

Members of Rise For Youth and the community gathered at Art 180 in a drum circle at the end of the night after organizers spoke about the importance of ending youth incarceration in Virginia and nationwide.

## Diverting the school-to-prison pipeline with art

MATT LEONARD  
Print Managing Editor

Community members gathered at Art 180 gallery for the opening of “Performing Statistics,” an installation of interactive art created by ten incarcerated youths, meant to foster meaningful dialogue about the U.S. prison system, school-to-prison pipeline, mass incarceration and youth incarceration in Virginia.

VCU alum Mark Strandquist and members from Rise for Youth, a bipartisan campaign in support of community alternatives to youth incarceration, collaborated to organize the exhibit, which opened on Oct. 2.

“It doesn’t work out on paper,” Strandquist said. “If you’re spending \$130,000 and then that kid is ending up back in jail three years later — that just shows me that prisons don’t work. They don’t work for us as taxpayer, they don’t work for the youth themselves, they don’t work for any sense of justice.”

They also don’t work for kids like Sincere Green, Nicole Smith, Tyler-James Johnson and Sha’Quana Johnson. Their stories were painted onto pipelines that weaved across the floor of Art180.

Green lost a sports scholarship

—continued on page 3

### OPINION

## “Equal” doesn’t stop at marriage

MEG SCHIFFRES  
Contributing Columnist

The recent landmark Supreme Court decision to federally legalize gay marriage was a significant victory for the LGBT community but the right to marry is not the most important issue that gay and transgender people face today. The transgender community in particular is still a long way from societal and legal equality with the cisgender majority.

Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is legal in 31 states. It is despicable that in the 21st century, in a country that claims to uphold individual freedom, the persecution of an entire society is not only allowed but ultimately universal. According to the Human Rights

Campaign, Virginia is one of these states where homosexual and transgender people can be legally denied work and housing because of their gender and sexuality.

The Constitution protects all citizens from discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, and national origin. Under the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, federal law also prohibits employment discrimination based on age, disability and genetic information. States that do protect the community from inequality pass anti-LGBT laws or amend their state constitutions to include the right to equal opportunity regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

There was a time when the only people the law protected were white, land-owning males. Genera-

tions of brutal struggle and gradual societal activism have expanded the definition of humanity to include nearly every color and type of human being. But nearly is not nearly enough when an entire society is omitted from protections afforded to the majority.

When it is illegal to discriminate against a heterosexual white male, society has a duty to make it just as much a crime to discriminate against a Hispanic homosexual woman. When discrimination is allowed by law, it becomes socially acceptable to be intolerant. The transgender community in particular has fallen victim to external prejudices that affect their ability to live full and equal lives. LGBT individuals can be legally fired and denied housing by job creators in

—continued on page 9

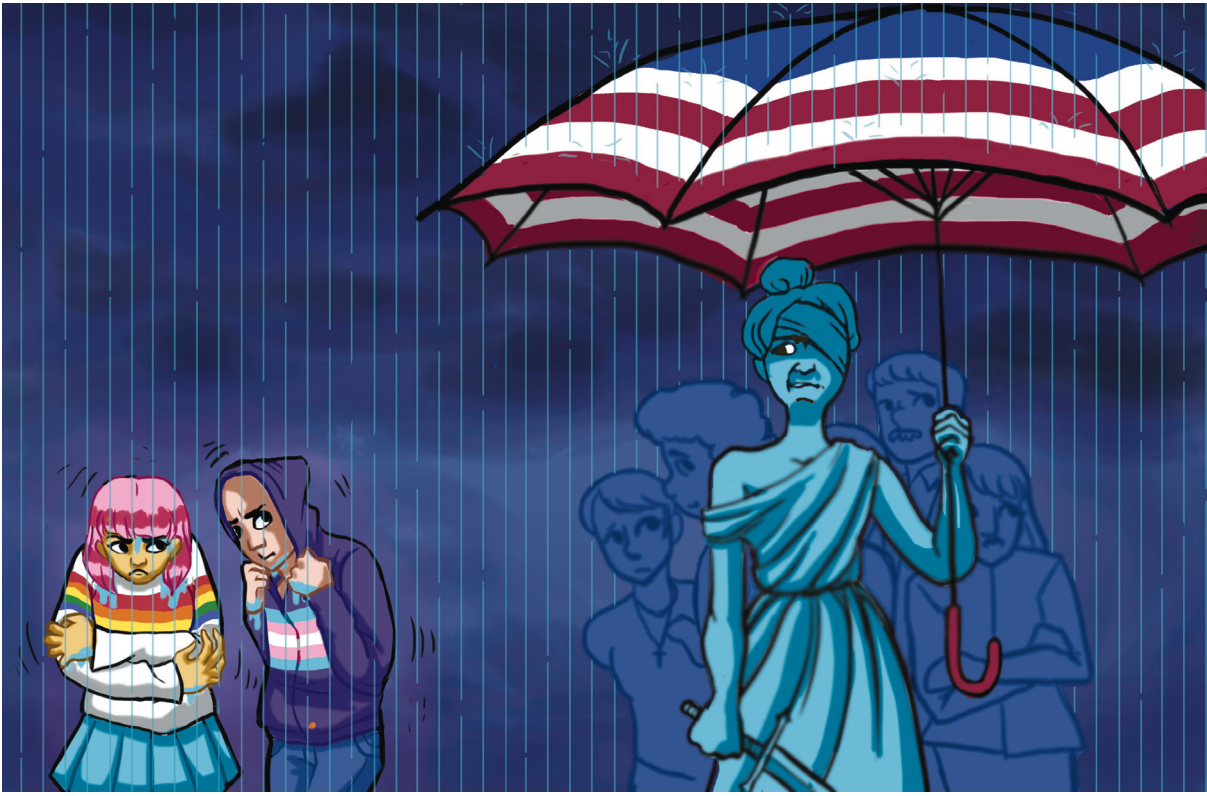


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH MORLEY

## Looking forward

Men’s basketball coach Will Wade on new beginnings, defining leadership and exceeding expectations

SARAH KING  
Executive Editor

The silent thrum of energy pulsed through a fourth floor classroom in the Honors College last Wednesday. Eight students, relative strangers to one another, sat at their swivel desks in a haphazard crescent as their professor sat facing them in an identical plastic seat.

Perhaps the nearly tangible throb of electricity was a function of the fluorescent lighting on an otherwise bleak afternoon. It could have been the nervous apprehension of the four students who had come to class unprepared on the first day. Or maybe it was the students’ fidgety anticipation as they awaited the arrival of a tenth stranger.

When the sound of the screeching elevator signaled a possible visitor, eight curious heads turned in unison, hoping to get a first look at their guest.

VCU men’s basketball coach Will Wade walked toward the classroom with only one other person — a member of his cur-

rent staff that he’d taken with him from his prior coaching post at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Wade broke into a wide smile when he saw the students’ professor, VCU President Emeritus Eugene Trani, and the two men shook hands before settling into identical swivel desks to face the students.

“This is Alex,” Wade said, gesturing at his companion, Alex Wharton, who was leaning back in his seat against the wall. Wade and Wharton, although the center of attention, seemed comfortably at ease — and had they not worn patent leather shoes, they could have passed for students.

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PHOTO BY PILAR CURTIS

## VCU brings in most donations for canned food drive

MATT LEONARD  
Print Managing Editor

Hardywood Brewery played host to the Alumni Charity Challenge last week, an event that began in Richmond three years ago and collects canned food for the charity Feedmore.

The challenge pits universities against each other to see who can bring in the most canned food in a three hour period. There were 27 schools this year and for the first year schools from outside of Virginia were represented, including Clemson University, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and University of Southern California.

VCU was the winner this year, bringing in 2,647 pounds of canned food. The event brought in 12,179 pounds total.

Timmy Nguyen, president of VCU Alumni RVA Gold, said when the event began three years

ago there were only seven schools and the event brought in 2,776 pounds of food.

“We started the event because we wanted to get all alum chapters in RVA together to raise awareness on hunger,” Nguyen said.

The event is held in September because it is hunger awareness month, which was started by Feeding America and seeks to raise funds, support and awareness in hopes of securing change on the governmental level to help further their cause.

Nguyen said the goal for next year is to have 40 schools participate in the food drive.

Governor Terry McAuliffe and Mayor Dwight Jones both issued proclamations recognizing the event and its efforts. U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine also commended the event in separate letters.



Rodney the Ram places donated food in a collection box. VCU collected 2,647 pounds of canned food.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES H. LOVING PHOTOGRAPHY





In this section: The Wizard of Cary Street. Underage drinking. VCU PD graduation.

briefs

LOCAL

Man files lawsuit against Richmond Police for apartment raid

A Virginia Union University student has filed a lawsuit against the Richmond Police Department, saying he was left injured and shaken after police raided his home with a warrant listing a non-existent address.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reports that the lawsuit says Maurice Neblett was falling asleep in his apartment in February 2014 when officers in pursuit of marijuana kicked in his door. The lawsuit says police then beat Neblett for five to six minutes and threatened him.

Neblett's attorney Jonathan Arthur says police found no marijuana in the apartment, but did take a lawfully purchased and legally registered firearm.

Since the raid, Neblett says he's dealt with anxiety, post-traumatic stress and other conditions. He is seeking \$2.3 million in damages.

Police spokesman Gene Lepley declined an interview request from the newspaper.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

Lawsuits challenging surveys for nat-gas pipeline tossed

A federal judge has dismissed lawsuits by Virginia landowners who turned away a survey team for a proposed natural gas pipeline.

U.S. District Judge Elizabeth K. Dillon ruled late Wednesday in favor of the builders of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Virginia attorney general's office. She concluded that a landowner can't exclude a utility from entering a property for the purpose of conducting a survey.

The lawsuit was filed by Nelson County landowners.

Dominion Resources Inc. is partnering with Duke Energy and others to build the 550-mile pipeline. It would deliver natural gas from Marcellus shale drilling fields to the Southeast.

The \$5 billion pipeline would run from West Virginia, through Virginia and into North Carolina.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

Jesse Matthew Jr: 3 life prison terms for 2005 sex assault

Jesse Matthew Jr., charged with the murders of college students Hannah Graham and Morgan Harrington, was sentenced Friday to life in prison for a sexual assault on a woman a decade ago in northern Virginia.

Matthew, 33, of Charlottesville, Virginia, was officially sentenced to three consecutive life terms in Fairfax, a suburb of the nation's capital, for attempted capital murder, abduction, and sexual assault of a woman in 2005.

Sentencing guidelines broadly called for a term of anywhere from nine to 44 years, lawyers said. Public defender Robert Frank said the picture of Matthew — a state champion wrestler who received a football scholarship to Liberty University — as a gentle giant is the one that he and the defense team had come to know over the last year.

He urged the judge not to consider "what might have happened in Charlottesville" — a reference to the deaths of Graham and Harrington, which have received national attention — in sentencing Matthew for the assault.

Morrogh told reporters after Friday's hearing that the life sentence was appropriate, given the viciousness of the crime, and said he was certain the sentence reflected the judge's feelings about the Fairfax assault only, and that he did not take pending charges in the Graham and Harrington deaths into account.

Morrogh said that under Virginia law, Matthew would be eligible for geriatric release at age 60 — 27 years from now — regardless of the life sentences.

The woman who was attacked now lives in India and was forced to return to Virginia to testify against him. She testified her attacker grabbed her just steps from her townhouse and carried her into a darkened area, where he ripped off her clothes and molested her. She fought and scratched him, yielding the crucial DNA evidence, until her attacker ran off when the bystander approached.

Matthew faces a possible death sentence in the Graham case scheduled for trial next year. Morrogh said he hopes the Fairfax conviction will help prosecutors there — they will be able to point to the conviction in arguing for a death sentence.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

NATIONAL

Survivor: Gunman spared student to take package to police

As a 26-year-old killer gunned down victims inside a college classroom, he spared one student and gave him a package to deliver to authorities, according to the grandmother of a student who witnessed the deadly rampage in Oregon.

The grandmother, Janet Willis, said her granddaughter Anastasia Boylan was wounded in the Thursday attack and pretended to be dead as Christopher Sean Harper-Mercer kept firing, killing eight students and a teacher.

Boylan also said the shooter told one student in the writing class to stand in a corner, handed him a package and told him to deliver it to authorities, Willis recalled. So far, authorities have not said anything about such a package.

"If they said they were Christian, he shot them in the head," Willis said Friday night, citing the account given by her granddaughter.

However, conflicting reports emerged about Harper-Mercer's words as his victims.

Stephanie Salas, the mother of Rand McGowan, another student who survived, said she was told by her son that the shooter had people stand up before asking, "Do you have a God? Are you Christian? Do you have a religion?" It was more so saying, "you're going to be meeting your maker. This won't hurt very long." Then he would shoot him," Salas told The Associated Press.

Law enforcement officials have not given details about what happened in the classroom.

Harper-Mercer was enrolled in the class but officials have not disclosed a possible motive for the killings.

Harper-Mercer's social media profiles suggested he also tracked other mass shootings. In one post, he appeared to urge readers to watch the online footage of Vester Flanagan shooting two former colleagues live on TV in August in Virginia, noting "the more people you kill, the more you're in the limelight."

*Brief by the Associated Press*



A staple in Carytown, this mural's recent addition seems to warn off the developers who bought the property.

# The Wizard of Cary Street condemns real estate developers

JAMES THOMA  
Contributing Writer

"LEAVE ME BE!!! OR FACE A MOST MALEVOLENT WIZARDING!!" reads the fresh speech bubble hanging over the Wizard of Cary street's head.

"The Wizard" is a mural looming above the GRTC bus depot at the intersection of Cary and Davis streets since the RVA Street Art Festival in 2013, but the speech bubble wasn't installed until a couple weeks ago.

Shortly after the Greater Richmond Transit Authority announced it had sold the property for \$9.12 million to local developers last month, the Wizard's somber warning coincidentally accompanied the portrait at the soon-to-be demolished depot.

DKJ Richmond LLC purchased the bus depot property with their multi-million dollar bid and willingness to close the deal within 60 days. These factors helped them edge-out local real estate tycoons like Rich Johnson of the Wilton Cos. and H. Louis Salomonsky's Historic Housing machine.

The artist who created the Wizard of Cary street, Mickael Broth, says he didn't put the speech bubble there, nor does he know who did.

"I have no idea where it came from," Broth said, "but I hear Daniel Radcliffe was in town, and he's quite a wizard in his own right, so maybe he put it up."

One thing is for certain, though. The exclamation expresses a popular sentiment among local residents that the property is too special to be converted into boilerplate apartments and a fast-food restaurant.

"I'm really trying not to be cynical here," Broth said. "It's hard not to assume that this will just be more condos."

GRTC officials expect the transfer of the property to be complete by mid-November, after the two-phase cleaning process mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality is finished.

The deal stipulates that the new owners must hold at least two meetings to solicit feedback from the public on the proposed redevelopment of the property, which DKJ co-founder Tom Dickey said are tentatively scheduled for Octo-

ber. But DKJ is under no real obligation to actually incorporate public feedback in its plans.

"All I know is that I come from a graffiti writer's mentality, where you create something for the simple act of doing it, hopefully you get a picture, and you're stoked if it lasts more than a day or two," Broth said.

Although Broth's wizard mural was brought to life during the Street Art Festival in 2013, the depot, or "bus barn," was closed to the public shortly after when an on-duty security guard was brutally attacked by an unknown assailant.

A couple months later, a Change.org petition to "transform" the GRTC bus depot into an innovative village for our community & creative class" surfaced, but fell 300 signatures short of its goal. Vestiges of this proposal are evident in community demands to retain some percentage of existing murals in DKJ plans.

These demands will definitely surface at the October input meetings, where Broth plans to defend his persecuted wizard, but whether or not they make an impact is still anyone's guess.

# VCU Police Academy's 40th class graduates

ANDREW CRIDER  
Contributing Writer

The VCU Police Department hosted the graduation ceremony for the 40th class of its Law Enforcement Academy on Oct. 1.

The class of nine officers completed a 24-week training course to earn their badges, bringing the VCU PD's number of sworn officers up to 92. The ceremony included keynotes by Virginia court of appeals judge Marla Graff Decker, who spoke on the issues facing public relations and law enforcement, and Police Chief John Venuti.

"I want to thank you for making the commitment to go into law enforcement in probably one of the most challenging times in law enforcement history," Graff said. "Recognize you have awesome powers, but your awesome powers are to be used wisely, and only to be used when necessary," Graff said.

Jason Helmlinger, president of the graduating class, spoke on the need for officers to maintain a level mentality on and off duty.

"You have to be intentional," Helmlinger said. "How you respond is everything ... you can't control the circumstances of a call, but you can control your reaction to it."

According to Chief Venuti, the additional officers will help the department on its mission to help the community. Venuti stressed a message he said he reiterates with every class of officers.

"In every situation you involve yourself in, remember these six



The graduates of this year's VCU Police Academy class pose during their graduation ceremony.

words: 'keep them safe, and help them,'" Venuti said.

Venuti said that for his department to continue providing a high level of service to the community, the VCU PD needs to be fully staffed, while ensuring that each of the officers has the attitude required to be successful on duty.

"When they begin the academy class I completely immerse them in the culture of what I want VCU police officers to do," Venuti said. "I begin very early on with showing them the habits I want them to have, and I want them to bend over backwards to help this community."

According to Academy Director Captain Mike O'Berry, the graduating class maintains these values of service. During training, Berry said the new officers collected trash, at one point compiling a total of 200 pounds, and assisted Kroger patrons with carrying their groceries to cars.

"A lot of the community service stuff they did on their own, so I think they have already bought into (the department's philosophy)," O'Berry said.

Since their graduation, the new officers will now enter the next

stage of training — bike skills.

Venuti said the class still has to complete 80 shifts of field training where they'll ride with a veteran officer whose job it is to ensure the skills taught in the academy.

"So it will be a while before they are out on the street by themselves, but we are very deliberate and intentional with the officers I select to place them with in field training because we are a different police department than we were five years ago," Venuti said.

## Buzz killed on campus

ANDREW CRIDER  
Contributing Writer

In the wake of a higher-than-usual number of alcohol-related student arrests, the VCU Police Department has introduced a new campaign to raise awareness about the risks of underage drinking.

As of Sept. 30, there have been 62 student arrests so far this school year for alcohol-related crimes, according to VCU PD. 59 of these arrests were cases of underage possession. BuzzKill, the PD's new campaign, aims to reduce the number of underage possession arrests through education.

In a statement to VCU News, PD spokesperson Corey Byers said the program's goals were to outline a variety of issues related to underage drinking.

"The ultimate goal of the campaign is to continually remind college-aged residents and students about the risks associated with underage drinking," Byers said. "Messaging in the campaign shows the connection between underage drinking and sexual assault, jail time, denials of professional licensure, physical effects on athletes, legal liability for renters serving those under 21 and impaired driving."

At an event to launch BuzzKill, VCU Police Chief John Venuti stressed that underage drinking was a major problem.

"The statistics involving alcohol-related incidents and college students are staggering," Venuti said. "All of the agencies represented here today have a shared interest in combating this problem."

VCU's students value individuality, not conformity, so there's no typical pattern of alcohol consumption for a VCU student."

— KRISTEN DONOVAN

As of Oct. 1, the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has noted 116 cases of alcohol-related incidents, 103 of which involved freshmen. By this time last year, there were 112 cases, 70 percent of which involved freshmen.

Matthew J. Lovisa, Coordinator of Communications and Marketing Division of Student Affairs, says that the amount of students involved in alcohol cases are still low given the size of the class.

"A majority of VCU students (freshmen and otherwise) obey the law regarding alcohol," Lovisa said. "In August and September there were 116 alcohol-related charges from a student body estimated at 31,300. Of the 116 charges, 103 are freshman from a class that totals 4,050. Of course, students who break any law face legal and university sanctions. Not all of these charges have been found responsible for violations of university policy and not all were issued summons."

According to The Wellness Resource Center, only 17 percent of students drink more than four times a month. Kristen Donovan, Assistant Director of Substance Abuse Prevention, said that there is no pattern for drinking.

"VCU's students value individuality, not conformity, so there's no typical pattern of alcohol consumption for a VCU student," Donovan said. "Some students come to VCU abstainers and remain abstainers. Some come to VCU heavy drinkers and remain heavy drinkers. Some come to VCU moderate users and remain moderate users."

According to Donovan, though, drinking at VCU does follow a pattern.

"There are some obvious patterns of when alcohol-related arrests happen, such as times of celebration," Donovan said.

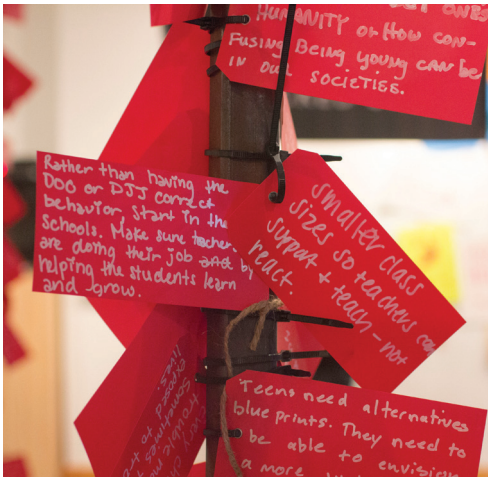
For the greater Richmond area, alcohol poisoning generally involves the presence of other drugs.

According to the Virginia Poison Center, since 2012, there have been 1,285 cases of alcohol poisoning in Virginia. Of these cases, 91 percent involved the use of other drugs.

Since 2012 there have been 187 fatalities from alcohol poisoning. Of these 30 percent were under the age of 20.

Nonfatal cases of alcohol poisoning increased to 384, and of these 20 percent were underage.





Messages of empathy written by visitors tied to a life size jail cell.



Strandquist addresses Art 180 crowd.



Art 180's gallery space was transformed by art meant to show visitors experiences of those who dealing with jail time.

# Diverting the school-to-prison pipeline with art

—continued from page 1

to Yale due to an incident involving pills at his school, and after falling into selling drugs he ended up in federal prison. Smith dropped out of school after an argument with her principal, started prostituting and ended up with a suspended sentence after soliciting a police officer.

These pipelines were one of the many art projects made by the ten kids from the Richmond juvenile detention center who visited Art 180 regularly over the summer and learned skills including photography, audio production and screen printing. They were each part of the post-disposition program, which means they will be released “imminently.”

Strandquist believes these kids are the ones who need to lead the conversation about how to change the justice system for youth in America since they have lived it and have seen both the positives and the negatives.

“For me this was about working with the youth as experts, as not only creative experts ... but as legal and political experts,” Strandquist said. “And what would happen

if we connected them with amazing artists, and activists and lawyers — community experts from a variety of perspectives.”

Their expertise was on display when Richmond Police Chief Alfred Durham went to see the exhibit. Strandquist said Durham was planning on bringing all of his new recruits to see the exhibit to see the what the kids in the community they’re serving think about how they’ve been treated.

The kids in the program made a police training manual with suggestion for how the police department can show more empathy and perform better including “grow up watching your family struggle to survive” and “get more police that aren’t white.”

The number of children behind bars has gone down since the late 1990s when there were more than 116,000 locked up nationally; as of 2010 there were 79,166, according to the Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention. In Virginia there were 1,860 kids either detained or committed in 2010. But even though the numbers are going down, some groups are dedicated to bringing that number down to zero.

Trey Artt, a resource development manager at Art 180 and Rise for Youth member, said the organization wants the \$130,000 it costs to lock up one person for a year to be invested into more community-based rehabilitation alternatives.

“All of these statistics are huge and overwhelming, but how can we create a way to show that the people behind those numbers are human, not just numbers,” Artt said. “They have stories, they have lives that are full and rich. So art is that vehicle that connects those two sides.”

Artt said the purpose of this work is meant to make a complicated topic more digestible for people who might not know it’s an issue.

“In January, once the General Assembly begins we’re really going to be pushing hard, showing up in lots of different spaces, probably mostly in Richmond, as we target legislators who are voting on the Governor’s proposed two-year budget,” Artt said.

Strandquist said he was still at VCU when he read The Sentencing Project’s August 2013 report to the United Nations Hu-

man Rights Committee which concluded that, “the government has both fostered and perpetuated those inequalities in clear violation of its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as other international agreements.”

Strandquist said this was when he realized there was a major problem affecting communities, and he began working to solve it. The number Strandquist says he always goes back to is the recidivism rate for youth. Rise for Youth estimates that 73.5 percent of juveniles will be reconvicted within three years of their release once they’ve entered the system.

“To me (mass incarceration) is a humanitarian crisis,” Strandquist said.

The Performing Statistics opening last Friday originally included a city-wide parade as well, but it was rescheduled to Nov. 6 due to inclement weather warning. Along with the parade next month the Performing Statistics exhibit will be on display at 1708 and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Nov. 13. It will hit the road on a statewide tour Nov. 15-20.

## briefs

### VCU NEWS

All briefs by VCU Public Affairs

#### RamBikes and Sustainability Join Forces for Open House

Virginia Commonwealth University's RamBikes shop re-opened its doors on Friday, Oct. 2 at its 201 North Belvidere St. location.

Rambikes, operating under VCU Parking and Transportation, strives to promote bicycling as a safe, fun, economical, efficient and environmentally friendly transportation alternative for the entire VCU community. The RamBikes facility consists of a full service repair shop that allows students, faculty and staff to work on their personal bikes or utilize its own RamBikes technicians for free.

#### Annual VCU International Business Forum examines North America's competitive agenda

North America's Competitive Agenda: Why and How the U.S., Canada and Mexico Should Enhance Their Alliance to Meet the Asian and European Challenges of the 21st Century," sponsored by Universal Corp, and hosted by the VCU School of Business' Center for International Business Advancement, takes place Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the University Student Commons Ballrooms, 901 Floyd Ave. A reception will follow in the School of Business Atrium, 301 W. Main St.

#### Complex gut microbiota analysis is unnecessary in diagnosis of cirrhosis, Nature journal study finds

In a recent issue of the journal Nature, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine associate professor Jasmohan S. Bajaj, M.D., provides new data to reinterpret conclusions from a July 2014 Nature journal study that had reported on a novel way to diagnose cirrhosis using complex microbiota analysis.

The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### VCU School of Business hosts 25th Real Estate Trends Conference

Erik Qualman, who spawned the “Socialnomics” movement with his book of the same name, will speak at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business' 25th annual Real Estate Trends Conference.

The conference, organized by the Kornblau Real Estate Program in the School of Business, will be held Thursday, Oct. 22, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Doors open at 12:45 p.m. with registration and networking. Conference sessions run from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by closing remarks and a reception.

#### Grant to expand Richmond's capacity to address HIV crisis in African-American community

A Virginia Commonwealth University professor has been awarded a nearly \$1.5 million grant to expand the Richmond region's capacity to prevent HIV and substance abuse, particularly among young African-Americans.

Faye Belgrave, Ph.D., a professor in the Health Psychology Program of the Department of Psychology, received the five-year research grant, “Building Capacity for Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention,” from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

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# sports



STAT OF THE WEEK

Sophomore field hockey forward Jamee Albright has recorded four goals in nine games.

SARAH KING  
Executive Editor

—continued from page 1  
Eight pairs of eyes played ping pong as they assessed the situation. “What?” Wade asked, a smirk tugging at the corners of his mouth, “We don’t bite.”

And as a chatterly giggle swept the collec- tive, anxious verve from the room, it seemed that all at once the eight stu- dents realized that Will Wade was human.

For the next 90 minutes the coach ad- dressed his audience of HONR398 students taking this semester’s “Leadership” module.

He didn’t read off a script or stutter. There were no awkward answers or silences. Wade spoke with a flowing, candid conviction about the prin- ciples he holds himself to, and how his personal philosophy changes and grows and challenges him every day.

He became especially excited when he talked about his love for Chick- fil-a, and blushed when he mentioned his wife, or spoke about how he grew up wanting to be a high school history teacher because of his mom’s 30 years of service as a principal.

Everything seemed grounded in the roots of Wade’s own humble life narrative — and by the time he wrapped up his remarks, the class was so ensnared in Wade’s conta- gious energy that not one student realized class had run almost thirty minutes over.

Electricity pulsed through the room again as Wade and Wharton waved goodbye, but this time because the coach — a man usually reduced to a talking head on a screen — had inspired even the most apathetic Rams to believe that Havoc was still very much alive, it was human and it was hungry for more.

## LOOKING FORWARD

with  
Will Wade

PHOTO BY ELAR CURTIS

ON COMPLACENCY

“Even as a leader you’ve got to fight complacency, you’ve got to fight lack of mo- tivation every day.”

“As a leader you’ve got to be aware when those things creep in. You get selfish people in there, when the communication breaks down, when complacency sets in — you have to root that out immediately.”

“We’re ahead of about 90 percent of college basketball,

but also behind about 10 percent, so I’ve got to keep my eye on the 10 percent, but also make sure I keep healthy margins with those other 90 percent. I think your culture and what you bring is the way you can close that gap with the more established folks. For me, that’s the top 10 percent: You better figure out what you can do to compete with those guys, you better figure out what you can do to drive that market.”

TEAM EXPECTATIONS

ACT =  
Active.  
Committed.  
Thankful.

“We’re going to be active, we’re going to be committed, we’re going to be thankful. That’s what my values are. Of all the stuff I believe in that’s what it really boils down to.”

ON REGRETS

“I’ve really never regret- ted when I’ve had to make a tough decision and make a move on someone, but I’ve regretted the ones I’ve tried to help out another year or it’s really put a strain on the system.”

“If you feel it in your gut then you’ve got to do it. As a young leader, as an emerg- ing leader, the best thing you can bring is energy. That’s why people are going to want you.”

ON MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS

“When you’ve got to get rid of people you’ve got to make sure you have all the right information. One thing I’ve learned is — and this is important if you ever have to do it — you don’t get in there and pander to them. You say, ‘look we’ve had a disagree- ment. This is not going to work here. We appreciate your time. Go see Linda in HR, she’ll help you out.’ And cut it off. No discussion. It needs to be a minute to a minute and a half and move on.”

“One thing I’ve had to do is take a step back and not walk myself down an emo- tional decision. At one point this week I was furious with (a few of our) guys. Furious

with them. So in my mind I wanted to bring them in front of the huddle, bring them out in front of everybody and just rip them ... That was my thought because I was so mad with them ... But if I do that I know I’m going to back myself in a corner and I can’t change anything. So I looked back and I looked at my analytics and I looked at my charts and really, I was so emotional and I wanted to blast every single one of them (but) if I had done that I’d have made a huge mistake. I could’ve risked losing one of our best players — Instead I said alright we gotta do better, (and came up with a compro- mise) that way I don’t lose the whole team.”

“I CAN’T  
COME HERE  
AND TRY  
TO BE LIKE  
SHAKA SMART,  
THE  
PREVIOUS  
COACH,  
THAT’S NOT  
ME.  
I’M WILL  
WADE.

ON THE TRANSITION FROM TENNESSEE

“The best people are the people who believe in what you believe in. I made a big jump in level from Chattanooga to VCU — In the basketball world that’s a pretty good jump in level. And I brought my whole staff from Chattanooga

with me. Why? Because they know exactly what I want. Are tahere better people out there? Yeah. Are there are better people for the VCU job than me? Yeah ... But they knew what they were getting.”

ON LEADERSHIP

1  
“Number one, and I believe this is the most important, is you got to lead by example. So I can’t ask somebody in my organization to bring energy if I’m not willing to bring energy. You can’t get mad at someone for missing class here today if you’re not in class.”

2  
“Number two is you got to lead vocally. You gotta be willing to step out, you gotta be willing to say things, you gotta be able to be vocal about things. Now, some people aren’t as vocal, so if you’re not as vocal you need to lead through an acknowledgment, through a touch, you need to have those moments.”

3  
“Three, lead through work ethic. If you hear one thing from me, I think you gotta work. I think as the leader in the organi- zation, or as someone who is look- ing to be a leader in an organiza- tion, you should set the tone with your work ethic. In our program I set the tone with me work ethic. Nobody ever beats me to the office — not one day ... You never know who is looking.

When I went to Clemson Uni- versity I was a student manager for the basketball team and I was the graduate assistant after that, so I got my grad school paid for and I was on staff. It’s a good gig if you can get one somewhere. But everyday I used to get to work at about 4:30 in the morning because our head coach wanted these newspaper articles printed out — this was right on the edge of when you could email everything and email was becom- ing big — it was like eight or nine years ago. But he liked paper copies, so I don’t know if you know, but newspaper websites used to update at

midnight or at 2 a.m. So it was my job to print out all these things and put it in a packet on his desk. So I’d have to check every newspaper, every team that was in the (Atlantic Coast Conference). So I would get there at 4:30 and it would take me 45 min- utes, then I’d go copy them, then I’d put the packets together, then I’d go work out. Well unbeknownst to me, I never knew this and I worked there for two years, there was an associate athletic director who was obviously somebody way above me in position, way above me in title, and he got to the office around 5 a.m. every morn- ing. I had no idea because I parked across the street and there is a back lot where all the big wigs parked, so he had his own little private parking spot in the back and over two years he had noticed that I was there every day. I was working every morning. And it just so happened that the first person who hired me when I got my first full time job knew the associ- ate AD and had called the associate AD without me knowing and asked about my work ethic and asked about what was going on.”

4  
“This is really hard for lead- ers to do: you gotta lead by doing and saying what others will not. Simply put, you gotta call people out. If they’re not doing what they’re supposed to do, if they’re not doing what you want them to do you gotta call them out and let them know and it needs to be sooner rather than later. A lot of times people let things simmer too long or sit too long — it needs to be immediately. What should be done eventually needs to be done now.”

5  
“Be within the chain of com- mand of where you should be. Say what others will not. They might not always like what you have to say, but that’s your job.”

ON UPGRADING

“When you bring new folks in, it’s a chance to upgrade. If you do a good job they’re going to think you’re irreplaceable when you leave. You’ll realize that things move on pretty easily when you leave, but if you do a good job ... I’ve had as-

sistant coaches get better jobs and every time I look at it as a chance to upgrade, this is a chance to hire someone even better, it’s a chance to go out and get someone who can take us even further.”









Junior Kaylee Munz dribbles past Pacific defenders.

# Field Hockey survives double OT thriller

**ZACH JOACHIM**  
Contributing Writer

Field hockey defeated conference foe Saint Francis University (Penn.) on Sunday, Sept. 27, by a score of 2-1 in a double overtime thriller to improve its record to 3-6 on the season.

Sophomore forward Jamee Al-

bright scored her fourth goal of the season in the 33rd minute during a scramble in front of the net to tie the game at 1-1, after Saint Francis converted an early opportunity. Freshman Emily McNamara would later find sophomore Spencer Tossone for the winning goal with only 30 seconds remaining on the clock in the second overtime.

The Saint Francis attackers were no match for sophomore goalkeeper Chessa Kownurko. Saint Francis enjoyed the majority of possession and scoring opportunities throughout the match, but was repeatedly denied the lead by Kownurko. The Red Flash outshot VCU 23-16, putting 15 of those shots on goal compared to the Rams seven.

Handling the constant pressure was a lot to ask of the young keeper, but she proved herself worthy of the task. Kownurko was brilliant in her first collegiate start, tallying 14 saves en-route to a hard-won, much-needed conference victory for the Rams.

After dropping four of their first five games this fall, head coach Laura Baker and company have now won two out of their last three. More importantly, they have improved to 2-1 in conference play, which keeps their postseason aspirations alive. After the Saint Francis game, coach Baker expressed pride in her players for grinding out a tough win and reacting well to tactical changes made by the coaching staff. She hopes that the victory will help her girls turn the corner after a tough September — they face a daunting October schedule.

Four upcoming conference games: University of Richmond (Oct. 2), St. Joseph's College (October 9), La Salle University (Oct. 11) and University of Massachusetts-Amherst (Oct. 16). These matchups could make or break VCU's 2015-16 season. Another matchup to look forward to is an Oct. 18th date at Cary Street Field with the perennial national powerhouse, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who made it all the way to the NCAA semi-final in 2014.

VCU's home match against Ball State University slated for Oct. 2, was postponed due to inclement weather; no makeup date has been issued as of press time.

ADVERTISEMENT

## Women's soccer wins Atlantic-10 opener

**SOPHIA BELLETTI**  
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team obtained two crucial victories on Sept. 20 against Mount St. Mary's University, and in its first Atlantic-10 matchup against Davidson College on Oct. 1.

The Rams traveled to Davidson, North Carolina and came away with a 4-2 victory.

Davidson grasped an early lead over VCU when the Wildcat forward Maggie Boyd hit a top shelf shot in the eighth minute. Boyd's first goal of the season gave her team a 1-0 lead.

Since Boyd's goal, the two teams took eight shots on goal, six of which were from Davidson. In the 35th minute, VCU freshman forward Julia Suarez hit the crossbar on a header, but senior forward Kailyn Slade was there for the rebound, scoring her second goal of the season to tie the game at 1-1.

Moments later, VCU senior midfielder Sharon Wojcik nailed her third goal of the season, scoring a penalty and putting VCU ahead 2-1.

With three minutes in the first half, Davidson took a free kick just outside the 18-yard box. Davidson's Sarah Tuggle ripped the ball to the top half of the net, tying things up 2-2 entering the second half.

VCU's defense took control of the game the second half, only allowing three shots on goal. In the 58th minute, Slade dribbled the ball from midfield all the way into the box, making a move past a defender and sending a shot past the near post, giving the Rams the lead.

To secure the victory, Slade completed the hat trick in the 68th minute when she found the net off a VCU corner kick. VCU Junior midfielder Tori Burress and sophomore defender Amanda Hallesjo assisted on the play.

VCU outshot Davidson 16-13 and Senior goalkeeper Emma Kruse recorded six saves.

"It was a total team effort with the first week of conference play," Slade said. "I'm proud of the resilience we showed tonight. Now we're focused on continuing to make progress as we go through a tough conference schedule."

The Rams recorded its most dominant win of the season against Mount St. Mary's, 6-0 on Sept. 20; the Mountaineers traveled from Maryland to SportsBackers stadium for a 1

p.m. game.

VCU showed early offensive dominance where junior midfielder Dallas Smith scored her first goal of the season off a loose ball in the eighth minute. Moments before the end of the first half, Suarez netted her second goal of the weekend from 20 yards out, putting the Rams on top 2-0 at the break.

VCU outshot Mount St. Mary's in the first half, 15-4.

The Rams came out the second half more aggressive than in the first. Suarez kicked off the second half with a goal 10 minutes in. Slade sent a long pass through the box to Suarez, who put it in the back of the net and the Rams took a 3-0 lead.

Wojcik added to the attack, when she netted a penalty kick in the 60th minute.

Just minutes later, freshman Kelly Graves launched a pass across the box, which was received by Maddi Santo: Santo made the pass into an assist, giving VCU the 5-0 lead.

The seniors found another scoring opportunity in the 71st

minute. Wojcik assisted Slade on her first goal of the season, to cap the game 6-0.

Kruse recorded her first shut-out of the season, with one save. The Rams outshot the Mountaineers 26-7. Suarez lead the team in goals and shots with two goals and 11 shots, nearly pulling off the hat-trick on several occasions.

Head coach Lindsey Martin said she would foresee the team taking away the momentum they gained from their win and putting it toward conference matches.

"With six goals and a shutout as well, that's exactly what we wanted out of the day," Martin said. "Now we roll into A-10."

Martin's sense of momentum was accurate; VCU channeled this blowout victory into an A-10 win against the Wildcats.

The Rams stay on the road for a Sunday, Oct. 4, afternoon match against Duquesne. Game time in Pittsburgh is set for 1 p.m. but results will not be final in time for publication.



Freshman Graves has one goal and two assist this season.

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](mailto:ddm9q@virginia.edu) or 434.982.3510. (HSR#12656 and 14427)



UVA Asthma and Allergic Diseases Center  
[ddm9q@virginia.edu](mailto:ddm9q@virginia.edu) | 434.982.3510

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## what's happening **RECSports**

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**outdoor nation campus challenge**  
[sept 6 – oct 17]

**day cave**  
[sat, 10/10]

**backpacking weekend**  
[sat & sun, 10/10 – 10/11]

**day hike**  
[sat, 10/17]

**sea kayaking weekend**  
[sat & sun, 10/17 – 10/18]

**vcu oap chili cookoff**  
[fri, 10/16, 6pm]

**adult swim lessons**  
session 3 [10/26 – 11/20]  
register [10/12 – 10/23]

**intramural registration**  
registration mon – fri  
at cary street gym  
10/5 – 10/8 [10 am – 1 pm & 7 pm – midnight]  
10/9 [10 am – 1 pm]  
10/11 [7pm – midnight]  
10/12 – 10/15 [10 am – 1 pm & 7 pm – midnight]

\$25/team  
— volleyball (6)  
— basketball tournament (5)  
— team handball (5)  
— innertube water polo (5)

**free agent meeting**  
[tue, 10/13, 10pm]


**ARC lifeguard recertification course**  
[oct. 10 & 11 12 – 7pm]  
registration [9/28 – 10/9]


**AHA first aid CPR AED**  
full certification  
[oct. 24, 9am – 3pm]  
recertification  
[oct. 26, 5 – 9pm]

**AHA BLS for healthcare providers**  
[oct. 8 – 10, 10am – 4pm]




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ON THIS DAY...

Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch hit the top of the Billboard Hot 100 with their single “Good Vibrations” in 1991.

# Race spectators disrupted business

## Many local vendors upset about profit declines

ADRIEL VELAZQUEZ  
Contributing Writer

Officials announced 650,000 spectators visited Richmond for the bike race last month, but businesses and popup vendors reported heavy losses during the week — indicating that the race wasn’t a catalyst for profits.

Some businesses are blaming the media for scaring away potential customers. During the weeks leading up to the UCI World Championships, local news organizations stressed how nearly half a million people would be in Richmond, and emphasized there would be heavy traffic and many signs on the highway bluntly told locals to avoid downtown.

“I think there was a lot of alienation put in place by the media and by the local government that kind of scared people away during the first part of the race,” said Camille Bird, co-owner of Sacred Waters spa and boutique in Carytown, and the president of the Carytown Merchants Association.

Sacred Waters was one of the vendors who participated in the New Normal Bike Bazaar event aimed at featuring local commerce.

“But I will tell you that the one thing about Richmond, and events like this, is that I find they do not embrace their local commerce at all,” Bird said. “They kind of create this bubble and want to exist within that bubble and not reach out to the community partners ... even the beautiful historical things that they have here.”



Left: Sacred Waters Spa and Boutique. The store hosted a popup location during the UCI Road World Championships, but didn’t get the expected amount of customer traffic. Right: Velocity Comics on Broad street. Velocity also reported heavy losses during the week of the race from less foot traffic.

Other local vendors had similar thoughts to Bird’s sentiment. Patrick Godfrey is the owner of Velocity Comics on West Broad street. Godfrey said he expected a decrease in sales during the race, but not to the extent that they dropped.

“We lost thousands,” Godfrey said. “I cut my employees’ hours significantly during the race because hardly anyone came in here ... The city scared them away.”

With VCU students off campus and fears of long traffic delays, the weekdays of the race left the streets of Richmond empty without much

foot traffic, to the point the Richmond Times-Dispatch referred to Richmond as a “ghost-town” in the headline of a Sept. 21 article.

Godfrey said that during the race week, Velocity had a 60 percent decrease in sales. Unlike Bird, however, he said he does not blame the media, because he thinks they were only relaying the information they received from the city.

“There’s probably going to be a public talk about it,” Godfrey said. “They’re going to have to talk about what happened and how the local businesses were affected.”

Food vendors were also upset

because of the many road closures. Blockades made it difficult for vendors to buy more food because they had no exit route from their locations. This forced businesses to buy the week’s inventory before the race, but most of it went unsold.

The absence of VCU students may have also been contributed to those significant losses.

“I think one of their (Richmond’s) biggest mistakes ... was closing VCU and not allowing that group of people to tap into the activities,” Bird said. “People were showing 60 to 70 percent less in sales than the same time last year

with no event, so there was zero local traffic.”

Despite these hindrances, business began to pick up over the weekend during the expected “high impact” days as the more competitive races began. Shane Cusick is the founder of Pello Bikes, a local bike producer that hosted a successful pop-up during the race.

“We had a great turnout for our pop-up shop, and collected a lot of information on potential customers,” Cusick said. “We are not scheduled to receive our bikes until the spring so all the traffic gener-

ated at the Pop-up Revolution was fantastic.”

Businesses that were farther removed from the race did not attract as many customers, even on the busy weekend. However, business owners remain optimistic for the future.

“What an honor to be in the city that hosted (UCI 2015),” Bird said. “I hope that future events like this can happen, and that this city can learn and that they can learn to embrace the local commerce and let all the people win in a creative way.”



PHOTOS BY BROOKE MARSH

# “Slamnesty” event amplifies voices on minority persecution

AUSTIN WALKER  
Spectrum Editor

As wind and rain pounded the street outside, a crowd of nearly 100 people crammed inside an art space on Broad to listen to singers, poets and speakers share their ideas on poignant social issues in America.

Last Thursday night, VCU’s student organization Amnesty International, Amendment Literary Journal and slam poetry team Good Clear Sound collaboratively hosted “Slamnesty” — an event for voices of all ages to raise awareness on issues ranging from police brutality to xenophobia.

“I think that the energy of an open mic is really just awesome,” said Brandon Duong, a member of Amnesty International. “It’s a very open space — a very positive and nurturing space. We tried to accommodate for every person’s voice.”

The open mic allowed people of different ages, ethnicities and genders to speak to the crowd. People continued signing up to perform as the event was ready to begin. There was such a big turnout at the event that by the time each seat and open space

was filled, the organizers were still squeezing between audience members to pass around the clipboard with names of performers.

Some of the acts included sophomore member of the TheatreVCU department Jafar Cooper, who recited an original poem speaking on his experiences with racism, members of VCU’s capella group, R.A.M.ifications, who performed with their newest members, and speakers updated the crowd on their efforts with nonprofits and charities around the city.

This isn’t the first “Slamnesty” event in Richmond, but this one in particular was meant to reflect on significant events of the past few years, from the death of Trayvon Martin to the Prison-Industrial Complex.

“The idea in this Slamnesty was to express that idea that police brutality and the abuse of law enforcement affects different groups differently,” Duong said. “A middle-class white American might perceive it differently than a lower-class Latino or a black male.”

Brittney Maddox, one of the editors of Amendment, president of spoken-word group Good Clear Sound and one of the performers, was one of the key orga-

nizers of the event. Maddox coordinated early on with Amnesty International, who approached her with the idea to host an open mic on police brutality.

“I asked, ‘Are you talking about Black Lives Matter or are you talking about Iguala 43?’” Maddox said. “There’s different facets to police brutality. We started talking about other things like aggressions from the police post-9/11.”

“Iguala 43” is a colloquial term for the abduction of 43 male students from Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers’ College in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico. The international scandal in 2014 led to the condemnation of Mexican administration and the arrest of dozens of government workers.

Ultimately, Maddox said the event was to promote equality and community while learning about one another. Maddox said that discussions about the deaths of Trayvon Martin and Sandra Bland weren’t over, and they should also bring attention to less sensationalized occurrences both in and out of the country.

“I think now, post 9/11, we’re starting to see more things like Ahmed and the clock. You

wouldn’t see that happen to any other ethnicity,” she said.

Cyrus Nuval, executive editor of Amendment Literary Journal, talked about how his staff has worked on troubleshooting for the event and collecting performers. He said that the mantra of Amendment also coincided with the principles of “Slamnesty.”

“Social expression through artistic expression,” Nuval said. “Whenever a student wants to create a literary piece, art piece, multimedia piece or movie piece, we accept it and review it and we publish it.”

One of the things he hoped to discuss was police ego. He said the mentality of police officers who place themselves above civilians is what escalates what would be otherwise insignificant encounters.



PHOTO BY AUSTIN WALKER

TheatreVCU student Jafar Cooper recites an original poem detailing his experiences with racism throughout his life.

## Shaferbird Feature

Shafer Bird is part of the Mesh Media Network, a division of VCU Student Media. The Shafer Bird team works to bring the VCU community menu updates and original content, including reviews of on- and off-campus restaurants. [www.shaferbird.com](http://www.shaferbird.com)

### Shoryuken Ramen: Serving Up Fresh Ramen Close to Campus



“Shoryuken Ramen is an inexpensive place to go for some quality ramen with a few friends to have lunch or dinner. All of the food there is no more than 10 dollars, and for what you get, that’s more than worth it.”

— Khaa’rym Al-maliq Alleem

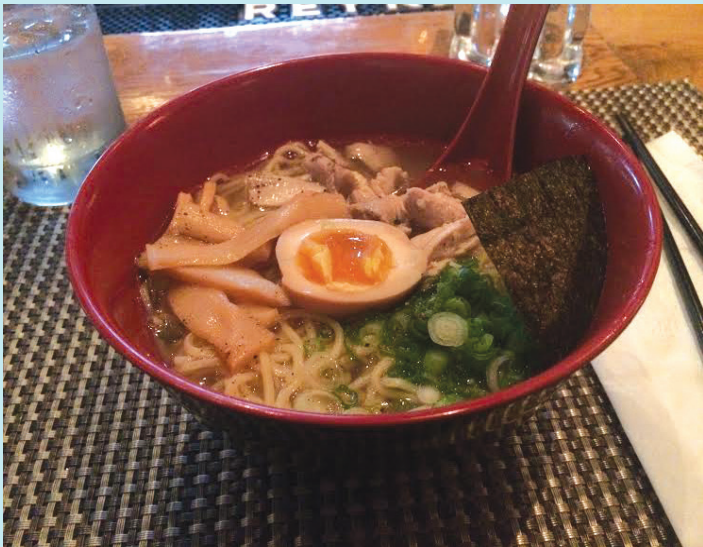


PHOTO COURTESY OF KHAAR’RYM AL-MALIQ ALLEEM

An entree available at Shoryuken Ramen on Franklin.



PHOTO BY AUSTIN WALKER

Members of Amnesty International and Good Clear Sound moderating the “Slamnesty” event. The event was aimed at raising awareness for a range of cultural issues.



# TheatreVCU student clowns around on stage in “Obtuse”

SOPHIA BELLETTI  
Staff Writer

Senior theater performance major Connor Haggerty will perform “Obtuse: A One Person Show” this weekend, and audience members can expect masks, monologues, poetry, movement and clowning to be part of the show.

Haggerty wrote, choreographed and directed the eclectic performance art piece based off events in her personal life, and will perform at the Shafer Street Playhouse on campus Oct. 9 and 10.

“(I chose the name) because it literally just means odd. It’s an over-exaggerated triangle,” Haggerty said. “I thought that my piece was an odd triangle, it just fits.”

For the past two years, Haggerty has worked with mask work and clowning. Mask work explores different stereotypes in society, and the wide range of mask designs help portray those archetypes. Clowning is an abstract form of theatre involving the over exaggeration of moments in your own life.

“I love clowning, I used to go every Friday with my friend,” Haggerty said. “We just literally went around campus and did whatever we wanted.”

Public clowning is a method of acting that allows actors to practice improvisation and comedic skills. It’s been notably practiced by famous actors including Robin Williams.

Haggerty said she began work on “Obtuse” this semester by utilizing different styles and forms of theatre that she’s learned throughout her life of performing.

To keep the piece from becoming stale, Haggerty said that she tried to keep the creative process quick and near the performance.

“I didn’t write it too far in advance because I wanted it to be a quick process and fresh in my



TheatreVCU student Connor Haggerty performs a solo piece at the “No Shame Variety Show.”

mind,” Haggerty said. “When I would have writer’s block, I would get up and do different improvisation and I would use masks to find inspiration for the character.”

Haggerty said comedy has been a part of her life since a young age. The actress said she was raised in a household of jokers who influenced her love of theater and satire.

“I made it my mission to become just as funny or funnier than them,” Haggerty said. “I just like making people laugh.”

Haggerty was involved in her school’s theater department all four years of high school, performing in several shows a year. She was often cast in children’s shows, or as the comic relief in plays. She also competed in The Cappies, a program that trains high school journalism and theater students to be critics who attend shows at other schools and write reviews for local newspapers.

In college, Haggerty is exceedingly involved in the theater department. Now beginning her

sixth production, Haggerty has explored various styles of performance in addition to one-person shows.

“When I would have writer’s block, I would get up and do different improvisation and I would use masks to find inspiration for the character.”

— Connor Haggerty

A style Haggerty said she particularly enjoys is devise pieces, where a group of actors with one director explore the movements and artistic abilities of each team member under a central theme. Haggerty said these pieces usually have a collaborative, improvisational process that mirrors much of her work.

Last summer, Haggerty spent her break studying abroad in Italy,

exploring the 16th-century theatre form called commedia dell’arte. This abstract form of performance relies heavily on masking and improvisation, which Haggerty said is one example of an experience abroad that helped her find inspiration to resume writing original pieces.

“I took a travel writing course and a fictional travel writing course, in addition to taking the acting course, which was the mask work,” Haggerty said. “I started writing anything that came into my head and I started writing stories and plays and monologues.”

After Haggerty graduates this December she plans to move to Paris, France to study at L’École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq, a school which places emphasis on body, movement and improvisation. After, Haggerty said she’s considering teaching English in France before returning to the United States to live in New York.

## Folk yeah RVA Folk Festival returns Oct. 9

FADEL ALLASSAN  
Staff Writer

A lineup of 40 artists will perform on seven stages over three days as the nation’s largest folk festival returns to Richmond on Oct. 9, drawing an expected 100,000 spectators.

This is the 11th year for the festival, which will feature music and dance by folk and traditional performers coming from all around the world, along with a Virginia Folklife demonstration area, a marketplace, a family area and mix of food offerings.

“It’s incredibly rewarding to see the festival continue to thrive in Richmond,” said Lisa Sims, the festival’s director. “It brings people together from all over the region, and we’re grateful for our ongoing partnership with the National Council for the Traditional Arts, our amazing and steadfast volunteers and community partners who make it possible to carry on this important Richmond tradition.”

Among the artists are The Alt, The Bruce Daigrepoint Cajun Band, The Campbell Brothers, Shemekia Copeland, Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass, Deacon John’s Jump Blues, Grupo Rebolú, Ensemble Shanbehzadeh and Brazilian tap dancer Leonardo Sandoval. In addition to the festival, several performers will visit area public schools the week prior to the festival. There will also be a performance by Sandoval at the Richmond City Justice Center on Oct. 12.

The Richmond Folk Festival’s budget is about \$1.4 million each year, and is largely supported by sponsorships, private donations and volunteer hours. VCU and VCU Health are among this year’s sponsors for the event.

The event will feature a diverse set of artists who hail from as far as Brazil, France

and the Republic of Georgia. It will also include some in the genre of latin dance music, Ethio-jazz (one of Ethiopia’s defining musical sounds in the 20th century) and Appalachian Blues.

“Our festival is a multi-cultural experience like no other,” Sims said. “We’re so proud to bring performers that most Richmonders may never have seen, or even heard of before. We know they will leave a lasting impression on our community long after the festival and (we) can’t wait for October.”

The festival is produced by Venture Richmond, a non-profit organization that seeks to engage business and community leaders in partnering with the city to enhance the vitality of the community, particularly Downtown. The group partners with the National Council for the Traditional Arts to bring the event to Virginia’s capital.

Venture Richmond produces various events in the Richmond area such as Easter on Parade, Friday Cheers, RVA Fireworks on the James and the 2nd Street Festival, and partners with the Richmond Sportsbackers to co-produce Dominion Riverrock.



A banner on Belvidere announces the 11th annual Folk Festival this weekend.



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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Calls for healing without action and change is like treating symptoms but ignoring the causes of a disease.”  
— Alan Singer

# Equal doesn't stop at marriage

—continued from front page 1  
in power who deem their life-styles inappropriate.  
Virginia is an employment-at-will state, which means employ-ers have the right to fire any employee for any reason, or for no reason at all. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 43 states in America operate under the employment-at-will doctrine, but most recognize common-law exceptions that ap-ply to specific cases of intrastate wrongful termination.  
Virginia acknowledges public policy exceptions, which means explicitly stated laws that con-flict with employment-at-will are grounds for court ordered compensation. Though Virginia Code §40.1-51.2:1 prohibits discrimination on the basis of everything from work-related in-jury to employee social media ac-counts, there is no legal protec-

tion for the LGBT community from prejudice-based firings.  
Some will claim there are already too many regulations associated with how businesses operate. They will say that the point of Virginia's employment-at-will status is to protect em-ployers from being unfairly sued for perfectly legitimate reasons. But there are already laws pre-venting discrimination of other minority groups.  
Believe it or not, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people also don't have any protec-tion under the law from being discriminated against in the sale or rental of housing. According to the Human Rights Campaign, the Fair Housing Act protects against housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex and fam-ily status but once again sexual orientation and gender identity



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH MORLEY

go unmentioned in federal laws designed to protect the populace that end up only acknowledging the heteronormative majority.  
Only 21 states protect the homosexual community from housing discrimination and 17

of those also defend transgen-der housing prejudice. Virginia is once more not among these provinces.  
Over time, minority groups have been added to existing laws that protect against employ-

ment and housing inequality as successful civil rights movements forced lawmakers to recognize the legitimacy of their claims to injustice. The inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity is long overdue in a society that has

historically and systematically persecuted the LGBT commu-nity and only recently gave them the supposedly great victory of marriage equality.



ILLUSTRATION BY NORINE KING

## Facing the issue of poverty in America

MONICA HOUSTON  
Opinion Editor

The issue of poverty in Amer-ica is continually being ignored. More than 45 million Ameri-cans were below the poverty line in 2013, according to the US Census Bureau. By standards of the federal government's official poverty threshold, the poverty line varies depending on family size and a person's age. Poverty USA determines that 33.9 per-cent of the population, or 106 million people, live close to the poverty line with incomes at less than half that of people below the poverty threshold.  
Unemployment, even after re-covery from the recession, is still high, but is especially for African American families. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Black Americans is 9.2 percent — dou-ble the rate than for whites which is only 4.4 percent.  
Some experts have suggested the free market should solve these issues and wait for the income of the rich to “trickle down” -- but we all know how that has (not) worked out for us in the past.  
Instead of empty promises for the future, how about some direct action and involvement from our country's wealthiest one percent? Our inner city communities are suffering the most, with Blacks being impacted the most. Black communities are the most likely

to be poor, uneducated, targeted by police and consequently imprisoned. An article by the Huffington Post points out that the impoverishment of black communities is not the result of “bad choices” by blacks, but the lack of acknowledgement of race and racism on behalf of whites and the government.  
In 2012, Pew Charitable Trusts said that, “The ideal that all Americans have equality of opportunity regardless of their economic status at birth is the crux of the American Dream and a defining element of our national psyche ... the persistence of the black-white mobility gap under-cuts equality of opportunity, a concept central to the idea of the American Dream.”  
The outcry in Baltimore with the riots was a prime example.  
Being from Baltimore, I know all too well what desperation looks like. People automatically assume that Baltimore is this bad place where all we do is murder each other. That the community's “bad choices” are why we are in the condition we're in. Yet there is nothing that city is screaming louder than to be pulled out from under an oppressive, racist gov-ernment. Almost every house on every street corner, prior to the riots, was boarded up, burned, or foreclosed. The harbor, like many tourist locations, is the only place that does not reveal the suffering of this community.

Columnist Alan Singer says it perfectly: “Calls for healing without action and change is like treating symptoms but ignoring the causes of a disease.”  
People need to start discuss-ing poverty in America and its institutional causes. Everyone needs to stop ignoring the fact that racism is alive and breeding. Fix the system by getting actively involved in these communities, building them homes and provid-ing adequate health care and early childhood and college education.  
There needs to be an increase in the minimum wage and an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit. There also needs to be a drastic change in the criminal justice system starting with bipartisan bills such as the Smarter Sentencing Act. The fed-eral prison population is becom-ing incredibly overcrowded, most of which consist of non-violent drug offenders.  
The government needs to stop feeding us the B.S. that change is inevitable. Change is not inevi-table unless you directly confront the issues now. People say to tackle issues when they're timely — the next time they crop up, when “the time is right.” There is no inappropriate moment to bring up inequality. If we're not talking about it and doing something about it now, then “wait” just means never.

## Pre-health students need to confront prejudices and stereotypes head-on

JUSTIN JOSEPH  
Contributing Columnist

Medicine may seem like an impossibly complicated field, but one concept that most people understand is the mandate to “do no harm.” This may seem like a rather simple concept, but this fundamental ethi-cal concept is extremely important in protecting patients and establishing medicine as a force of good. This principle allows us to trust our phy-sicians deeply and assume that their interventions are helpful instead of malevolent  
When most of us hear about phy-sician misconduct we may immedi-ately think of extreme circumstances like Nazi medical experimentation during World War II or the Tuske-gee syphilis experiment performed by the U.S. Public Health Service. However, health care profession-als today can also harm patients by treating them differently because of their own intolerance and stereo-types.  
Although this behavior may be difficult to identify on an individual level, several studies indicate that there are large disparities in health-care access across different races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and social classes. These health inequi-ties negatively affect groups that have been historically disadvantaged by causing them to suffer worsened health outcomes and receive a lower quality of care. This is confirmed by the 2005 National Healthcare Disparities Report, which showed that white patients receive a higher quality of care than 53 percent of Hispanics and 43 percent of African Americans. The level of perceived

discrimination by providers is espe-cially high for those belonging to a low socioeconomic status, and this type of stressor may further worsen one's health. It's preventable, but many healthcare professionals and pre-health students remain ignorant of this serious issue.  
Although racism, homopho-bia and class-based prejudices are sometimes expressed overtly, many individuals are subject to implicit biases and may not even be aware of their own intolerance. It is necessary to remember that physicians are also members of this society and thus equally subject to social forces that encourage ranking and stereotypes on the basis of different ascribed characteristics. Many physicians and other health professionals may not even be aware of these internalized views, but a 2006 study published in Pain Medicine indicates they are still susceptible to making uncon-scious judgments about patients that affect their medical decision making.  
Hospitals and universities have created a multitude of programs that address health disparities and increase the representation of under-served populations in the medical field. However, damage will still oc-cur if physicians who are unwilling to confront their personal prejudices continue to make judgments that perpetuate health inequities.  
The willingness to address one's own intolerance must come from within and this important task should not be delayed until after your training is done. Instead, pre-health students who wish to help those in need must also ask them-selves if they are willing to confront feelings of homophobia, classism

or racism that can potentially harm their future patients. These students must not only pay attention to their own stereotypes and prejudices but they must also confront instances of institutionalized racism and act as advocates for improvement.  
Some future health leaders may feel like there is a clear boundary between their personal views and med-ical judgment. This creates the no-tion that one can treat each patient equally despite considering some to be inferior or not as deserving. Unfortunately, successfully main-taining these conflicting attitudes will be successful in the long term. As a physician makes life-changing decisions on behalf of others they draw upon all of their experiences, knowledge and opinions. Intolerance is not a switch that can be turned on or off at a moment's notice.  
Even the most accepting of individuals may feel like this issue is of little importance among the time-consuming and hectic commitments that a pre-health student must deal with. The pressure to maintain a high GPA and lengthen one's résu-mé may seem like the highest prior-ity, but prejudice does not disappear by itself. Actively evaluate your own views and be committed to ending this form of social injustice.  
Combating discrimination and harmful stereotypes should by no means be restricted to those in health care. We should all actively seek to increase our tolerance in or-der to become better individuals. For those who do not consider this to be reason enough, at least do it for the sake of your future patients, the ones you will take an oath to serve.



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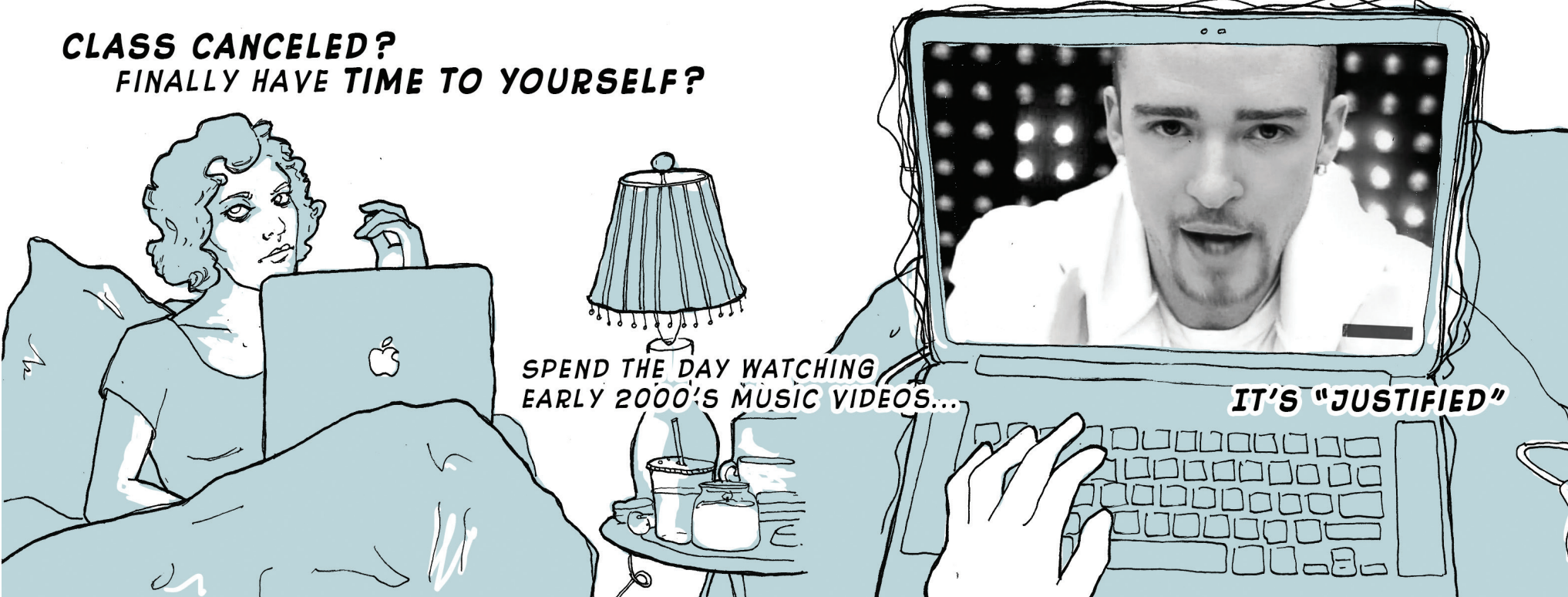
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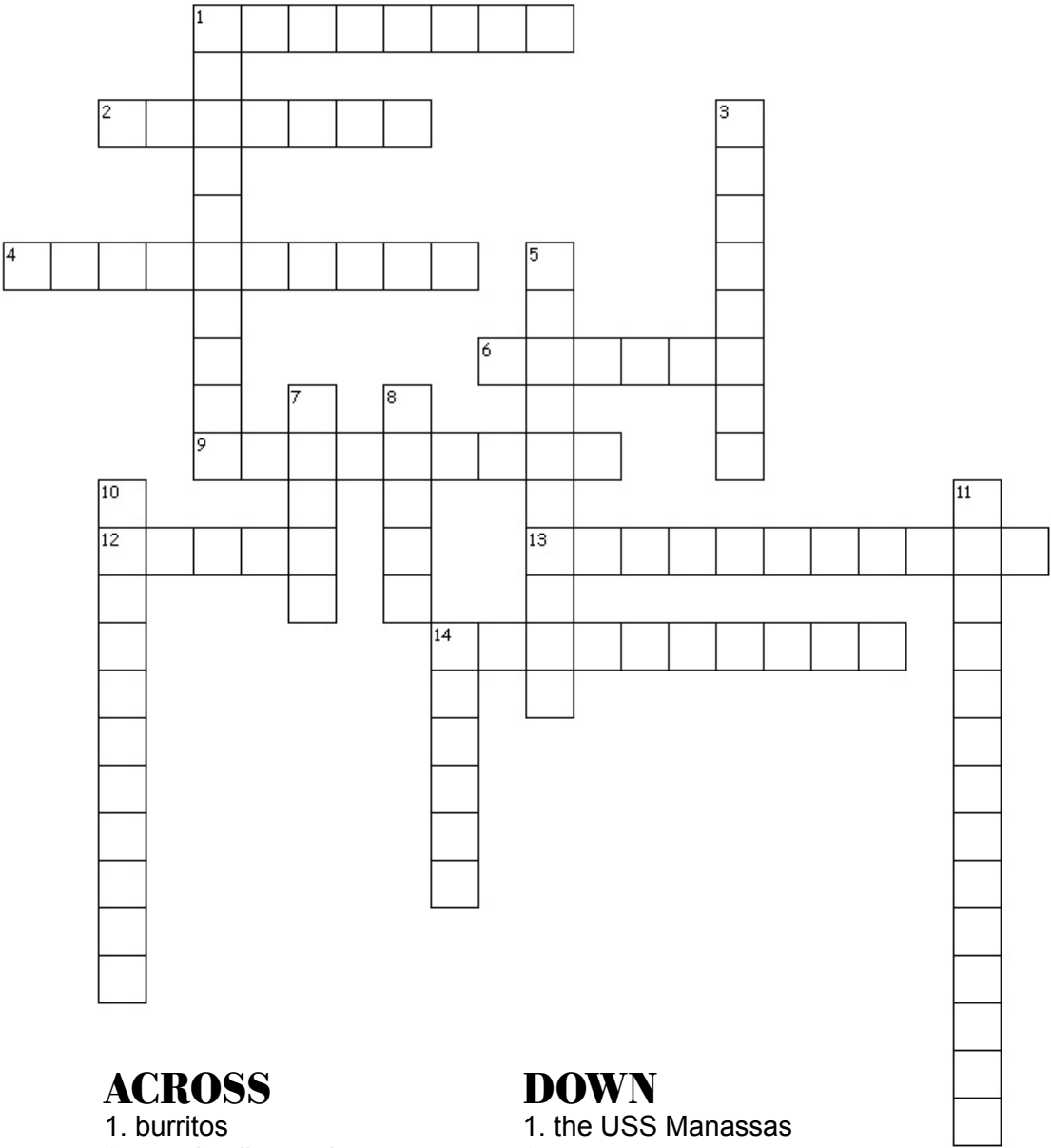


PUZZLES

**DIRECTIONS**  
Try to fill in the missing numbers.  
Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.

- Each number is only used once.
- Each row is a math equation.
- Each column is a math equation.
- Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

	+		+		15
X		X		-	
	+		+		19
/		+		-	
	X		+		17
21		35		0	



ACROSS

1. burritos
2. veggies live under tattoos
4. Forest Hill Ave ice cream
6. late night munchies
9. dessert and savory
12. texas caviar
13. tall bike
14. Carver donuts

DOWN

1. the USS Manassas
3. tacos
5. pizza fries
7. wings
8. best fried chicken in RVA
10. not the James
11. trippy pizza
14. menus inside of books

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**CORRECTION:** The article entitled “Brazilian Guitarist Richard Miller Comes to VCU” in last week’s issue was written by Samuel Goodrich.



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