



# ON HIGH ALERT

Sexual assault and battery reports on both VCU campuses spiked this September.

MARY LEE CLARK | Staff Writer

Members of the community reported a record number of sexual assault and battery cases on the Monroe Park and Medical campuses in September.

Five sexual assaults and three sexual batteries occurred on the Monroe Park campus and another sexual assault occurred on the Medical campus as of Sept. 25, according to VCU Police Department data. This is a rise in reports compared to the summer, when five sexual assaults were reported in August, and one in July.

“If you’re seeing increases in reports, I don’t know if it necessarily means that a schools is having more sexual assaults than they’ve had in the past, because there is no way to judge or measure that,” said VCU Police Chief John Venuti. “But what we do know is that more people are coming forward and

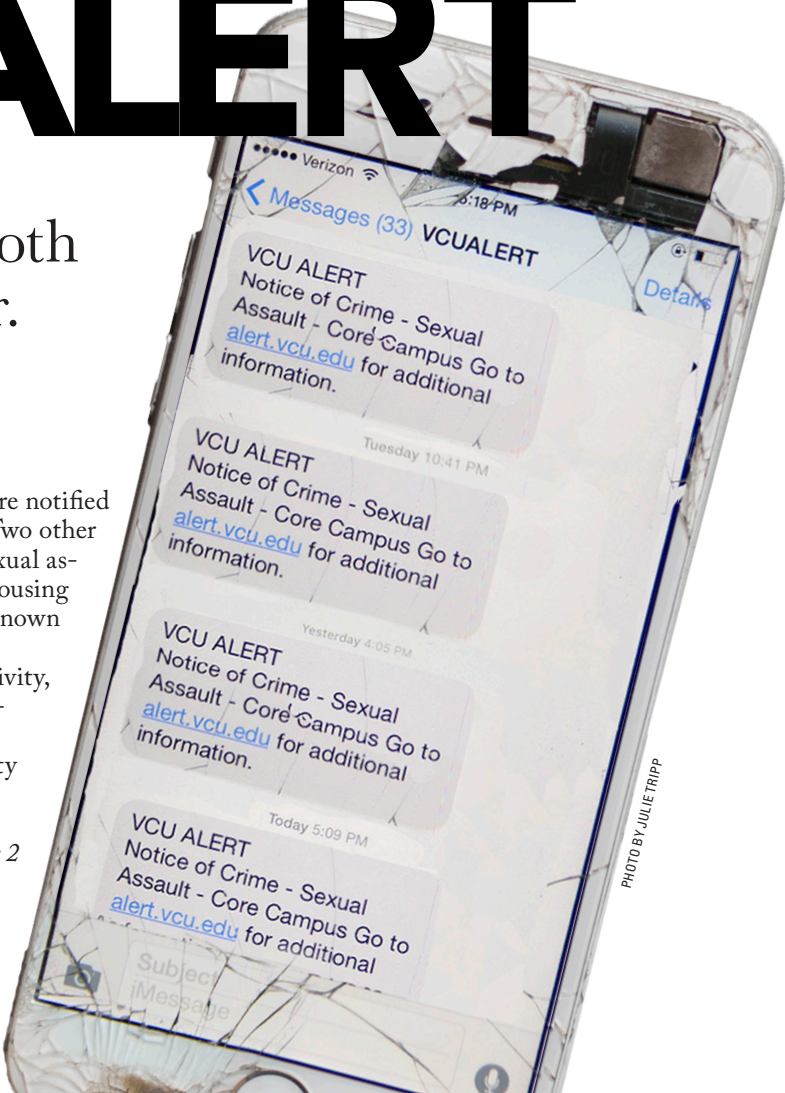
reporting.”

Twice in September police were notified of a suspect groping a stranger. Two other September incidents’ involved sexual as-saults in on-campus residential housing facilities where the suspect was known to the survivor.

“That kind of conduct and activity, here at VCU, we take it very seriously,” Venuti said.

Tammi Slovinsky, VCU deputy Title IX coordinator, said even though reports show one in six

—continued on page 2



8/6/2016 500 W. Franklin St. Pending.	8/22/2016 900 W. Grace St. Pending.	8/25/2016 900 Bowe St. Pending.	9/9/2016 700 W. Franklin St. Pending.			
Monroe Park Campus sexual assaults	8/11/2016 400 Shafer St. Pending.	8/24/2016 10 S Morris St. Pending.	9/3/2016 Unknown Closed, Inactive	9/11/2016 Unknown Pending.	9/15/2016 Unknown Pending.	9/20/2016 800 W. Grace St Pending.

Sports

Opinion

News

## Rams find their feet after rocky start

FADAL ALLASSAN  
News Editor

Early non-conference games just maybe aren’t meant to be a strong suit for VCU soccer.

For the first time this season, the team finished a single week without a defeat — which probably explained head coach Dave Giffard’s brimming smile after the game on Saturday.

“We just keep getting better and better. It’s the first time we’ve come here to St. Louis and carried the game to them,” Giffard said. “I thought we were very unlucky not to take the 3 points, but we’ll take the point against a very well coached and talented SLU team and move on.”

Despite beginning the season just outside rank-status with a roster including six seniors and a slew of returning players, the Rams dropped their first four games of the season before finally edging a win over the University of Vermont last week.

But the abundance of defensive woes and lack of offensive firepower plaguing the Rams in their early games was no-where to be seen as the team thrashed Old Dominion University in their own backyard Tuesday, before tying Saint Louis University in Missouri five days later.

Junior midfielder Rafael Andrade Santos’ equalizer in the 73rd minute salvaged the Rams a point against the Billikens in a game in which the Rams dominated every statistic save the final score. The Rams had 23 total



—continued on page 6



## Millennials— it’s time to start running

ELEANOR FIALK  
Opinion Editor

The bustle of hurriedly unpacked suitcases and awkward introductions floods the hallways of Brandt dormitory as freshmen prepare for a year of firsts — independent living, lawfully purchased cigarettes and the right to vote.

But what most 18-year-olds don’t know — they’re eligible to run for local office. (That’s right, they can govern the city before they can legally crack open a Hardywood Singel).

As Richmond continues to thrive as a funky college town housing one of the country’s best art programs, the quaint city reels in a younger population. With the cost of living lower than most cities, starving artists can live in the river city without, well, starving.

Despite composing a significant portion of Richmond’s population, millennials’ presence has not translated into equal representation in city government.

For an office possessing the power to implement the most immediate and direct changes for the city of Richmond, why don’t as many young people consider running for office?

It may boil down to the political generation in which millennials grew up.

—continued on page 13

## VCU Police respond to suspicious package near Monroe Park campus

FADAL ALLASSAN  
News Editor

The VCU Police Department responded to a suspicious package at the intersection of N. Lombardy and W. Hanover shortly before 7 p.m. on Thursday, according to university public relations.

Police said the package was “like they saw in New York,” according to junior political science major Laura Bryant.

Bryant said she was on her way to Balliceaux, located on N. Lombardy in the Fan district, for a Scott Barlow for School Board fundraiser when she was not allowed into the venue.

According to social media users, VCU PD would not allow customers to leave Balliceaux, either. Customers were eventually given the “all clear.”

The VCU spokesperson said students were sent a text message alert warning them to avoid the area and the situation was deferred to the Richmond Police Department. RPD would not comment on the situation at this time.

“I didn’t get any alerts, and since we live so close to the Fan it really scares me that I didn’t get one,” said Aaron Ni’jai, a senior marketing student.

VCU Police signaled the conclusion of the incident on Hanover/Lombardy at 8:04 p.m., according to the VCU Alert website.

Page 5

Wizard’s training camp returns to the Siegel Center





**In this section:**  
Homicides. New building projects. Sexual assaults. Black Lives Matter. Maggie Walker statue. Compass preacher. City Council candidates.

CRIME LOG

- (All data obtained from the VCU PD daily incident log)**
- 9/17/2016**
- Tampering with Auto**  
300 W. Franklin St.  
A male subject advised that an unknown subject tampered with his vehicle at this location.
- Destruction of Property - Private**  
100 W. Canal St.  
Two male subjects advised that an unknown subject(s) damaged their property at this location.
- 9/18/2016**
- Sexual Assault**  
800 W. Grace St.  
A female student advised that a known subject sexually assaulted her.
- Simple Assault**  
Broad and Belvidere Residence Hall 700 W. Broad St.  
Four female students advised that they assaulted one another at this location..
- Sexual Assault**  
800 W. Grace St.  
A female student advised that a known subject sexually assaulted her.
- 9/19/2016**
- Sexual Battery**  
300 Gilmer St.  
A female student advised that an unknown male subject unwantedly touched her.
- Cary St. Gym  
101 S. Linden St  
A male student advised that a known male subject assaulted him at this location
- 9/20/2016**
- Extortion/Blackmail**  
1128 W. Marshall St.  
A male subject advised that an unknown subject is blackmailing him.
- 9/21/2016**
- Theft From Building**  
Cabell Library.  
901 Park Ave.  
A male student advised that an unknown subject removed an item from this unsecured location.
- 9/22/2016**
- Hit and Run**  
Main Street Deck  
A male subject advised that a known male subject assaulted him at this location. Pending.
- Simple Assault**  
805 W. Grace St.  
801 W. Main St.  
A female student advised that an unknown subject struck her vehicle and fled the scene.
- All Other Larceny**  
375 W. Cary St.  
A female student advised that an unknown subject removed an item from this unsecured location.
- Simple Assault**  
Harris Hall 1015 Floyd Ave.  
A female student advised that a known female student assaulted her at this location.
- Reporting suspicious or emergency situations to the VCU Police Department can help solve crimes, provide emergency assistance that may save a life and help deter criminal activity.
- Download the VCU LiveSafe mobile phone app to report crimes anonymously.
- To contact the VCU PD call (804) 828-1196.
- For an on-campus emergency call (804) 828-1234.
- For an off-campus emergency call 911.

RVA homicides exceed last year’s total count

HANNAH PARKER  
Contributing Writer

James “Jimmy” Bishop was riding a lawnmower when he was shot and killed last Monday on Jefferson Davis Highway.

On Sep. 16, the murder rate exceeded last year’s total count of 41 homicides, with more than three months remaining in the year.

Bishop’s death was the 43rd in the city of Richmond this year, as the murder-rate continues to proliferate.

Bishop was one of three whose life was cut short by a bullet in the span of a week in Richmond. As of press time, the number of homicides in the River City was 45 for

the year.

On Saturday, police discovered 41-year-old Anthony Mack, of Enslow Avenue, lying in the street suffering from an apparent gunshot wound on the 1000 block of St. Paul Street. Mack was taken to a local hospital where he died as a result of his injuries.

Less than 24 hours later, 22-year-old Petersburg resident Jarrod Burford was found in his car on Midlothian Turnpike, where police believe he was shot. Burford was taken to the VCU Medical Center, where he later died.

According to Deputy Chief of the Richmond Police Department Steven Drew, the department has a 62 percent clearance rate.

Clearance is the term police use to describe cases ending with an arrest or where a suspect has been identified.

In 25 of the 45 homicide cases in Richmond, police made arrests. Seven of the remaining 20 cases have potential suspects.

“By the end of the year we hope to have a 90 percent clearance rate,” Drew said.

At this time last year, there had been 29 murders in Richmond and in the months of October, November and December there were a total of 12 homicides.

“Over the last ten years there has been a steady decline in homicides and violent crime,” Drew said. “But you sometimes see an increase, it

starts to turn. We have to look at where crime is happening. Is it in the same community? What are their motives?”

There are five common situations that end in homicides, according to the Richmond Police: domestic violence, neighborhood disputes, street robberies, drug dealers versus drug dealers and drugs dealers versus drug buyers.

“Look at robberies and shootings when there is a spike in homicides,” Drew said. “People don’t want to talk to the police, they want retaliation.”

To help lower the violent crime rates over the summer, Richmond police partnered with state officers to initiate the Fugitive Firearm

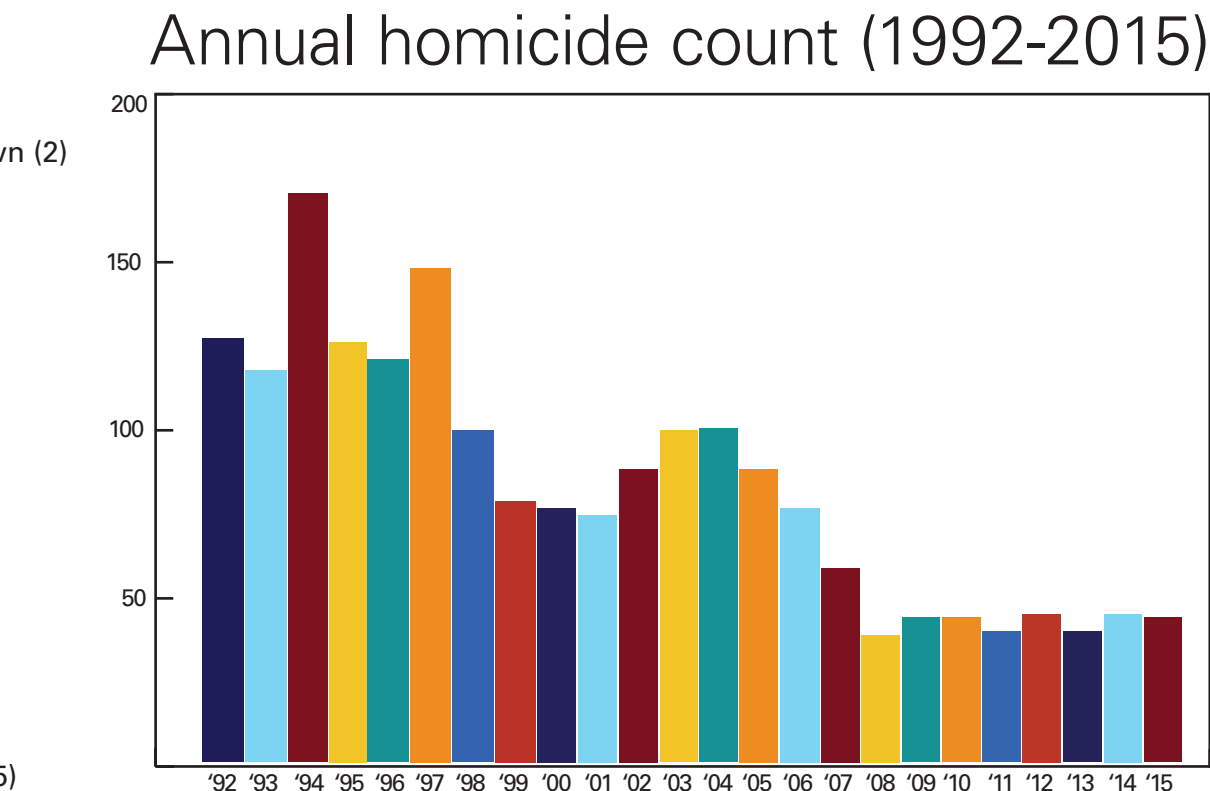
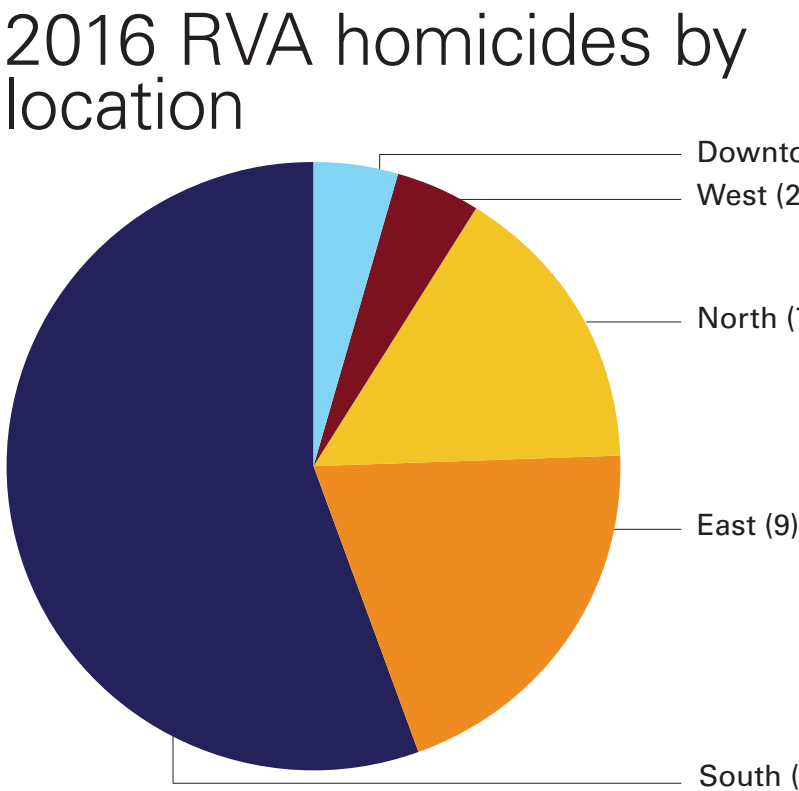
Initiative to lower the amount of firearms on the street. In total 187 firearms were confiscated.

Drew said a majority of the firearms confiscated were connected to illegal activity and convicted felons.

On Oct. 1, Richmond Police will launch the “Fall Violent Crime Reduction Initiative,” which will look focus on reducing crime in the two most crime ridden neighborhoods of four different precincts throughout the city.

The assigned officers were chosen on Thursday. The program will last for six to eight weeks, and will end around Thanksgiving-time.

“This is not just to make arrests,” Drew said. “It is to spread community awareness.”



The Allied Health Professions will consolidate under one roof downtown.

BOV approves building budgets

MARY LEE CLARK  
Staff Writer

The VCU Board of Visitors approved budgets for three new university projects to expand the Allied Health Professions, School of Engineering and Rice Rivers Center.

The university will finance \$10.8 million of the total \$87.3 million budget for the new building; \$5.6 million is allocated to expanding the research capabilities of the School of Engineering.

“We’ve paid our dues and Dr. Rao has seen that we deserve better and he has gone out of his way to speak to all the legislative people possible,” said Cecil Drain, dean of the Allied Health Professions at VCU. “I think he, more than anybody else, had everything to do with us getting a new building.”

The building will reside on E. Leigh and 10th Street, where the low-rise dormitories are currently located.

The 155,000 gross square foot Allied Health Professions building will start construction within the next month.

“We have a very diverse number of programs, and because of that diversity we are able to bring that all together for better patient care,” Drain said, “It’s strength through diversity.”

Drain explained the department has occupied as many as 13 different buildings at one time. Currently, the Allied Health Profession is housed in five buildings, including some on the Monroe Park Campus.

Drain said it’s important to finally bring all those programs together under one roof.

The structure is scheduled to finish construction in fall 2019, which will mark 50 years of the Allied Health Professions at VCU.

According to the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the BOV also approved increasing the budget to build overnight facilities for the Rice Rivers Center, VCU’s environmental research station located in Charles City County.

The Inger Rice Lodge will house between 25 and 30 visitors and researchers at the Rice Rivers Center.

The lodge will cost approximately \$2.3 million, of which \$93,000 is university funds and the remainder

is private gifts and the Rice Center Wetlands Easement Account.

In addition to building approvals, VCU purchased the Evergreen Chinese Restaurant on at 612 W. Grace Street this past week.

VCU paid \$2 million for 0.2 acres that was assessed at \$562,000. Plans for the new property have not been announced.

“Because of that diversity, we are able to bring that all together for better patient care.”

Cecil Drain  
Dean, VCU Allied Health Professions

Sexual assault, battery reports spike on both campuses in September

—continued from page 1

women are victimized by sexual assault while in college, the university does not see nearly that many cases.

Title IX is a federal law prohibiting any form of sex or gender discrimination at an educational institution receiving federal funding. Sexual assault or exploitation, partner or relationship violence, stalking, harassment, retaliation and complicity are all prohibited under Title IX.

More than 90 percent of sexual assault cases on college campuses are not reported, according to a 2015 study by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

“Even with the reports we are seeing now, we’re probably still not receiving a lot of reports from students,” Slovinsky said. “Because they’re turning to friends. They might feel guilt, shame, embarrassment or fear.”

VCU introduced Title IX training courses to students, faculty and staff two years ago, but the initiative was not mandated until this year.

Slovinsky said students who know what qualifies as sexual assault and are aware of what resources are available to them are more likely to come forward and report.

“I’m hoping if we keep encouraging reporting and we’ll keep having students come forward,” Slovinsky said. “Hopefully we’ll be able to hold some of the people responsible that are violating our policy.”

Students and staff can access the required Title IX training “Not Anymore” online. According to the Title IX office, the module takes about 45 minutes to complete. The deadline for completion is Sept. 30, 2016.

**IN THE EVENT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**1. Contact VCU PD or call 911**  
VCU Police 24/7 phone: (804) 828-1234  
VCU Police Chief John Venuti: (804) 690-8868  
javenuti@vcu.edu

**2. Seek medical attention**  
MCV Hospital 24/7 PERK exams: (804) 628-0623  
Student Health - Monroe Park: (804) 828-8828  
Student Health - MCV Campus (804) 828-9220  
St. Mary’s 24/7 PERK exams: (804) 281-8184

**3. Contact University Counseling Services**  
MPC: (804) 828-6200  
MCV: (804) 828-3964

**4. Contact an advocate**  
VCU’s Wellness Resource Center: (804) 828-9355  
Richmond Regional Hotline: (804) 612-6126  
Va. LGBTQ Partner Abuse and Sexual Assault Helpline: (866) 356-6998



# Black Lives Matter takes a stand in the aftermath of Terrence Crutcher’s death

SIONA PTEROUS  
Staff Writer

VCU students and Richmond-based activists responded to the police-shooting of another unarmed black man by organizing a protest on Tuesday evening on the Monroe Park Campus.

As videos of last Friday’s shooting of Tulsa, Oklahoma’s Terrence Crutcher circulated in mass and led to protests nationwide, VCU students met in Monroe Park and took part in an hour-long march ending at Cabell Library with more than 50 people.

The intent, according to some speakers at the rally was to, “acknowledge Black humanity and express [our] frustrations with a system that doesn’t value us.”

Jafar Cooper, a junior at VCU and who uses gender neutral they/their pronouns, expressed frustrations with the crowd.

“There (isn’t) enough action being taken to combat the shooting deaths of unarmed black Americans,” Cooper said. “This is why we’re out here.”

Cooper also stressed how everyday interactions are “the foundation for these big tragedies.”

“People have a responsibility to use their privilege to talk about racism with their friends,” Cooper said. “This violence is real, so why aren’t they talking about it?”

The organizers emphasized intersectionality by acknowledging and embracing various identities of people who are impacted by police brutality.

“Regardless if I agree with the lifestyle or not, that doesn’t mean (they) aren’t human,” said Trayvon Fulton, a member Hope RVA, a grassroots activism network based in Richmond.

“So if you’re killed unjustly, whether you’re gay, queer, whatever and someone gets put on paid administrative leave? I mean, wrong is wrong.”

Junior Reyna Smith led the group in chanting, “Black Lives Matter - No asterisks.”

Smith said for her “no asterisks” represents the inclusive nature with which she approaches activism.

“I’m here for all black lives. Gay black lives, trans black lives, queer

black lives — every single black life I’m here for it,” Smith said.

Smith also expressed her frustrations with sexism while doing activist work and said she hopes the rally will help raise awareness of how black women are affected by police brutality.

For others, Black Lives Matter still carries a social stigma and doesn’t resonate as a compelling message, so much as an inflammatory one.

A sophomore who attends VCU and asked to remain anonymous expressed they felt excluded from the movement.

“For me, it’s a social media trend where people don’t do anything but occasionally show interest,” the student said. “Talking about these things with protests is intimidating for others and divides people because it fails to include people in the goal of making everyone equal. What happens to the protests in a week, or month or two months?”

Despite some discontent with how students chose to address the issue of police brutality, Aaron Brown, a VCUarts senior and rally organizer, felt Tuesday’s protest was a success.

“I feel exhausted in so many ways , but I still come back out here and it was definitely a successful rally,” Brown said.



Students and members of the community organized a rally last Tuesday.



The demonstration was in response to the shooting of Terrence Crutcher.



Students gathered around a man who urged them to repent of their sins.

# Street preacher on fire, crowds go cold

JOE JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

A large crowd of students gathered around a man on a pedestal in the Compass surrounding a man, who identified as Robert, who traveled to VCU to urge students to repent for their sins.

Two other people, who identified as Dan and Don, joined Robert in the compass, as scores of students convened — coming from the Cabell Library, Shafer Dining Court, or simply stopping in awe as they passed on their way to or from class.

“I asked you to back up and you didn’t. I asked you some questions and you didn’t answer. So I’m gonna preach. I’m gonna preach. I’m gonna preach the Gospel,” Robert said.

While some students walked away, others stayed for the speech. Many argued with Robert, some going as far as cursing and jeering him — asking him to leave the compass.

Robert shouted bible verses in response to students demanding that he leave — preaching as his

accomplice Dan stood by silently holding various signs which displayed phrases such as “Evolution is a lie” and “Sin Awareness Day,” among others. Dan alleged that two of his signs were stolen by VCU students.

“People around us were like, ‘Oh, let’s just go around and laugh at him’ ... people stole signs, we were just kind of interested in that,” said Melodee Hanson, a psychology major.

Dan held up signs but did not talk students while Don, sporting an “I love Jesus,” baseball cap stood and watched with his hands stuffed in his pockets.

Many students commented about the hypocrisy of the self-proclaimed “men of God.” One student, freshman Erica Ware, a junior, condemned Robert, a black man, for not acknowledging the phrase “Black lives matter.”

“As a black guy you’re standing here telling me that, “oh black lives doesn’t matter, no it’s all lives matter, God is judging all of us,” Ware said.

“I came here thinking this was like a Black Lives Matter

type movement ... but it turned out to be some man and another man preaching about how we are all sinners and they are being really hypocritical right now,” said sophomore Rana Abouelhagag.

Robert strongly replied that he thought black lives mattered and quoted statistics to support his claim.

“I do believe black lives matter ... 90 percent of aborted babies are black,” Robert said.

Not all students took issue with Robert and his fellow preacher’s presence however.

“Since we’re all about diversity I feel like it’s normal, like we should have somebody like this,” Hanson said.

Hanson also commented that this sort of display could be productive for some people.

The mass of students thinned out as it started to rain. Many students claimed Robert, Dan and Don had been in the compass for more than three hours that afternoon.

A VCU Police officer said Robert gets permission each year from VCU to preach at the Compass.

# Maggie Walker monument unearths controversy

JOE JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

In a plan to erect a statue in honor of Maggie L. Walker, a Live Oak tree was cut down and removed to make way for the upcoming development of a plaza.

The plaza will serve as the foundation for the statue and will be constructed at the triangle intersection of Broad and North Adams Streets and Brook Road, in the center of Richmond’s Historic Jackson Ward neighborhood.

“(Maggie Walker) represents what Richmond is all about,” Mayor Dwight D. Jones told a crowded room in January at a public forum to discuss the monument. “In Richmond only one side of the story is being told.”

Controversy around the proposal erupted immediately after Jones announced plans to develop the monument last November, however, as a portion of the community was invested in protecting the 30-year-old oak tree that has since been cleared out of the way.

Polling from the initial public meeting revealed 42 percent of attendees felt the tree detracted from

the space, while 33 percent felt the tree should stay. The remaining 25 percent polled “The tree has no effect on the use of the space.”

“Is this a clear case of taking away from the public domain to accommodate outside dining for Max’s?” said Jackson Ward resident Rubin Peacock.

Max’s and Tarrant’s restaurants face each other adjacently on Broad Street, and share the same ownership.

Ellyn Parker, Richmond Public Art Commission Coordinator, said it is standard practice for the city to replace any tree that is cut down with other plant matter. The plaza is designed to follow this practice and will add low lying, low maintenance vegetation.

Still, there are some Richmonders who have questioned the source of funding for the project. A few commenters accused local businesses of weighing in on the design plans.

Parker said the project is funded through public art money and improvement grants, and documentation is transparent and can be found on the city website.

The city frequently holds pub-

“  
**Is this a clear case of taking away from the public domain to accomodate outside dining for Max’s?**  
Jackson Ward Resident

lic forums, open for attendees to voice their concerns, Parker added. Typically, multiple forums are conducted before a project is finalized. Those decisions are freely viewable for the public on the city’s website.

The monument will be designed by artist Toby Mendez who also designed the Thurgood Marshall memorial in Annapolis, Maryland, in addition to more than 30 other monuments.



The historic oak tree was taken down to make way for the site of the statue.



# ELECTION 2016

## Local nonprofits pose questions to City Council candidates at Diversity Richmond

JIM THOMMA  
Contributing Writer

The vast majority of candidates for Richmond City Council gathered beneath a single rainbow-colored disco ball last Tuesday night.

The candidates were participating in a forum at Diversity Richmond, a nonprofit that serves the LG-BTQ community.

Twenty-five of the 28 total candidates on the ballot in November were seated in rows according to district on a raised stage platform. Moderator, local journalist and VCU adjunct professor Chris Dovi asked the candidates questions on issues the city will face during their prospective terms in office.

The forum was organized by the RVA Coalition for Progress, a consortium of area nonprofits led by community activist Roland Winston.

“There are big organizations like the Red Cross and Planned Parenthood; the people that I put together were small, one-or-two-or-three-member boards,” Winston said.

Participating organizations were the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Advocates for Equity in Schools, Alliance for a Progressive Virginia, Brown Virginia, Diversity Richmond, Latinos and Amigos, Mothers and Others of Va., Senior Center of Greater Richmond, Sierra Club- Fall of the James, Virginia Organizing, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, and Women-Matter.org.

These organizations submitted questions to Dovi, who in turn reviewed and revised and then posed them to candidates onstage.

Charlie Diradour, owner of Kuba Kuba and candidate for the 2nd district lower-Fan seat had to answer about the redevelopment of public housing projects.

“We need to offer workforce housing,” Diradour said. “We need to offer more mixed-income neighborhoods. We need to do it with an intention for creating community amongst all different types of people.”

The Coalition was informed prior to the forum that the Richmond Crusade for Voters would be discussing endorsements at their general body meeting the same night. The Richmond Crusade organization endorsed Diradour for the 2nd district seat and Garrett Sawyer for the 5th.

Sawyer was asked about methods for increasing minority and women-owned business participation in city construction projects.

“It is so important that we truly bring everyone to the table that’s not currently at it,” Sawyer said. “Time and time again, when we look at different developments that happen throughout the city, we always see the same players that get awarded contracts.”

Sawyer said the city also needs to make a point of educating minority contractors properly and making sure they have the necessary resources to be able to compete with some of the larger developers in the area.

Montigue Magruder, also running in the 5th district, which stretches from Swansboro north across the James to the Randolph and Oregon Hill neighborhoods, struck a very different tone when asked about pay raises for public servants.

“I would have to honestly admit ... I have been sometimes viciously critical of police officers,” Magruder said. “And I’ve even called for the implementation of certain policies, such as decriminalizing marijuana, that would eventually allow us to abolish police officers in the first place.”

Magruder did, however, emphasize he supports pay raises for teachers and firefighters. He also called for an audit of city finances, and a threefold minimum-wage increase.

Kim Gray, a former School Board member from

the 2nd district who’s now running for the district’s City Council seat, also called for a rise in teacher pay.

“I voted to decompress salaries for teachers,” Gray said. “I would do the same for our firefighters and police.”

Gray said in “leaner times” teachers, firefighters and police officers were willing to take pay cuts and teachers were willing to take furlough days.

“**Raise your hand if you are a woman. If you’re black, if you’re disabled, if you’re a student, if you’re over the age of 55, if you’re an immigrant, if you have glasses ... I can represent you.**”

Rebecca K.W. Keel  
Candidate, 2nd District City Council

to his district.

“In the 5th district, we’ve got 14 civic associations,” Agelasto said. “I’ve got relationships with every single one of them. I know how they work together. I listen. I understand the problem and work with the city to present solutions.”

Rebecca K.W. Keel, a candidate for the 2nd district seat, used her final remarks to draw a sharp contrast.

“I want to try a quick exercise with y’all,” Keel said. “So raise your hand if you think City Council and School Board represent you.”

No one in the audience raised their hand. A woman looked around and laughed.

“Raise your hand if you are a woman,” Keel said. “If you’re black, if you’re disabled, if you’re a student, if you’re over the age of 55, if you’re an immigrant, if you have glasses. Raise your hand — any of those identities. Any of those?”

Everyone’s hands were raised.

“I can represent you.”

Local independent radio station WRIR was the Coalition’s sole media partner. Segments of the forum were rebroadcast at 9 a.m. Friday morning as part of news & talk program Open Source RVA.

The City Council forum was the first of a series of four events tied to the 2016 general election, organized by the RVA Coalition for Progress and held at Diversity Richmond.

Candidates in Virginia’s 4th congressional district race Donald McEachin and Mike Wade will participate in a debate Sept. 27. The event will also feature the Democratic candidate for the 7th congressional district, Eileen Bedell. Rep. Dave Brat (R-7) declined an invitation.

All eight Richmond mayoral candidates will appear at a forum Oct. 4. Candidates for Richmond City School Board will debate the following Tuesday.

Go to  
elections.  
virginia.gov  
for registration  
and polling  
information

42 Days Until  
Election Day

AT THE POLLS VIRGINIA  
GENERAL ELECTION

Clinton Democrat	45%	Trump Republican	7%
Stein Green	37%	Johnson Libertarian	1%

CBS/YouGov poll, Sept. 21 - 23, 2016

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# sports

Stat of the Week  
Sophomore midfielder Maddi Santo has four goals on the season.

## Wizards' training camp returns to the Stu

SOPHIA BELLETTI  
Sports Editor

The Washington Wizards are returning to Richmond to host their preseason training camp after a seven-year hiatus. The training camp will be held at VCU's Siegel Center from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1.

On Sept. 19 the franchise announced the one year agreement with VCU. The Wizards are paying VCU about \$9,000 to rent the facility, plus expenses.

The 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. session Friday Sept. 30 will be open to the public. All other practices are closed. The Stu was the site of Wizards' camp from 2003-09. The arena also hosted an exhibition contest between Washington and the Memphis Grizzlies in 2009.

VCU deputy director of athletics Jon Palumbo told the Richmond Times Dispatch he's not opposed to the idea of housing the Wizards camp in years to come.

"For us to have a chance to work with a major professional franchise and establish a relationship is a good thing for VCU," Palumbo said. "The biggest thing for us is if we can give our fans and the folks in Richmond access to something that otherwise they don't have by bringing an NBA team in, even if it just (open) for that one night, it's worthwhile for us."

Washington begins its exhibition season Oct. 4 against the Miami Heat at the Verizon Center. The Wizards open the regular season Oct. 27 in Atlanta.



PHOTO BY JULIE TRIPP; ILLUSTRATION BY GARETH BENTALL

## Club Spotlight: Field Hockey

JESSICA WETZLER  
Contributing Writer

Club sports give former high school athletes the opportunity to continue competing in the sports they love while simultaneously expanding their social circle. Senior and club president Gabri Miranda has played for the VCU club field hockey team for five years now.

Miranda said her favorite part of the team is being surrounded by people who love the sport as much as she does. As president, Miranda said her confidence and organization skills have improved tremendously.

"I've gotten to see positive outcomes from my hard work which helps me to continue working hard in other aspects of my life," Miranda said. "I've become a better communicator and have learned how to overcome adversity."

The club field hockey team at VCU was re-organized in spring 2007. In fall 2008, the team joined the National Field Hockey League. The team is co-ed and welcomes experienced and in-experienced players.

Sophomore Meghan Radigan joined the club field hockey team her first semester at VCU. Radigan said her prior field hockey experience has allowed her to serve a vital role on the team.

"It gives me an excuse to work out and I have made great friends through it," Radigan said. "The team works hard and we push each other to be the best we can be, in school and on the field."

Sophomore Erin Fowler joined the team during her freshman year at VCU. Fowler is one of the risk management officers alongside sophomore Danielle Radigan.

"Before I even got to VCU I knew that playing on the club field hockey team was something that I really wanted to do," Fowler said. "I know I was never good enough to play at the college level, but just playing the game at a semi-competitive



PHOTO COURTESY OF VCU CLUB FIELD HOCKEY

level is always fun. I think I can speak for most of the girls when I say that."

Radigan said playing a club sport allowed her and her teammates to learn about inclusiveness and relationship building. Radigan said her favorite moment from being on club is seeing everyone getting together.

"We are all different people, but we have come together for our love of hockey so it's always fun to get to meet everyone," Radigan said.

Club field hockey usually plays four games per semester. Typically the games are round-robin tournaments where every team involved plays each other once. The team will play against two different teams during the same tournament.

This season's first round-robin tournament was held Sept. 17 at Cary Street Field.

Earlier this semester, VCU played against the United States Naval Academy. The Rams dropped a close game 2-1 in

overtime.

Coastal Carolina University traveled five hours from Conway, South Carolina to play at VCU on September 17. Unfortunately for the Rams, CCU returned home with a win. Both matchups came down to the wire.

The next home tournament is Oct. 15 on Cary Street Field.

## Club wrestling kickstarts program

GABE HAUARI  
Staff Writer

Seventy-six schools in the United States sponsored Division 1 varsity men's wrestling during the 2015-16 season. VCU is not among these schools.

As a result, members of club wrestling at VCU are motivated to engage in their sport. Vice president Dillon Dull spoke about how much the opportunity to continue wrestling means to him.

"I've always loved wrestling, especially after wrestling four years in high school," Dull said. "It builds great character and great discipline, and is a great way to stay in shape."

The wrestling club at VCU is one of the newest club sports. The Rams are currently in their second year of existence and first year as a sponsored member of VCU club sports.

Senior president Yassin Semmami and Dull noticed VCU did not have a wrestling team when they arrived on campus as freshman. Taking matters into their own hands, they decided to fix that problem and start the wrestling club last year.

According to Dull, the wrestling club saw a drastic spike in membership, going from five or six members last year to about 20 active members who regularly

appear for practice. Dull called this "an extreme improvement."

The team participated in several open tournaments in Virginia over the last two years. Now that the club has gained funding from VCU, they hope to travel to more tournaments without having to worry about monetary constraints.

"It was tough to participate in these tournaments last year because we had to pay out of pocket," Dull said.

In addition to the funds VCU provides, the club also plans on doing several fundraisers this year to raise money for more tournaments and new equipment.

The team practices three times a week at 8:30 pm at an off-campus facility in Ashland.

"We have a supervisor that owns the facility and he coaches sometimes, but it is usually Yassin and I that run the practices," said Dull.

A typical practice consists of a 20-minute warm-up, followed by 30 minutes of drill work. They use the remainder of practice time to live wrestle.

Interested parties should join the "Ram Wrestling Club @ VCU" page on Facebook for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VCU CLUB WRESTLING

The wrestling club at VCU is one of the newest club sports.



THE PRESS BOX

# To prune a Rose

*If a flower bloomed in a dark room, would you trust it?*

**ZACH JOACHIM**  
Sports Editor

Derrick Rose has maintained a pristine reputation throughout his career.

The sports world conceptualizes Rose as a trustworthy athlete for many reasons. He has never had any run-ins with the law or scuffles with fans. He is bashful and reserved at the mic, and rarely if ever provides reporters with a contentious sound-bite.

On the court, the youngest-ever NBA MVP shows no indication of the testosterone-fueled competitive fire that many athletes exude. He has even been a recipient of widespread sympathy in light of the fact that multiple knee surgeries have derailed his career.

This perception is why so many people have refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of rape allegations made a year ago by one of Rose's ex-girlfriends.

You do not make assumptions about alleged rape, regardless of who they are leveled against.

Rose, along with two of his closest friends -- Randall Hampton and Ryan Allen -- are accused of drugging and gang-raping a victim who wishes to remain anonymous. This has been public knowledge since the civil suit was filed more than a year ago on August 26 2015.

The allegations alone should have forestalled a firestorm of media coverage and public scrutiny.

Yet, when the victim filed a memorandum on Aug. 22 of this year arguing the pseudonym 'Jane Doe' should be precluded at trial so she could avoid public attention, Rose's lawyers wrote they "do not think any media restrictions are warranted or necessary, partly because the media has, to some degree, lost interest in the case."

Not that the media ever paid the case much interest in the first place.

Despite the ample opportunity for exposure in New York and Chicago, conversation surrounding the blockbuster deal was dominated by petty aspects. Sports writers discussed the haul of young players New York gave up, Rose's much maligned health, how he would fit into Phil Jackson's infamous triangle offensive scheme, and even how his social life would change in the Big Apple.

Unfathomably, allegations of gang-rape took a backseat to all of this.

This case demands attention. Rose's camp has fallen under heightened scrutiny only recently because the defense has focused more upon smearing the victim rather than proving Rose's innocence.

"This is not a rape case," wrote Rose's lawyers. "It's pure and simple extortion by a plaintiff who wants to hide behind the cloak of anonymity while seeking millions in damages from a celebrity with whom she was in a long-term non-exclusive consensual sexual relationship."

Before burying Rose any further, the elephant in the room must be addressed; some of these rape, assault and domestic violence cases brought against athletes are bogus.

Dallas Cowboy's rookie running back Ezekiel Elliot was the subject of domestic violence allegations over the summer. Somehow, the media's reaction to Rose pales in comparison to that of Elliot.

Elliot, whose story was corroborated by four objective witnesses, said he tried to help a supposed-friend out of the back of a car. That friend then accused him of domestic violence and sued him for millions of dollars. The case was dismissed after limited court proceedings.

This happens.

Athletes are rich, high-profile figures who garner their fair share of illegitimate allegations largely due to the aggressive nature of their profession.

Everybody and their mother assumed this was the case with Rose because he comes across as trustworthy and boasts a spotless record.

'Assumed' is the key word here. As sports writers, we all botched this one. We assumed.

Details released recently in court documents have thankfully shed much needed light on this case.

On August 26, 2013 Rose invited Doe and her friend, Jessica Groff, to his rental home in Beverly Hills.

Doe and Groff consumed an ample amount of vodka, wine and tequila en route to Rose's house and upon their arrival. After a few hours, they went home in a cab. The parties disagree over whether consensual sex occurred at Rose's home.

Doe and Rose continued texting. She portrayed a desire for him to come over to her place alone, while he wanted to send his friends to



ILLUSTRATION BY SYRIL ALI

pick her up and bring her back to his house. Doe eventually fell asleep.

At approximately 2 a.m. Rose, Hampton and Allen arrived at her apartment. They spent half an hour attempting to wake her up so she could let them in. The parties disagree over whether she eventually woke up and let them in or whether they forced entry.

Upon entering the apartment, the three men proceeded to have intercourse with her. They say it was consensual, but Doe denies even being awake during the encounter.

Rose's own expert toxicologist estimated that Doe had a BAC level of .20 on the night in question, which should throw the issue of consent out the window entirely because she was not in a state to provide it.

And so, here we are.

Suddenly, the sports world is intrigued, and Rose is not helping his case. In the effort to have Doe's name revealed, Rose's defense made a ludicrous argument.

"Of special note, plaintiff is portraying herself as sexual," the defense stated. "Photos from the plaintiff's instagram account are sexual in nature. In these images, Plaintiff is dressed in provocative attire, is in sexually suggestive poses, and is in photos indicating that she engages in sexually charged encounters with more than one man at a time."

The judge hearing the case shot back at Rose's defense team scathingly.

"The court is uncertain what to make of this reasoning," the judge wrote. "Defendant Rose appears to suggest that women who publicly portray themselves as 'sexual' are less likely to experience embarrassment, humiliation, and harassment associated with gang rape. Such rhetoric has no place in this court."

As if that wasn't enough, it appears Rose broke up with Jane Doe because she repeatedly denied his requests to engage in group sex.

When asked if he called things off because of her refusals, Rose struggled to articulate a cogent response.

"No, I was just calling it off with her because I was just calling it off with her," Rose said. "It wasn't no point. Like it seemed like she had an attitude and something I didn't want to deal with, so I was done. It probably could have been the way that I asked her."

The case against Rose is wrought with damning factual evidence. Don't get me wrong, he is innocent until proven guilty and the fact that the defendant is requesting more than \$20 million for the case to be dismissed is highly questionable.

But as a country, we royally screwed this up. The New York Knicks and Phil Jackson, specifically, royally screwed this up when they traded for Rose without taking the case into account. Sports writers across the nation owe women around the world one hell of an apology.

We assumed innocence based on public reputation. That would be ok if we were talking about a misdemeanor. We are talking about gang-rape.

*I ask again, in the eloquent words of Kendrick Lamar,*

*If a flower bloomed in a dark room....would you trust it?*

*We did. Now light has been shed and our vanity revealed.*

# In memory: from Cuba, with duende

**ZACH JOACHIM**  
Sports Editor

The sports world is in mourning this week after the shocking death of Miami Marlins ace Jose Fernandez.

Fernandez, 24, and two friends died in a boating accident early Sunday morning. Their boat was traveling at top speed when it hit a jetty of rocks and flipped thirty feet in the air before landing upside down, according to multiple reports.

A Cuban defector, Fernandez attempted to reach the United States to pursue his dream of playing Major League Baseball four times before he was finally successful at age 15. Fernandez spent two months in a Cuban jail as a result of his attempts to escape the country.

On his fourth and final attempt, Fernandez's mother fell overboard en route to Mexico. The 15-year-old boy dove into the surging waves to save her life.

Marlins TV and ESPN analyst Eduardo Perez put Fernandez's endearing nature in perspective.

"When Jose's mother fell off the boat, he didn't know who it was," Perez said. "He jumped. That's who Jose was."

Fernandez's family settled in Tampa with his step-father. Four years later, the Miami Marlins selected him as the 14th overall pick in the MLB draft. Two years later, the kid with lightning in his arm and passion in his heart took baseball by storm. He was voted the 2013 Rookie of the Year and finished third in Cy Young voting.

Now, just three years later, baseball fans are left searching for the right words to commemorate his short, brilliant life. Marlins manager Don Mattingly said he remembers a player who brought a child-like love to the game every time he toed the rubber.

"When I think of Jose, I see such a little boy," Mattingly said. "The way he played, there



PHOTO COURTESY OF MLB.COM

was just joy with him. You'd just see that little kid that you see when you watch kids play Little League. That's the passion he felt about playing."

The heat of Fernandez's fastball and the bite of his breaker were matched only by the enthusiasm and charisma with which he lived his life.

There is a word, duende, in spanish that does not directly translate to English. In essence, duende means to have soul, a heightened state of emotion, expression and authenticity.

Although there is no linguistic equivalent, we all know people with duende. These people are the lucky few human beings who maintain the same impassioned, childlike persona throughout their adult life.

Fernandez had that duende. It was his aura; that boyish exuberance that is a rare treasure among all human beings.

Jose Fernandez died in the same waters that propelled his dreams. He will be missed by many who never knew him personally, because his personality had such gravitational pull.

Fernandez leaves behind a pregnant girlfriend, mother, grandmother, organization and fandom that loved him not for his breathtaking accomplishments on the mound, but simply for the width of his smile and his immeasurable love for life.

# Rams find their feet after rocky start

*—continued from page 1*  
total shots to St. Louis' eight. Sshots to St. Louis' eight. Seven of VCU's shots were on target.

St. Louis' freshman goalkeeper Sascha Otte kept his team in the game with six saves before Santos finally evened the score with a 25-yard screamer from a free kick.

The Rams pushed for a second goal until the final minute of regulation, when opportunities from a free kick and a corner kick each failed to trouble Otte. The german native was, however, put to the test when VCU shot from inside the six-yard box with seconds left in overtime, but he responded with authority to keep the score tied.

It was a relatively positive end to a week which began with the Rams clobbering Old Dominion at the Sportsbackers Stadium in Richmond.

Luc Fattton put his name in lights by scoring a hat-trick in six minutes as VCU dominated not only the score sheet, but possession.

The Rams went down early when freshman midfielder CJ Taylor scored the opening goal for the Monarchs in the 5th minute.

VCU spurned a few chances to equalize before Fattton's goal-scoring blitz saw him score a rebound in the 25th minute and again with a header from a corner kick three minutes later and again with another header three minutes after that.

Senior forward Jorge Herranz and Andrade-Santos scored in the 51st and 73rd minute respec-

tively to further pad down the record for VCU.

Fattton's hat trick makes him the leading scorer for the Rams this season. The redshirt junior, who transferred from the University of Virginia in the off-season, finally got his initial goal for his new team.

"It's been a long time coming I should probably have five or six goals so far this season I kind of let my team down in that aspect," Fattton said in a post-game interview. "Its nice to get that weight lifted off my shoulder a little bit."

VCU will return to action on September 27 as they travel to Ohio to take on the University of Akron.



PHOTO BY ALL JONES

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# Ram in Action Maddi Santo



Maddi Santo notched her first goal of the season in VCU's 4-1 win over the College of Holy Cross on Sept. 4.

KEYRIS L. MANZANARES  
Contributing Writer

Sophomore midfielder Maddi Santo is one of the leading goal scorers for the women's soccer team with four goals on the season. The Pittsburgh native appeared in all nine matches this year and started eight. Santo also has an assist recorded on the season. During Santo's rookie campaign, she appeared in 16 games and started in seven. She registered three goals, shooting .429 percent. Santo said when you dream big anything is possible and told the Commonwealth Times how to overcome critics who tell you you are not good enough.

## Q&A

**How long have you wanted to play at a college level and did you ever think you would be playing at this level?**

It has always been a dream of mine ever since I was little. Just watching people that I knew play at a D-1 level, I always wanted to do it and knew I was capable of it. I had really good training back at home so that definitely helped me get to where I am today.

**Have you ever had someone tell you that you are not good enough? How did you overcome that?**

Many times but when someone tells you that you are not good enough you should take it and use it in your favor; feel the impact of those words and become a better player because of them.

**How did the older girls on your team help you last season?**

Motivation. Their leadership has been really brought down to us to help us become better. And communication, helping us become a team and a family.

**How do you plan on passing motivation and leadership down to your younger teammates?**

Communication. Always telling them that they can do it and to never be scared of anything, for them just to have confidence.

**How was the transition from high school to college level?**

It's definitely harder now because a lot more is expected. In high school the coaches didn't really care about your grades but now they are on you all the time. It's that expectation.

**What advice would you give to any girls looking to play at a college level or at a Division 1 school?**

To keep working. Anything is possible as long as you have the mindset and work hard for it.

**What was your highlight of last season?**

Scoring in the Richmond game because my grandma was there and I told her I would score for her.

**What are your goals for the season?**

To win the Atlantic 10 Championship and then obviously going to the NCAA tournament afterwards. Some personal goals for me would be to help the team in whatever I can—whether that be scoring or assisting or creating plays, just making things happen.

**Do you have soccer plans for the future? Where do you see yourself in two years when you graduate?**

Playing at a professional level. You got to dream big.

Catch Santo in action on Thursday, Sept. 29 when the Rams begin conference play at Sportsbackers Stadium. The Rams will host Davidson College, at 7 p.m.

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Shadae Anderson  
School of Dentistry student

**Make it real.**  
C A M P A I G N F O R



Growing up in Jamaica, I witnessed a severe lack of dental care within my community. One day I hope to take my work home and start a practice. Because of the scholarship I received, I will be the one to fill the gap. That’s how I’ll make an impact.

At VCU, making an impact is what we do. But we can’t do it alone. That’s why we’re launching the Make It Real Campaign for VCU, our most ambitious fundraising initiative in university history. Join us in supporting people, funding innovations and enhancing environments.

**Make your impact at [campaign.vcu.edu](https://campaign.vcu.edu).**





# spectrum

Fact of the week:  
Bamboo can grow three feet in 24 hours under optimum conditions.

JIM THOMMA  
Contributing Writer

VA PrideFest 2016 drew more than 15,000 of Richmond’s LGBTQ community and allies to Brown’s Island for a cloudless day of celebration, support, advocacy and community outreach.

“We’re in a moment right now where queer and trans people and specifically queer and trans people of color, are really at odds with the way the state is treating us,” said Rebecca K.W. Keel, candidate for the 2nd district City Council and recent VCU grad.

Keel helped table the Southerners on New Ground (SONG) booth, a regional Queer Liberation organization made up of people of color, immigrants, undocumented people, people with disabilities, working class and rural and small town LGBTQ people in the South.

SONG set up a “healing tent” to help spread love and positivity in a tumultuous year for the LGBTQ community.

“Thinking about Orlando,” Keel said. “Thinking about the anti-transgender bathroom bills that were happening all throughout the South over the summer, and just Black Lives Matter in general.”

Key said the group’s goal was to spread the word through campaigns, healing, culture and music.

Gavin Grimm, a transgender teenager who won against the Gloucester School Board with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union for adopting a policy relegating students to bathrooms that reflect their gender assigned at birth, was presented with the Firework Award.

“(The award) recognizes members of the Virginia LGBTQ community who are catalysts for change,” the festival’s program stated.

A chalkboard sign reading “Where’s your refuge restroom in the city?” was propped up against the VCU Health booth. VCU administrator Kirsten Olsen said the sign was created by a student in the VCUarts, as a part of a larger series, one of which was housed at the Compass on the VCU Monroe Park campus.

“This came out of a discussion that we had with VCU Equality,” Olsen said. “The discussion revealed that some of our students who are trans people don’t have any safe restrooms.”

Gov. Terry McAuliffe could be seen walking around and shaking hands, too. Donald McEachin, current state senator and Democratic candidate for Virginia’s 4th Congressional district seat, stopped by the LGBT Democrats of Virginia and Diversity Richmond booths.

In addition to politicians, volunteers and activists were out in grassroots-efforts to encourage members of the community to be politically active.

Shelby Horner was out with a clipboard registering people to vote with Virginia21 as part of a service-learning course at VCU. Homer said her assignment was to help represent an underrepresented group.

“For LGBTQ it’s really important to be involved in local government,” Homer said. “Because that’s where a lot of social issues are decided upon.”

The VCU Health booth had a sign displaying a list of health services the system provides to members of the LGBTQ community, including Transgender Hormonal Therapy and various pregnancy-related operations.

“VCU Health is here to advertise ourselves as a health system in Virginia that is LGBTQIA-friendly,” said Alexis Bostetter, a VCU student volunteer. “We’re also here to get feedback on any services that



The mainstage acts featured performances from Mary Lambert, the Handsmiths, Red Light Romeo, Black Liquid, Afro Zen Allstars, the XXX Divas Cast of Babes and the Angels Cast of Godfrey’s.

individuals have received.”

Jennifer Martin was at the St. John’s United Church of Christ booth to let people know that the church accepted folks despite their sexual-ity, gender identification, or family structure.

“I grew up in an extremely conservative environment,” Martin said. “I didn’t know that you could be a Christian, and also be gay or bisexual or transsexual or polyamorous or anything like that.”

Kyle Rohen, a representative from NOVA Pride, a partner organization of VA Pride that operates out of Northern Virginia, talked about the evolution of the three-year-old organization.

“We are starting to organize programs for the elderly,” Rohen said, “for teenagers, and outreach in the trans community as well, advocating specifically for trans persons of color, because they are an extremely

disadvantaged group.”

LGBT liaisons to Richmond, Henrico and Chesterfield police departments were stationed at their respective departments’ booths.

Capt. Daniel Minton, liaison to the Richmond Police department, described his role as instituting department-wide educational programs on the LGBTQ community, as well as community events and recruiting. Richmond Police had another booth dedicated specifically to recruiting members of the LGBTQ community.

“One of the most important things that we do is if we see any crime trends that would affect the LGBTQ community,” Minton said, “we get that information out to them, and make sure they’re aware of the issues going on in the city, and preventing any future violence or harm.”



Chunda published a study on political governance in Zambia through Diakonia that identified key problems like rampant embezzlement and fraud, with detailed recommendations for fixing them.



Before coming to the U.S., Chunda lived with her husband and two daughters in Lusaka, the capital and largest city in Zambia.

## From Zambia to Richmond

JIM THOMMA  
Contributing Writer

Sombo Muzata Chunda came to the United States from Zambia through the Mandela Washington Fellowship this summer and now works for VCU’s Division of Community Engagement.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). One thousand Fellows from countries throughout Sub-Saharan Africa were sent to universities across the U.S. for six weeks to participate in academic coursework and leadership training. Chunda was one of 40 accepted from Zambia.

In Zambia, Chunda worked as Country Manager for faith-based Swedish development organization Diakonia. Diakonia works with activist organizations in a number of Sub-Saharan African countries to promote human rights, democracy, gender equality, social and economic justice.

Chunda said her work in Zambia revolved primarily around the realization of human rights in rural communities, and monitoring to ensure elections were free and fair.

“And the reason is simple,” Chunda said. “It is because we do not vote using advanced technology. We vote on paper in Africa. So if I am a fraudster, I would just come [to the polling station] with a bag full of pre-marked ballots. And the time that we are about to count, I just put them there, and they’re already marked with the candidate whom I love, or who I want to win.”

Chunda and 49 others were sent to Richmond, where they were divided evenly between programs offered by the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs and the VCU School of Business. Chunda resided in the VCU Globe living-learning community at West Grace Street Student Housing – North residence hall.

Chunda said through YALI she’s learned about the American political and financial system, a system she said is far more developed than in her native Zambia.

Chunda said the features that defined the American public service hundreds of years ago are the same features she sees in Africa now.

“So are we going to go through a hundred more years to come,” Chunda said.

“Will we do a leap-frog to get to the kind of development we would like to have?”

Chunda said she asked herself if she should look at life more broadly, and start thinking of operating at an international level.

“There gets to be a point in life where you have to unlearn what you have learned,” said Chunda. “Maybe I should start fresh.”

Chunda decided to resign from her job at Diakonia and apply for a graduate research position at the VCU Division of Community Engagement. She also enrolled part-time in courses at the Wilder School and is pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree.

“Everything falling into place in three weeks was unbelievable,” said Jean Gasen, Director of Leadership and Executive Coaching at the Business School. “The fact that she was able to leave her job with a transition period, with the support of her former employer. The fact she was able to get a visa.”

“It’s important to look at the impact of what we are doing now.”

Sombo Chunda

Chunda is temporarily living with Gasen while she searches for a more permanent place in the city. Chunda refers to Gasen and Gasen’s husband as her “other parents.”

Chunda’s job at the Division of Community Engagement revolves around measuring the impact of the university on surrounding communities.

“VCU is going to be in existence for so many more years to come,” Chunda said. “It’s important to look at the impact of what we are doing now, and to continually see if our actions are relevant, and if the community is also seeing that our actions are relevant.”

Chunda said she is grateful the five-year visa she was issued will allow her to pursue a doctorate in Public Administration from the Wilder School. Ultimately, she said she hopes to teach.



# Images at NMAAHC reveal Richmond’s hidden, painful past

**MUKTARU JALLOH**  
Staff Writer

Three VCU-owned images are featured in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington D.C., which opened Saturday.

The museum seeks to commemorate African-American history while revealing both its horrowed past and honorable plight. The VCU-owned images, two photos and one postcard are in digitized form, unpack a portion of the powerful history of the Virginia’s capital city.

“The slavery question in Richmond is just now getting attention during the past 10 years,” said Senior Research Associate of VCU Libraries Collections Ray Bonis. “It wasn’t until people started looking into how Richmond was the center for selling slaves.”

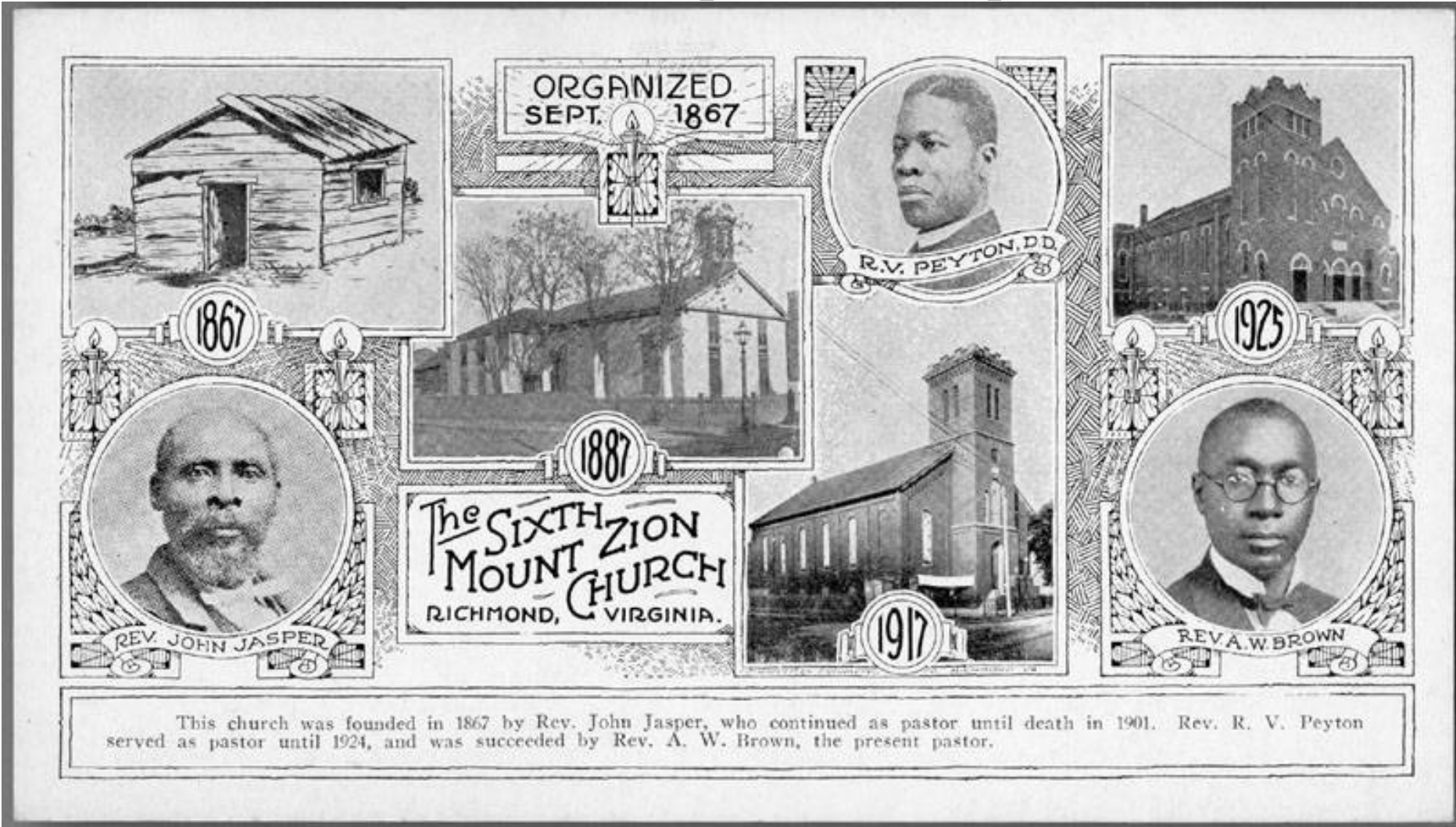
One photograph is of the former Robert R. Moton High School for African-Americans in Prince Edward County. The photo captures the effects of the landmark case, 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which integrated public schools. After it was ruled that schools should be integrated, Prince Edward County chose to close down it’s altogether school instead.

In the midst of this battle, VCU Professor emeritus Edward Peebles took photos of the closed schools. After black students protested and boycotted the school, Peebles did a study of black and white schools, finding out that the county was putting more money towards white schools.

Despite the legislation of “separate but equal,” the school’s conditions and disparities proved once more the plight of African-Americans. An activist who was involved in the civil rights movement since the 1960s, Peebles decided to donate his work to VCU decades later.

John Kneebone, head of the History department, believes the museum is long overdue. The incorporation of the VCU images is a testament to the school’s original roots in the mid 1960s.

“VCU came into be during the civil rights movement. It came into be during the moment when in order for African-American students to be included, the curriculum had to change,”



The Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church is located at 14 W. Duval St. in Jackson Ward.

Kneebone said.

VCU has it’s origins in April 1969, with sit ins by African-American students in the Provost office, to expand the curriculum, Kneebone said. To make the university not just the non HBCU school with the largest black population of students but truly welcoming not just accommodating.

Kneebone, who has been in Richmond since 1986 and teaching at VCU since 2003, said he believes racism has been the reason for it.

The second photograph features an original snapshot of The Sixth Mount Zion Church, one of the oldest black churches in America’s history, located in the historic Jackson Ward area. Founded in 1867 by John Jasper, who had been a

slave, the church has served as a place of spiritual enlightenment during social injustices and post-slavery obstacles in the city.

Renowned for his signature preaching style, Jasper was able to uplift the city during its most trying times despite being a former slave himself. The photo shows how the church used to look before the 95-Interstate tore through Jackson Ward and uprooted the church.

“I bet if you asked the mayor of Richmond 20 years ago, how much was the city involved in the slave trade, they’d say minor but now we know it was much more than what it was,” Bonis said.

Bonis, who first came to VCU as a student in 1982, said he believes he’s seen some changes as it pertains to the honest

teaching of the city’s history, however there’s a long way to go. He said he’s proud of the opening of the new museum -- believing it’s a step in the right direction to telling of African-American history and experience.

The third image is a postcard of the church, showing its evolution from a wooden shack with a single room in 1867, to large brick-and-mortar church in 1925.

Despite being the capital city, Richmond’s painful past has been hidden in an effort to preserve its image. Richmond had the largest slave trading industry outside of New Orleans between 1830 and the Civil War, with thousands of slaves bought and sold through Lumpkins Jail in the Shockoe area.

“Fundamentally, these were white

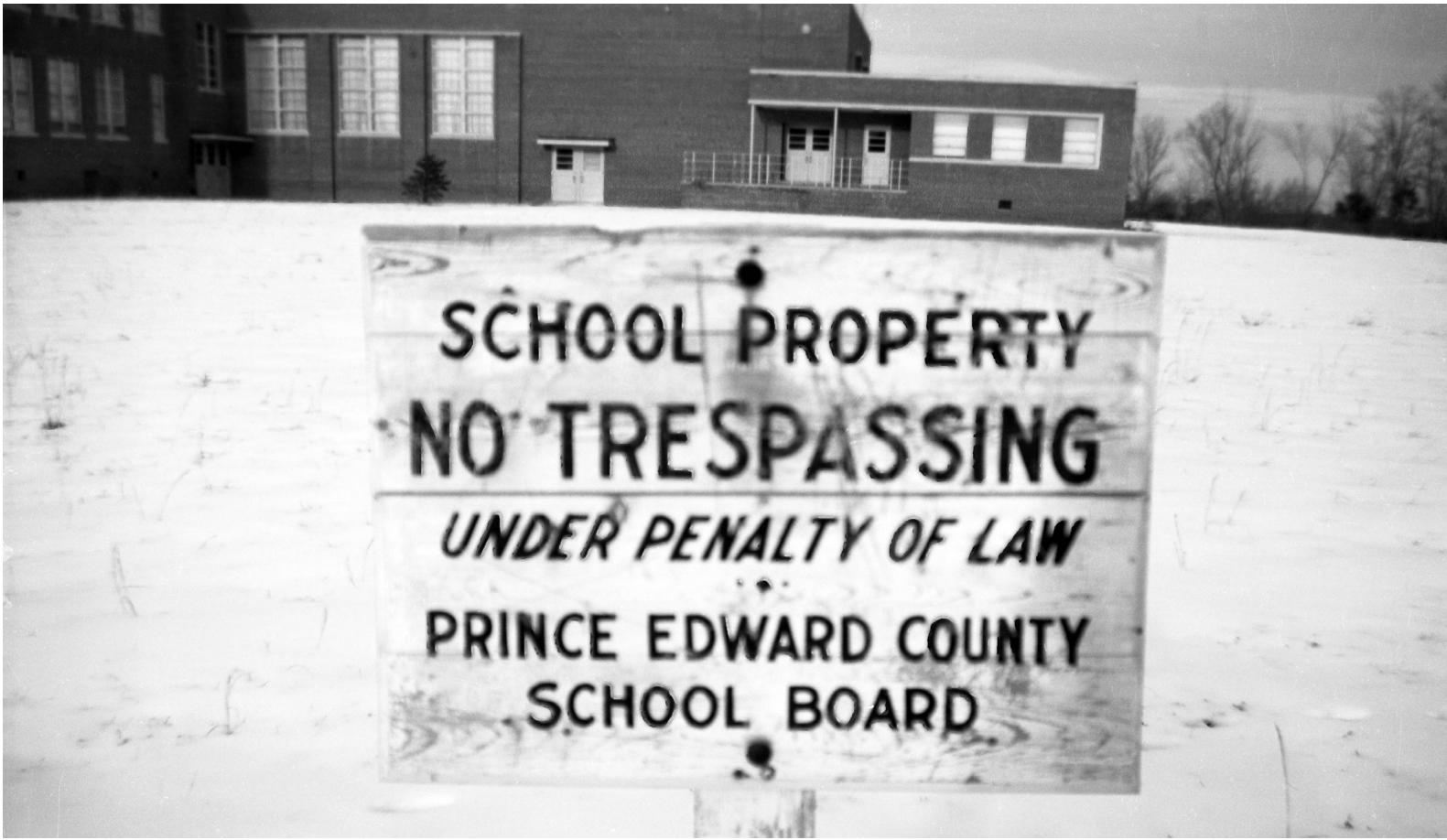
institutions and racism blinded them to seeing that African-Americans were truly a part of Virginia,” Kneebone said. “Richmond city has a record of really messing up on race. We’re doing better.”

With the rise of social media and entities like the Black Lives Matter movement, Kneebone said he hopes the narrative will change.

“VCU is engaged with the city of Richmond. I would like for VCU students to be more engaged with the city,” Kneebone said. “The museums have done exemplary work in trying to connect the city’s history past and present. Our Richmond story has been recognized as telling the larger American story.”



Richmond City Council designated Mt. Zion and the three acres it stands on a “historic district” in 2004.



Many of the plaintiffs in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case came from Robert R. Moton high school.

## Raising a garden for Jackson Ward

**JESSE ADCOCK**  
Spectrum Editor

Jackson Ward resident and VCU employee Jourdan James launched a crusade to privately-fund a community garden and engagement space in Jackson Ward at the intersection of West Jackson St. and Chamberlain Parkway despite facing obstacles.

The Jackson Ward Community Garden Go-FundMe has an overall goal of \$2,700, which would pay for a two year lease on the land, as well as help covering expenses like raised beds, soil, mulch, picnic tables and other utility equipment.

“It’s something I decided I believe in and want to do,” James said. “Hopefully the community supports me.”

According to James, each plot would be rented to local residents, or in the case of someone being unable to pay, plots could be rented in exchange for volunteering hours at the garden.

“I want it to be resource for the community, for the residents that live here that are trying to be green, or learn how to pull in more butterflies around their houses, or take care of bees,” James said. “To teach people about landscaping their own yards.”

Of the 8,000 square foot space, James says she plans for half to be raised beds, with the other half

for to be used for picnic tables, community engagement space and perhaps beehives, James said.

“I kinda figured I had to do it myself to get the ball rolling,” James said.

The minimum goal is \$2,200, for a two year lease. At the time of this publication, the Go-FundMe had raised nearly \$900. James said she plans to make the push to purchase the land before the two year lease is up, to stop the owner from selling or leasing the land.

James said she hopes to be breaking ground on the lot in November.

“When things settle down to get ready for spring,” James said.

Because of lead levels in the soil in Jackson Ward, Richmond Grows Gardens, a program by city administration to promote and create community gardens in Richmond, rejected the proposal for a community garden in Jackson Ward, James said.

“But if you look at the policy – they require raised beds so the lead levels in the soil are irrelevant,” James said.

According to Richmond Grows Gardens policy and guidelines, if the soil conditions require the use of raised beds, then a barrier must be installed to ensure that existing soil does not come in contact with plants or clean soil being used for gardens.

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### Evolution of The Groove

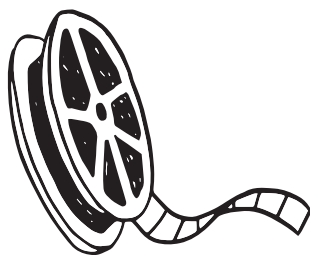
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ILLUSTRATION BY SKYE AU



Sam’s Take:  
The Magnificent  
Seven (2016)

SAMUEL GOODRICH  
Staff Writer

“The Magnificent Seven” had colossal shoes to fill as a remake of the 1960 Western classic of the same name, which was itself a remake of one of the most influential films of all time, “Seven Samurai.” Luckily, director Antoine Fuqua opted to this tired plot into a serviceable action flick that never quite goes beyond that. The film follows a rag tag team of mercenaries who are hired by a homesteader town to defend the community from an evil industrialist who threatens the townspeople’s

lives. Instead of a beat-for-beat recreation of the Western classic, the 2016 version of “The Magnificent Seven” employs enough new ideas to make it its own. The characters are more unique, the villains are capitalists and not just bandits, a diverse cast represents the races present in the American West and many other surprises along the way. The film is also more violent and darkly-comedic than its predecessor, bringing edge to what might’ve otherwise been a wholesome outing. This lends certain deaths and fight scenes extra weight, highlighting the well-shot action with memorable and

shocking moments. Unfortunately, these changes are not enough to make compelling characters. Of the seven cowboys and all the citizens in the town, only four characters are given a meaningful back story. This leaves four underdeveloped heroes and an entire town full of disposable bodies, stealing impact from the final showdown scene. The latter is a shame, as the Magnificent Seven themselves have some fun dialogue full of genuine laughs despite never developing beyond their initial archetypes. With a diverse cast, there was the opportunity to say something about race, yet their inclusion seems more like an afterthought.

“The Magnificent Seven” is a crowd pleasing, modern version of a classic plot, and it works regardless. With great moments sprinkled throughout the otherwise-average two hour runtime, this 2016 remake is perfect for a rental or even a matinee showing, but doesn’t bring enough to the table to be worth more than that.

**Rating: Great for those in a Western mood, or those who want to bond with their Dad.**

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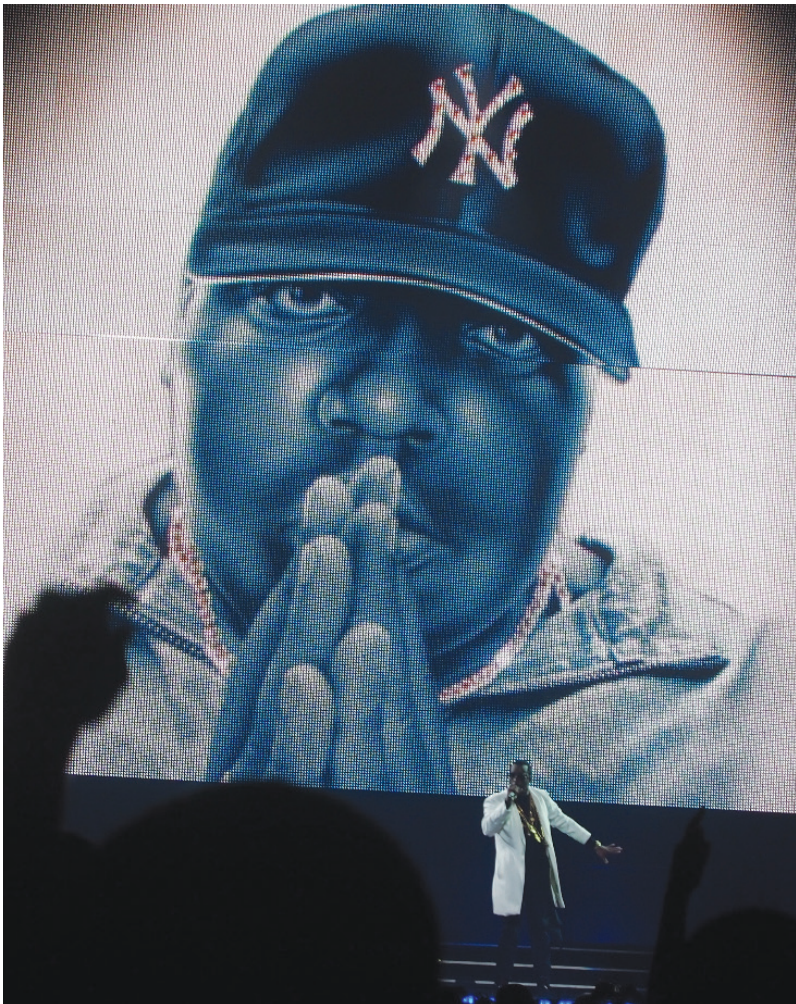
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Rating: For anyone in need of some inspiration and heart warming in their life, or those fascinated by piloting techniques.





The Bad Boy Family has 25 stops across its nation-wide tour.

# Puff Daddy, Bad Boy Family return to where it all started

**SUNDAY BLUE**  
Contributing Writer

With more than 50,000 fans in attendance, the Bad Boy Family Reunion Tour made it's D.C. stop this weekend headlined by founder, hip-hop mogul and entertainer Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs.

The show celebrated the music label's two-decade run of success with its signature artists, featuring Lil' Kim, Mase, 112, Carl Thomas, The LOX, Faith Evans, French Montana and special guest DMX.

During the show, Combs presented Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick a check of \$1,000,000 for scholarships and internships for undergraduate Business majors.

"Going to Howard University changed my life," Combs said. "It made me believe I could do anything."

After opening the show, Mase joined Puff onstage to perform a medley of their "shiny suit" hip-hop era hits such as "Been Around the World" and "Can't Nobody

Hold Me Down."

R&B acts 112 and Total followed, performing their own respective hit ballads like "Cupid" and "Kissin' You." After, Yonkers rap group The LOX rushed the stage and provided energy, performing hip-hop classics like "We Gon Make It."

Taking the show back to R&B, Carl Thomas and Faith Evans both delivered their signature songs during their sets.

"When we first started out, D.C. was one of the first places we came to. D.C. is a special place," Evans said to the sold out crowd.

Soon after, Lil' Kim appeared on stage to a rousing ovation. A crowd favorite, fans in the audience sang her hits "Get Money" and "No Time (Remix)" word for word.

The show commenced with a tribute to the late Biggie Smalls, featuring all of the performers playing a medley of his greatest hits. With images of him and other late musicians on the screen, the show commemorated his memory and celebrated the legacy he helped shape.

Claiming the city as his "second home," the Washington, D.C., Combs was a student

at Howard University before the hit records, multi-million dollar business deals and cable network. After two years at the school, Combs dropped out only to have his big break shortly afterwards.

He was offered an internship at Uptown Records -- an instrumental record label key to the New Jack Swing and R&B movement of the early '90s. When he was promoted to talent director, he would be critical to the success of acts Heavy D, Jodeci and Mary J. Blige.

After being fired from Uptown in 1993, Combs started his own label, Bad Boy Records, making a the then-up and coming rapper Notorious B.I.G the label's first mainstream act. With the success of Biggie's debut album, "Ready to Die" the following year, the label would go onto provide the signature sound of 90's hip-hop and launch Combs' career into superstardom.

Since its inception, the label has sold 400 million albums around the world, 38 of which were certified platinum.

The Bad Boy Family Tour ends next week in Inglewood, CA.

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# America’s Got Trust Issues

## Media is not a morality

SHAUN JACKSON  
Contributing Columnist

As the 2016 presidential election rolls around the corner, the internet has been a pressure-cooker of Facebook posts, news articles and propaganda intended to either build a candidate’s reputation or tear it down. All of it — yes, all of it — is, technically speaking, “the media.”

The question of whether or not “the media” is trustworthy has been cause for debate dating back to 1972 when the Associated Press first surveyed Americans on the topic.

Nearly 45 years later, the results have substantially shifted. With a mere 32 percent of Americans stating they have a “great deal” or “fair amount” of trust in mass media in 2016, what accounts for the other 68 percent?

As the digital age engulfs a seemingly-larger portion of our lives every day, there is no shortage of information at our disposal.

The problem then, is discerning which of these readily-accessible-and-abundant sources can be deemed credible. The lump sum of “news” sources too often vehemently discredited the meticulous work of in-depth and accurate journalism grounded in reporting factual information and the code of ethics each reporter is expected to maintain.

Al Jazeera, for example, reports stories from a different angle than, say, Fox News. Fox News, in turn, reports stories with exponential difference to that of The New York Times or The Washington Post.

Aside from each individual news outlets’ lens, audience and scope — it is important to remember that each organization is comprised of hundreds of thousands of individual people, each maintaining their own deeply-entrenched and intrinsic personal biases.

Perhaps one of the first tell-tale signs of a “good” journalist is their ability to measure and mitigate their own approaches and attitudes to any given issue. It is only human to have a perspective on an issue. In fact, this is the crux of critical thinking; critical thinking and questioning is what makes good journalism.

To add fuel to the fire, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat have begun to include reporting in their services — hence causing the line between credible and intrinsically-



biased outlets to blur further.

In other words, the burden of responsibility in discerning what is or is not factual, accurate or biased information falls upon the shoulders of the consumer. Do not only ingest what you want to hear or read what you already believe.

What is more important is understanding who owns which company. Who puts checks in the staff’s pockets? Is a headline significant because it’s click-bait or because it’s real news? Are you reading hard news or an op-ed? (This is an op-ed, for the record.) And, perhaps most importantly, are you absorbing fact or fiction? The Onion is “media,” too — but you can’t tell me in good conscience that The Onion is the same as The Atlantic.

While many news and media outlets report with the intent to sell you a certain perspective, it must not be forgotten that there are still legitimate sources devoted to journalistic integrity.

The bottom line is individuals must consciously seek out non-partisan news outlets focused on delivering information as opposed to pushing an ulterior motive. We must not forget that journalism is not quite yet an anachronism of the past.

So all-in-all: “Can the media be trusted?” is a pretty big question to tackle in and of itself. But we can start by reading in between the lines, finding sources that we trust and having a glimmer of hope that maybe, just maybe ... not everything can be bought.



# Millennials — it’s time to start running

— continued from page 1

Running for office simply does not appeal to many young people raised in the United States in the past two decades, and quite frankly, you can’t blame them.

Between the hanging chads of the 2000 Gore/Bush election and the multitude of filibusters during the Obama Administration, it’s unsurprising that millennials find the American political system to be ineffective and chaotic.

According to a survey conducted by the nonprofit public policy organization Brookings Institution, “the overwhelming majority of 13 to 25-year-olds view the political system as ineffective, broken and downright nasty.”

The Brookings Institution attributes this to “having come of age in a political context characterized by hyper-partisanship, gridlock, stalemate and scandal.”

Although these statements were made in regard to federal government, similar mindsets trickle down to state and local government. A lack of encouragement and sense of efficacy has led many young people to overlook the possibility of running for city office.

With the required age to run for election in the city of Richmond set at 18, hesitancy can be expected from those considering voting for a candidate on the younger side. Older voters are likely to be skeptical of millennial candidates’ young age and assumed lack of experience — but the catch 22 is the

older generation is simultaneously most likely to vote in local elections.

It is no secret that younger voters don’t have a great track record for participating in local elections. According to a study conducted by Portland State University in 2015, voters older than 65 are 10 to 20 times more likely to cast a ballot in a local election than people aged 18 to 34.

Success in local elections for candidates 18 to 35 years in age may depend on a younger voter turnout. An increase in millennial participation in local elections is necessary for millennial candidates to be elected to office. For this increase in voter turnout to occur, high schools may need to shift their focus towards politics.

Politics is typically not considered a core subject like math, science, and English — but perhaps it should be. The Brookings Institution has proposed making “political aptitude a part of the college admission process” through incorporation in testing such as the SAT, ACT or an additional exam.

Introduction and heightened exposure to politics throughout high school years may serve as encouragement for younger people to participate in elections and potentially run for office when they come of age.

“We found that young people with more exposure to politics — at home, at school, with their friends, and through the media — are far more likely to be interested in running for office,” the Brookings

Institution stated.

Although exposure may not necessarily change their perspective on the ineffective nature of the American political system, the Brookings Institution believes that it would further expose the younger population to the positive side of U.S. government.

“Sure, they see the same negative aspects of contemporary politics as everyone else. But they also see some examples of politicians behaving well, elected officials solving problems, and earnest, well-meaning candidates aspiring to improve their communities.”

Adopting politics into college admissions may be the key to increasing younger voter turnout, and in turn, encouraging millennials to run for office.

With this in mind, the 2016 election year is already looking up for Richmond’s younger generation.

Between the Richmond City Council and School Board, 18 of the 58 candidates in this year’s election are under the age of 35. Despite constituting for only around 30 percent of the candidate pool, this is the largest number of millennial candidates running for office in the history of the city’s government. Although considering a candidacy might be a stretch for most of us still in school — the quiet power of voting, and educating those around us, is significant.

# ACC Football Relocates Conference Over Gender-Neutral Bathroom Laws

ALEXIS BAINES  
Contributing Columnist

North Carolina recently enacted a law, HB2, requiring transgender individuals to use the restroom that corresponds with the sex listed on their birth certificate, regardless of the gender they identify with.

After months of backlash from the public and national media attention, the Atlantic Coast Conference is now taking a side on the issue, too.

North Carolina lawmakers claim HB2 was enacted to protect women from predators who gain access to women’s restrooms by pretending to be transgender; an unjust comparison between transgender individuals and predators.

Supporters of the law have attempted to draw a correlation between gender-neutral bathrooms and an increase in crime — another correlation lacking the necessary evidence to support such a claim.

Not only are these supporting arguments erroneous, but the exact opposite appears to be true. Multiple incidents of sexual assault committed against transgender individuals in public restrooms have been reported across the country.

In response, the ACC said the league intends to relocate the championships in response to the bathroom law and on the basis of upholding the values of equality, diversity, inclusion and non-discrimination, according to a statement from the ACC Council of Presidents.

“We believe North Carolina House Bill 2 is inconsistent with these values,

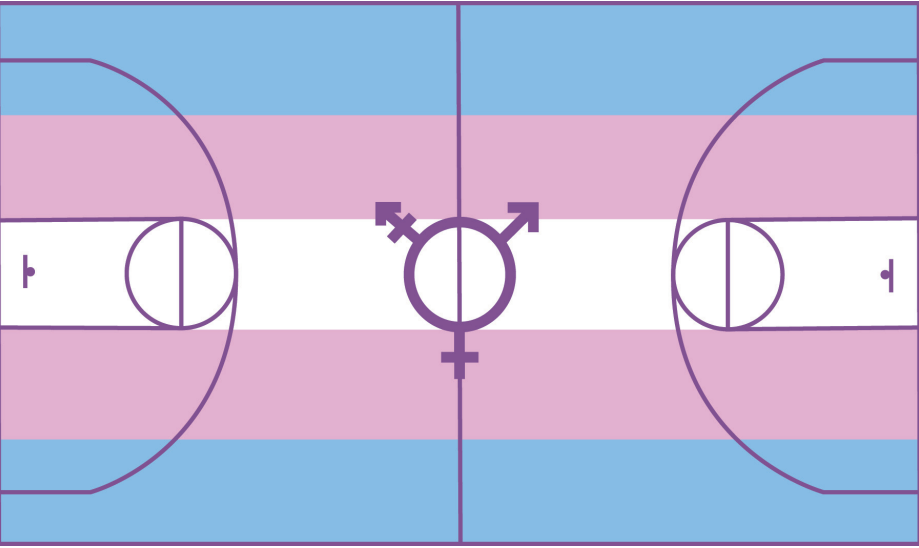
and as a result, we will relocate all neutral site championships for the 2016-17 academic year,” the statement reads.

The ACC’s decision was certainly a significant step in the right direction, considering the decision was likely to spur disagreement from sports fans.

It is important for institutions like the ACC to continue withdrawing support from damning legislation that hinders and discriminates against minorities. Sports have historically been a cornerstone in American civil-society, and the support of such a big name is no small achievement.

“The ACC’s decision was certainly a significant step in the right direction, considering the decision was likely to spur disagreement from sports fans.”

Alexis Baines

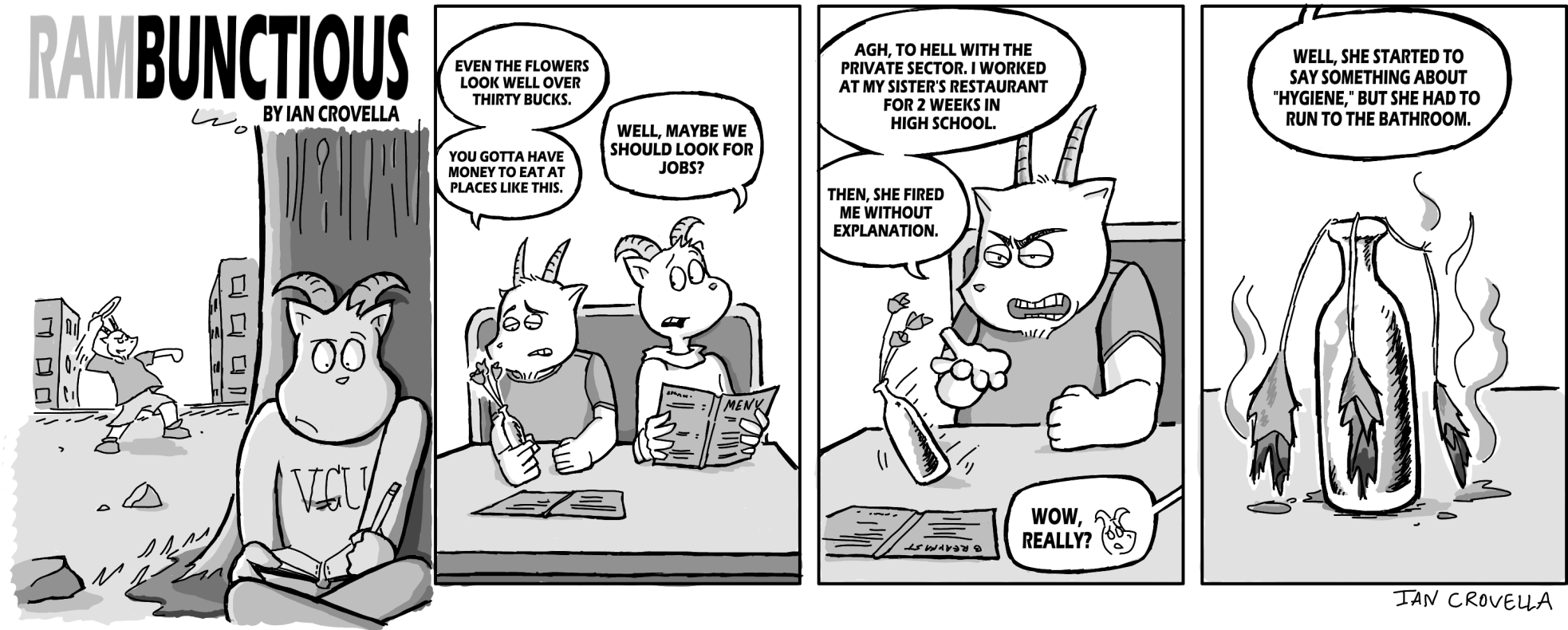




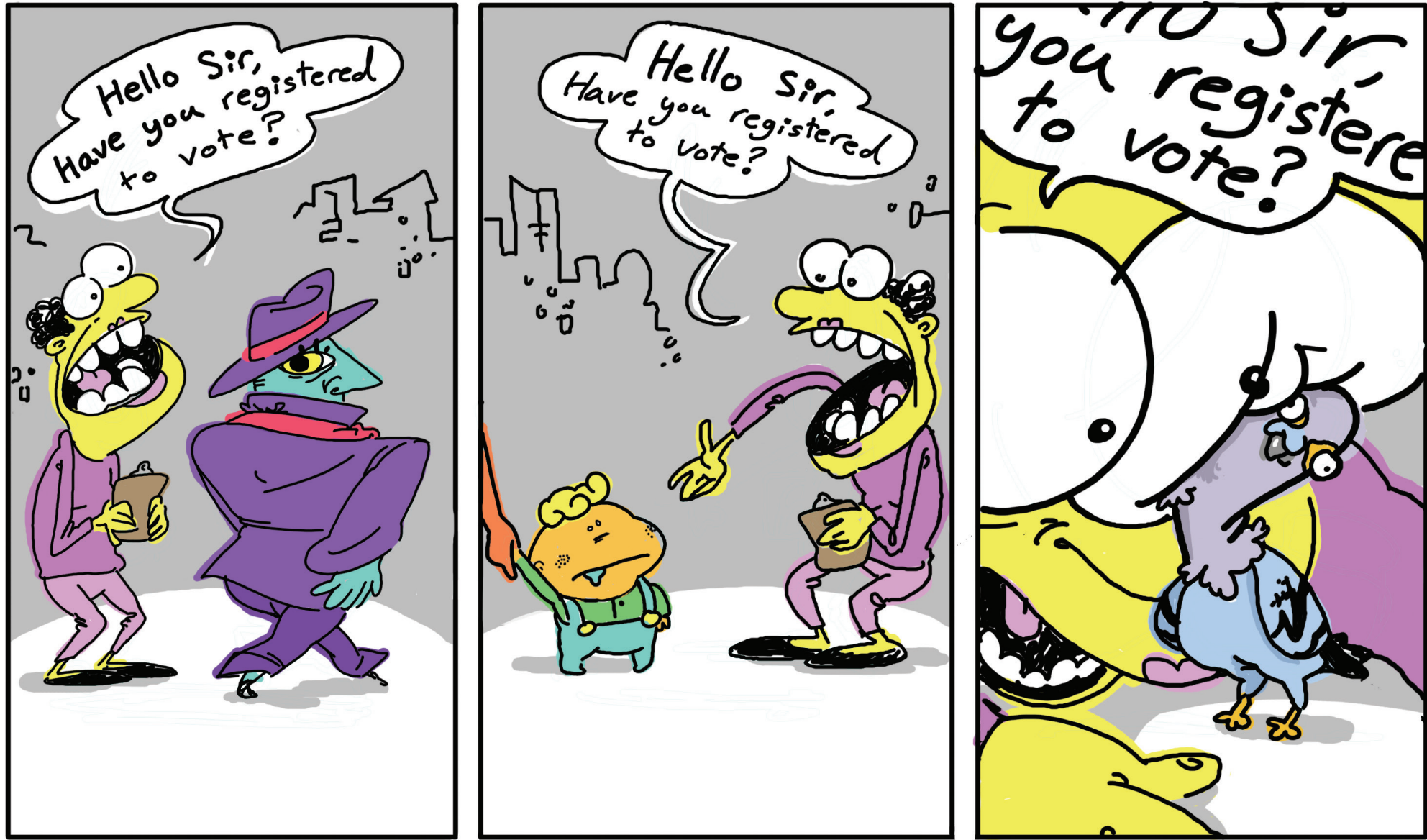
Bus Stop Blues by Jacque Chandler



Rambunctious by Ian Crovella



Hello Sir by Gareth Bental



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