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Along came Molly

Rave culture sparks drug's popularity

SHELBY MERTENS
Spectrum Editor

In the last few months, five young people on the East Coast have died after using the drug Molly, catapulting it into the national spotlight. While the drug isn't new, it's making a comeback in cities with a thriving rave culture like Richmond.

Molly is marketed as a pure, safer form of Ecstasy, or MDMA, but it is sometimes mixed with a variety of other drugs, such as Ritalin, cocaine and bath salts, which can create a deadly combination under certain circumstances. Molly has made national headlines in the last few months for a number of user-related deaths, including U.Va. student Mary "Shelley" Goldsmith. The drug is mostly used at clubs and rave parties because of its hallucinogenic effects and its ability to enhance the senses.

Rutherford Rose, director of the VCU Medical Center's Virginia Posion Center, said he has noticed an increase in medical incidences involving Molly in the Richmond area in the last few months.

"We've had young people who have collapsed in clubs and had to be taken to the emergency room," he said. "They became very sick."

Rose is also a professor and chairperson in the section of Clinical

Toxicology in the department of Emergency Medicine at VCU. The Virginia Poison Center also services the rest of central Virginia, Williamsburg and the Tidewater region.

"Molly is counted or reported to be the drug Ecstasy, or MDMA, so the illusion is that Molly is some pure, safer form of Ecstasy," Rose said. "But if someone sells you Molly on the street or in a club, there's no (telling) of what's in the drug. Some people have been tested and showed no traces of MDMA."

MDMA, which stands for methylenedioxymethamphetamine, is the chemical compound that makes up Ecstasy. When mixed with other substances, the drug's components can be dangerous, Rose said. But the drug isn't new — it's just a new form of an older drug, Ecstasy. And like Ecstasy, Molly is a stimulant that has hallucinogenic effects. It is commonly labeled as a "club drug."

"As a buyer, you have no idea what you're getting," he said.

Molly can be mixed with bath salts and cough suppressants, said Jessica Young Brown, a staff psychologist and substance abuse specialist for VCU's University Counseling Services.

Rose said methamphetamine (known as Speed on the streets), Ritalin, cocaine and various pre-

scription stimulants could also be found in Molly. In its pure form, Rose said, the drug can enhance your sight, smell and touch.

However, when a user takes Molly while at a rave, they become more vulnerable to dangerous situations, Rose said. Under the conditions of being drunk, high and dehydrated, a Molly user could become very sick and have to go to the hospital, he said.

"It has both pleasure effects and undesirable effects," Rose said. "(But you're) unlikely to get pleasure effects without other dangerous effects."

The initial effects of Molly are pleasurable. Users typically experience feelings of euphoria, heightened energy, increased warmth toward others and sensory distortions, Brown said.

Because Molly is a stimulant, Brown said users might also suffer from increased heart rate, increased blood pressure, drastic changes in body temperature, dehydration, nausea, sweating and muscle cramps, among other various cardiovascular issues. High doses or prolonged use can cause more severe problems, such as seizures, heart failure and kidney failure, she added.

It is difficult to determine how many people use Molly, Brown said, especially because some may

not be comfortable talking about it.

A 2012 survey conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, showed that 7.2 percent of high school seniors have tried MDMA. A 2011 survey showed 12.3 percent of adults age 18 to 25 have used MDMA and 4.9 percent among adults over the age of 26. It was reported that more than 11 million people in the U.S. have tried Ecstasy at least once.

An anonymous survey conducted in 2012 by the VCU Student Wellness Center, using the American College Health Association's National College Health Assessment, showed that out of 1,500 students, only 15 said they had used Molly in the last 30 days.

Recent studies indicate that a much greater assortment of people are now using Molly, Brown added.

"Some national statistics from the National Institute on Drug Abuse indicate that Molly (or) Ecstasy is now a drug being used by a more diverse population of people than it once was," she said.

A 21-year-old, who requested to remain anonymous, said she started going to raves two years ago because she started listening to dubstep music and wanted to hear it live. She said she has used the drug three or four times. She said Molly is not present at every rave she has attended, but when people



Molly, a form of Ecstasy, is growing in popularity along with rave culture in cities like Richmond.

goers because it is cheap. While one gram of Molly typically costs \$100, She said most people buy 0.3 grams, which usually costs about \$30, although she said she can get it for as low as \$20 if she is able to cut a deal.

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VCU sophomore defender Abbey Ritter (left) battles Dayton senior forward Stephanie Emery (right) for possession during the Flyers' 5-4 tournament victory over the Lady Rams last Thursday.

Women's soccer falls in A-10 tournament

ALEX GREER
Contributing Writer

The VCU women's soccer season came to a disappointing close as they fell 5-4 to the University of Dayton in the quarterfinals of the Atlantic 10 Tournament at Sports Backers Stadium on Thursday, Nov. 7.

In a tale of two halves, the eighth-seeded Lady Rams overcame a 5-1 deficit to come within a goal of the tournament's top-seeded Flyers before ultimately falling short.

VCU senior Courtney Conrad opened the scoring with a strike in the 8th minute to give the Lady Rams an early lead before Dayton strung together five consecutive goals in a 31 minute period stretching into the early moments of the second frame. The five-goal streak included a hat trick from sophomore Ashley Campbell.

Junior Maren Johansen halted Dayton's run in the 60th minute with a rebound goal, cutting the deficit to 5-2. The momentum began to shift in VCU's favor, and junior defender Casey Boyer added a third tally less than four minutes later.

Sophomore midfielder Olivia Delifice came off the bench to score

her first career goal in the 75th minute, and the Lady Rams faced a one-goal deficit with more than 15 minutes in regulation.

VCU continued to press the attack in search of the game-tying goal and came close on several occasions. An Alex Gogolin header sailed over the crossbar in the 86th minute, but the Lady Rams' season came to a close in the opening round of the A-10 tournament.

Head coach Lindsey Vanderspiegel said she was pleased with her team's effort after the game.

"It was a valiant effort for us to come back from a 5-1 deficit and make it an exciting game," Vanderspiegel said. "Obviously we're disappointed that we didn't get the result but I'm proud of the kids not giving up, they battled the entire time. We're going to miss our seniors and I'm very proud of their effort today."

The loss against Dayton was the Lady Rams' third consecutive defeat and their fourth loss in their last five contests. After putting together a seven-game undefeated streak in the middle of the season, a 2-0 loss against St. Bonaventure University on Oct. 20 sparked a downward spiral that ultimately left VCU as the last team in the A-10 tournament.

Vanderspiegel's club followed up the loss at SBU with 0-0 draw at George Washington University before dropping consecutive home matches against the University of Richmond and Saint Louis University to cap the regular season. The Lady Rams scored four goals against the Flyers after failing to score in their final four games of the year.

The women's soccer team finished the year with a 3-3-2 conference record and an 8-8-3 record overall.

Looking ahead to next year, coach Vanderspiegel will have to replace two of the team's top four point-scorers in Conrad and senior midfielder Taryn Cressy. But for a generally inexperienced roster, the Lady Rams certainly have the foundation for significant improvement in 2014.

Redshirt sophomore goalkeeper Emma Kruse and junior Maren Johansen highlight the long list of returning players for VCU.

Top-seeded Dayton bested St. Bonaventure on Friday, Nov. 8, and faced La Salle University in the A-10 championship on Sunday, but a result was not final as of press time.

After panel, university works toward official profiling policy

SARAH KING
Contributing Writer

Kevin Harris said it was a joke between himself and Aashir Nasim, Ph.D., to "check on each other" after VCU crime alerts were sent out with a suspect description of an African American male. By the fourth or fifth time, however, there was less humor in the sole descriptors "black, bald and bearded."

"I was like well if I'm starting to feel bothered by this, then I can't imagine how others feel," said Harris, who is the vice president of student health and academic and diversity affairs at VCU.

"We aren't saying strip out race as if it doesn't matter, it can be an important descriptor, but it can't be the only descriptor. It isn't effective that way."

In lieu of these concerns, the Black Education Association hosted a panel discussion on Oct. 28 that featured Harris, Nasim, who is department chair of African American studies, VCU Police chief John Venuti and former student Stephen Davenport. From the discussion came an initiative prompted by VCU vice president of finance and administration David Hanson, Ph.D., to determine whether race as a sole descriptor in the alerts was effective and necessary.

"The whole thing was very organic," Harris said. "We didn't know whether the university would feel like we're causing trouble unnecessarily, which is why Dr. Hanson's response was definitely the trigger point."

The controversy with the alerts stems from a federal law known as the Clery Act. Venuti explained that when one of seven Clery crimes occurs within VCU's core campus and there is risk of ongoing danger, the university must send a crime alert to ensure campus safety and comply with the act. The Clery Act, however, does not mandate that a suspect's race be included as

a descriptor in the alert.

"I think this issue is complicated," Venuti said. "I walk in the world of reality and that is that sometimes we just don't get a very good description. The parallel I always draw is that if we were looking for a missing child, what info would be helpful? The answer is: any information that's available."

Harris emphasized that the panel was not trying to take away a tool from the police department or hamper campus safety, but instead ensure that it is an effective method when using race almost as a sole descriptor in isolation.

"That's the underlying thing here, this is advancing racial profiling. When you do it in a way where that's the only descriptor people can latch onto sometimes things can become a little irrational, especially with the background and history and context of being African American," Harris said. "I think it would be a sad testimony to say in retrospect 'this didn't even help us solve any crimes, but look what we've stirred up.'"

Nasim said the group started "moving toward action" the day after the panel discussion. A meeting was arranged for Nov. 7, and conference call was arranged for Nov. 8. A meeting with the Board of Visitors during the April or May Board of Visitors meeting may also be on the horizon.

"We need to start with a can-ganic," Harris said. "What is racial profiling? What are the legal parameters around it? Does VCU have a policy about racial profiling? And as it turns out, we don't," Nasim said.

Although Nasim said he gives credit to Venuti, Hanson and Wanda Mitchell, VCU's vice president for diversity and equity affairs, for wanting to "right the ship," it was he who sent out an email in August pertaining to the nature of the alerts that set in motion the panel discussion.

"This is a challenge for us to be able to ensure the safety and secu-

urity of all without infringing upon the rights of a few," Nasim said. "If there's a way to issue crime alerts in a way that doesn't infringe on the rights of groups that have been historically marginalized or criminalized then let's figure out a way to do that."

The descriptors are used in the alerts because they are sent to more than 50,000 students, faculty and staff. That's 50,000 additional sets of eyes outside of the police force to help match the suspect description, Venuti said.

In his August email, Nasim referenced the most recent VCU crime alert at the time (August 2, 2013), which was sent to more than 35,000 alert subscribers. He said it essentially warned them to be on the lookout for 3,205 young-adult African American men who are heavy-set, have a bald head and sport facial hair.

According to the 2012 U.S. Census data, in the city of Richmond there are approximately 210,309 residents, and of that, 50.4 percent are African American, and 48 percent are male. According to enrollment statistics, in the VCU 2013 freshman class alone, 17 percent are African American, and 41 percent are male.

"I would frame the problem as being that an unexamined policy has seemingly unintended consequences," Harris said. "The question becomes, is the nondescript, almost isolated use of race is effective in carrying out the Clery Act and does it result in racial profiling?"

Harris has been unofficially assigned the task of determining the policy measures that must be taken to move forward with this initiative. Thus far, he said he has examined policies at universities who have faced similar situations, historically black colleges and universities and other Virginia schools.

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briefs

LOCAL

McAuliffe elected Va. governor by less than 2 percent

Just before 10:00 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, new governor Democrat Terry McAuliffe claimed a victory over his rivals Republican Ken Cuccinelli and Libertarian Robert Sarvis. His win lays out the next four years of democratic administration for Virginia.

As of press time, McAuliffe's stole the lead by 1.75 percent, according to the Virginia State Board of Elections.

Students made their way to the polls earlier in the day to exercise their right to vote in the Virginia general election. The Richmond city ballot included gubernatorial candidates, lieutenant governor, attorney general and more.

Many students casted their vote for the first time. Freshmen friends business major Sameera Ferdous, social work major Kelly Ludwig and chemistry major Brittany Nixon all recently turned 18 and decided to face the polls together at the Dominion Place polling station at 1025 W. Grace St.

Brief by The Commonwealth Times

Mass Comm. professor faces criticism for tweet

An adjunct professor in the School of Mass Communications is under fire after tweeting that Virginia gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli views women as "sperm receptacles" (sic) and birthing machines."

Professor Mary Ann Owens tweeted the sentiment on Oct. 15 and Oct. 16. Her Twitter account does not say she is a professor at VCU.College news organization Campus Reform published a story on Tuesday, Nov. 5 about Owens' tweets. The story was picked up by conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh. In Limbaugh's web radio broadcast on Wednesday, Nov. 6, he criticized the professor's remarks as "BS" and "outrageous."

Brief by The Commonwealth Times

Small margin divides race for attorney general; recount likely

The race for Virginia's new attorney general remains uncertain as precincts across the state are resubmitting votes and-checking for human and mechanical errors that may have occurred on Election Day.

The numbers fluctuated Wednesday putting both Mark D. Obenshain (R-Harrisonburg) and Mark R. Herring (D-Loudon) in the lead at various points in the afternoon.

As of noon Thursday, the Virginia Board of Elections unofficial figures showed Obenshain with a .3 percent lead over Herring, a margin of just 681 votes. With over 2.2 million votes cast on Election Day, tight races like these are "a reminder of the importance of participating in the Democratic process," Obenshain said in a public statement Thursday thanking his campaign supporters.

Brief by Zoë Dehmer

NATIONAL

Journalists in Syria face growing risk of kidnap

Behind a veil of secrecy, at least 30 journalists have been kidnapped or have disappeared in Syria - held and threatened with death by extremists or taken captive by gangs seeking ransom.

The widespread seizure of journalists is unprecedented, and has been largely unreported by news organizations in the hope that keeping the kidnappings out of public view may help to negotiate the captives' release.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists says at least 30 journalists are being held and 52 have been killed since Syria's civil war began in early 2011. The group also has documented at least 24 other journalists who disappeared earlier this year but are now safe. In a report this week, Paris-based Reporters Without Borders cited higher figures, saying at least 60 "news providers" are detained and more than 110 have been killed.

Brief by the Associated Press

The shutdown's surprise effect on jobs numbers

The government shutdown may have affected October's jobs numbers. But not how you think.

For weeks, the White House had braced for a dour report on hiring, with economists and aides lowering expectations and blaming last month's partial shutdown for the inevitable bad news to come.

Then Friday's numbers materialized: Employers appeared to have ignored the shutdown and hired away, to the tune of 204,000 jobs in October.

The shutdown, it seemed, had had no effect.

Not so fast.

In the height of irony, the 16 days of federal worker furloughs and government disruptions may have helped, not hurt, the improved jobs picture.

Brief by the Associated Press

Tech Services monitors illegal downloading

CYRUS NUVAL
Staff Writer

If you download music or movies illegally while logged on to VCU's Wi-Fi, there is a chance the university knows about it.

VCU Tech Services reports an average of 15-20 computer and network use policy violations a week during the regular school year.

A majority of the violations involve piracy, illegal downloading and sharing of copyrighted material, said Dan Han, the VCU Technology Services Chief Information Security Officer.

Han is the officer in charge of monitoring VCU's wireless networks for cybersecurity threats and VCU Computer and Network Use Policy violations, specifically the VCU Guest Wireless, VCU Wireless and VCU SafeNet Wireless networks.

"All three networks are monitored equally for malicious activity," Han said.

Through the use of VCU Technology Services' large collection of security programs and the assistance of the information security officers, Han is able to detect and investigate multiple security threats, policy violations and malicious activities all over the Monroe Park and Medical campuses.

VCU Technology services has detected and investigated 131 violations so far this semester, Han said. As of press time, Han and his superiors at VCU's Technology Services were unable to provide the number of violations from last year.

In the Computer and Network Resources Use Policy, possible violations include actions that harass or harm individuals, actions that impede or interfere with others' activities, using a VCU computer or a network resource for piracy, illegal actions or actions in violation of the VCU Honor Code and using computers and network resources for purposes other than University-approved business.

When a possible violation is detected, Han or the designated information security officer collects evidence to determine if a violation has occurred and who committed it. If the investigation indicates that there is a violation, the investigator will notify the Division of Student Affairs and the person or people deemed responsible.

The students are given an opportunity to refute the charges by explaining their side of the story in front of a hearing board.

Informal sanctions range from actively assisting in repairing the damage caused, paying for the damage, registration holds or temporary suspensions.

If the student has disobeyed the policy multiple times or has violated state or federal law while using a VCU network or a VCU resource, the student receives a formal sanction by the Division of Student Affairs. The student will then have limited room to refute their charges to the University or a court of law.

Formal sanctions range from expulsions to formal criminal or civil charges.

Karen Belanger, director of VCU's Office Student Conduct

and Academic Integrity Office, said her office rarely gets involved with such violations.

"The only time we would get involved is when a student makes use of a computer or a network resource to violate the Honor Code or when criminal allegations are made," Belanger said. "We have not been involved in any illegal-downloading or network-resource misuse cases."

Violations involving the Computer and Network Resources Use Policy are investigated by Han and the Information Security Officers, and judged by the Division of Student Affairs, Belanger said.

The university gives Han and the information security officers a certain amount of discretion when detecting and investigating possible violations.

"We can act within the boundaries of Federal and State laws and the university policies," Han said. "We respect the privacy of individuals and will not intrude and actively monitor individuals without justifiable cause ... we may monitor and investigate compute and network usage if a suspected violation has occurred ... or if it is required by law."

Han said he thinks increasing awareness of VCU's policies and the laws regarding computer and network use, and the consequences of violating the laws and policies, the number of violations will continue to decrease.

"A lot of the students commit violations because they don't know what the policies are or the law is ... especially copyright laws," Han said. "Me and my co-workers are here to serve the students and the university."

In this section: Tech Services watches what you click. Guard your electronics. Students learn from NASCAR. Did you vote?



PHOTO BY MIRANDA LEUNG

Captain Mike O'Berry of the VCU PD said the library is a hot spot for electronic device theft.

Electronic theft up on campus

SAM ISAACS
News Editor

Overall theft at VCU has decreased over the past academic year. However, the VCU Police Department has noticed a spike in one specific area of theft; electronic devices.

"We have seen a 9 percent decrease in theft over the past academic year, but electronic device theft has increased 22 percent over that same stretch of time," said Captain Mike O'Berry of the VCU PD.

Sophomore Grace Douglas experienced this first-hand when she lived in Brandt Hall last year.

"I had a lot of things stolen ... I finally called the police when I realized I had money directly stolen out of my wallet," Douglas said.

Graduate Caitlyn Botts had a similar experience in 2012 when she lived at Grace and Harrison streets. She walked to her car one afternoon and found all of her belongings missing.

"My car was broken into on campus and they took my iPod, my sunglasses and my friend's purse that was under my passenger seat," Botts said.

Cell phones, tablets, iPods and even laptops are among the items frequently stolen from students O'Berry said.

"These are usually cases of people leaving their things untended or out in the open for even just a few minutes. These items can be pawned off for quick cash at a number of different stores," he said.

O'Berry also said thefts most often occur while students are getting their workout on.

"The Cary Street Gym is where the most thefts happen. It can be due to user error when securing a locker, or just setting your stuff

down when working out and not paying attention," O'Berry said. "I've also seen on several occasions dozens of sets of keys and phones placed on the windowsills in the basketball courts. That is pretty risky."

Not all thefts are preventable, but there are things students can do the help themselves, O'Berry said.

"You can register your laptops with us. It is also important to keep records of your serial numbers so if something gets taken, it can be tracked," he said. "If you have an iPhone or iPad, it is also very important to download the app that allows you to track the location of your phone."

Botts said she lost hope and did not contact the police after unsuccessfully trying to find her iPod with a tracking app.

"I tried to track my iPod on the find my iPod app, but the thief never turned it back on. I figured there was no way the police would find all my stuff or who did it," Botts said. "I had to skip class because I was so sad. I had just gotten that iPod."

Douglas also said she never saw her stolen devices again.

"I never got my items back, but I have a good hunch on who stole them. I was just truly overwhelmed because finals week was approaching," Douglas said.

O'Brien said he doesn't see the trend of electronic device theft changing until students start taking control of their possessions. However, he did say the VCU PD is using new technology to help solve cases.

"We have seen a lot of success with the new cameras on campus," O'Berry said. "Some of them have night vision, so our overall level of visibility has increased at all times of the day."

After panel, university works toward official profiling policy

— continued from page 1

"The next step is to pull in the stakeholders, to get a sense of what this means to people," Harris said. "I'm doing research, we're all taking time in the interim to see what's happening around the country in regard to this. There's an overhead, a burden of race, which comes in. It's real."

Harris said the initiative is going to include two months of focus groups, talking to people, establishing how prevalent the issue is and examining data to determine if the isolated use of race is effective.

"I think there's some marginalization taking place with African American males who are socialized from very early that they will prob-

ably have different treatment," he said. "If this can demonstrate that this one descriptor of a person is actually leading to solving crime, I'd be willing to pull back and be less offended."

Venuti said the issue was complicated and each crime alert is established on a case-by-case basis. He said he agreed to sit on the original BEA panel because he is a strong advocate for collaboration with every group on campus.

Hanson said the goal of the initiative is to develop a university policy on profiling.

"From there, my hope is that the conversation across campus on many topics related to diversity will continue to grow and benefit us all," Hanson said.



PHOTO BY CHRIS CONWAY

Students in the Business of NASCAR class learn how things like sponsorships and concessions fuel the sport.

Business class studies NASCAR

COURTNEY BROCKWELL
Contributing Writer

What do Jeff Gordon, corporate sponsorships and VCU have in common? They are all a part of a program offered by the School of Business.

The Business of NASCAR class at VCU takes an in-depth look at the business model NASCAR employs, including sponsorships and driver contacts, said Dr. R. Jon Ackley, assistant professor in the School of Business and instructor of the course.

Many topics covered remain similar from year-to-year, but some information evolves as NASCAR does.

"Ideally, the purpose of the class is to show that a sport, especially one that isn't 'stick and ball,' can become a successful business venture for all involved - NASCAR, race car owners, drivers, sponsors, tracks, television, radio and so on," Ackley said.

Ackley developed the course several years ago along with his colleague and fellow NASCAR fan, Dr. Michael Pitts. They talked about their connections in the sport

and decided to teach a class on it.

"At about this time, the Honors College was offering five-week honors modules, and so my colleague and I prepared a proposal, it was accepted and we began offering the module once a year. I had a contact at the time who wrote for Winston Scene, a weekly NASCAR magazine. He spoke to the class and I was also able to get a reporter from the Richmond Times-Dispatch who covered NASCAR," Ackley said.

Aimee Turner, director of public relations at Richmond International Raceway, is a guest lecturer in the course. She provides insight during lectures and tells students stories of her personal experiences working in the sport.

"I assist Dr. Ackley with the class, offering 'behind the scenes' insight and points of view. I like to say I live 'real world' NASCAR and hope that my experience and knowledge helps with his topics," Turner said.

Assignments in the class include a group report on an area of NASCAR and a visit to Richmond International Raceway to complete a concession report.

The class has attracted avid and novice fans. Senior Chao Hensley said he has been a NASCAR fan long before the class started.

"I took the class because I was looking over electives and my adviser said that I could take it as one," Hensley said. "And I've always been interested in the sport and been involved in the sport with my family."

Other students like senior Angie Mancipe, had little knowledge of the sport before taking the class. She said the class changed her perspective.

"I thought NASCAR was a sport a select group of people enjoyed, but I realized that people from many different parts of the world enjoy it," Mancipe said.

The students are not the only ones who see the difference in perspective. Ackley said his favorite part of the class is seeing the students who are not avid fans gain interest in the sport.

"They begin to understand the 'business' side of NASCAR and that it simply isn't 43 drivers going around in a circle for three or more hours on a Sunday afternoon," Ackley said.

Students respond: Did you vote in Virginia’s gubernatorial election?

SARAH KING
Contributing Writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, Democrat Terry McAuliffe bested Republican Ken Cuccinelli and Libertarian Robert Sarvis in the Virginia gubernatorial election. Though CNN reported Cuccinelli won the majority of the vote in the 18-24 year-old range, McAuliffe soared in the 25-29 age group. The CT asked students how they felt about the election, voting and McAuliffe’s victory.



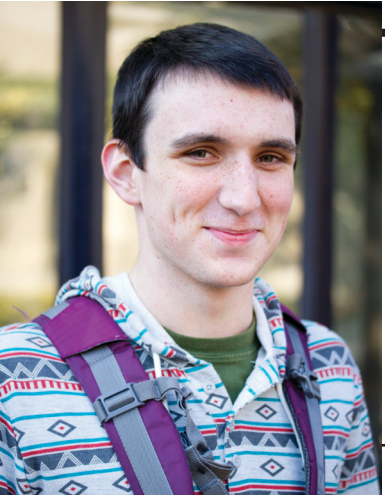
ALICIA WENDLING
Communication Arts major

“I always vote; my first time was in the presidential election. My roommates are super politically active so they’re always hounding me to go vote, it wasn’t even really an option.”



AYANNA OGALDEZ
Business Management major

“I didn’t know where to vote. I’m registered, but my card never came in so I was just like, ‘I’m here for you in spirit McAuliffe.’”



ADAM SCHWEICKERT
Biology major

“It definitely seemed like there was a lot of mud being thrown both ways. It seems like a lot of people think the voting process itself is kind of poor but they vote anyway. There was definitely a presence to go out and vote on campus, there were a lot of people bothering me to do so.”



PHIL LOUDEN
Environmental major

“I voted, it was OK. I think that McAuliffe was the lesser of two evils; both were pretty bad. I wasn’t super enthusiastic about either, but I wish I’d known more about Sarvis. I don’t know, he didn’t seem that great either, but he was taking votes away from Cuccinelli.”



JAMES HERR
Chemistry major

“I didn’t vote here. I was in Northern Virginia, but it seemed like there were a lot of people out. I was expecting the results, I saw a lot more negative ads toward Cuccinelli than I did for McAuliffe. I didn’t really see too many positive ads about either candidate though.”

BIJAN HALSEY
Biology and Psychology double major

“I went early, around 8 a.m., and there was a decent crowd. I’m pleased with how things turned out; the person I voted for won. There was definitely a presence on campus to go vote. It seemed like every time I walked out of the library there was someone out there talking about candidates or handing out pamphlets with information, or getting people to register. I think the national elections get more publicity and a bigger turnout, when it’s actually the local elections that affect us directly. Maybe better outreach from the candidates, like campus visits or more ads would yield a bigger turnout.”



COLUMBKILLE CLAVIN
Mass Communications major

“The election got a lot of attention this year—they wouldn’t leave us the hell alone, like chill out. I think it went well, I voted for the right man. McAuliffe had those cool stickers, so I was like ‘OK he’s not crazy’. I liked his commercials better too. I fell for the propaganda.”



MORGAN CRAWFORD
Dance Major

“I thought it was a pretty slim turnout, definitely not as much as the presidential election, but then again, there wasn’t as big of a presence either. I’m happy with the results, but I don’t usually tell who I vote for.”



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sports



STAT OF THE WEEK

Eleven different Rams logged double-digit minutes in VCU's season-opener against Illinois State University.



JeQuan Lewis (left) and Melvin Johnson (right) are two players that will come off Shaka Smart's bench to make the Rams one of the nation's deepest teams.

Analysis: Depth key for men's basketball moving forward

COLIN KENNEDY
Sports Editor

Several storylines can describe VCU's 96-58 season-opening victory over Illinois State University, but arguably the biggest takeaway from Friday night's win can be found in the Rams' overwhelming display of depth.

Head coach Shaka Smart went with a sizeable starting lineup, which featured senior forwards Juvonte Reddic and Terrance Shannon, senior guard Rob Brandenburg and junior guards Treveon Graham and Briante Weber. But it didn't take long for VCU to show the Redbirds and the rest of the nation that their roster is truly 15-men deep.

Eleven Rams saw playing time and 10 different VCU players scored in the first half alone. By game's end, six players registered at least nine points, five were in double figures and 11 of Smart's 15 options played double-digit minutes.

After the game, Smart said his roster has a wide range of versatile talent.

"There's not a guy on our team that is only a scorer," he said. "There's not a guy on the team that's only a shooter. I think it's a deeper team than the last couple of years, scoring-wise, but we want to be a better team overall, that's much more important."

Unlike in years past, the Rams have several viable scoring options off the bench, which allows Smart to rest constantly-hustling defenders while still maintaining a competitive lineup. This allows VCU to maintain high-energy, full-court defensive pressure for the whole 40-minute contest, without sacrificing offensive production in the process.

Among the notable names that make this possible are junior forward Jarred Guest, sophomore guard Melvin Johnson, redshirt freshman Mo-Alie Cox and Jordan Burgess, and freshman point guards

JeQuan Lewis and Douglas Brooks.

All six non-starters played at least 10 minutes for the Rams in Friday's season-opener, and the group combined for 32 points off the bench.

Burgess, one of Smart's first options off the bench, contributed seven points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals in 19 minutes on Friday night. Johnson, who was VCU's fifth-leading scorer a year ago, added 11 points and four rebounds in 17 minutes. Each player could make a case to start on a majority of the Atlantic 10 teams this season.

In addition to providing the starters with rest, the depth of the Rams' roster means that no one player should feel the pressure to shoulder the scoring load.

Reddic, last season's second-leading scorer, said that any number of guys on the team can carry the team offensively.

"Our depth is great," he said. "Anybody can go off any night.

We have multiple guys that can (consistently) reach double-figures. We're going to be a lot harder to guard because everyone can put the ball in the basket."

The addition of guys like Shannon, Burgess, Cox, Lewis and Brooks also means that Smart has multiple options at all positions for the first time since he arrived four years ago. Now more than ever, he has the ability to shuffle lineups based on size and skill to match opponent rosters week-to-week.

Depth at the forward position is relatively new to VCU, who has been a relatively undersized, guard-oriented team in recent years. With Shannon serving as a strong complement to Reddic in the front court, along with Guest and Cox on the bench, the Rams can score in a variety of ways.

After effectively implementing the strategy Friday night, VCU looks to continue using a forward-first offensive scheme moving forward, Shannon said.

"It's best to work inside-out," he said. "Once we start throwing the ball inside and they start closing down in the lane, it frees up our guards to knock down the (perimeter) shot."

One player that will benefit from an increased post presence is Johnson, who knocked down a trio of open three-pointers in the second half on Friday. Big bodies down low and potent perimeter shooters on the floor simultaneously allow the Rams to stretch opposing defenses and open up lanes for guards to drive to the basket.

Playing time will certainly fluctuate as VCU's more inexperienced players progress and falter individually. But as the Rams enter the rigors of tournament schedules and conference play, there's no question that Smart will benefit from a deep and talented roster.

Field hockey's season ends with 1-0 loss to U.Mass.

STERLING GILES
Contributing Writer

The VCU field hockey team lost a 1-0 double-overtime heartbreaker to No. 12 University of Massachusetts in the first round of the Atlantic 10 Tournament on Friday, Nov. 8.

Head coach Laura Baker's first season with the Lady Rams came to a bittersweet conclusion after VCU won consecutive games against Saint Joseph's University and La Salle University in the final two matches of the regular season to vault the team into postseason play.

Senior goalkeeper Megan Botteri saved her best performance for last, totaling a career-high 19 saves against the top-seeded Minutewomen. She stifled the nation's fifth-ranked offense for more than 90 minutes, but Lauren Allymohamed scored just more than five minutes into the second overtime period. Botteri's 19 saves were the third-most in a single game in program history.

The Lady Rams managed just four shots on the afternoon, none of which were registered on target. Meanwhile, U.Mass., who averaged 3.52 goals per contest in the regular season, barraged the VCU defense with 34 shots, 20 of which landed on goal.

After the game, Baker expressed pride in her team's effort.

"I couldn't be more proud of this group of student-athletes," Baker told VCU Athletics. "Against a very talented U.Mass. team, they played with heart, determination and resilience all day long. It was a tremendous effort. Our seniors set the tone like they had all four years of their careers. They will definitely be missed and helped changed the culture of VCU field hockey."

The Lady Rams solidified their berth into the A-10 Championships as the No. 4 seed with their 3-2 overtime victory against La Salle on Sunday, Nov. 3.

Coming off a strong defensive effort and a 1-0 victory against Saint Joseph's on Nov. 1, VCU entered Sunday's match against La Salle with sights set on postseason play. The defensive efforts continued for much of the first half, but Baker's team broke through in the second frame.

Freshman forward Alexis Schramm netted a Stephanie DeMasi corner in the 46th minute, giving the Lady Rams a 1-0 lead. However, La Salle responded with a pair of goals in the 59th and 61st minutes respectively, leaving VCU just nine minutes of regulation to salvage its season.

About five minutes later, Schramm evened the score at two apiece and pushed the Explorers into overtime. There, the Lady Rams would capitalize on an offensive attack in the 75th minute of play, when DeMasi netted a game-winning goal and propelled VCU into the A-10 Championships.

The senior defensive captain was pleased to make a difference on her home turf.

"Today's game was such an incredible way to finish my last home game at Cary Street Field," DeMasi said.

After the game, Baker spoke to the excitement involved with the overtime thriller.

"This was a make or break game and we never stopped fighting," she said. "We're excited about the opportunity to play for an Atlantic 10 Championship."

Unfortunately, the excitement stalled with a second defeat at the hands of a nationally-ranked U.Mass. team in as many weeks. The Minutewomen also topped the Lady Rams 3-1 in Amherst, Mass. on Nov. 27.

Looking ahead to next season, Baker said she would like the team to hold the same standard of seeking to qualify for the A-10 Championship.

All 31 men's basketball games to be televised

KRIS MASON
Contributing Writer

A new contract between VCU and Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic ensures that the 2013-14 season will be the first time in school history that every men's basketball game is televised.

VCU and Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic agreed to terms on a deal in late October that will broadcast six previously non-televised men's basketball games on CSN or CSNPlus.

The specific contests included in the new partnership are the Nov. 16 matchup against Winthrop University, the Nov. 29 game against Northeastern University, the Dec. 1 at Belmont University, the Dec. 5 against Eastern Kentucky University, the Dec. 8 against Old Dominion University and the Jan. 3 against Stony Brook University.

Of those six games, all but the Winthrop game are also scheduled to be televised on either CBS 6.3, the sub station of the CBS Richmond affiliate or SNY, a New York

based station. However, both are only available on higher level cable subscription packages.

The games included in this new deal will be shown on channels that are available on basic cable in the Richmond area.

VCU's recent transition to the Atlantic 10 conference could be one of many factors that have led to increased national exposure for its men's basketball team. Despite the departures of Butler University, Temple University, Xavier University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte this past offseason, the A-10 is considered a stronger conference than the Colonial Athletic Association, the Rams' previous conference. And the recent television contracts signed by the two conferences are a strong indicator of the difference in competition.

In October of 2012, the A-10 signed an eight-year deal to annually televise at least 64 regular season contests on ESPN, NBC Sports Group or the CBS Sports Network.

On the other hand, the CAA agreed to five-year deal in Feb-

ruary of 2012 that includes a minimum of just nine nationally televised, regular season games. NBC Sports Network will handle a majority of the national television coverage, but most CAA games will only be shown on Comcast regional networks.

The new television deals for VCU and the A-10 speak more to a movement for increased conference exposure on a national level than any financial benefits. After previously engaging in mostly regional television contracts, the new A-10 deal puts its teams on the national stage and is worth \$40 million for eight years. The conference's 13 universities will each receive \$5 million annually from the deal.

While the Comcast SportsNet deal ensures that local fans can watch every regular season game, college hoops fans around the country will have plenty of opportunities to watch the Rams as well. Twenty-one VCU men's basketball games will be nationally televised this upcoming season.



Rams fans will be able to see Rob Brandenburg and the rest of the VCU men's basketball team on television all season.



Redshirt freshman Kaitlyn LaMantia has racked up 98 assists in her last three games.

Volleyball in first place with conference tournament looming

BOBBY GARY
Contributing Writer

With a 0-3 loss at Saint Louis this past Saturday, the VCU volleyball team snapped its seven-match winning streak and dropped its record to 11-2 in the Atlantic 10 and 24-6 overall.

Even with the loss, the Lady Rams maintain sole possession of first place in the conference standings with just one regular season game remaining. A Nov. 15 match up with the A-10's second-ranked Duquesne University Dukes serves as VCU's final tuneup before post-season play.

Sophomore outside hitter Romana Kriskova broke VCU's single-season record for kills and finished with 13 on the night, but the Lady Rams lost in consecutive sets for just the second time all season. Kriskova's 13 kills gave her 553 on the year, surpassing Ludmila Francescattos's mark of 549 from 2006.

Head coach Jody Rogers' team

dropped the first two sets 18-25 and 20-25 respectively before pushing the Lady Billikens to a tiebreak in the third and final set. But Saint Louis overcame a 22-24 deficit, scoring the final three points of the match to close out VCU by a score of 3-0 (25-18, 25-20, 26-24).

The recently-broken win streak reached six games on Friday, Nov. 1, when the Lady Rams downed La Salle University by a score of 3-0. VCU made quick work of the Explorers, and La Salle never scored more than 15 points in a game. Junior libero Amanda Love led the Rams with 20 digs on the night she was honored for her 1,000th career dig as a Ram.

The offense clicked on all cylinders, with sophomore outside hitter Kalah Jones recording 14 kills and Kriskova firing off 13 kills of her own throughout the match.

Two days later, the Lady Rams took on Rhode Island University on Sunday, Nov. 3. VCU was pushed to the brink late in set one

after RIU rallied back from a 14-7 deficit. The Rhody women took a 24-23 lead before the Lady Rams overcame two set points to capture the set by way of two straight kills from Jones.

VCU then cruised past Rhode Island with 25-17 and 25-8 victories in sets two and three to complete the sweep. The team out-blocked Rhode Island 10.5 to two on its way to its seventh consecutive victory and 14th win in 15 matches. Jones registered 12 kills and Kriskova delivered 12 of her own as VCU dominated on offense.

Junior Amanda Love picked up the pace defensively with 16 digs while sophomore outside hitter Uzoamaka Ibeh and junior middle blocker Janelle Sykes added 12 blocks to shut down any offensive productivity by Rhode Island.

In the absence of junior setter Cecilia Aragao, who suffered a season-ending torn ACL in late September, redshirt freshman setter Kaitlyn LaMantia has stepped up her game and kept the Lady

Rams' offensive production stable. In her last three games, LaMantia has effectively moved the ball to the power hitters and racked up 98 assists.

Sykes has now recorded the fourth-most blocks in a single season in school history. She has 155 blocks with two games and the postseason remaining.

The Lady Rams remain undefeated at home, winning all nine matches. Even though the team has a winning record (8-4) on the road, it has been especially stifling to opponents at the Siegel Center. The Lady Rams have surrendered just two sets to opponents at home all year.

A victory against Duquesne in the final regular season contest would equal VCU's win total (25) from last year. The Dukes figure to provide the Lady Rams with one of their toughest conference matches of the year, but coach Rogers' team downed the Dukes 3-2 in Pittsburgh, Penn. on Sept. 29.

Men's soccer in second place heading into A-10 tourney

ALONZO SMALL
Contributing Writer

A 2-1 victory at St. Bonaventure University on Friday, Nov. 8 gave the VCU men's soccer team its second consecutive victory and propelled head coach Dave Giffard's team into sole possession of second place in the Atlantic 10 less than one week away from the conference tournament.

Junior forward Kharlton Belmar notched a pair of goals in the 65th and 70th minutes to give the Rams a second-half lead they wouldn't concede. SBU's Nicholas Perillo managed to score in the 88th minute, but VCU survived behind a solid defensive stance and

three saves from senior goalkeeper Andrew Wells.

The victory was the Rams' fifth conference win of the season and their 10th overall.

VCU's regular season concluded this past Sunday with a road match at Duquesne University, but a result was not final as of press time. Pending the results of that contest, Giffard's club (10-5-2, 5-1-1) is likely to receive a No. 2 seed in the A-10 tournament, which begins Nov. 14 in Dayton, Ohio.

On Sunday, Nov. 3, Sports Backers Stadium hosted men's soccer team Senior Day, where seniors Nate Shiffman, Romena Bowie, Garrett Harvey and goalkeeper Andrew Wells were all honored in the final home game of their collegiate ca-

reers against Fordham University.

Harvey got VCU on the board first after Belmar was denied a score by Fordham goalkeeper Alex Naples. The rebound bounced to the senior defender and Harvey netted the first score of the game less than seven minutes into the match.

The second half belonged to juniors Herrera Meraz and Belmar. Each scored a goal to secure the ninth victory of the season for coach Giffard's team. Meraz found the net for the first time in his collegiate career in the 51st minute and Belmar gave VCU a three-score advantage just more than 20 minutes later.

Wells concluded his collegiate career at Sports Backers Stadium by not allowing a goal in his final

three home games and the Rams finished the season with a 6-2-1 record at the stadium.

After the game, Giffard said the week of rest between games helped his team prepare and execute against Fordham.

"The week (off) was incredibly beneficial for us as a group, probably the last good week of training we'll get for the rest of the season," he said.

Prior to the 3-0 victory against Fordham, Giffard's team suffered a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Saint Joseph's University on Oct. 27. The match was tight throughout until SJU's Ryan McFadden found the right side of the net in the 85th minute off an assist from sophomore Tim Lazorko at Sweeney

Field in Philadelphia, Penn.

The Rams were held scoreless for the second time in three matches, and VCU's six-game undefeated streak came to an end. Before the loss at Saint Joseph's, coach Giffard's team was ranked No. 24 in the nation.

Now, VCU looks to make a repeat appearance in the A-10 Championship, one year after the Rams lost to the second-seeded Billikens in the conference final. Last season VCU entered postseason play as a No. 4 seed before a pair of 1-0 shutouts against fifth-seeded Temple University and top-seeded University of North Carolina at Charlotte propelled Giffard's club into the championship match.

This time around, Saint Louis (11-4-2, 5-0-2) will likely enter the tournament as the conference's top-seeded team. An upset at the hands of the University of Massachusetts in Saint Louis' final regular season contest could shake up the seeding; however, the standings are shaping up for a potential rematch against the A-10's top two teams in the championship. The Rams defeated the Billikens 2-1 in the regular season's only matchup on Oct. 6.

The No. 2 seed will play the No. 7 seed at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14 at Baujan Field in Dayton, Ohio. The No. 1 seed will take on the No. 8 seed at 8 p.m. the same day.

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Holiday Hoops Food Drive

November 1 - December 15

On December 21, at the Richmond Coliseum, the VCU Rams take on the Virginia Tech Hokies at the Governor's Holiday Hoops Classic. Ram Nation also takes on Virginia Tech as we raise funds and collect food for hungry people in Central Virginia. The winning school will be announced at the game!

Rams can WIN TO FEED in the following ways:

- ☒ Make a donation to FeedMore at feedmore.org/holidayhoops
A \$1 donation equals 4 pounds of food. Every donation counts.
You can even make a donation on behalf of your student or Greek organization, department or school, alumni group...challenge your friends!
- ☒ Bring a non-perishable food item to any one of these VCU Athletics events at the Siegel Center:
 - Volleyball vs. Duquesne on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. (and receive a \$3 ticket discount)
 - Men's basketball vs. Winthrop on Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.
 - Women's basketball vs. Elon on Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. (and receive a \$3 ticket discount)
- ☒ Donate non-perishable food items at various locations on campus November 19 - 21.
- ☒ Stay informed. For updates on Rams Win To Feed activities, food donation locations, and more, go to wp.vcu.edu/ramswintofeed

To donate money directly, visit feedmore.org/holidayhoops

For info about the Governor's Holiday Hoops Classic, and for tickets check out www.governor.virginia.gov/governorsClassic/



spectrum



ON THIS DAY in 2002, The CT reported that Willis Edward Anderson was found guilty of murdering former VCU student Ceeatta Kim Stewart-McKinnie. She was pregnant with Anderson’s child.

First Novelist Festival returning to Cabell



Ramona Ausubel is the 2013 winner of the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award for her book “No One Is Here Except All of Us.”

BEN SIMON
Contributing Writer

Cabell Library this month will host its 11th annual Cabell First Novelist Festival, celebrating the work of novelists both at VCU and around the nation.

The festival, which celebrates the winner of the Cabell First Novelist Award, will be a one-night event. Ramona Ausubel is the winner of this year’s award for her book “No One Is Here Except All of Us.” Ausubel will read an excerpt from her book and discuss her writing process. There will be a book sale and signing afterwards.

The novel is a contemplation of fantasy and reality, dealing with a small Romanian village in the midst of World War II. Under threat of attack at any day, the residents decide to pretend their community is the only place in the world, in a desperate attempt to find peace before the end.

“My mind wandered to dozens of people who will shudder under the breadth of her writing,” said Liz Hume, one of the judges on the panel. “Her book is a gift. Ausubel braided the horrendous fringes of the Holocaust with myth, innocence and healing. The language and ideas float above the horrific landscape and release from the muck a story of immeasurable imagination.”

Ausubel grew up in Sante Fe, Calif. and attended college at the

University of California, Irvine, where she would later teach. She is working on another novel and a collection of short stories.

Professor Tom De Haven of VCU and professor Laura Browder of the University of Richmond started the award and festival in 2001.

“Her book is a gift. Ausubel braided the horrendous fringes of the Holocaust with myth, innocence and healing. The language and ideas float above the horrific landscape and release from the muck a story of immeasurable imagination.”

-LIZ HUME

The idea was hatched after De Haven was looking for a way to commemorate the end of his year-long novel writing workshop. The workshop is a biannual course open to 10 graduate students each year. Entrance into the program is competitive.

The purpose of the festival is the give the students a chance to meet a published novelist who might be

able to claim similar experiences to students in the program.

“It’s (largely) to honor the huge achievement that putting out your first book is,” said graduate student Matthew Phipps. “A lot of attention in the world (is) given to authors later in their careers, and I think this award is designed to refocus that attention on how much work it is and how rewarding it is for an author to put their first book out.”

Phipps is currently the Cabell fellow in charge of overseeing the review process, in addition to working on his own novel. Last year’s festival, when Justin Torres’s “We the Animals” won, left a great impression on him.

“It made what is sort of a mysterious process very concrete and tangible. It was inspiring and educational,” Phipps said.

Despite the fact that the festival is only one night, months of preparation are required for the event. VCU sends out a call for submissions twice a year, sometimes receiving more than 100 novels in response. All acceptable submissions are judged in a multi-round process.

In the first round, the submissions are judged by members of the Richmond community. Any Richmond resident who has read the novel is allowed to submit their review online.

At least two people review the highest ranked novels and then they are moved into the semifinal

round, where a panel of Cabell fellows, English department faculty and a member of the Cabell library judge the remaining entries.

A final panel of three prominent judges then select three or four books. This includes the winner of the previous year’s award.

This year, the panel consisted of Torres, Humes, host of WRIR radio station’s book discussion program “Wordy Birds” and Samantha Dunn, an author and memoirist.

The winning novelist is invited to the festival and receives \$5,000 in cash.

“The Cabell Associates ... and the VCU Libraries have co-sponsored the VCU Cabell First Novelist Festival (since 2008),” said John Ulmschneider, university librarian at VCU Libraries.

The remainder of the funding is provided by the English department, the College of Humanities and Sciences and the VCU Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

“A great first novel is sort of an intangible combination of story and language and the power of ideas,” Phipps said.

The festival will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Student Commons. The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is available. Attendees can register online at <http://novelist.library.vcu.edu/>.

Professor, grad start underground art gallery

INGA SCHUNN
Contributing Writer

When thinking of an art gallery, most people might envision a large white room — but not for VCU Photography and Film graduate student Janelle Proulx and professor Dana Ollestad.

Inspired by other similar projects in neighboring cities like Charlottesville, the duo decided to host one-night gallery shows in their garage.

Proulx and Ollestad named their gallery “The Refrigerator Art Space,” referencing both its size and casual atmosphere. The gallery, located at 2708 Floyd Ave., was created last year. They have hosted three shows since, the latest being “Body Dirt,” which took place on Nov. 9.

“If you’re going to have a space that’s non-institutional — in that you have complete freedom — you might as well be playful,” Ollestad said. “We want the Refrigerator Art Space to be a place where people can show work that can’t be shown anywhere else.”

The gallery focuses on day-to-day issues that viewers can connect with.

“(Our themes) have always been generated through everyday conversations,” Ollestad said. “I like that because it seems to be really timely. It’s about what’s going on right now.”

Ollestad and Proulx call for submissions using flyers, social media and registering their show on sites such as collegeart.org, a website advocating international communication in the emerging college arts community.

Encouraging a wide reach and worldly approach to art even in an alternative gallery setting helps students see their work as universal and transforms them into professional artists instead of just students.

“We like to deal with students because we can break from the traditional hierarchical structures of education,” Ollestad said. “We like showing student work, but not thinking of it like student work.”

For their show “Body Dirt,” the grads accepted 22 artists out of 50 submissions to exhibit their work. The pieces ranged from eight-foot-tall retiring parade floats to a tiny two-inch toothpaste pieta.

Marisa Finos, a second-year graduate student in the crafts and ceramics department, displayed one of her sculptures at “Body Dirty.” The piece is a human-sized cocoon made of tissues and rice paste.

“It stands as an object, but also as a space for someone to occupy,” Finos said. “It (fits) into the show because I’m not using any artificial materials and it deals with the figure.”

Finos, hailing from Holliston, Mass., was excited to be included in the show as she likes the idea of a more relaxing atmosphere in a gallery and its ability to help some audiences be more receptive to certain types of art work.

The show also included some undergraduate works. John Stavas, a sophomore in the film department, said his piece was inspired by Mary Shelley’s famous novel “Frankenstein.” The sculpture he presented is made



Egbert Vongmalaithong (right) and a friend explored “Body Dirt” at the Refrigerator Art Space on Nov. 9.

of alginate, a material used by dentists to cast molds for retainers and braces. This was Stavas’s first time showing his artwork in Virginia.

“I enjoy galleries that aren’t really focused on the art, but (rather) the experience of being in a space where everyone is trying to communicate ideas,” Stavas said. “I think it’s an im-

portant process for a young artist to just be out there and put out their work.”

With so many visual art events in Richmond, the Refrigerator staff has to adjust quite a bit. “Body Dirt” was moved back twice in order to not interfere with Broad Street’s First Fridays and Gallery 1708’s InLight festival this past Friday.

“We’re always trying to be aware of what’s going on around town so people will be able to come to the event,” Proulx said.

To Proulx, the work put into each show is well worth it, because being passionate about art is what it’s all about.

“With the shows only being one night it generates community ... there’s an immediacy to it, so

it gets everyone together,” Proulx said.

The Refrigerator curators aren’t sure when the next show will be, but to find out more about their work and other news in the local underground art scene, visit the group’s Facebook page.

Rave culture sparks drug’s popularity

—continued from page 1

She said that there is a possibility of unknowingly purchasing Molly that is not pure, but she said she has never seen it happen.

“There’s a pretty distinctive way to tell what you’re getting,” she said. “(You can tell by the) texture, taste, smell and color. If you’ve done your research on Molly, you would know what would be fake.”

She said the experience of Molly is positive, unlike most other drugs.

“(People take it) to have a good

time. It’s not a very dangerous drug, its not like heroin, and its not like coke. You can’t really get an addiction to it,” she said. “Ninety-eight percent of the time you’re on Molly, it’s positive, everything’s positive.”

The drug has been linked to a number of recent deaths of young people that has caught the media’s attention. On July 15, 20-year-old Matthew Rybarczyk, from Staten Island, died of a drug overdose at a rave. It was reported that he overdosed from bath salts, but it is believed that it was sold to him as Molly.

Two more people died after taking the drug in September at the Electric Zoo Festival in New York. Olivia Rotondo, 20, died of acute intoxication of pure MDMA, while 23-year-old Jeffrey Russ’s toxicology results showed he had taken a mix of MDMA and methylone, a type of stimulant, the New York Times reported.

That same month, 19-year-old Brittany Flannigan died of a Molly overdose in Boston while attending an electro-dance concert. Goldsmith is believed to have died of a Molly overdose while at a club in Washington,

D.C. in August, Huffington Post reported. Police are investigating whether these deaths were caused by the same batch of drugs, since all of the incidents took place on the East Coast.

Rave parties, where Molly is most commonly used, are not new, but rather, a trend that is re-emerging.

“Well (raves are) what MDMA was associated with in the early 1980s, probably before most of the people who use it now were born,” Rose said. “(Raves) went away from some years and now it’s making a comeback.”

With raves making a comeback, Molly has reappeared in the late night club scene. Rose said the bright lights and loud music that characterize rave parties is why raves have been closely associated with Molly, and partygoers frequently mistake the drug for a safe alternative to Ecstasy.

Brown said one reasons why Molly has gotten more attention lately is because of the growing number of musicians who have alluded to the drug in their songs.

“It’s hard to say how many students are using Molly because they may be hesitant to talk

about it, or may not think it is a problem,” Brown said. “I think the increased attention and talk about Molly can be at least partially attributed to an increase in hearing it in popular songs and other media.”

Recently, there has been dozens of songs by popular artists who refer to the drug. For example, Miley Cyrus’s summer hit “We Can’t Stop,” Kanye West’s “Mercy,” Rihanna’s “Diamonds” and Trinidad James’s “All Gold Everything” all have lyrics which reference using Molly.

Pakistani Student Association to host ‘Mr. South Asian’

MAYA EARLS
Contributing Writer

Right before students leave to fill their stomachs for Thanksgiving, one student organization will host a feast for the eyes.

The second annual Mr. South Asian Pageant, hosted by the Pakistani Student Association, is set to combine culture, fashion and some friendly competition.

Former PSA president, Farhan Chughtai, wanted to put together a pageant show, but never had the opportunity. After he graduated, his sister Rukhsar Chughtai followed in his footsteps and became president of the club. Chughtai took it upon herself to make the pageant show dream a reality last year. Looking to set the show apart from other pageants, Chughtai decided to feature the male perspective.

“We don’t have guy pageant shows here and I thought doing a girl pageant show is not very original,” Chughtai said.

At first, Chughtai said the pageant organizing committee approached clubs representing the countries of South Asia and asked for volunteer contestants. This year, however, several students approached the PSA looking to compete. In order to make the show available to as many students

as possible, the PSA held three audition dates near the end of October. Chughtai said the judges for Mr. South Asian picked 12 contestants, putting personality and talent before beauty.

“I wanted to diversify (the contestant’s) talent, and diversify the countries,” Chughtai said. “I also looked at how committed (contestants) were and how passionate they were to be in this show.”

Junior Taimur Mahmood is planning to return to the show after auditioning last year. Instead of focusing on competing, he said providing entertainment is his main goal.

“Being the source of a smile is priceless,” Mahmood said.

With only a short period of time in the talent portion, Mahmood could not confine his performance to a single skill in the previous show. Rather than pick one, Mahmood did them all.

“Last year I danced, I did poetry and sung also,” Mahmood said. “I couldn’t decide which one thing to do, so I just did a bunch and had fun with it.”

Even though the contestants receive comments on their performances throughout the show, Chughtai said the judges do a little bit of acting to keep up the cheerful atmosphere.

“We had the judges play a



Ayyaz Amjad was crowned Mr. South Asian last year. This year’s pageant will be held in the Commons on Nov. 22 at 7 p.m.

role and I was Simon (Cowell),” Chughtai said. “People really didn’t like me.”

During the fashion show walk, contestants are encouraged to

wear their traditional garments. Chughtai said they have the option to perform a skit at the same time. There is a question and answer portion, where contestants are asked questions on subjects such as the perfect first date. The one who is named Mr. South Asian is given the traditional crown and sash. Last year, winners were also given a gift card, Chughtai said. Other prizes for this year have yet to be decided.

Chughtai said bringing people from different cultures together is

the main purpose for the show.

“My whole purpose for this show was for it to be multicultural,” Chughtai said. “We have students from other cultures come in, see this show, and represent their countries.”

Mahmood said for contestants, the pageant allows students to be themselves.

“The show is pretty much you representing who you really are, and you’re putting yourself out there for everyone to see,” Mahmood said.

For anyone unsure about participating next year, Mahmood said his advice would be to let loose and not worry about winning or losing.

“If I give it all I could, I wouldn’t feel bad that I didn’t try,” Mahmood said. “It’s worth it. It’s really worth it, and it’s fun.”

There also could be a surprise at the end for attendees, Chughtai said.

The Mr. South Asian pageant will be held on Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Commons Ballroom. The show is free to attend.



Contestants in the Mr. South Asian pageant can show off their talents, like dancing.

Sculpture grad helps mold surgeons

SARAH KING
Contributing Writer

Two VCU programs — sculpture and surgery — are seamlessly coming together through the work of 2011 graduate Morgan Yacoe.

A sculpture and chemistry major, Yacoe teaches classes to plastic surgery residents at the VCU Medical Center to help shape their perspective on the human body when they are conducting procedures. So far, she has taught two classes, the most recent of which took place Oct. 30. The first was on July 31 of this year.

“In surgery everything gets smaller and smaller and smaller, just like in sculpture. It’s all about looking at things from different angles,” Yacoe said.

Yacoe works in collaboration with Jennifer Rhodes, a plastic surgeon at the VCU Medical Center, who introduced the idea of conducting a sculpture class for surgeons.

“Surgery is all about applied anatomy and you have to really understand things in four dimensions,” Rhodes said. “With a living human you never know what angle you’re going in from, so it’s important that the residents are learning from a different perspective.”

Rhodes and Yacoe have collaborated since September 2011, when Yacoe asked if she could shadow Rhodes. Rhodes was going to be performing a procedure on Maria and Teresa Tapia, conjoined twins, at the VCU Medical Center in November

of that year. Yacoe helped make the molds and models necessary for the twins’ surgery that would garner national attention.

“I made a multicomponent medical model, opposed to a rigid medical model,” Yacoe said. “This way it could be utilized during model surgeries so Doctor Rhodes could figure out how much skin she needed to grow, to figure out how much would be needed to cover the missing skin.”

Rhodes said she had always wanted to take a sculpture class offered once a year by the American Society for Plastic Surgery, but she never had time.

“So (I asked Morgan) could she do something like that?” Rhodes said. “She started researching and seeing what they do at the meeting and talking to plastic surgeons and we made it happen.”

The first session in July had six students and focused on sculpting and learning the proportions of the full-figure nude model. The October class had seven students and focused on the head, neck, face and shoulders. Yacoe said the second class was helpful for participants because most of the surgeons in the class focus on these parts of the body.

“One of the neat things with plastic surgery is you never know what we’re dealing with,” Rhodes said. “People get hurt in all kinds of creative ways, you’re probably going to see the anatomy in ways you’ve never seen it before.”

Since the Tapia twins, Rhodes and Yacoe have worked together on making molds for another set

of conjoined twins. The two have also given presentations, published an article in the Journal of Craniofacial Surgery and were featured in a TLC documentary about the Tapia case.

“Morgan is a wonderful example of how a highly motivated student interested in both sculpture and biology can find her artistic voice in a uniquely creative way,” said Kendall Buster, one of Yacoe’s former sculpture professors.

Yacoe’s collaboration with the medical school is a part of a university-wide initiative to bridge the VCU Medical Center with the School of the Arts. Rhodes said she hopes to make the sculpture class a formal component of the curriculum for surgery residents.

“Morgan works out of a deep commitment to use her sculpting skills to serve scientific inquiry, and her work with the surgery residents at MCV is the kind of interdisciplinary dialogue that we highly value in the School of the Arts,” Buster said.

The exploits of Yacoe and Rhodes’ stem from this commitment of bringing together medicine and the arts. Rhodes and Yacoe agree that this collaboration is contingent upon their overlapping curiosities.

“The intersection between medicine and art, we talk about that all the time,” Yacoe said. “I absolutely, absolutely hope I’ll continue to teach the course for surgery residents, and I definitely want to continue as a figurative sculptor and also as a medical sculptor and teacher.”



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November 11



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Central Virginia Road Ride

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Day Hike The Blue Ridge Mountains, Nov 24
Student: \$10, Faculty/Staff: \$12, +1/A/G: \$15

Free Weekly Activities:

Mondays: Road Rides
3:00pm - 6:00 pm, Outing Rental Center
Tuesdays: Kayak Practice Pool Session
7:00 pm- 9:30 pm, MCV Campus Aquatic Center
Wednesdays: Climbing Skills Clinic
7:00 pm–9:00 pm, Cary Street Gym Climbing Wall
Thursdays: Mountain Bike Rides
3:00 pm–6:00 pm, Outing Rental Center
Thursdays: Peak Shuttle
6:00 pm-10:00 pm, Free transport from Outing Rental Center, \$10 to climb at Peak Experiences

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November 2013

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Saturday, Dec 7, 9 am - 3 pm
Students: \$60, Members: \$70



opinion

Quote of the week

“If we’re to treat elections as indicator events, Democrats ought not misinterpret this election as an affirmation of whatever they perceive to be success.”

– Shane Wade

Can the free market solve the digital divide?

DANIEL PARKER
Guest Columnist

As American society shifts to the realm of the digital, the poor are increasingly faced with the struggles that accompany not having Internet access. In Richmond, tech company Lionlike recently announced a plan to help combat what experts call the digital divide with a public Wi-Fi service.

Most college students have the means to pay for an Internet connection, but like most luxuries, the ones being left out of the digital revolution are the poor, specifically households that make less than \$15,000 a year. As more companies begin to use digital job applications instead of outdated paper resumes, the doors close for even more people trying to escape poverty.

BBC reports that 1 million students will score lower than their counterparts because they do not have access to computers with Internet. Ninety percent of students surveyed used the Internet to their advantage on homework assignments. The research shows that teacher influence does little to bridge the gap between households with Internet and households without.

Most solutions are populist in nature, involving a government Wi-Fi service to aid poor communities. Lionlike, on the other hand, is hoping to achieve its goal of Wi-Fi for the less fortunate, without spending any taxpayer funds through an ambitious new business plan.

The plan is essentially to have businesses pay a one-time fee of \$200 for a wireless router, the incentive being that when someone signs in to the public Wi-Fi, that user will receive an advertisement from the local company that

bought the router before signing in. Local companies that have signed up already include The Haligan Bar & Grill, Crave, Aqua, The Old City Bar, River City Diner, 707 Fine Clothing, Smiley's Glass and Extreme Audio, according to Lionlike's website.

The next strategy for revenue

for the public Wi-Fi is a monthly charge of \$5 to users in exchange for a faster connection with the bonus of no ads. Lionlike will also offer secure encryption for the data of users as well.

Not only will this plan help the poor of Richmond, it could also assist VCU students living

off campus. Instead of paying Comcast's bloated fees, a student could pay for a much more reasonable fee of \$5, a fee even students strapped for cash could afford.

This new cheap Wi-Fi service will allow students to improve grades. Instead of trekking across Richmond to the library to re-

search, they can do research and check emails in the convenience of their homes.

For better or for worse, the Internet has completely changed the world. It has brought once-prominent businesses to their knees and has fundamentally changed the way we communicate. Students

without readily available Internet are being set up for failure. If Lionlike can't do it, then someone else will attempt to level the playing field for young lower-class students in this country.

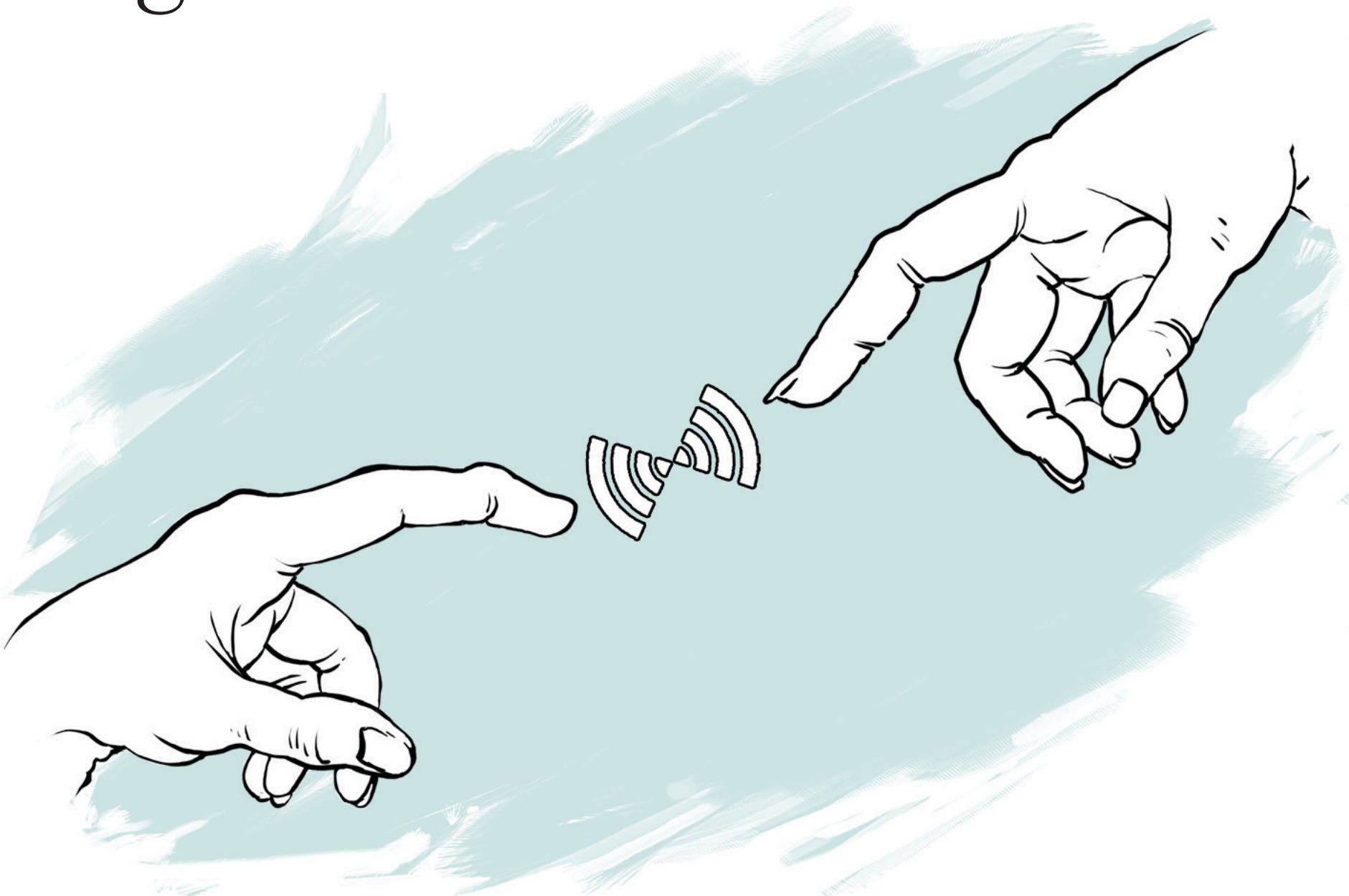


ILLUSTRATION BY DAN INACU

Virginia gubernatorial race a loss for both parties

SHANE WADE
Opinion Editor

Life in Virginia continues to disappoint when it comes to politics, for both Democrats and Republicans. Watching the gubernatorial election results trickle in last Tuesday night reminded me of that fact. Neither the governor's race, nor the lieutenant governor's race should have been this close, even with such uninspiring candidates. The fact that it was, however, says more about our electorate than it does about the candidates.

Despite Democrat Terry McAuliffe's record-breaking fundraising and youth registration campaign, he edged out Republican Ken Cuccinelli by just

three percentage points. Anyone remotely familiar with the events leading up to Tuesday should have expected a larger lead, particularly with media outlets declaring McAuliffe being leading Cuccinelli by 10 percent in the preceding week, as well as the mounting distrust of Cuccinelli by minorities and women voters.

By all rights, McAuliffe should have won handily; after all, he received the endorsement of a number of noteworthy officials, including President Obama, Bill and Hillary Clinton and former Virginia governor L. Douglas Wilder. Candidates should be able to stand and inspire on their own without summoning the likes of former president Clinton and President

Obama; the fact that McAuliffe didn't paint Virginia blue with such spectacular endorsements signals a critical problem for the state's future.

McAuliffe didn't win; he's just the biggest loser, a statement ringing true for all Democrats statewide and nationally as well. His "victory" over Cuccinelli does not represent a Democratic party triumph, so much as it represents a Republican party loss.

If a Democrat runs against a Republican candidate who touts a record and agenda diametrically and categorically opposed to the majority of the populace's ideology, the victory should be a landslide, not a paltry three percentage points. The last Demo-

crat to inspire Virginia voters en masse, President Obama, now has a 39 percent approval rating, according to the latest Gallup poll. If we're to treat elections as indicator events, Democrats ought not misinterpret this election as an affirmation of whatever they perceive to be success. The Democratic party, at both the state and national level, needs to convene and decide what they are for and how they plan to lead through office, rather than tell constituents they are against what Republicans are for.

The McAuliffe campaign, particularly when engaging students on college campuses, should have had a level of substance beyond puns about oral sex or even the

very serious dangers and restrictions women would have faced under a Cuccinelli-governorship. If future Democratic candidates wish to genuinely win an election in Virginia, they'll have to have genuine positions on the issues that matter, as well as some nuanced ideas about how to resolve whatever crisis faces us.

But Republicans shouldn't take the loss too hard. The new trend in America, if New Jersey governor Chris Christie's re-election is any indication, is to run pragmatic, compassionate conservatives instead of social conservatives like Cuccinelli. Unlike with McAuliffe, voters genuinely voted for Cuccinelli, whether out of habit or out of belief in his ability to ad-

dress the problems Virginia faces.

Let's celebrate what happened last week for what it truly was: a hollow victory, a statement defining the political culture governing this state and a condemnation of social conservatism and infusing Gingrich-era culture war-esque diversionary issues into politics.

Last Tuesday was about a small majority of Virginians saying "no" to a gubernatorial representative ironically perceived to be "big government." The stumbling leadership at both the state and national level have given Americans little to be appreciative of and it's time to change the narrative and re-evaluate our body politic.



ILLUSTRATION BY KYLE SEXTON

Support Richmond entrepreneurs

NOURA BAYOUMI
Guest Columnist

When it's 2 p.m. and you're on the hunt for lunch, your first instinct may be to go to Subway, Chipotle or Panera.

If this scenario sounds familiar, it's because you're not the only one who often chooses franchised restaurants over local options.

Because we live in the city, students have the option to eat at more independent places such as cafés, restaurants and even small coffee shops. These little hidden places are what make Richmond so diverse and remarkable. They also benefit the Richmond community in many other ways.

Marinating Richmond's individuality means supporting the local economy. According to the Institute of Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), locally-owned businesses recycle a much larger share of

their profit back into the local economy, enriching the whole community. This means that students can actually see their money going to the greater community in which they live in.

They also create more jobs locally and some businesses even provide better wages and benefits than chains do. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), there were nearly 28 million small businesses in the United States in 2010. Over the past two decades, small firms have generated 65 percent of the new jobs in the country. Locally owned businesses help strengthen communities by connecting neighbors in a web of economic and social relationships and combining to local causes. Putting your money toward more small businesses means you can see your money benefiting you in the future. More of your dollars stay

in the community, which is essential for the value of your home in neighborhoods.

Supporting local businesses goes beyond just supporting the economic aspect. By getting out and trying someplace new, you're broadening your choices of food. Eating the same chain restaurants every other day becomes redundant; eating local food keeps the dining experience fresh and interesting. For example, instead of ordering another basic sub at Subway, try the two-foot-long monster subs at The Black Sheep located on West Marshall Street. The next time you want to get Panera, eat at the Village Café instead.

Local businesses go beyond just restaurants. Small-Business Saturday falls on Nov. 30 this year, between Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Consumers are encouraged to shop at local,

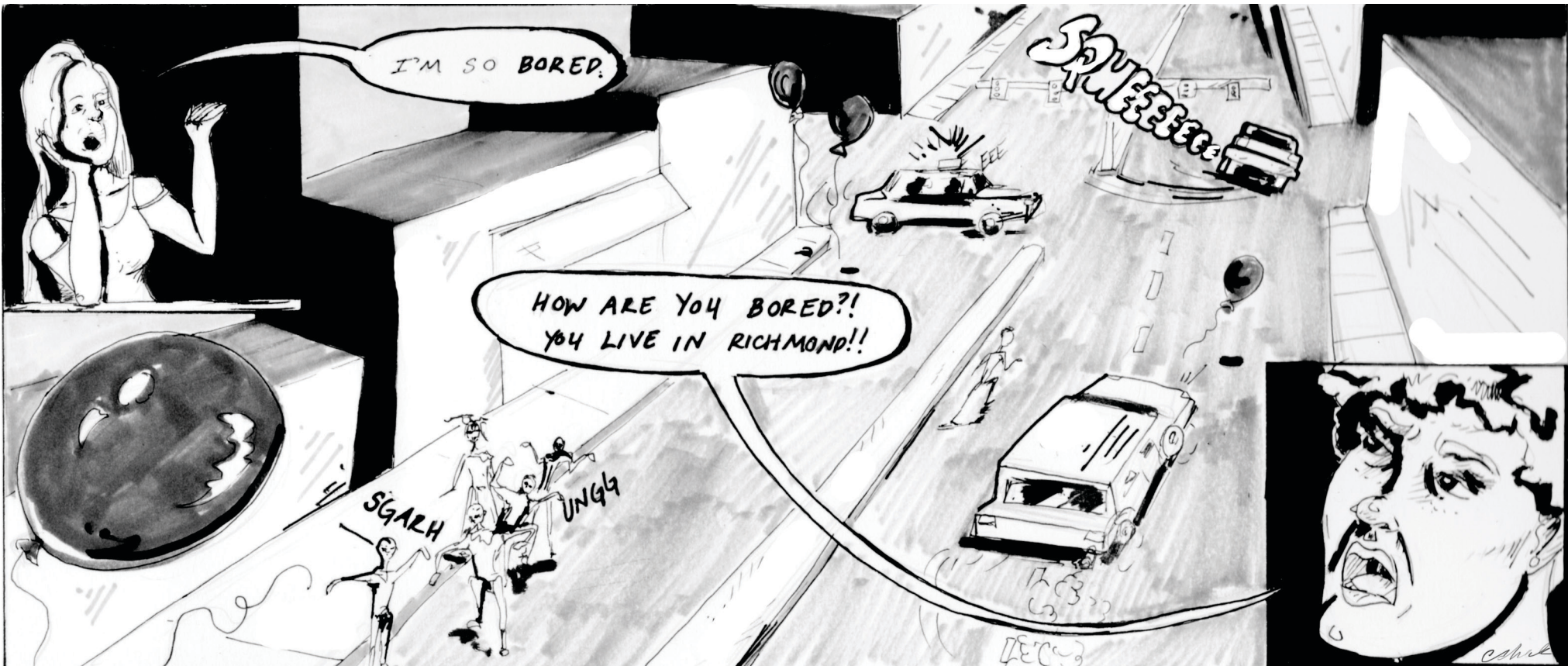
independently owned businesses during the holiday season. It's a great opportunity for students to explore the small businesses that are located around Richmond including Champagne & Shoes, Ellman's Dancewear and Indigo Avenue Clothing stores located in Carytown.

Opening and running a small business isn't an easy thing to do. It's one of the biggest financial risks a person can take, especially when they have to dip into their savings or retirement money just to make it happen. According to the SBA, more than half of new businesses will disappear in the first five years.

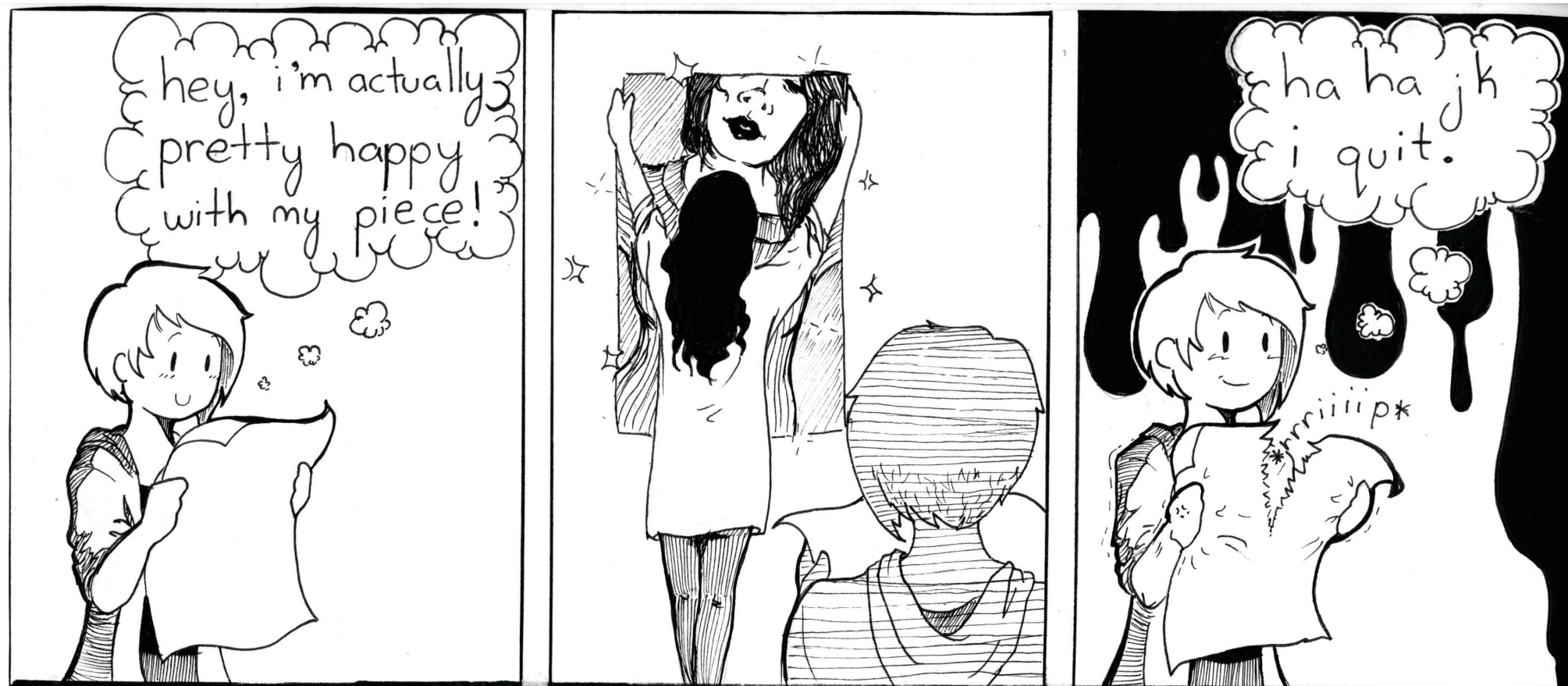
That's where you come in. Support the city's local businesses. They're a key component of our community and what makes Richmond great. They deserve our support.

COMICS

You Live in Richmond by Courtney Shackelford



Satisfaction by Amanda Pressman



Celtic Revenge by Hannah Lazarte



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