



United States finishes UCI Road World Championships as a top nation

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

The United States showcased strong performances in several events during the UCI Road World Championships, but not enough to win the event. The Netherlands took home the gold, finishing with 545 points. France took silver with 430 points. The United States fell short of bronze by one point to Australia,

who finished with 425. The United States completed the 2015 UCI Road World Championships with 424 points for fourth place. The U.S. women's team had strong showings during the UCI Road World Championships. Their solid performance could be a springboard for the sport and help women become the face of professional cycling in the U.S. The U.S. junior women's team made a name for themselves during

the UCI Road World Championships. On Sept. 21, Chloe Dygert, an 18-year-old freshman at Marian University, covered the 9.3 miles in 20:18 for the gold in the Junior Women's Individual Time Trial. She averaged 27.53 mph. Team-mate Emma White of Delanson, New York, finished in 21:24 for the silver medal. The Junior Women's Road Race ended with similar results. Dygert won gold while White followed be-

hind for silver, on Sept. 25. Dygert placed first in the 40.26 miles race with a time of 1:42:16. White finished with a time of 1:43:39. The women's individual time trials took place on Sept. 22. U.S. cyclist and two-time Olympic gold medalist Kristin Armstrong, as well as former world champion Evelyn Stevens earned fifth and sixth place. Armstrong finished the 18.58 mile course in 40:50.

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Richmond races away from public services

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

As Richmond hosted approximately 450,000 spectators for the 2015 UCI Road World Championships last week, an early September report to the city council revealed the city is at its breaking point with the police force understaffed, bulk trash collection pick-ups slowing down and lagging grass-cutting services. The report shows 53 percent of properties due to have grass cut by public works employees are delayed by three weeks. Maintenance on the city's alleys will drop by about 74 percent, snow removal would take longer than it previously has

and bulk trash and collection have effectively been discontinued. In response, the administration of Mayor Dwight Jones points blame at city council, but council members argue the mayor's office should be held responsible for providing services with the city's already-available funds. Councilman Chris Hilbert, 3rd District, was critical of the mayor's decision to approve the council's proposed budget amendment. "He could have vetoed our decision (in May) if he wanted to send a message that he disagreed with us, but he chose not to do that," Hilbert told the Richmond Times-Dispatch. In May, the council adopted a

budget providing an additional \$9 million for school operations and increased compensation for police and firefighters, despite Jones' warning that this could affect the

“ We stated last year that we were going to reinstate programs to strengthen our schools, police and fire departments, and by unanimous vote, that's what council did

— CHARLES SAMUELS

city's abilities to provide services. According to the Richmond Times Dispatch, the mayor says the council's decision to use part of the money reserved for vacant positions, rather than to keep it in surplus, is responsible for crippling Richmond's public works department. Funding for vacant positions is included in the budget each year, and the city saves money when positions go unfilled or when employees leave. The city annually runs at a vacancy rate of about 13 percent. At the time, council members defended the decision to shift the money to departments of education, police and fire, rather than to keep the money in the reserves.

"We stated last year that we were going to reinstate programs to strengthen our schools, police and fire departments, and by unanimous vote, that's what council did," said councilman Charles Samuels, 2nd District. These cuts will also hurt the city's ability to fight crime as, according to the mayor's administration, the loss in revenue will result in cutting 16 full-time positions with the Richmond Police Department. The report also predicts that cuts to the Department of Information Technology could cause email outages and a failure to keep up with the city's technological needs, such as a

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Richmond City Council inches closer to a freestanding children's hospital

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

In light of VCU and Bon Secours pulling funding from a proposed freestanding children's hospital on North Boulevard, proponents have until December to move forward before the council revisits seeking alternate proposals for the project. Council members Reva Trammell, Charles Samuels, Jonathan Baliles and Parker Agelasto voted against advancing the legislation advocating for the children's hospital project, which saw a recent revival after a near-fatal blow in May when VCU and Bon Secours pulled out their funding and support. "We read the tea leaves, and we said simply: We don't believe this decision to be wise, not for us as institutions and not for the community," said John Duval, VCU Health System's top hospital executive. "There are better ways for us to spend our energy." In June and July, administrators from VCU and Bon Secours reaffirmed their decision to withdraw from talks. Although VCU is the leading healthcare provider for specialized children's care in the region, executives said the hospital, as envisioned, would cost about \$1 billion over 10 years. "No one that I'm aware of, across the United States, is building independent, freestanding hospitals of any kind," said Toni Ardabell, chief executive officer of Bon Secours. "Adult, children. It's just not done." In July, members of the Virginia Children's Hospital Alliance met individually with all members of Richmond City Council to make their case

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OPINION

Some students feel smoked out on campus



JUSTIN JOSEPH
Contributing Columnist

As freshmen arrive on VCU's campus, they notice many defining characteristics. Some of these details are positive — such as the diversity of its student body and the attractions of the surrounding neighborhoods. However, one aspect of Richmond that takes time to get used to is the amount of secondhand smoke.

For the nonsmoker who is new on campus, the first stage is annoyance. You feel irritated by the crowd of people who are smoking in front of your residence hall. The smell of smoke still makes you sick to your stomach. You long for the time when taking in a deep breath would not have sent you into an enormous coughing fit. As time passes on, this anger is replaced with resignation. You

subconsciously hold your breath as you enter Cabell Library and you stop complaining about how your clothes seem to constantly reek of cigarettes. You learn that it is a waste of time arguing with someone about how e-cigarettes are still unhealthy. The sight of someone using a vaporizer during class doesn't even faze you anymore. If smoking is an inescapable part of college life, isn't suffering in si-

lence the only option? The issue with this feeling of hopelessness is that it ignores the fact that nonsmokers have a right to clean and healthy air. We consciously make the decision not to smoke due to personal preference or concern for our own well-being, but the actions of our fellow peers make walking to class a

“ However, the current culture at VCU emphasizes the rights of smokers over those of nonsmokers and many students are afraid to speak up.

— JUSTIN JOSEPH

health hazard. At least 2.5 million nonsmokers have been killed by second-hand smoke exposure since 1965. Involuntary inhalation increases the risk of diseases like cancer, heart disease, and respiratory problems, and existing conditions like asthma are often aggravated. As a result, many college campuses have adopted campus-wide policies restricting the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes. According to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, there are 1,577 campuses that are

100 percent smoke-free. Although the MCV campus has a similar tobacco-free policy, adopting such a rule on the Monroe Park campus can prove to be almost impossible. Tobacco has played a significant role in Richmond throughout much of its history and the rights of smokers cannot be denied. The choice to engage in such practices is a personal one. Many smokers are aware of both the health risks of smoking and the options that are available if they choose to quit. However, the current culture at VCU emphasizes the rights of smokers over those of nonsmokers and many students are afraid to speak up. This gives the false impression that smoking policies do not need to be updated, and administrators feel no pressure to improve the quality of their students' lives. We need to start a dialogue on campus, one that respects the personal choices of each student and understands the need to balance the rights of both tobacco users and non-users. One such solution is the creation of smoke-free outdoor areas and routes that allow students to walk between classes without fear of breathing in cigarette smoke. A necessary component of this policy would be to actively enforce it with punishments like

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briefs

LOCAL

Notice given of planned lawsuit over Va. oil train terminal

Two environmental groups say they plan to sue over a Yorktown terminal that accepts trains carrying volatile crude oil from North Dakota’s Bakken shale region.

Media outlets report that the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club’s Virginia chapter said Thursday they have given a 60-day notice of their plans to sue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the terminal’s permit.

The Richmond-based groups say the corps did not properly consider the terminal’s potential risks to endangered species.

The Yorktown terminal is owned and operated by Plains Marketing, a division of Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline LP.

Brief by Associated Press

Poll: Few voters paying attention to upcoming Va. election

Most Virginia voters aren’t paying attention to upcoming legislative elections in November that will determine which political party controls the state Senate, according to a new poll.

The poll released Friday from the Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University shows 39 percent said they weren’t paying close attention and 27 percent said they were paying no attention. Only 34 percent of respondents said they were paying attention to the campaigns.

Professor Quentin Kidd, director of the Wason Center, said the poll suggests only about 26 percent of registered voters will turn out on Election Day. Virginia is among a handful of states that have off-year legislative elections, when turnout is usually lower.

“These results demonstrate a classic pattern in Virginia’s off-off-year elections,” Kidd said. “A far greater proportion of voters say they intend to vote than are actually paying attention to news about the elections or paying attention to candidates for office.”

Brief by Associated Press

NATIONAL

Pope comes to Philadelphia, pays tribute women in the church

Pope Francis arrived in the City of Brotherly Love on Saturday for the final leg of his U.S. visit — a festive weekend devoted to celebrating Catholic families — and immediately called for the church to place greater value on women.

The pontiff’s plane touched down at the Philadelphia airport after takeoff from New York, bringing him to a city of blocked-off streets, sidewalks lined with portable potties, and checkpoints manned by police, National Guardsmen and border agents.

After speeches to Congress and the United Nations earlier in the week aimed at spurring world leaders toward bold action on immigration and the environment, he is expected to focus more heavily on ordinary Catholics during his two days in Philadelphia.

Francis rode by motorcade to the downtown Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul and celebrated a Mass for about 1,600 people. In his homily, he said the future of the Catholic Church in the U.S. requires a much more active role for lay Catholics, especially women.

“It means valuing the immense contribution which women, lay and religious, have made and continue to make to the life of our communities,” he said.

Brief by Associated Press

Texas gives Virginia lethal drug for execution next week

Texas prison officials are helping their counterparts in Virginia prepare for a scheduled execution next week by providing the state with pentobarbital, a lethal drug that corrections agencies nationwide have had difficulty obtaining.

The disclosure, which surfaced in a court filing in an Oklahoma death penalty case, was confirmed Friday by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Virginia prison officials also confirmed the trade, saying they needed pentobarbital to replace a dose of another drug they intended to use, midazolam, that will soon expire.

Texas prisons spokesman Jason Clark said the three vials of pentobarbital given to Virginia were legally purchased from a compounding pharmacy, which he declined to name. Texas and Oklahoma are among a handful of states with laws — being challenged by death penalty opponents — that allow prison officials not to disclose where they get execution drugs.

Brief by Associated Press

Records detail dramatic response to California wildfire

The tiny Lake County Sheriff’s Department was overwhelmed by the number of calls received during the fast-moving blaze that began Sept. 12 about 100 miles north of San Francisco.

Dispatch logs released Thursday showed the small department was strained to its limits by the flames that swept across the mountainous county.

“The response was as quick as we could do it,” Sheriff Brian Martin said. “In some cases, it didn’t reach everybody.”

The logs show worried relatives calling often to request checks on elderly and sick residents feared trapped in their homes. Screams for help were reported from residents unable to get out of the fire zone, while other callers pleaded for deputies to rescue livestock and pets left behind.

Brief by Associated Press



PHOTOS BY BROOKE MARSH

VCU students organized and performed at a benefit show for Rosmy Richmond, an organization working to ensure equal opportunities for LGBTQ youth.

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

It was about four years ago that Clayton Hall, a freshman at the time, moved into his dorm in Rhoads Hall. As a gay student, Hall had no idea how he would be received by his peers at VCU, a school that prides itself on diversity and inclusiveness. He said his welcome was underwhelming.

“Of course, some people were accepting, but a lot of students just didn’t want anything to do with me,” Hall said. “VCU is more inclusive than a lot of places, but when you think you’re getting ready to come into an environment where they say they’re very inclusive — you expect better.”

Hall is not alone in thinking the university can do more for LGBT students. Campus Pride, a non-profit that seeks to create safer and LGBT-friendly college and university campuses, gave VCU three and a half out of five stars in their index, which rates universities’ overall friendliness and inclusion toward LGBT students.

The index has eight separate categories that are integrated to create the school’s overall score. In the categories of “LGBTQ campus safety” and “LGBTQ housing and residential life,” VCU scored as low as one and two and a half stars, respectively.

Other categories include “LGBTQ support and institutional commitment,” “LGBTQ academic

life” and “LGBTQ student life,” for which VCU earned four and a half stars; “LGBTQ recruitment and retention efforts,” for which VCU earned four stars; and “LGBTQ Counseling and Health” and “LGBTQ policy inclusion,” for which VCU earned three and a half and three stars, respectively.

The lowest of these scores, campus safety of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, may be the most unsettling aspect of the rating. The site details a lack of agenda by the university to prevent hate crimes against students belonging to a gender and sexual minority.

For example, VCU does not have a procedure for reporting LGBT-related incidents of bias or hate crimes, training for hate crime prevention, active outreach to LGBT students and student organizations or training for campus police on gender identity/expression issues.

Hall agrees that such training for not only campus police, but for professors could prove critical in creating a more welcoming environment.

“Maybe more formal classes or training in different social aspects might broaden their understanding of issues thus make them more aware and compassionate,” he said. “People tend to judge others based on their appearance or mannerisms and I would hope that because we’re in an academic setting, professors aren’t making preconceived notions before I turn in my work.”

In the category related to housing and residential life, the recipient of VCU’s second-lowest rating, the site notes that VCU lacks roommate matching for LGBT students to find an LGBT-friendly roommate, gender-inclusive housing for new students, gender inclusive restroom and shower facilities in its on-campus housing and an LGBT living space, theme floors and/or living-learning community.

VCU first participated in the voluntary survey in 2011 and received an overall score of three stars. According to VCU’s news division, the index has served as a “benchmarking tool for the university, providing guidance to what areas need the most work.”

As a part of the institution’s efforts to provide a better experience for gender queer students, it hired its first ever LGBT coordinator in 2014. The role is filled by Michael K. Pisarcik, who is the permanent representative of faculty, staff and students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Also, the VCU Brandcenter in 2014 teamed up with Richmond Region Tourism to create “OutRVA” — a campaign that “outed” Richmond as a gay-friendly place for travelers.

GayRVA.com, a web magazine dedicated to news affecting the gay community in Richmond, reported in 2013 that VCU looked into becoming the fourth major Virginia university with designated LGBT-friendly housing as early as fall 2016. University of Richmond, Old

Dominion University and George Mason University are the only three Virginia schools that currently have such housing. Despite this, U of R has three stars on the index while ODU has two and a half. Campus Pride did not rate GMU.

While it may prove more difficult to measure how receptive the student body at VCU is of LGBT students, Hall said a university program could help steer students toward being more accepting of their peers.

“VCU seems a lot more LGBT-friendly than when I first came into the school,” Hall said. “We’ve become more and more openminded. In the years I’ve been here, I’ve seen

more people becoming open to it than when I started.”

While Hall said he thinks the overall VCU student perspective has changed in the last four years, the university has a long way to go before it reaches a point that he sees as completely friendly toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students.

“When I think of an environment that’s completely accepting and supportive of LGBT issues, I think that will come with time so you don’t necessarily have to force-feed the idea down the throats of people who don’t support it now,” he said. “Our school has a long way to go. We’re not there yet.”



The headliner band, The Weak Days, includes VCU alumni.

Richmond races away from public services

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program used for financial reporting and other computer software licenses.

Jones approved the measure in May despite speaking out against it at the time. Six votes from the council are enough to override a veto from the mayor, however. This stipulation may have prompted Jones to approve of the budget despite his disagreement with it, in an attempt to avoid a measure that would have likely been overridden.

In light of the bike races, council members are calling into question the timing of the report.

“We don’t need a manufactured crisis. I don’t even understand the motivation here, and I think it’s unfortunate that this is coming at a time when we’re getting ready to play host to an international audience,” Hilbert said in a statement to the Times-Dispatch.

The Commonwealth Times reached out to the offices of Mayor Jones, Councilman Hilbert and Councilman Agelasto for comment, all of whom did not respond as of press time.



PHOTO BY ALI JONES

Maintenance in the city’s alleys is anticipated to drop by 74 percent.

Chasing the competition in the race for the rainbow jersey



Photos by
01 Becca Schwartz
02 Chris Richardson
03 Chris Richardson
04 Chris Richardson
05 Chris Richardson
06 Brooke Marsh
07 Chris Richardson
08 Chris Richardson
09 Chris Richardson



Shooting victim found on Monroe Park campus

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

At approximately 3:40 a.m. Sept. 27, the victim of a shooting was found alive in a vehicle on the Monroe Park Campus at the intersection of West Grace Street and Belvidere

Street, according to police. VCU police believe the victim was shot off-campus on the 400 block of East Franklin Street — 10 blocks east of Monroe Park. VCU police and Richmond police immediately increased patrols in the areas.

Details of the shooting and the exact location where it occurred remain under investigation and no description of a suspect has been released. According to the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the victim was shot once or twice in the abdomen and transport-

ed to VCU Medical Center. At 3:59 a.m., a text message alert was issued to students and faculty warning them of the shooting and to stay indoors. Another text message was issued at 4:20 a.m. stating that the situation was resolved.

UCI bad for local businesses

ANDREW CRIDER
Contributing Writer

Local business owners and employees said they experienced a decline in sales this week, despite the influx of international visitors here for the UCI Road World Championships. Projections for the race estimated that more than 400,000 spectators would

come to Richmond to watch the race and that they would bring \$129 million in spending. However, for businesses near VCU's Monroe Park campus, the 30,000 students who were encouraged to leave town were the most important figure during the bike race week. Businesses such as Christian's Pizza, Mama's Kitchen, Piccola Italy, Shawarma

Shack and 821 Café reported seeing low customer turnout during the week. For some businesses, which see seasonal fluctuations of demand between semesters, the drop in students during the bike race comes at a time when these business rely heavily on student traffic to make up for periods of low demand in the summer.

“It started off slow a bit last weekend, people might have been a little afraid to come out especially because of the road closures. But we’ve started picking up. Last weekend apparently was really slow.”

CHRIS SHEEHY, EMPLOYEE
Business: 821 Café

“I think it’s unfortunately been low. I thought it was going to be better than normal, above average. It was a lot of hype about the race, about the people it was going to draw locally, internationally, and I think those numbers have fallen short.”

JOHN WATERS, OWNER
Business: Christian’s Pizza

“I guess usually the customers are students, and since students weren’t around it’s just been a few curious people walking in, so it’s been pretty bad.”

NATHALIE ETO, EMPLOYEE
Business: Shawarma Shack

“We have been pretty slow during the day, deliveries have been pretty messed up east near Broad. (The city) didn’t say specifically it was busy. But I think everyone had expectations that during the week, during the time trials there was going to be something. But it was a ghost town.”

WILLIAM GLAVIN, EMPLOYEE
Business: Piccola Italy

“This race is miserable, my business is down 80 percent, maybe more than 80. I usually average between \$600-\$800 a day, I’ve had three days this week where I have had less than \$100. So I’m kind of in the negative for the week actually ... This has been the worst week in 11 years by far.”

YONG SHIN, OWNER
Business: Mama’s Kitchen

Four universities chosen for 2016 presidential, VP debates

ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Four universities were chosen Wednesday to stage the 2016 presidential and vice presidential debates, including veteran host Washington University in St. Louis and, marking the first such debate in Nevada, the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

The sites — which also include first-time hosts Wright State University in Ohio and Virginia’s Longwood University — were among 16 schools and cities that submitted bids in April to the non-partisan Commission on Presidential Debates. The organization has sponsored official presidential and vice presidential debates since 1988.

“We look forward to working with these fine universities and their students and communities to bring these important civic events to the nation,” commission co-chairmen Frank Fahrenkopf and Mike McCurry said in a statement.

Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, will be the backup site. Dominican University of California will lead an initiative using technology and social media to engage young voters in a discussion of major issues in the 2016 debates, the commission said.

Next year’s first presidential debate will be held Sept. 26 at Wright State in Dayton, Ohio. Washington University will host the second debate on Oct. 9, while the University of Nevada will hold the Oct. 19 debate in Las Vegas.

Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia, will host the vice presidential debate on Oct. 4.

Formats for each debate have not yet been set.

Wright State President David Hopkins called the selection “very gratifying and humbling,” saying: “This is a huge win for all of us.”

Joan Neff, Longwood’s provost and vice president for academic affairs, added: “For Longwood students, the chance to experience a debate on campus will be a part of their college experience they will never forget.”

Political scientist Ken Warren noted that all four sites are in potential swing states, and that Ohio is recognized as the best bellwether state.

“I don’t think it’s coincidental,” said Warren, a professor at St. Louis University.

But the commission’s executive director, Janet Brown, insisted that wasn’t the case. She told The Associated Press that vetting focused on logistics, such as the sites’ “ability to integrate something this big and complicated into their ongoing

responsibilities.” Other factors included available hotels and support services, including access to the debate sites.

Other sites that applied to host were in Texas, Tennessee, Alabama, California, Kentucky, Georgia, New York, Florida and West Virginia. Brown said each site was reviewed on its own merits, but acknowledged “it’s always tempting to go to repeat sites because you know how capable they are.”

“The sites — which also include first-time hosts Wright State University in Ohio and Virginia’s Longwood University — were among 16 schools and cities that submitted bids in April to the non-partisan Commission on Presidential Debates.”

— ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE

Washington University has hosted more commission-sponsored debates than any other institution. The school staged presidential debates in 1992, 2000 and 2004, and a vice presidential one in 2008. It was picked for a 1996 debate, but that event was canceled when the number of debates that year was pared to two from three.

Mark Wrighton, Washington University’s chancellor, said he believed several factors played in that school’s favor, including its central U.S. location and its debate track record. The 2016 debate will be in the field house, where seating can accommodate roughly 2,000 people.

“They quite obviously have confidence in us,” he said. “We’re thrilled to have the opportunity to host again.”

The debate at UNLV will mark the first time one of the commission’s presidential debates has taken place in Nevada.

UNLV’s presidential adviser for strategic initiatives, Don Snyder, said it signals an incredible turnaround for Las Vegas. He said business and political meeting organizers were unfairly urged to avoid the city during the recession.

“And I think for the presidential debates to be here, totally allows that message to be turned not just (into) a positive but an incredible positive, in terms of being able to market the destination and really market the university,” he said. “It’s the university on center stage.”

Richmond City Council inches closer to a freestanding children’s hospital



If approved, the freestanding children’s hospital would be located on North Boulevard.

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ahead of an effort to quicken symbolic legislation.

Despite advocates who went to lobby council, Duval and Ardabell said it doesn’t change citing consolidation in the health insurance industry, the uncertainty over political issues like Medicaid expansion and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the pressure to keep costs down by scaling up and a renewed emphasis on preventive medicine intended to circumvent hospital visits altogether.

“If there’s truly something that is better for the community, we’re all in it,” Ardabell said.

“But from the way I see the world and the community needs and the future of health care, the best thing we can do for our children in this community is make sure they eat, make sure they’re mentored, make sure they can avoid violence, make sure they understand good nutrition and that we provide it for them. And we’ll have less kids in the hospital.”

Expected costs of about \$1 billion over 10 years was a major consideration for the health systems. Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones and a grassroots group of pediatricians have kept up the pressure, much of it directed at council members.

The legislation was patroned by Jones and council members Michelle Mosby, Ellen Robertson, Cynthia Newbille and Kathy Graziano.

“Everyone is anxious to improve children’s health in the region,” Graziano said after the vote. “The group putting this together needed some more time to come forward with their plan, so we proposed this resolution in support of their efforts to let them know we stand with them. It was only expedited because we don’t meet in August.”

A large portion of council members’ concern with the creation of the hospital comes from a clause directing city staff to “Study ways to advance economic development on the Boulevard that could include medical

office buildings, hotels, restaurants, residential and other uses, anchored by a children’s hospital,” without any guarantee that the project could survive without partnering health systems.

“(Support from the council is) the right thing to do,” said Councilwoman Ellen Robertson, 6th District. “The language is really irrelevant.”

Trammell said she supported the effort but not the tactics of the administration, which she said tried to ram the resolution through without answering questions. She voted against the project in July and against the clause at a Sept. 14 meeting.

People in support of the project said they had been pushed into the middle of a disagreement that was irrelevant to their mission.

“We are for the children of this community, it’s that simple,” said Katherine Busser, CEO of the Virginia Children’s Hospital Alliance, which lobbied council members individually for their support. “There are other

interested parties and there are other paths forward, but we don’t think any of them would be as great as having the home team make this happen. We still think the best way to build the children’s hospital for our region is with VCU and Bon Secours as our partners.”

The resolution approved on Sept. 14 said the Richmond metro area’s lack of a freestanding facility was an abnormality among similar-size cities.

“We are continuing to have active discussions with all three health care systems (in the area),” said Melissa Nelson, a doctor at Pediatricians Associated to Care for Kids. “This isn’t about VCU, it’s not about Bon Secours, it’s not about HCA; it’s about the children that we have to take care of.”

Hospital proponents have until December to move forward before the council revisits seeking alternate proposals for the Boulevard site.

Clinical Trial | Asthma Study

Do You Have Asthma?

Asthma Study Participants from VCU Needed

- Volunteers are needed for a study about asthma and the common cold.
- You must have asthma, not smoke and be 18-40 years old.
- Screening at UVA is in progress now and involves 2 visits (\$40 for the 1st visit; \$60 for the 2nd). \$30 reimbursement for gas mileage for VCU participants will also be provided. Those who qualify can participate with payment of up to \$1,870 for completing the study.

For more information, please contact the UVA Asthma and Allergic Diseases Center via email at ddm9q@virginia.edu or 434.982.3510. (HSR#12656 and 14427)



UVA Asthma and Allergic Diseases Center
ddm9q@virginia.edu | 434.982.3510



STAT OF THE WEEK

Freshman Julia Suarez leads the Atlantic 10 in shots on goal with 38.

Volleyball captures Deacon Tournament

ERIKA ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

Women's volleyball traveled to Winston-Salem, North Carolina on Sept. 18 and 19 to play in the Deacon Classic hosted by Wake Forest University. The Rams won the tournament with wins against Hofstra University (3-0) and Wake Forest (3-1), and a loss to the University of Georgia (3-1).

With a young team on the road, and big outside hitters senior Kalah Jones and sophomore Jessica Young sidelined due to injury, the Rams looked for others to step in to fill the void.

On Friday, the Rams took the court against Hofstra and continued their success from the previous game against Hampton days before. Redshirt freshman setter Indigo Thompson set the tone for VCU with 29 assists. Thompson's main targets were freshman outside hitters Sahbria McLetchie and Julia Adler, who both had nine kills each for the day, (25-16), (25-23) and (25-15). Sophomore middle blocker Jane Fedderson added seven kills and three blocks.

Saturday, the Rams started the day against SEC member, Georgia. After starting out strong and winning the first set (25-22), Georgia overcame VCU with a major impact from their outside hitter, Maddie Lobenstein, who had 17 kills. Georgia rallied to take the next three sets, (25-21), (25-20) and (25-18). McLetchie had 12 kills and Fedderson added 11 kills. Sophomore libero Rebekah Strange collected 10 digs.

After suffering a loss in the first match of the day, the Rams re-strategized for their final match of the tournament against Wake Forest. The Demon Deacons took the first set in a (25-20) win. VCU regrouped and surged on to win



Women's volleyball celebrating during match against Hampton, days before they captured the Deacon Classic despite missing key players.

the next three sets, (25-23), (25-13) and (25-21).

Again, Thompson connected several times throughout the match with her favorite target of the weekend, McLetchie. McLetchie tallied a game-high 20 kills in the win, which was one point shy of her

career high. She also added six digs and one block while Adler added 12 kills. Thompson registered a game-high 44 assists and nine digs.

McLetchie's hot hitting and solid defense helped the Rams overcome their first set loss and win the match. Redshirt freshman

libero Tori Pearce commanded the backcourt with 10 digs. She was accompanied by senior defensive specialist Samantha Blaze, who added four digs.

McLetchie and Thompson were both named to the All-Tournament Team and McLetchie was

also crowned the A-10 Rookie of the Week.

With Alder, Fedderson, McLetchie and Thompson finding their way to a tournament win and making an imprint on the team this past weekend, the team is finding success in its younger role-players.

This cannot come at a better time as the Rams begin conference play on the road this weekend against Rhode Island on Sept. 25 and Fordham on Sept. 27.

UCI race results

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Teammate Stevens was six seconds behind, finishing with a time of 40:56.

American Megan Guarnier, who did not compete in the individual time trials, was able to clinch a spot on the podium, placing third in the Women Elite Road Race on Sept. 16. Guarnier finished the 80.5 miles course with a time of roughly 3:23:58. Stevens finished 19 minutes later for 24th place.

The U.S. junior women cyclists weren't the only U.S. cyclists to earn medals in the Juniors Individual Trial. Adrien Costa, an 18-year-old from California, and Brandon McNulty, a 17-year-old from Arizona, earned silver and gold on Sept. 22. Costa finished the 18.58 miles course in 38:02.

McNulty finished at 38:44 for third place.

Costa struggled in Men Juniors Road Race. On Sept. 16, Costa earned 18th place on the 80.5 miles course. His time was 3:47:00. He was the only American to finish in the top-50.

The U.S. men of the Men Under 23 Individual Time Trial had trouble competing against the Europeans. On Sept. 21, U.S. biker Daniel Eaton came in tenth after he finished the 18.58 miles course. The race was close for the finishers - Eaton was a second shy of ninth place and two seconds away from eighth. Eaton crossed the finish line at 37:54.

With a time of 38:04, Gregory Daniel rode in 47 seconds behind Eaton, for 19th place.

The Men Under-23 Road Race

proved to be far more difficult for the Americans. Eaton barely made it to the top 50, placing 48th. He road a time of 3:55:33 on the 100-mile course.

Of the two Americans racing in the Men Elite Individual Time Trial, both finished in the top-25. On Sept. 23, Taylor Phinney completed the 33.2 miles course in 1:04:06. Phinney was five seconds off from 10th place, and finished 12th. Teammate Lawson Craddock finished in 1:04:56 for 22nd place.

More than 150 cyclists competed in the Men Elite Road Race. On Sept. 27, American Alex Howes came in twelfth place, 162.4 miles later. His time was 6:14:40. Teammate Brent Bookwalter finished a few seconds behind Howes and earned 19th place.earned 19th place.

Freshman sensation has early success

BRYANT DRAYTON
Sports Editor

For the women's soccer team, the UCI Road World Championships have been a blessing in disguise, putting a halt on a daunting schedule that has plagued the Rams in the early portion of the season. Fortunately for VCU, a 5-foot-4 freshman from Woodbridge, Virginia has given coach Lindsey Martin a reason to be optimistic.

Julia Suarez, a freshman forward from C.D. Hylton high school has been the lead goal scorer for the Rams this season. With a record of 2-6-1, the Rams have struggled finding the back of the net, only scoring 11 goals in nine matches — six of which came in their latest win against Mount St. Mary's University.

The Rams are absent from competition until Oct. 1 and this break gives them a chance to get back to the basics and regroup before going into Atlantic-10 play. Suarez, who has only nine matches to her collegiate career, understands her learning process has to be expedited in order for her team to break out of its offensive woes.



Julia Suarez's relentless attack on goal is the main catalyst for her early succes for the women's soccer team.

"I definitely want to increase my goal total," Suarez said. "I've had chances, but I need to put them away now."

Suarez has become the go-to option for the Rams. Her touch around the box has lead to 38 shots on goal in nine matches. For a freshman this is a testament of true promise moving forward.

Drawn to VCU by the coaches and players, Suarez made her decision to become a Ram with the mindset of being an instant impact.

"I really liked the coaches and toured the campus and it was perfect," Suarez said. "I watched the team play a few times and during my official (visit) I met some of the girls and they were really nice."

Like many freshmen ready to make a lasting impression on their teammates, Suarez added she was full of nerves and anxiety during the summer practices. But she was ready to accept the challenge, Suarez said she knew she was capable of thriving at VCU and set a personal goal to obtain playing time in

her first season.

"My goal was to just get playing time and start from there," Suarez said.

Martin, not shy of throwing freshman in the fire early, granted Suarez her chance to produce in the first match of the season — VCU's first goal of the season was initiated by the Woodbridge prodigy.

"The first game (Old Dominion)," Suarez said. "The first game of the season I realized I connected with the team in the position I was in."

Martin's intuitive decision to put Suarez in the game early has paid huge dividends for the Rams. She is at the helm of the offense and she should be. Suarez was named the A-10 rookie of week for her efforts in the win against Mount St. Mary's and stalemate against the University of Pennsylvania.

Suarez totaled 18 shots on goal in the two contests for a 4.22 shots/game average. That places her third in the A-10 for shots per game and her 38 total shots on goal are first.

For VCU to turn its season around, Suarez will have to maintain and improve to kick-start the production from the offense. But for this week, Suarez will get to settle down and enjoy life as a regular college student. An avid superhero movie lover, she has time to enjoy some of her favorite movies, like "Superman."

"Soccer comes easy to me, I don't really have to stress as much," Suarez said. "Having to do the schoolwork makes it challenging, but the tutors help a lot so what VCU has to offer is beneficial."

VCU's next match against Davidson College commences A-10 play. Suarez is confident her team is ready to come out of the break and turn the season around. The Rams will depend on Suarez for goal-scoring opportunities, mainly cashing in on the opportunities presented.

"I feel like everything is coming along (soccer-wise) and I just need to put on a show," Suarez said.

BY THE NUMBERS: RANKINGS AND WINNERS

<p>RANKING BY COUNTRY</p> <p>1 Netherlands 545 points</p> <p>2 France 430 points</p> <p>3 Australia 425 points</p>	<p>INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL</p> <p>WOMEN JUNIORS Chloe Dygert USA 20:18.47</p> <p>MEN UNDER 23 Mads Wurtz Schmidt DEN 37:10.96</p> <p>MEN JUNIORS Leo Appelt GER 37:45.01</p> <p>WOMEN ELITE Linda Melanie Villumsen NZL 40:29.87</p> <p>MEN ELITE Vasil Kiryienka BELARUS 1:02:29.45</p>	<p>ROAD RACE</p> <p>WOMEN JUNIORS Chloe Dygert USA 1:42:16</p> <p>MEN UNDER 23 Kevin Ledanois FRA 3:54:45</p> <p>MEN JUNIORS Felix Gall AUT 3:11:09</p> <p>WOMEN ELITE Elizabeth Armitstead GBR 3:23:56</p> <p>MEN ELITE Peter Sagan SVK 3:23:56</p>
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Men’s soccer falls to defending national champs

FADEL ALLASSAN
Staff Writer

After 83 scoreless minutes, University of Virginia freshman midfielder Derrick Etienne found the back of the net to give the defending national champions the road win against VCU in front of 1,650 — the fourth-largest crowd in Sports Backers Stadium history.

The Rams, coached by Dave Giffard in his third year at the helm, created several chances, but could not seem to find accuracy in front of the goal as U.Va.’s sophomore goalkeeper Jeff Caldwell had only one save to make from VCU’s 16 shots. His counterpart on the VCU’s side, sophomore goalkeeper Perre Gardan, registered five saves from U.Va.’s 11 shots in a game that could have gone to either side.

“In games like that, you don’t get to miss that many good chances and win,” Giffard said after the match. “We had 5-7 good looks at goal and forced only one save out of the goalkeeper. That’s a lot of good looks against a quality opponent and in the end we paid for it.”

The Rams knocked on the door early in the first half as freshmen Simond Kargbo and Ivan Sakou and junior Brandon Eaton all had chances that barely missed the goal in the first 15 minutes. In the 34th minute, junior midfielder Nicko Corriveau shot a gathered loose ball off a deflection in the box in an attempt to give the Cavaliers the lead, but his shot couldn’t beat Gardan, who came charging out from goal to deflect the shot away. Minutes later, the Rams looked to have found a breakthrough from their captain, senior defender Dennis Castillo, but his free kick was blocked by U.Va. defenders.

VCU opened the second half with the same energy they had early in the first half, but Sakou again missed the target with his opportunity. In the 62nd minute, junior midfielder Dakota Barnathan was inches away from putting the Rams ahead with a shot that hit the crossbar. Minutes later, Eaton again



Junior Simond Kargbo (right), seen here facing Georgetown, and the defense came up just short against University of Virginia

missed the target, this time putting his shot too high above the goal.

The Rams would come to regret their missed chances when U.Va.’s Etienne dribbled through several VCU defenders and chipped a shot over the on-rushing Gardan to give the Cavaliers a 1-0 lead six minutes from time.

When the Rams finally man-

aged a shot on goal a couple minutes after going down, Caldwell saved to keep the Cavaliers ahead.

“So you know, I thought the first half we were controlling the game. To be fair, I think we thought we should have scored. We put enough pressure on them to score,” U.Va. head coach George Gelnovatch said after the game. “And I would

say the first 30 minutes of the second half, they put us under pressure. And I kind of knew it and I said it to the team, ‘Expect them to be better and more energized.’”

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Weber camp hopeful for NBA return

ZACH JOACHIM
Contributing Writer

MARCUS BLACKWELL
Staff Writer

Former VCU basketball guard Briante Weber, the news of him failing the team physical with the Miami Heat on Sept 13, came as a surprise to the VCU community, but not the Weber camp.

Still recovering from a knee injury he sustained last season, Weber had been cleared to resume basketball activities Aug. 26. Despite signs of progress, the player who nearly set the NCAA career steals record before going down has struggled to prove he’s healthy enough to warrant a NBA roster spot. After signing a training camp deal with Miami over the summer, Weber’s hopes of beginning his professional career had been on the rise before this minor setback.

It has been seven months since the defensive specialist tore his ACL, MCL and meniscus in his right knee, so the results of the physical did not come as a shock. Weber’s tenacious, all-out style of play naturally puts a lot of pressure on his knees and he is in no rush to push the timetable on a return, according to his agent, Bill Neff.

Neff said he is remaining optimistic, suggesting he is still confident that the Heat remain interested in Weber.

“Most ACLs take about eight to nine months to recover,” Neff said. “What I wanted to do was get him to a club that would embrace him and be with him through these times.”

Neff’s attitude suggests that despite the setback, the Heat plan on making the former VCU star a project of sorts. He went on to say that he anticipates Weber’s knee is nearing a full recovery. Neff said he is pushing for Weber to play with Miami’s NBA Developmental League affiliate, Sioux Falls Skyforce sometime this season.

Several other teams have expressed interest in the undrafted free agent, so Weber supporters



Briante Weber will have to wait a little longer for his right knee to heal before he gets his shot with a NBA team.

can be confident that he will find a home by the time the 2015-16 season tips off.

Weber is restlessly anticipating a return to the basketball court.

“I’m just waiting for them to give me the green light to get on the court,” he said. “I’m just ready to start playing again.”



spectrum

On this day...
in 1991, jazz trumpet legend Miles Davis dies in a California hospital at the age of 65.

Quirk Hotel and gallery opens in time for international visitors

ADRIEL VELAZQUEZ
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 17, the nearly completed Quirk Hotel opened its doors to its first guests, just as the UCI World Championships began to take over Richmond. The 75-room hotel is the new home of Quirk Gallery.

Quirk Gallery has showcased art in Richmond since 2005. Now it is moving to its new location, 201 W. Broad Street, where it will be integrated into the Quirk Hotel, a hotel/gallery hybrid. The hotel occupies the building that once housed the J.B. Mosby and Co. dry goods store. It was built in 1916 and was the first fireproof department store in the city of Richmond. The new hotel features 75 rooms, each featuring art by re-

gional and local artists and custom designed furniture. The custom beds are made from the salvaged floor joists of the original building.

The hotel began opening its floors in phases. It opened the fourth and fifth floors on Sept. 17, and the second and third floors on Friday, Sept. 18. The ground-floor lobby and the in-house Maple & Pine Restaurant opened on the Sept. 17. The actual Quirk Gallery opened on Sept. 25th. The rest of the floors, as well as a public-accessible rooftop terrace and bar will open Nov. 1.

During the week of the UCI bike race, all of the hotel's 54 open rooms had been sold out. Director of Sales and Marketing for Quirk Hotel, Kate Brown, said that the bike race was beneficial to the hotels opening. She said the hotel

opened for the extra demand for rooms during the bike race.

"Well definitely that was our focus to get open before the bike races," Brown said. "Our ultimate goal was to be completely open, but we wanted the quality of what we offered to our customers to be very high quality, so that mean that we had to put some things off to make sure that was there, but it was still worthwhile for us open with partial inventory because gust can experience what is here in the lobby, our common areas as well as our amazing rooms."

The timeline for opening was determined earlier this year. In June the hotel started accepting reservations for October and later dates. But in mid-July Brown says they determined it would be possible to open up a few floors for

the race.

"I think the race has had a very positive impact for the hotel," she said. "It's good that we were able to open in time for the races because we got to take advantage of so many people both locally and internationally to see what we had to offer as a hotel."

The Gallery and the Hotel share the same owner: the Ukrop family. The family has owned the space for the hotel for the last decade, but they have waited until now to make the hotel. However, Brown said that having the Gallery be a part of the hotel has been the plan since the hotel was envisioned.

"When the Ukrops bought the property in 1998, they always knew that it was going to be a hotel, they were just waiting for the timing to be right, economi-

cally, for the regeneration of this area to be at a level for a hotel to succeed," Brown said. "When we decided to do a hotel, we knew that we wanted the art gallery to be a part of it."

Quirk Gallery currently features work from artists including Aggie Zed, Andras Bality and Matt Lively, a VCU alum.

"I like the gallery/hotel hybrid concept because the potential customers are a captive and probably already informed audience," Lively said.

Lively's art is not in the gallery, but is integrated into the hotel. He received a Bachelor of Fine Art in Sculpture from VCU in 1993 and is represented locally by the Glave Kocen Gallery.

His advice for VCU students trying to get their work featured in

the Quirk gallery, or any gallery is to know the gallery and the work they show to ensure work will fit in the space. He added that for a piece to be exhibited it needs to be a "cohesive body of work that is finished, dry and ready to be shown at a moment's notice."

Andras Bality received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in art history from VCU in 1986 and his work will be exhibited in the new hotel.

"I think (the Quirk Hotel is) great," Bality said. "However artists can get their work out in front of people is good."

Reservations can be made on Quirk Hotel's website. Accommodations include guest rooms and suites. Prices range from \$200 a night to almost \$500.



The lobby of Quirk Hotel where rooms go for between \$200 and \$500 a night.



Quirk Hotel is located at 201 W Broad and opened in time for the UCI races.

Second Annual RVA Makerfest takes placeat the Science Museum of Virginia Oct. 3

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Staff Writer

Richmond's second annual Makerfest will take place this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Science Museum of Virginia.

Presented by Capital One, RVA Makerfest is an annual festival with the goal of advancing the maker movement in Richmond. RVA Makerfest brings together a wide range of local innovators and hobbyists, with hands-on demonstrations in science, art, technology, engineering, sustainability, food, music, crafts, fashion and more.

Toward the end of 2013, employees at Martin Agency, a Richmond based advertising company, was discussing the global maker movement and how it's manifested itself in Richmond, especially through the manufacturing revolution and at VCU and the Art Depot.

"We were looking for an opportunity to break down silo and get makers from various backgrounds together to start their ideas," said President of RVA Makerfest, Corey Lane. "We really believe there's a maker inside everybody and getting everyone together in one room helps people discover what their interests are and natural skill sets are and possibly take up a new hobby themselves."

Last year's festival drew about 3,500 people for hands on

demonstrations from nearly 70 different makers. This year, the board of directors are anticipating 6,000 guests.

The RVA Makerfest event on Facebook has 2,700 RVSPs, many of which are VCU students.

VCU sophomore Brittany Woodman said she always looks forward to the various festivals Richmond offers, but this will be her first year attending Makerfest.

"I really look forward to it," Woodman said. "I've checked out some of this year's makers through the website and there are some very unique artists I'm excited to see."

Lane said this year, the event organizers are hoping to draw more people from the Commonwealth, and are featuring more makers from inside and outside the region.

Anyone interested in gaining experience around makers or volunteering hours can sign up for available shifts to help makers with their booth spaces and crowd management.

Volunteers will receive a free hand-printed shirt from Studio Two Three and can sign up online.

"Last year there were speakers and we heard from people that they were interesting speakers but there was just too much to see and do," said Lane. "They couldn't sit down and listen for 40 minutes. This year is 100 percent demonstration and entirely outside on the



The second annual RVA Makerfest will feature hands-on art, tech, engineering, food, fashion, crafts and music demonstrations.

train platform."

This year, a trolley will also run the day of the festival and make stops at Neighborhood Resource Center, Peter Paul Development Center, Northside Outreach Center and Storefront for Community Design.

"We want to break down barriers and bring people to event that might not be able to get there otherwise," Lane said. "We're giving folks the opportunity to come to

this event that might not otherwise be capable."

Lane said Makerfest is somewhere between an arts and crafts fair and a tradeshow, and has been working to expand the diversity of makers at their event. The festival displays a lot of technology and craft but also a lot of the "lost arts," such as blacksmiths and blowers.

As someone who has been apart of the RVA Makerfest team from its early inception, Lane

has already had some incredible experiences with the outcome of the festival. He said he has seen people find new hobbies, such as children taking up coding. But one of Lane's favorite stories is of a girl from the collegiate school who was born without a left hand.

"She met folks from the Chesterfield Public Library and a group called Enable, who uses 3-D printers to print prosthetics," said Lane. "She tried on one of the pre

printed prosthetics and she used her left hand for the first time."

Lane said the girl now has a prosthetic hand she printed herself, only because she was in the room with those other makers.

"And that's one of the stories that's come out of the woodwork and had such a good time at the event and been inspired in their very own backyard," Lane said.

PHOTO BY PILAR CURTIS

Hollywood Cemetery has come to life—online

LOGAN BOGERT
Contributing Writer

Hollywood Cemetery launched an online virtual tour in the beginning of August, with plans to incorporate even more content over the next 12 to 18 months. These additions will include increased tour options, content and connections to the cemetery genealogy database.

It took the Hollywood Cemetery, Friends of Hollywood Cemetery, Host RVA (formerly NimblePitch) and Addison Clark approximately six months to complete the tour.

“This has been an extremely exciting project, and we believe this online tour platform is unique in the cemetery industry,” Jeff Allen, a managing partner at Addison Clark, said in an email. “It reflects a lot of hard work by a very talented team, and it was made possible through the fundraising efforts of Friends of Hollywood Cemetery.”

The online tour begins at the front gate and includes eight stops including the Iron Dog, Davis Circle and Mausoleum. Users can go through the online tour at their own pace. The virtual tour high-

lights the most popular of more than 60,000 cemetery sites, including former U.S. Presidents John Tyler and James Monroe. Each stop on the virtual tour provides pictures and a historical description. Users can also bookmark or favorite certain stops they want to explore more in person.

“It allows people all around the country to access the stories and beauty of the Hollywood cemetery from their home computers,” Allen said. “We believe it is important for the world to have access to these incredibly interesting stories even if they are unable to visit in person.”

As of press time no data was available to see how many users have taken the online tour or if the online option has led to an increase in visits.

The online tour can be taken on Hollywood Cemetery’s website. Hollywood Cemetery also offers walking tours Monday-Saturday starting at 10 a.m. and Sundays starting at 2 p.m. by calling 804-649-0711. Other options for tours include Segway tours, trolley tours, gem car tours and tours by car.



The cemetery, located at 412 S. Cherry, also offers walking tours.



Hollywood cemetery, home to two U.S. presidents and one of Richmond’s staple tourist destinations, now offers virtual tours of the grounds.

World famous guitarist will perform at Singleton Center

AUSTIN WALKER
Spectrum Editor

World-renown Brazilian guitarist Richard Miller is coming to VCU’s Singleton Center as a part of the university’s Guitar Series of concerts on Oct. 4.

Miller is a decorated musician, having earned a PhD in music theory from Catholic University of America and Masters in guitar performance from Manhattan School of Music. He also teaches music theory and ear training at Columbia University, and his dissertation, entitled “The Guitar in the Brazilian Choro,” was published by Lambert Academy.

Miller currently performs shows in New York City with his band “Choro da Manhã,” which is a Brazilian group. He’s also a part of multiple other bands that perform in the United States and around the world.

Steven Ashby, a guitar instructor here at VCU’s music program praised one of the bands Miller regularly performs with, “DC Choro,” specifically pointing towards their “interpretation, and spirited performance of Brazilian music.”

Miller has not only performed in New York at venues like Iridium and BB Kings, but he’s also presented lectures, workshops, and concerts to multiple universities such as James Madison University, University of Pennsylvania and New York University. Miller has even performed for President Obama at the White House and will give a special performance for Pope Francis later this fall.

Miller joins a long line of musicians who have been brought to the Singleton Center

for the VCU Guitar Series which started twenty years ago. The series’ goal is to bring guitarist of diverse styles, such as classical and flamenco, and expose students to these accomplished musicians.

“It is important for our guitar majors to hear outstanding guitarists”, said the head of the series John Patykula, “they learn so much by listening, observing, and speaking with the artists.”

VCU’s department of music is keen on encouraging students to attend concerts such as this one and many others that cover a wide variety of genres. All students in the department are required to see multiple performances every year.

“Performances from visiting artists are a learning and inspirational opportunity for music students here at VCU,” said Mr. Ashby, “I’ve left many a concert over the years, wanting to go home and work on my own music.”


The concerts are open to non-music majors as well, who are also encouraged to broaden their horizons and experience excellent music.

“The series exposes them (students) to artists who have worked hard and who have much experience in performing. The students experience these artists’ craftsmanship along with the emotion of a live performance,” Patykula said.

Miller will be performing at the Singleton Center with bass player Itaiguara Brandão and a yet-to-be announced pandeiro player. The concert is open to the public and tickets will be \$15 for general admission and \$10 for VCU students at the Singleton box office.




The W.E. Singleton Center will host Richard Miller on Oct. 4.

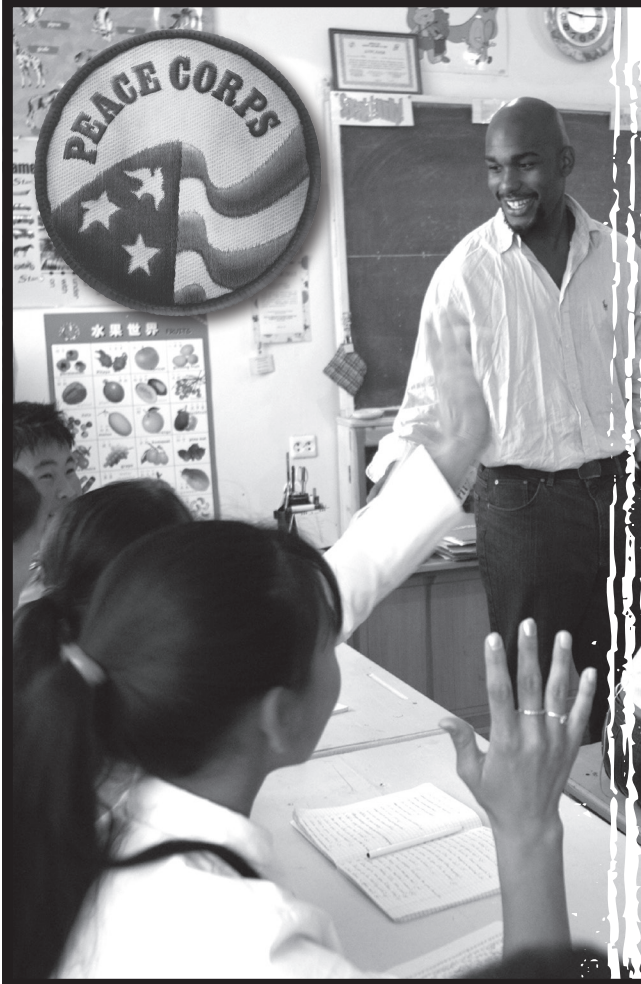


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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Don’t be too bashful to approach the person walking in front of you whose smoke is blowing directly into your face.”
—Justin Joseph

Free higher education won’t actually be so free

MIKAELA REINHARD
Contributing Columnist

With the presidential elections inching closer, our favorite presidential candidates have been discussing the possibility of making higher education free for Americans. What no one understands is that this promise isn’t going to come without expenses attached.

It has been mentioned that other countries, such as Germany and Turkey, offer free higher education for their citizens. However, when one actually looks at how they are paid for it becomes clear that neither of these countries offers a free college education.

According to the Confederation Fiscale Européenne (CFE), the taxes in Germany are significantly higher when compared to the U.S. tax rates. For a single person in Germany, if they make anywhere from 7,665-52,154 euros (8,580 to 58,383 U.S. dollars) a year, they pay 15 percent in income taxes. If that single person makes anywhere from 52,154-250,000 euros (58,383 to 279,862 U.S. dollars) a year, then their tax rate makes a steep increase: 42 percent in income taxes. Any salary above 250,000 euros a year in German is taxed at a rate of 45 percent. If a single filer makes \$413,201 or more per year in the U.S., the highest tax rate is 39.6 percent.

Unlike in the U.S. where we acquire a tax refund if we pay more in taxes than what we owe, in Germany, the filer only qualifies for a tax refund if their income tax rate is below 25 percent.

Along with other countries that offer government-funded higher education, Germany and the U.S. differ in the process of getting students to physically go to college. In Germany, students take an exam when they’re 10 and they get placed into three schools for their secondary school career: the Hauptschule, Realschule and the Gymnasium.

The Hauptschule is for the lowest-achieving students on this exam. Here, students have vocational orientation in hopes that they’ll enter a trade. The Realschule provides both liberal and practical education and students go through until the 10th grade. Here, students focus in on various disciplines that don’t necessarily need a university education, but still need more formal education than the Hauptschule. Lastly, the Gymnasium provides students with a liberal education, lasts through the 12th grade and is intended for students who will continue to a university.

According to the McDaniel College, only about 30 percent of German students ever attend the Gymnasium. This is vastly different from the U.S. structure where all students go through a central high school system, take the SAT or ACT and then apply to various colleges, knowing that they have a fallback of being able to go to community college if they don’t get accepted at a four-year university on their first try. As of October 2013, 65.9 percent of recent high school graduates in the U.S. went on to college, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In other countries, such as Turkey, students still attend a central high school system, but can only advance by taking a standardized college entrance exam. The content in these exams is far more in-depth and difficult to comprehend than the SAT and the ACT, and the grading is extremely harsh, which drastically minimizes a student’s chance of attending a university. These obstacles to entry are in place because it’s simply not feasible to fund higher education for every citizen.

If the U.S. were to switch over to a government-funded higher education system, then there’d be more obstacles to actually enter a college, and fewer people would have the opportunity to earn a college education. The U.S. is simply too big, with over 300 million citizens; Germany



and Turkey both have roughly 80 million citizens. Government-funded education is far more plausible if the population is smaller. It’s not necessarily impossible with 300 million citizens; however, it’ll take a lot of work to get everyone to pay the taxes necessary for almost 66 percent of the population to attend college; Then prepare U.S. citizens for

the possibility that the system of going to college could change drastically.

By no means am I opposed to the idea of the government taking over the monetary transactions with collegiate institutions, but the U.S. population has to know that this proposition for free higher education will come with a hefty price tag.

Students feel smoked out on campus

— Continued from page 1

fines and citations. University officials must also ensure that the entire student body is knowledgeable of the policy and that visitors to the university are made aware of the rule through prominent signs and displays.

Even though such improvements may not arrive in the foreseeable future, nonsmokers should still feel empowered to assert their right to cleaner air. Don’t be too bashful to approach the person walking in front of you whose smoke is blowing directly into your face.

Be confident as you inform your peers about VCU’s current smoking policy, and educate yourself regarding the risks of secondhand smoke. Recognize the power of your voices and work together to find solutions that improve the daily lives of most VCU students.

Smart guns, safety classes needed for firearms owners



MIKAELA REINHARD
Contributing Columnist

It is no secret that our state was struck by a terrible event when two journalists for WDBJ were shot while on air about 35 miles from Roanoke at Bridgewater Plaza in Franklin County. The perpetrator of this violent crime, Vester Flanagan (on-air name was Bryce Williams during his time at WDBJ), posted a video of his malicious act on Facebook. In the video, Alison Parker was seen being targeted, and ultimately shot.

The news story on how two innocent people had their lives taken away joined the myriad of stories since August of last year, starting with the Michael Brown case. Over the past 12 months, our nation has focused its attention on the issues of gun control and violence in America, but often, the issue gets dropped until another unfortunate event strikes American citizens and the headlines get printed in the next paper.

Currently, a majority of Americans are stressing the fact that the process of acquiring a gun needs to be reformed. While I agree with this, I disagree with their suggested reform strategies. Most of the people on the frontline of this debate are stressing that we need to add more paperwork to

the background check process. I disagree.

The process of acquiring a gun is largely dedicated to the background check process and adding even more provisions that need to be inspected won’t drastically change the amount of people able to obtain a gun. The ability to obtain a gun unlawfully and be able to use the gun because there are currently no safety requirements implemented seems to be the biggest issue.

The Washington Post investigated 43 shootings that took place between January 2009 and January 2013. Out of those 43 shootings, there was enough evidence in 29 of those incidents to determine whether or not the gunman was prohibited from holding a gun. From those 29, they found that 11 (38 percent) of those incidents did in fact involve a gunman who was not allowed, by law, to possess a gun. Ultimately, I believe there needs to be two main reforms in order to make our increasingly violent society safe again.

I believe that all citizens should be allowed to purchase a firearm, since our second Amendment is the “right to bear arms;” however, if the citizen is not a government official, then they must equip themselves with a smart gun, which only fires when activated

by an authorized user, such as the Armatix iP1. It currently sells for just short of \$1,400. This would exponentially decrease the possibility of shootings happening where the gunman acquires a firearm that is not lawfully theirs. For example the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012.

Secondly, there needs to be mandatory classes for anyone wishing to arm themselves. These classes would teach novice gunholders the responsibility that comes with owning a firearm, as well as the true power a gun possesses. This would give people a deeper understanding of what a firearm actually is, rather than just looking at it as a weapon that you can so easily play with on games such as Call of Duty and watch in movies such as Casino Royale.

Obviously, we will never be able to strike out every single possibility of disturbing acts or murders taking place in our country, but in the end there are more innocent people than there are perpetrators. If the American people want to see changes in how violent our society is becoming then we have to take a firm stance, address it and stress it until some sort of resolution is reached that will allow us to sleep easy at night.

Diversity suffers under white-washed faculty, western-inspired classes

MONICA HOUSTON
Opinion Editor

Virginia Commonwealth University is one of the most diverse universities I know. In the center of urban downtown Richmond, it prides itself on “meet[ing] the demands of diverse populations through impactful research, rigorous study and extensive community engagement.” And it does. VCU is extremely engaged with the community of Richmond, especially with the most recent UCI Bike Race. VCU’s vision statement declares “the global engagement of students, faculty and staff that transforms lives and communities.” Yet somehow they miss the mark within their institution.

VCU’s mission statement declares: As the premier urban, public research university in Virginia, VCU’s mission is to advance knowledge and student success through its commitments to diversity in hopes of providing a climate of inclusion, a dedication to addressing disparities wherever they exist and an opportunity to explore and create in an environment of trust.

Well I see some inconsistencies here and hope there is an opportunity to

explore them in order to create an environment all minority students can trust. Richmond itself is not a very diverse city; 44.7 percent white and 49.7 percent black, according to the United States Census Bureau for 2014. However, VCU does not match those statistics in its students, faculty and course offerings.

Here are a few stats based off of VCU’s fact card. VCU student population, on campus, looks like one of the most diverse places I’ve ever experienced. On paper, it looks a little different. Altogether, minority races compose just under half of the VCU population at 49 percent. That includes the categories of international, 2 or more races and not reported. The white demographic lies at 51 percent.

Now, it maybe obvious to some that the faculty is not so fortunate in its diversity. For instructional faculty, African American numbers lie at 4.71 percent; Asian, 12.97 percent; Hispanic, 2.56 percent; and whites, 74.16 percent. Within administrative faculty, 13.24 percent are African American, 2.67 percent Asian, 1.5 percent Hispanic and 79.6 percent white. Altogether, minority faculty equals way less than 50 percent: 20.24 percent in all. There is an extreme lack of diverse faculty

to meet the seemingly diverse student population.

Finally, let’s look at the courses offered by VCU. As in most institutions, we are blessed with an African American studies program. However, there is no Asian studies, Hispanic studies or a real international studies program where our options aren’t one class on Islamic mysticism, zen Buddhism, or global and regional ethics and religion from European perspectives.

I even got excited when I came across foreign studies under the registration courses for fall 2015. “Ok, this seems interesting, I wonder what they’ll offer in here,” I thought.

Click — Euro-Mediterranean Mythology. What is that? The course description says — nada. Well it’s obviously European history, nothing foreign about that. America and Europe know each other well — consider colonization. These perspectives are familiar to us.

This list comprises one class, not an entire program or discipline. I’m sure American-born Asians or Hispanics would benefit from getting to know more about their culture or history outside of what’s been told to them at home. As an African American I know all too well that

the things my family discusses does not encompass the depth of information I have learned from my three AFAM courses.

The university has a ton of Western and European courses that discuss the same novels, poems and textbook history. Not everyone necessarily wants to continue learning the same content they’ve been analyzing since high school. If I plan to have an international view of the world, I should know real international history, not just the American version of it.

Compared to other universities whose mission statement doesn’t derive from diversity, the content of our international studies courses is below par. George Mason University’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences offers Latin American, Middle East and Islamic, and Russian and Eurasian studies. George Washington University offers Asian, Italian, Japanese, Middle Eastern, Latin American, Russian, Judaic, French and German studies.

I appreciate the impact VCU has had on the Richmond community with its involvement in the surrounding neighborhoods and its leading Medical Center. But an institution that prides itself on international diversity and involvement should showcase that inside and out. It starts

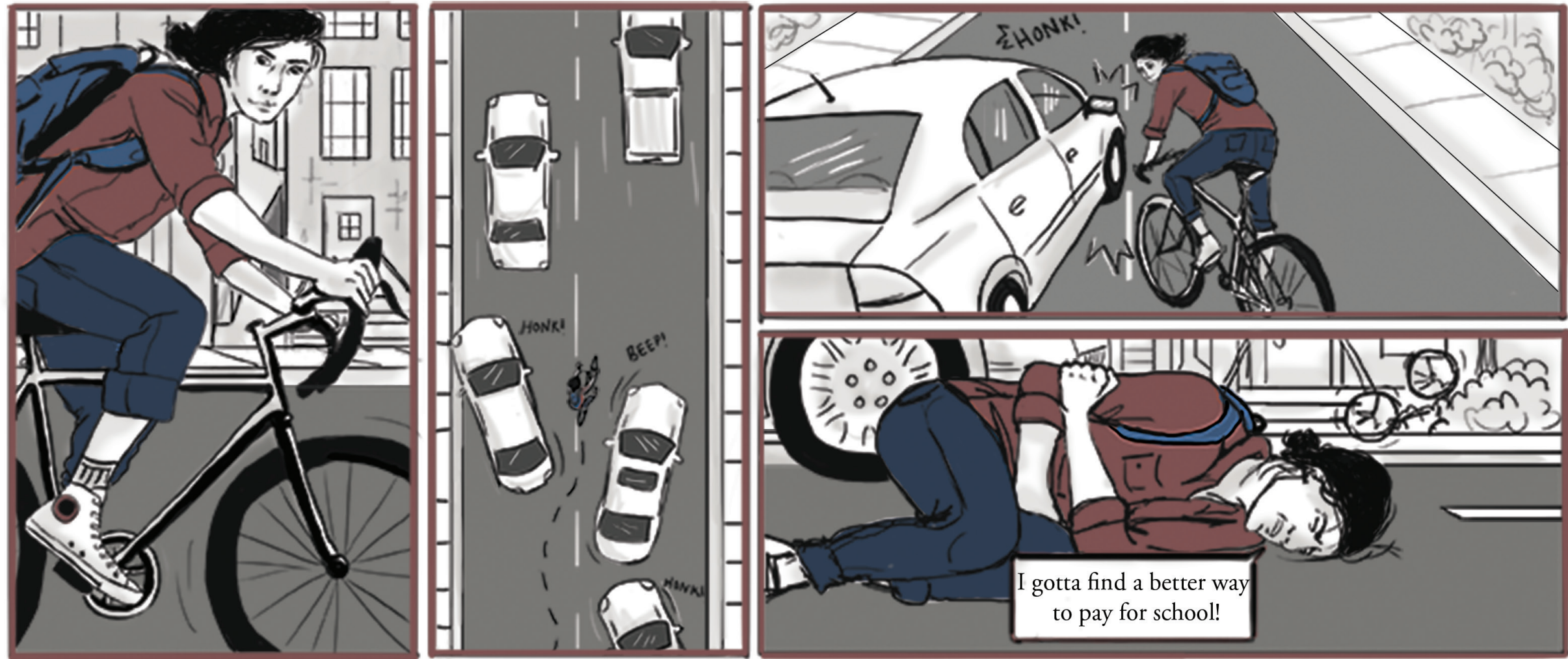


with our teachers from all backgrounds, allowing them access to courses that teach international history current and past. If we want to talk about #AllLivesMatter, then let’s include them and educate them.

The Universal Language by Will Sullivan



Tuition by Corrin Brewer



COMING SOON

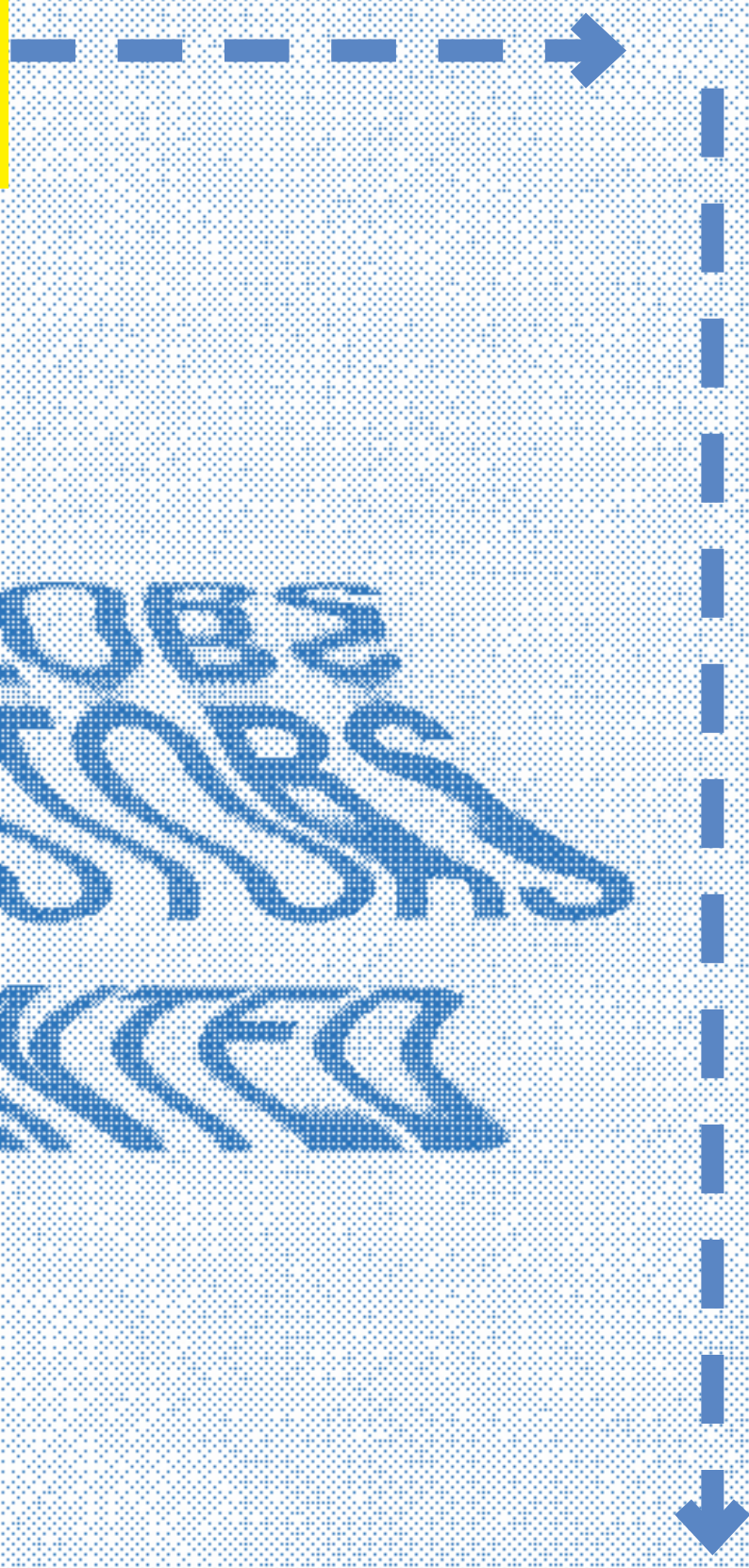
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