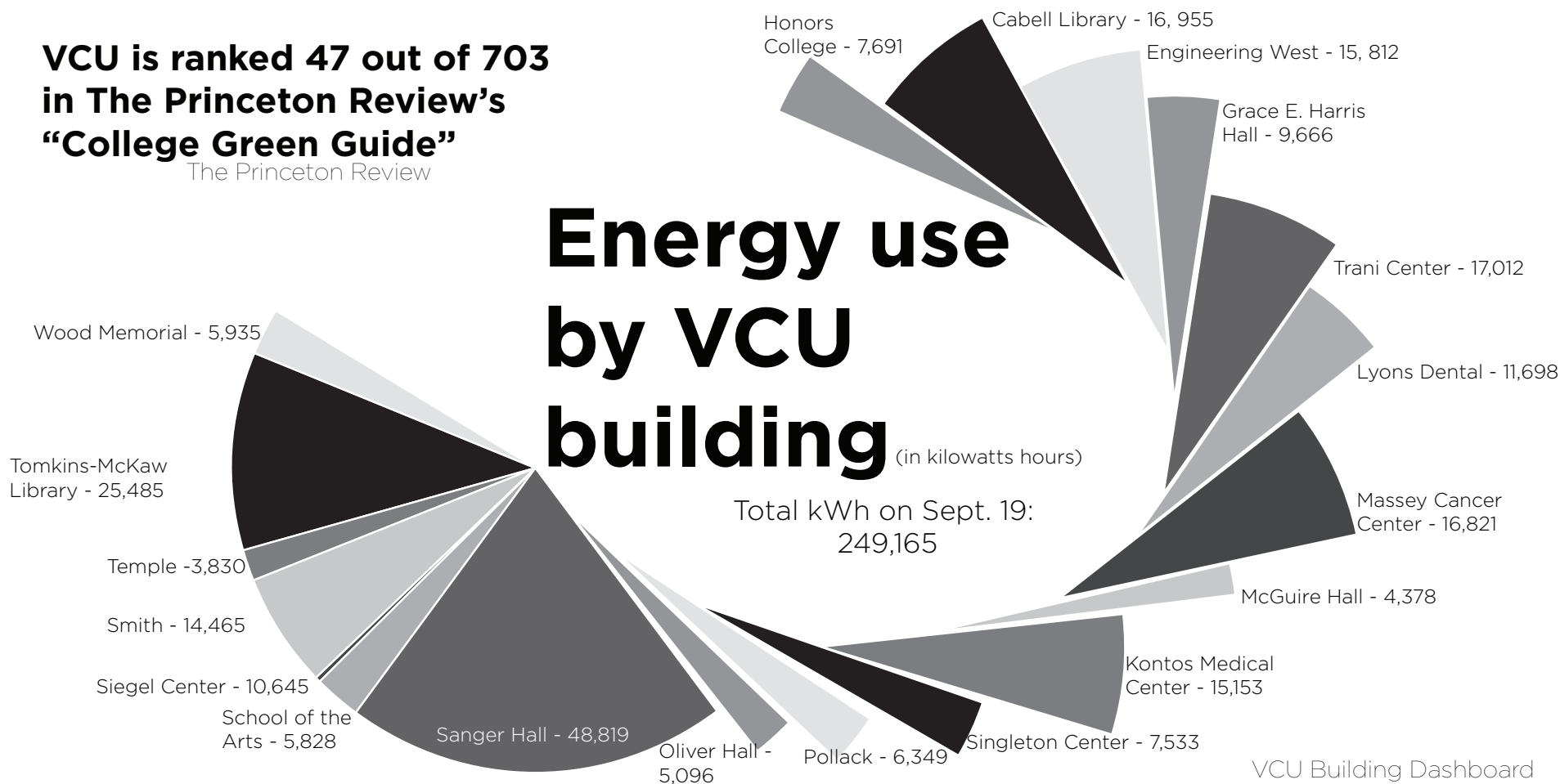
Some students at the meeting expressed dissatisfaction with Zoca, which was VCU's answer to students' requests for Taco Bell.

If it does replace the Zoca in the Commons, Taco Bell would be subject to the same closing hours as the rest of the facility. The Commons closes at 9 p.m. **GT**



Many VCU students say Taco Bell should replace Zoca in the Student Commons.

VCU is ranked 47 out of 703 in The Princeton Review's "College Green Guide"
The Princeton Review



SGA green initiative benefits surrounding neighborhoods

Jonathan Nichols
Contributing Writer

Volunteers will descend on local neighborhoods this fall to help the community as part of VCU's semi-annual Paint the Town Green Initiative.

The initiative, sponsored by VCU's Student Government Association, is the collaborative effort of volunteers from the student body, the VCU Community Programs Office, local businesses and Richmond residents to help clean up the neighborhoods around the campus in order to improve relationships within the community.

"[The initiative] tends to heal a lot of the strife [between the community and students]," VCU Division of Community Engagement Neighborhood Outreach Director Ron Brown said. The neighborhoods slated for cleanup include Carver, The Fan, Jackson Ward, Oregon Hill and Randolph.

The program's organizers hope that working in these areas will help students understand what it means to be a part of their community, as well as giving the residents a face to go with the student housing often just a block or two away.

Students in the Management 319 course, Organizational Behavior, are handling the organization of the event as they did last spring. The class contains five different sections, with a total of 250 students involved in managing the initiative. Each section is assigned a neighborhood and eight committees have been created to handle things like fund-raising and risk management for each cleanup.

Project Manager Hilton Bennett is reaching out to Paul Manning, Chief Service Director of the City of Richmond, for additional assistance by utilizing the city's 3x3 Initiative. The 3x3 Initiative is an effort by the City of Richmond to provide assistance to unification projects by sending out crews to help remove bulk trash, cut tree branches and repair streetlights.

While specifics have not been worked out, Manning says, "The city of Richmond and its neighbor-to-neighbor initiative is excited and eager to support in any way that we can."

This will be the fifth time VCU has participated in this program. This year, Paint the Town Green is shifting its efforts toward making a more lasting im-

pact on the community.

A partnership has been established with The Fan District Association, changing their annual park cleanup to coincide with this semester's Paint the Town Green. In addition to the neighborhood trash pick up, students will help clean up the seven parks in The Fan.

Another important project is being undertaken this fall. The Alumni Association has agreed to work with Carver Elementary School on a beautification process for their grounds.

The Alumni Association has performed similar volunteer work in the past, with a revitalization effort for Richmond Community High School done with supplies from Lowe's and funding from Xerox.

Since their Xerox contact left the company, the Alumni Association has been looking for another source of funding for the Carver project. But Diane Stout-Brown, the association's executive director, said the group wouldn't let that stop them from helping out.

"If nothing else we'll have our people there, sprucing things up," she said.

Additional funds for the beautifica-

tion are coming from leftover money that was granted to the VCU Division of Community Engagement by the Dupont Foundation. This money had been provided for a previous cleanup of the Carver neighborhood.

Along with the Alumni Association's work, VCU Physical Plant Services has been working to restore a dilapidated greenhouse located at Carver Elementary School. The restoration is aimed to be completed by Oct. 13 and will cost in excess of \$1500.

Funding for the cleanup will also be donated by Greek organizations on campus.

Organizers often reach out to local businesses for aid sponsoring the event and provide supplies. In the past, Lowe's and Walmart have been contributors. This year, local restaurants like Sweet Frog and Jimmy John's have been contacted to help cater before and after the cleanup of each neighborhood.

Students who would like to be involved can show up on the day of, but the SGA and Office of Community Engagement urge individuals to RSVP ahead of time so as to make the division of labor an easier process. **CT**

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating (STAR) System awarded VCU with a silver rating, the highest among universities in the state.

VCU has installed 22 solar-powered trash collectors

Sustainability is one of the six guiding principles in the Quest for Distinction

-The Princeton Review

VCU to host third sustainability day

Sam Isaacs
Contributing Writer

VCU will host its third annual Sustainability Day on Oct. 12, the Friday going into family weekend, at the Student Commons.

The event will highlight VCU's push to replace services with greener alternatives, such as transportation services like BioRide RVA and Zipcar as well as eco-friendly food vendors.

"We will hopefully have a 100 percent sustainable menu, with all of the food coming from Virginia," said VCU's Sustainability Coordinator Jordan Starbuck.

A Segway tour will highlight some of the green projects around the Monroe Park Campus including the Shafer Dining Court solar panels and the Pollak Building's Green Roof, a rooftop garden constructed in 2011 by students.

Each year, the event is focused around an environmental theme. This year, it's all about energy. "We will have the energy manager there, and folks to talk about the solar panels, food production and recycling," said Jacek Ghosh, VCU's director of Sustainability.

Ghosh also notes that this event is not something strictly run by VCU Sustainability, but something that different departments and groups, including student leadership groups, the Residential Life and Housing department and the Fashion Design department all contribute to.

"The idea is to get the students who

are either doing something in their class or program to highlight what they are doing and what we're doing at VCU and raise overall awareness, particularly (among) new students and families," Starbuck said.

Sustainability falls into one of VCU's strategic plan's six guiding principles, making it a highly prioritized part of the school's agenda. Ghosh believes students played a huge part in raising the school's sustainability awareness.

"The student's dedication to sustainability and involvement in projects and petitions are what brought the issue to the university's attention ultimately making it one of the six guiding principles," said Ghosh.

The school's sustainability efforts have been nationally recognized by The Princeton Review and The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System. STARS awarded VCU with a silver rating, the highest among universities in the state. The STARS rating offers university a unique grading system in which strengths and weaknesses are noted.

"Just because you win an award or good score does not automatically make you greener ... STARS looks at education, research and greening all your operation," Ghosh said. "Other report cards don't pick up on all of that. VCU received it's highest rating in the Planning, Engagement and Education field. **CT**



MCV students and professors seek to raise funds and awareness for the Brain Injury Association of Virginia through a benefit concert.

MCV students to participate in Benefit for the Brain

Charles Couch
Staff Reporter

The Brain Injury Association of Virginia is teaming up with VCU Occupational Therapy students to spread student awareness of the risk of brain injury and raise funds for the association.

The association will hold the Benefit for the Brain, a fundraising concert the proceeds of which will go to the BIAV, Saturday at the Camel. Many members of the bands performing are students in VCU's MSOT Program, said a student and musician John Moosa.

"I think the key is to raise awareness," Moosa said. "We're trying to spread to message to a different population and let people know that [the BIAV] is out there."

The Center for Disease Control estimates that 28,000 Virginians suffer from brain injury each year. While the number one demographic for these injuries are the elderly, the second largest group to suffer brain injuries are high school and college-aged people due to bicycle accidents, car accidents and sports-related injuries, said VCU OT Professor and BIAV Broad President Tony Gentry.

About seven years ago, young people were the number one demographic plagued by brain injury, Gentry added.

"There's so many more elderly people now than there use to be, but that doesn't mean there are any less number of teenagers getting conked on the head either," Gentry said. "It's a good idea for them to get aware of it and also to know what resources are there if it happens to them or a

loved one."

The BIAV, like many other organizations and nonprofits, has had to tighten its state-funded budget over the last few years due to economic recession, Gentry said. As president, Gentry has charged the association with brainstorming new creative ways to raise funds.

Gentry said the BIAV is taking its first step in implementing such creative ideas with the benefit concert, which he has been planning since last summer.

While the benefit's primary goal is to inform younger people of the BIAV, the funds accumulated from the event will go toward BIAV brain injury prevention and education initiatives as well as scholarships for brain injury survivors to Camp Bruce McCoy, a summer camp in Chesapeake.

Bruce McCoy operates similarly to most summer camps offering activities such as swimming and canoeing, but, during two weeks of the summer, the camp is open to survivors of brain injuries and offers them occupational and physical therapists volunteers to help with their daily routine and care, Gentry said.

"It's a camp like any other, with this extra level of support to the degree that each camper needs it," Gentry said. Every year, the BIAV tries to give out five to ten full or partial scholarships to brain injury survivors who can't afford to attend the camp.

"My hope is that this fundraiser will help replenish that fund as well so that we can offer more scholarships this summer," Gentry said. **CT**

Buster Keaton in *The General* (1926)
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CRIME LOG 9/13-9/17

Thursday 9/13/2012

Drug offense/Alcohol violation BP Gas Station, 600 W. Grace St. - Two male visitors were arrested for underage consumption of alcohol. A third male visitor was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

Grand larceny Student Commons, 907 Floyd Ave. - A male student advised that an unknown person(s) removed items from an unsecured location.

Assault offense/Alcohol violation/Fraud West Grace St. Housing, 835 W. Grace St. - A male student was arrested for being drunk in public, simple assault and identity fraud. A second male student was arrested for simple assault.

Alcohol violation 1000 W. Broad St. - A female visitor was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Friday 9/14/2012

Reckless driving/Disorderly conduct 810 Cathedral Pl. - A male visitor was arrested for reckless driving, eluding police and resisting arrest.

Hit and run 10 S. Brunswick St. - A victim advised that an unknown person in an unknown vehicle damaged a vehicle.

Alcohol violation 100 N. Vine St. - A male visitor was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Alcohol violation Gladding Residence Center, 711 W. Main St. - A female student was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol.

Petit larceny 7-Eleven, 1003 W. Grace St. - A male was arrested for shoplifting.

Petit larceny 7-Eleven, 1101 W. Main St. - A female victim advised that an unknown male removed an item from an unsecured location.

Drug offense 400 N. Belvidere St. - A male was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Robbery 1300 block of West Main Street - A female victim and male victim advised that two unknown males robbed him.

Saturday 9/15/2012

Drug offense 600 block of North Lombardy Street - Two male visitors were arrested for possession of marijuana.

Trespassing/Disorderly conduct/Alcohol violation Academic Center, 500 N. Harrison St. - A male visitor was arrested for Trespassing, being Drunk in public, public urination/defecation and littering.

Alcohol violation 1530 Park Ave. - A male student was arrested for providing alcohol to persons under 21. A female student was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol violation Park Avenue and Lombardy Street - A male student and a female student were arrested for

underage possession of alcohol.

Sunday 9/16/2012

Trespassing West Grace St. Housing, 701 W. Grace St. - A male visitor was arrested for trespassing.

Drug offense/Weapons violation/Alcohol violation 1000 W. Grace St. - A female visitor was arrested for possession of heroin, possession of a concealed weapon, possession of a concealed weapon with a Schedule 1 substance and open container of alcohol.

Alcohol Violation Shafer and West Franklin streets - A female student was arrested for underage possession of alcohol.

Trespassing 1000 Floyd Ave. - A male student and female student were arrested for trespassing.

Disorderly conduct/Assault offense Bodillaz, 900 W. Broad St. - A male student was arrested for disorderly conduct and assault on a law enforcement officer.

Drug offense/Alcohol violation West Main and South Cherry streets - A male visitor was arrested for possession of marijuana and underage consumption of alcohol.

Alcohol violation West Main and Vine streets - A male visitor was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Monday 9/17/2012

Alcohol violation/Trespassing Monroe Park, 1 Monroe Park - A male visitor was arrested for trespassing and possession of an open container of alcohol.

Alcohol violation Brandt Hall, 710 W. Franklin St. - A male visitor was arrested for providing alcohol to minor. Three students were arrested for underage consumption of alcohol. One male visitor was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol.

Drug offense/Alcohol violation Rhoads Hall, 710 W. Franklin St. - A male student was arrested for possession of marijuana and underage possession of alcohol.

Petit larceny Cary St. Gym, 101 S. Linden St. - A male student advised that an unknown person(s) removed U.S. Currency from a secured location.

Grand larceny Fine Arts Bldg., 1016 W. Broad St. - A female employee advised that an unknown person(s) removed an item from an unsecured location.

Drug offense 1000 W. Broad St. - A male student was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Drug offense 1300 block of West Franklin Street - A male student was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Tuesday's crime report can be found
online at commonwealthtimes.org

SPORTS

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Love at first spike: Anett Farkas' rise to volleyball stardom

Daniel Park
Staff Writer

If you ever spot Annett Farkas on campus out of her sweatpants and VCU volleyball long-sleeve shirt, make sure you tell her you love her outfit. Because she does.

"Nobody even on campus knows there's a volleyball team here," Farkas said. "Usually I try to dress up when I go to class and other athletes don't recognize me. Some people will walk right past me because I have regular clothes on."

Carrying a 6-foot-2 frame, one would assume she attracts attention – but the humble senior doesn't get distracted easily, and has set her priorities ruler straight: to pursue her dream with the degree she'll attain in the spring. After being on the winning side of the net and lighting up the volleyball scene for 13 consecutive years, she will start anew and try to gain work experience with another passion of hers: fashion.

"Even though I love the game, playing pro would mean eating, sleeping and (then) practicing," she said. "I'm trying to stay in the states and work."

Volleyball wasn't her first sport. Farkas tried figure skating when she was four years old.

"I thought it was my dream," she said. "When I was in kindergarten I would remember going to practice before school, seeing the sun come up, ice in the morning, ballet in the afternoon."

Her mother stopped taking her to the early-morning practices because Farkas had a habit of crying when she had to wake up. She said it's fine, acknowledging that her taller stature is not ideal for the sport anyway. Farkas roller-skates for fun now instead.

Farkas decided to switch to volleyball from a TV show she saw when she was 8 years old. She said she would study the moves of a Japanese Manga series character, Kozue Ayuhara. The Japanese children's show, "Attack No. 1," retitled "Mila Superstar," sparked Farkas' interest in the sport as well.

"She hit (the ball) so hard it would disappear," Anett recalled, "I wouldn't leave my dad alone until he found a place for me to play volleyball."

And find he did. Farkas' dad created a club team and brought in Olympic Coach, Kotsis Attilane. Attilane happened to live near the Farkas family at the time of the creation of the team. The Hall of Fame coach took Farkas under her wing and mentored her for the next eight years.

"Gabi neni," a title Farkas gave her coach, professed that a great volleyball player must be good everywhere on the court. Taking the advice to heart and hanging the wisdom of her mentor around her neck, the outside hitter was once another position: the 'middle'. The coach assured her that she was a smart player, but not a powerful one. Dr. Attilane even had a hand in Farkas' long-term goals, as she wanted to play college ball and study English in the U.K. Attilane redirected her player and connected her with a fellow Hungarian coach overseas at the University of New Orleans.

The transition was smooth, SATs and all, for the special member of the Hungarian Junior National Team. All the opportunities intricately designed for the star we have at VCU today could have been disregarded as false hope, but Farkas followed through.

Soon thereafter, however, the University of New Orleans underwent budget cuts and was informed that the women's volleyball squad would be dropped from Division I to Division III. Anett took action and decided that transferring to VCU would satisfy her best interests.

"As a young woman, Annet is a very mature, focused individual," VCU coach James Finley said of Farkas, "...you know you can count on Anett. She's always willing to learn...is very coachable."

Finley said that he's proud of the teammates voting her as one of the captains, and is happy that all her work ethic is paying off. The adjustment that she's made in the last couple years at VCU, playing two different positions successfully is another accomplishment that boosts the coach's confidence in her on the court. He supports her decision to pursue fashion after her final season.

On the court, Farkas currently averages 2.25 kills and 2.13 digs per set and has the Rams off to a 12-1 start for the first time in school history.

Off the court, Farkas studies hard to maintain a high GPA. Keeping up-to-date with fashion trends and following the hectic days of the Fashion Week at VCU, you could find the star hiding in the small Black Sheep restaurant off West Marshall Street with her friends.

Farkas fluently speaks Hungarian, German, and English, and knows a bit of French. If you catch her with her earplugs in, she's bobbing her head to hip-hop music like Drake, Jay-Z and Kanye West.

"I'm just going with the flow," she said. **CT**

Farkas has played in all 13 of VCU's matches this season, averaging 2.25 kills and 2.13 digs per set.

VCU fall sports weekend schedule

Weekend Preview



THURSDAY
Women's soccer at William & Mary - 7 p.m.

FRIDAY
Volleyball at Duquesne* - 6 p.m.
Field hockey at Towson - 6 p.m.

SATURDAY
Club football vs. George Mason - 1 p.m.
Volleyball at George Washington* - 7 p.m.

SUNDAY
Women's soccer at Old Dominion - 1 p.m.
Field hockey at Drexel - 12 p.m.

PHOTO BY CHRIS CONWAY

The VCU women's basketball team released its 2012-2013 season schedule Tuesday, highlighted by 11 teams that played postseason basketball a year ago. The Rams will face four teams that made the NCAA Tournament last year: Ohio State, St. Bonaventure, Dayton and Liberty. After the departure of longtime coach Beth Cunningham during the offseason, new head coach Marlene Stollings hopes to implement a new system with up-tempo energy and high scoring. VCU has its work cut out, as seven of its first nine games of the season are on the road.

Women's basketball schedule

NOV. 12	AT ELON	7:00 PM
NOV. 14	AT MANHATTAN	7:00 PM
NOV. 17	AT OLD DOMINION	TBA
NOV. 20	UMKC	7:00 PM
NOV. 24	AT MAINE	2:00 PM
NOV. 28	AT CLEVELAND ST.	7:00 PM
DEC. 1	AT FLORIDA A&M	2:00 PM
DEC. 5	UMBC	7:00 PM
DEC. 8	AT COPPIN ST.	2:00 PM
DEC. 16	EAST CAROLINA	1:00 PM
DEC. 20	LIBERTY	2:00 PM
DEC. 21	NJIT	2:00 PM
DEC. 27	AT OHIO ST.	7:00 PM
JAN. 1	MAINE	2:00 PM
JAN. 4	YOUNGSTOWN ST.	7:00 PM
JAN. 5	AT ST. LOUIS *	TBA
JAN. 16	AT TEMPLE *	TBA
JAN. 20	GEORGE WASHINGTON *	1:00 PM
JAN. 23	DUQUESNE *	7:00 PM
JAN. 27	AT BUTLER *	TBA
JAN. 30	DAYTON *	7:00 PM
FEB. 3	AT FORDHAM *	TBA
FEB. 6	ST. JOSEPH'S *	7:00 PM
FEB. 10	AT ST. BONAVENTURE *	1:00 PM
FEB. 17	LA SALLE *	1:00 PM
FEB. 20	AT RICHMOND *	TBA
FEB. 24	XAVIER *	1:00 PM
FEB. 28	AT CHARLOTTE *	TBA
MAR. 3	RHODE ISLAND *	1:00 PM

Staff Reports

VOLLEYBALL

The 12-1 VCU volleyball team will open up its first Atlantic 10 season on the road this weekend, facing Duquesne and George Washington in a Friday-Saturday schedule. VCU has not lost a match since Sept. 1 and are currently on an eight-game winning streak.

However, Duquesne is having a fantastic season as well, having won 11 of their first 16 matches. Of the Dukes' five losses, three have come against ranked opponents, including No. 1 Nebraska and No. 4 Penn State.

VCU will get a more favorable match-up on Saturday evening when they face 3-11 George Washington. The Colonials have lost eight matches in straight sets already this season, including in their most recent match to No. 15, BYU.

FIELD HOCKEY

This weekend will be one last taste of the CAA for the VCU field hockey team, as the Rams travel to Towson and Drexel for matches on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

At 6-0, the field hockey team is the

last undefeated VCU Fall sports team, and they will be looking to keep it that way as they face the 0-7 Tigers and the 5-3 Dragons, who are winless in their last three games.

VCU has outscored opponents by a wide margin of 19-8 so far this season, led by senior Kelsey Scherrer's five goals and Haley McBee's four.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The VCU women's soccer team (3-2-3), unbeaten in their last four matches, will hit the road once again this weekend to face some old foes for the first time in different conferences: William & Mary and Old Dominion.

VCU will face 6-2 William & Mary Thursday night in Williamsburg in a re-match of last year's CAA championship game. The Rams will be looking for redemption from the match which they lost in overtime a season ago.

On Sunday, the Rams will take the field against ODU, now of Conference USA. The Monarchs are off to a rough 2-5 start, and are currently 1-2 in their five-game homestand. **CT**

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CLUB FOOTBALL SEEKS REDEMPTION AGAINST GMU

The VCU club football team practiced Wednesday in preparation for Saturday's game.

PHOTO BY AMBERLYNN TABER

Amir Vera
Staff Writer

Although its last game was canceled on Sept. 8, the VCU club football team is looking to catch its first win in this Saturday's opening game against George Mason University.

The team played GMU twice last year, losing both in the regular season and club championship game.

"Last year they dogged us out both times, but this is a whole new year," defensive tackle Jules Charles said. "We're coming out strong, we got a different look for them, I don't think they're ready for the things we're going to throw at them this year."

Along with new members on the team, a new head coach has also stepped up. Coach Gary Mims, who served as an assistant coach last year, is now leading the team in a new direction. He has

not only changed the team's offensive and defensive schemes, but he has also instituted a new team philosophy.

"Our new philosophy is actually to really teach football," Mims said. "Not only teach fundamentals, and teach techniques, but actually teach the offense and teach the defense so that they understand it."

"It's not just merely Xs and Os on a piece of paper, but they have an idea what they're trying to do and a concept of the game ... and basically what we're trying to do is not only teach a numbers game, but the fact that there's a reason and a purpose for the things that they do," he said.

With this new teaching philosophy adding to the team's overall confidence, Mims said that the team has gotten a lot better since their last meeting with Mason in December.

"We've improved on both sides of the

ball, offensively and defensively. I think we have a little more team speed in regards to both sides of the ball, which will be a plus when we match up with certain situations," Mims said.

Mims said he hopes the team will stay strong against GMU's aggressive defensive style. GMU was known for blitzing last year, but with the help and improvement of the chemistry between senior quarterback Mike Jones and junior wide receiver Adrian Thurston, the team's offense looks to be in good shape.

"I think (Mike and Adrian's chemistry) gotten stronger. Mike has a lot more confidence this year and his leadership has improved, so he can do nothing but improve from last year. I feel like the more we progress, the better it gets," Thurston said. "I'm definitely looking forward to the skill positions getting off. I'm looking for Mike Jones to do his thing too. I think once our

secondary gets it in, that's going to be the key factor."

Mason's offensive scheme will also be an obstacle the team has to face. They favor mismatching the secondary with receivers to set up their precise, short passes. VCU's secondary will key in on this, Mims said.

"That's one of the things we're very conscious of, and with our defensive secondary this year we can tighten the clamps on them in regards to that, and try to shut them down," Mims said.

With the game fast approaching, the team along with the coaches are confident about Saturday. Mims and the team both agree that the improved speed and veteran experience on the team are enough to match GMU. **CT**

VCU Club football will take on GMU this Saturday, Sept. 22 at 1 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson field.

SPECTRUM

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Films return to Grace Street Theater's Cinematheque • 11

Rachel's Mailbox • 12

Album reviews: "Nocturne" and "Sun" • 13



Freshman Kate Rancka practices during her Women's Choir rehearsal. Rancka is also a part of the Commonwealth Singers.

YEARLONG AUDITION | Kate Rancka opts for privacy instead of a runny nose

Mechelle Hankerson
Executive Editor

While some of her peers are fighting off their first round of seasonal colds brought on by living in close quarters in VCU's freshman dorms, voice major Kate Rancka is feeling lucky she's still living at home—without a sore throat.

"The perks of staying home outweigh living here," Rancka said. "I need my own space."

Rancka, who lives about 20 minutes away in Midlothian, made the decision to commute to save money. Her parents gave her an ultimatum: they could pay the approximate \$8,000 it costs to live in VCU's freshman dorms for a year or Rancka could choose to put that money toward a new car.

Rancka chose the car.

"For me personally, I'm just a very private person. I like being alone and I don't know how I would do with a roommate," Rancka said.

"BEING A COMMUTER, YOU STILL HAVE HALF OF YOUR OLD LIFE."

—KATE RANCKA

Rancka said her afternoon commutes are usually easy and don't take too much time. The mornings, though, can be unpredictable. Last week, she got caught in the traffic resulting from a six-car accident.

When she has to make it to campus for her 8 a.m. class, it takes Rancka about 20 minutes. On days when she leaves later for her 9 a.m. class, she said it can take up to 45 minutes.

"Already being down here in the morning would be nice," Rancka said,

"Honestly it's super hectic and it's not the best way to start your morning."

The traffic, although a common obstacle commuter students have to face,

isn't the only adjustment Rancka has had to make. On campus, Rancka takes private voice lessons, attends her voice classes and participates in Commonwealth Singers and Women's Choir on campus. In addition to her coursework, she also works at the library.

At home, she is working on a music project with her friend Jessie Dunnavant, who attends JMU. The two plan on releasing an album of original songs in March. Rancka also has kept her job at her church.

Rancka has been singing and taking private voice lessons since she was a child. One of the places where she took lessons was VCU's Singleton Center, where she now takes her college voice classes. She's been involved with Richmond-area performing arts groups through high school as well.

"Being a commuter, you still have half of your old life," Rancka said. "It's not like you came to college and you have a completely new schedule."

"It almost feels like it wasn't a big switch for me between high school and college."

Rancka doesn't have any plans of moving closer to campus, but said it could be an option next semester. **CT**

VCU Cinematheque returns for another year of world cinema

Alex Carrigan
Contributing Writer

The VCU Cinematheque film series has returned another collection of acclaimed films from around the world. The series is sponsored by VCU Cinema professors Robert Tregenza and Kirk Kjeldsen and is shown at the Grace Street Theater.

"Most of the films are relatively new, independent films, mostly European," P.J. Norton, senior Cinema student said. "Most are award-winning and have been in famous festivals, but for whatever reason, aren't available to modern audiences."

All the films are on 35mm prints and are shown through a brand new 35mm projector, presenting high-quality versions of the films, although the prints are not without their scratches and various marks. Chad Brown, a sophomore cinema student, said this allowed

the films to have an "effect that is dying out."

"You get that bit of flicker and that's part of the illusion," Brown said. "It's a nice part of the cinema, you get the little dust particles and scratches."

On Tuesday, Cinematheque showed the 2011 Turkish film "Once Upon a Time in Anatolia," which won the acclaimed Grand Prix prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

The film details a police search for a dead body in rural Turkey, with the criminals having to help locate the body despite inebriation, making it difficult to remember exactly where the body is.

The film follows the search, with repeated questions about crime, revenge and death.

For cinema students, it is mandatory to attend the screening in order to gain class credit. However, the showings are free to the general public, so any student can attend the showings.

FALL SEMESTER CALENDAR

SEPT. 25
"Silent Souls" by Aleksei Fedorchenko *Russia, 2010*

OCT. 16
"Punishment Park" by Peter Watkins *U.S., 1971*

OCT. 23
"Tropical Malady" by Apichatpong Weerasethakul *Thailand, 2004*

OCT. 30
"The Arc" by Rob Tregenza *U.S., 1991*

NOV. 27
"Oslo, August 31st" by Joachim Trier *Norway, 2011*

DEC. 4
"Revanche" by Götz Spielman *Austria, 2008*

"Getting the prints themselves is relatively expensive," Norton said. "Planning is pretty far out, since most of these films don't have a multitude of prints that they send out. They plan almost an entire semester in advance as far as trying to book the films and schedule the screenings."

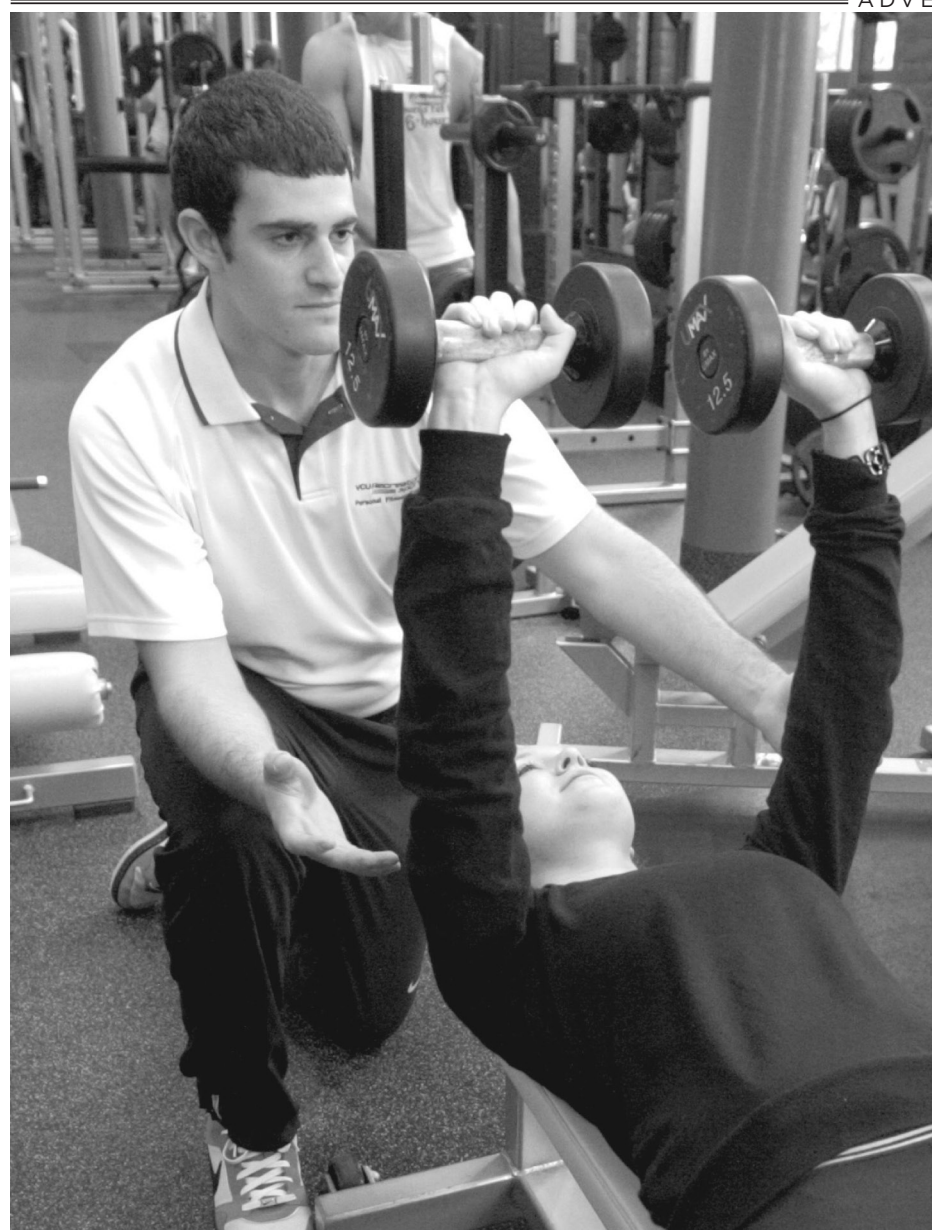
After the screening, viewers are allowed to stay behind for a Q&A session. In "Anatolia's" case, the discussion involved certain techniques of the film-making, the themes and other important elements. This allowed students to discuss points such as the motif of water and even discuss how the film is a spin on the "Road Movie," a film that follows characters moving from place to place.

"We don't get the chance to see many films from other parts of the world, even with things like Netflix and other online sources," Norton said. "A lot of stuff isn't available to us, so this gives people an experience to really see what else is out there."

The series will continue through the fall semester, with a screening of the Russian film "Silent Souls" on Sept. 25.

"There are a lot of films that you won't get to see unless you come here," Brown said. "Richmond has a great film culture, and it's a great way to get into that." **CT**

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Rachel's Mailbox

ILLUSTRATION BY PHIL WHISENHUNT

Dear Rachel,

I have a roommate who is displaying signs of passive-aggression. She frequently places my dirty dishes on my bed while I'm in class and leaves me notes to clean the fridge. I know I need to do these things, I don't like living in a pigsty, but how do I make her be forthcoming with her emotions instead of leaving me notes?

Sticky Note Nightmare

Sticky Note Nightmare,

There's nothing like being passive-aggressive. It's a thrilling game of hate and secrecy and it makes me feel like I'm in an episode of "Gossip Girl."

But let's be real with each other, you aren't Blair and your roommate isn't Serena. There's no way either of you are that gorgeous or sickeningly wealthy.

You didn't provide me with how long she's been acting like this, so I'm going to assume she's either a) always been this way b) she's afraid to confront you or c) she thinks she's in an episode of "Gossip Girl."

Therapy can fix all three of these problems, but until you're comfortable enough to tell her to book an appointment, here are some tips to get you on the path to pure roommate aggression:

+ Ask her to be aggressive, straight up. Hold a monthly "Scream-Off" where you get to unleash your pent-up angst at each other.

+ Walk into her room while she's there, pick up her cellphone and break it over your knee. If that doesn't make her crazy-mad at you, I'm at a loss.

+ Invite her to an "I'm Going to Change You" workshop. Tell her your

goal for the year is to change her into the person you want her to be.

+ Try setting boundaries with her—literal boundaries throughout your house on where she can and cannot go. Wooden planks or a concrete pour will work the best.

+ Set the Post-it notes on fire in front of her. This will scare her. You two may never talk again.

+ Do your dishes so she doesn't feel like she has to put them on your bed to get your attention.

There's a realistic way to answer this, and sadly for you, it's probably the last option. To see other possibilities, give this problem a good long pondering. If it were me, I'd ask myself the following: Is there really nothing I can do? Is she beyond fixing? Is she as hopeless as my dating opportunities?

If you're duly convinced it's not, give the other options a good hard look and determine just how drastic a move you're going to have to make. It's you or her; don't ever negotiate with terrorists.

Sincerely,
Rachel

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NOCTURNE | Never loses touch with pop formula

Richard DiCicco
Staff Writer

Wild Nothing is something of a rarity among Virginia-based indie rock acts. Not only is it great local music, but it's relevant to the wider alternative scene. Mixing modern trends in American underground rock with classic British indie pop, Wild Nothing's second album is incredibly lucid and strikingly well-composed.

However, this one-man band had modest beginnings. Jack Tatum began recording under the moniker of Wild Nothing in the summer of 2009 in Blacksburg, and soon his early demos—including an inspired cover of Kate Bush's 1985 classic "Cloudbusting"—attracted the attention of the indie scene.

Eventually he was signed by the label Captured Tracks, and whisked away into the blogosphere. His debut "Gemini" was released to critical acclaim and as they say, the rest is history.

However, for any talented artist like Tatum, the story doesn't really end there. Readers, if you recall my remarks last week concerning the career path of the young band The xx, any musician's sophomore effort is a defining moment.

The second album is the chance for an artist to prove that there is more to them than a hit debut and a summer single. It's an opportunity to earn their staying power, and Wild Nothing passes with flying colors.

"Nocturne" is one of the most confident albums I have had the pleasure of hearing all year. Much like his debut,

WILD NOTHING
NOCTURNE
CAPTURED TRACKS
GRADE | B+

Tatum continues to draw from classic U.K. alternative rock, such as the lush guitar textures of shoegazer rock and the soaring, slick melodies of Britpop, while using the modern American dream pop and nostalgia-soaked chillwave scenes as grounding aesthetics.

Guitars laced with heavy reverb shoot across twinkling synths, lively drums and echoing vocals, but unlike 2010's "Gemini," they are constrained.

Wild Nothing's previous release was packed with melodic songs that drifted through a haze and loosely fell into place, and while "Nocturne's" music loves to wander and explore its soundscape, it never loses touch with its pop formula.

Wild Nothing's second album seizes the attention of the listener. Here, Tatum sounds more sure of himself, and it reflects positively in his music. The title track leaps into action at a jogger's pace. "This Chain Won't Break" announces itself with pounding drums. "The Blue Dress" grants equal time to all aspects of its craft, twisting and turning with a zig-zag guitar riff while chugging along with a grooving bass line. Tatum may limit himself sonically, but he plays with genre so openly that his restraint has given him focus.

"Nocturne" is more concrete and direct than Jack Tatum's shaky debut, which, while pleasant, seemed content to glide rather than to ever touch down. These new songs are punchy and sculpted just right while still retaining their dreamy, hypnotizing rhythm. It's dream pop with equal emphasis on the "dream" and the "pop," and it's excellent. **CT**

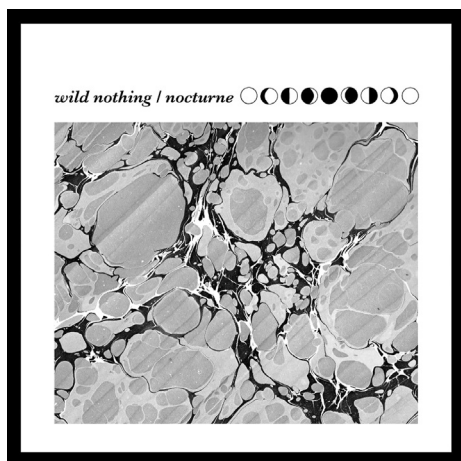


PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPTURED TRACKS

SUN | Pop songs with maturity

Richard DiCicco
Staff Writer

After a long and tumultuous period of creative drought and personal turmoil, Cat Power has returned. The indelible singer-songwriter Chan Marshall has finally released her ninth studio album "Sun" to the world.

Now, I have a confession to make: I have never listened to a Cat Power record

CAT POWER
SUN
MATADOR RECORDS
GRADE | A-

before "Sun." However, it is a testament to her imprint on music's culture by the fact that I cannot recall a time when I was not at least familiar with her as an artist.

Encountering her music during a point of rebirth in her career has given me a unique perspective on Cat Power both as a songwriter and as a person. Listening to

"Sun" was instantly a much more intimate experience than I was prepared for.

The record's painfully long gestation period proved to be a source of inspiration for much of its content. Marshall is not unknown for taking extended breaks between records, but the gap between her last LP of original material and "Sun" was a long and largely unproductive six years.

She claims that she has been working on the record since 2006, but bankruptcy and a lack of new ideas prevented her from completing it until now. That frustration proves to be the engine that drives the album.

Just like that flaming ball in the sky, "Sun" is at once beautiful and intense, life-affirming and harsh. These are pop songs with a heavy-handed maturity; songs about disappointment, freedom, guilt and despondency.

On the page, Cat Power's lyrics are dismal, but melodically they spring to life. Every track explodes with color and personality; while Marshall may lament the lack of first-world humility on "Ruin," the

music itself is jaunty and assertive.

For Cat Power fans, the album's biggest surprise is the extensive use of electronic elements. In addition to her patented acoustic instrumentation, Marshall breaks out drum machines and synthesizers to accent her sobering view of her own life and the world, constructing sharp and threatening artificial soundscapes and alternatively beautiful minimalistic looping beat. It works remarkably well.

"Sun" sounds somewhat jaded, and its dry synths and brittle drum machines reflect this, but it also sounds hopeful and energized. Much of Cat Power's appeal lies in her impressively emotive and personal music and this record proves that she is a singular talent.

She commands the elements of each song around her with a veteran's intuition. Though a tad lengthy, "Sun" is a bold album, exhibiting the rare case when an artist's music says exactly what cannot be expressed in words. **CT**



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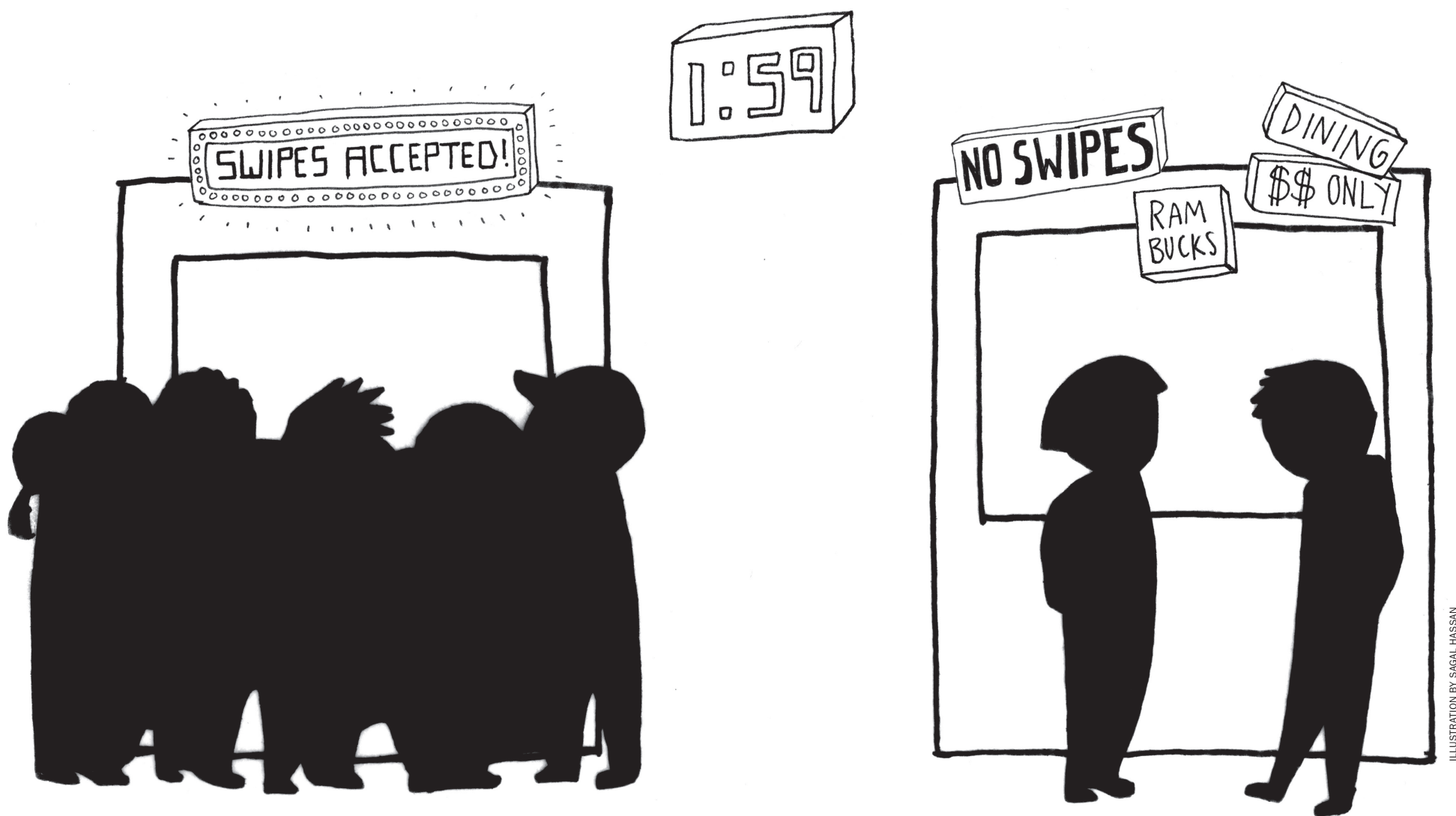


Adam Fiock, B.F.A., animation, 2012, Metuchen, New Jersey

OPINION

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Expand student eating options • 14
Students should support university green initiatives • 15



Dining Services should consider daytime options

Shane Wade
Opinion Editor

For the most part, VCU Dining Services and Aramark do an effective job of providing food for 32,000 plus students, staff and faculty.

Between the Monroe Park and MCV campus, we have 24 eating options, some opening as early as 7 a.m. and staying open until 3 a.m. Students have a wide variety of eating options available to them throughout the day, payable by cash, credit, dining dollars or the valued meal swipe.

Those options, however, become severely limited between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For example, if you get out of class at 12:50 p.m. and have an hour and 10 minutes until your next class at 2:00 p.m., there are five locations where you can use your meal blocks: Croutons, Shafer Dining Court, Market 810-2-Go, Cary

Street Deli or Bleecker's. You can either wait in those long lines, scramble for \$5 to \$7 to spend on lunch somewhere else, hope you haven't spent all your dining dollars at Starbucks or convince yourself to stomach Shafer. Hundreds of students with meal plans, whether they're preferred or essential plans, are unable to use the block portions of the meal plans that they've already purchased anywhere else.

While it's important for non-meal plan subscribers to also have readily available options, corralling students to particular locations only during certain hours is unfair; they've already paid into the system and should have an increased, if not unlimited, reign of where and when their meal plan is applicable.

This isn't some petty grudge about being stubborn or overly picky about lunchtime meals. It's about students having a say in the choices available to them. After all, we've already forked

over hundreds of dollars for our dining plans; shouldn't they be flexible to what we, as consumers, want? Or is this a case of Dining Services pulling a, to quote Charlie Sheen, "I've already got your money, dude."

In an article published two weeks ago in the Commonwealth Times, Dan McDonald, assistant director of VCU business services, commented on how students would miss Quizno's "availability of meal swipes."

It's also important to note that this new Starbucks lacks the versatility of the others because students are unable to use dining dollars there. That means one less location where students can get food between their lunchtime classes and one more location line rush for "swipeable" places like Croutons.

Again and again, Dining Services opens new locations, much to the acclaim of the student body, only for us to be disappointed by the limited hours

(Einstein Bagels & Co) or quality of food (Zoca's). While they do a fantastic job of handling customer complaints, making menu adjustments and responding to student comments, we still have to deal with 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. food rushes. We're still dealing with the same problems and making the same complaints that we have in the past.

A few awards for excellence in dining in the past doesn't keep students from striving for excellence in both food quality and food service.

Dining Services should be applauded for their past efforts in prioritizing student needs, particularly with addressing customer complaints and the request for healthier food options, but it's our job, as both students and consumers, to voice our opinions and self-advocate for changes we'd like to see, particularly in such an expansive and expensive service.

CT

Get involved in green initiatives

Katherine Johnson
Columnist

VCU is now the only university in Virginia recognized as an Overall College Sustainability Leader for 2011, based on a report card by GreenReportCard.org that evaluates university's sustainability efforts.

VCU, as well as other schools that earned the distinction, had an average grade of at least A- in nine judged categories. The Rams' closest competitors in the Commonwealth are the College of William & Mary and Virginia Tech, with grades of B+. The majority of state schools scored in the B to C range.

The report card graded VCU as having A's for the administration, food and recycling, green building and transportation categories. We still have room for improvement in climate change and energy, student involvement, endowment transparency and investment priorities, where we scored Bs. Only one category, shareholder engagement, was inapplicable for the university, since shareholders proxy voting doesn't occur.

Since the school focuses strongly on research, the arts and sciences, it's unlikely that going green will be our top priority when it comes to financial investments.

Instead, in order to improve a near perfect score, students should take up more responsibility and try to improve the student involvement grade. The category did take into consideration the

student government and Green Unity 4 VCU group's efforts for a green roof as well as waste and water reduction initiatives. But with such a large student population, it's possible for more to be achieved in this area.

Students that are interested in helping the environment, and especially those in science majors such as environmental studies, should form groups and promote the cause on campus.

Although there are already established organizations that perform a number of green initiatives, increased student involvement, both within organizations and individually, it will help to generate funds to improve VCU's grade, but more importantly it will spread the word to fellow students who could take simple steps to help improve the environment.

Promoting recycling or tips for waste reduction is something that everyone can do in their daily life. With the help of environmental groups on campus, more students will become aware of and educated on what they can do.

Many already help out without even knowing it, even if they're not aiming to be green. Each student that bikes or walks to campus has helped VCU's sustainability grade. Recycling bins are scattered around campus, to the point where at times it's difficult to find a trash can. Efforts such as this have helped gain VCU recognition, but students can also take be proactive.

The university can focus on its green

goals when new students attend orientation. There could be a brief meeting outlining what students can do and the measures VCU plans to take in order to maintain their grade. If students are told these expectations before they start, there's a higher chance of success.

Another option for increased student involvement could be competitions between student housing, an effort that could potentially make a large impact considering the amount of freshmen living in dorms. Residential assistants could challenge their floor to recycle the most or use the least amount of electricity and water. Whether it's floor versus floor or building versus building, competition will make students more interested in the cause, especially if they benefit with a small reward.

VCU should be proud of their sustainability grade, particularly because of our large student enrollment and urban setting, which may not be typical of other schools that were recognized as leaders.

As students, we can pitch in as well, and not let all the focus be on money, which is needed in other areas to promote VCU's role as a growing university with strong ties to research and the arts. With increased student involvement, VCU should be able to maintain or raise their grade as a sustainability leader among universities. **CT**

Corrections

In the story, "VCU Cinema" in Sept. 17's issue, the film "The Trailer" was misidentified as a spring production. The film was actually shot in the summer. The director of "Last Spring," Eliot John Hagen's name was misprinted as Eliot Hagen.

The CT regrets these errors.

the
ct

Mechelle Hankerson
Executive Editor

Shane Wade
Opinion Editor

FANATICS | By Eman Kim



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