

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The VCU vote for School Board, City Council counts too

2nd DISTRICT



Charlie Diradour
City Council



Kim Gray
City Council



Scott Barlow
School Board

5th DISTRICT



Garrett Sawyer
City Council



Rebecca Keel
City Council



Montague Macgruder
City Council



Parker Agilasto
City Council



Mariah White
School Board



Mamie Taylor
School Board



Patrick Sapini
School Board

FADEL ALLASSAN News Editor
HANNAH PARKER Contributing Writer
MARY LEE CLARK Staff Writer

City Council: District 2

With a week until the Nov. 8 election, the second district City Council candidates Rebecca Keel, Kim Gray and Charlie Diradour are making final efforts to get their names and messages out to voters.

Keel, who recently finished graduate school at VCU, was treasurer of Students for Sensible Drug Policy and lobbied in the General Assembly for drug reform which helped pass the Good Samaritan Policy, which protects people who seek medical attention as a result of illegal activity.

Keel said she hopes to change the narrative of who can run in -- and win -- elections. She hopes her run will inspire other millennials to pursue public positions as well.

Gray is also a VCU graduate. She started her career in public service working in the Head Start Program, then in the Warner administration. She has also worked as a rehabilitation counselor.

"I can be trusted to do the job, I am very transparent and accountable," Gray said. "I am accessible to the community that I serve."

Diradour currently serves on the state commission on small business, he previously served on the Board of the Virginia Senate of Inclusive Community and was a staffer for Vice President Al Gore.

"The slogan we are connecting with the most is the city government is hindering progress of artists and small businesses," Diradour said. "We need to get budget under control, know where it is and how to find it. People are concerned about core city services and that is what I'm talking about."

—continued on page 3

Morrissey battles new scandal days before election

SARAH KING
Executive Editor

A little more than a week ahead of the vote for mayor, the Richmond Times-Dispatch broke news of an alleged sexting scandal ensnaring the current front-runner, former delegate Joe Morrissey.

On Saturday, Morrissey's lawyer gave the Times-Dispatch the opportunity to retract the statement that he made sexual advances towards a potential client.

The article in question published Friday after a Henrico County judge allowed a woman, formerly represented by Morrissey's law firm, to withdraw a guilty plea on Thursday. Kanika Shani Morris, 35, was released from jail after serving only two weeks of her 90-day sentence, amid allegations Morrissey pressured her for sex.

Morris told the Times-Dispatch she retained Morrissey in February for what she recognized was a reduced rate on the retainer. Shortly after agreeing on a rate, Morris said Morrissey stood between her and the closed door of his office and asked her to touch his genitals. When she refused, Morrissey allegedly asked her to send photos instead.

Morris supplied the Times-Dispatch with text messages from Morrissey that corroborate her account of him repeatedly asking for explicit photos. When she repeatedly refused or ignored him, Morris said Morrissey handed her case to another attorney in his law firm without her knowledge.

Morris was facing a felony for allegedly failing to return a rental car, and told the Times-Dispatch Thursday night, hours after her release from jail, she was not confident a public defender would take her case seriously.

The new attorney allegedly told Morris she was not paying enough for Morrissey to represent her at the jury trial she requested and Morris said she was informed she would instead take a guilty plea to reduce her charge to a misdemeanor.

According to a transcript of Morris' sentencing earlier this month, the seven-months-pregnant defendant cried throughout the hearing.

—continued on page 4

Spectrum

Billie Jean King on LGBTQ identity: be authentic



“Tonight I want to talk to you about the importance of history in our lives. The more you know about history, the more you know about yourselves.”
Billie Jean King

Openly-gay former World tennis champion Billie Jean King spoke at the Siegel Center.

MAURA MAZUROWSKI
Online Editor

The seats of the Siegel Center were filled with students anxiously waiting for renowned tennis icon Billie Jean King to take the podium last Thursday night.

King came to Richmond to discuss her work for gender equality in part of the Humanities Research Center's Fall Speakers Series, "Celebrating Forty Years of LGBTQ Activism at VCU."

"Tonight I want to talk to you about the importance of history in our lives," King said. "The more you know about history, the more you know about yourselves."

The openly gay and former World No. 1 tennis star has long been a champion for social justice and equality, too. King created new inroads for both women and men in and out of sports throughout her legendary career.

Richard Godbeer, director of the Humanities Research Center, said this month marks the anniversary of a two-year legal victory for VCU students who fought for recognition at the university as the first LGBTQ organization.

"It was a broader narrative of gay students fighting for their lives," Godbeer said. "While it was an important milestone...We need to remember that our journey is not yet complete."

—continued on page 10

Board of Health vote reduces abortion clinic regulations

HANNAH PARKER
Contributing Writer

The Virginia Board of Health voted last Monday to repeal regulations creating barriers to women accessing services at abortion clinics.

In an 11-4 ruling, the board implemented more than a dozen regulatory changes, but the most significant amendment was to the infrastructure standards.

"(The regulations) were regarded as being discriminatory to prevent abortion clinics from opening in Virginia," said Board of Health member Mary Margaret Whipple. "Since (regulations were implemented) clinic's numbers have gone from 20 to 14."

According to Whipple, some of the regulations included design and architecture of buildings, where clinics were located, specific requirements for width of hallways, room design and specific placement of hand washing stations and water fountains.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt and decided certain regulations in Texas placed an "undue burden" on women trying to access abortion services.

This precedent came into play when deciding on the regulatory standards in Virginia, according to Joseph Hilbert, the director of governmental and regulatory affairs at the Virginia Department of Health.

"During the meeting the board heard from legal counsel office of Attorney General, who briefed them on the recent Supreme Court decision," Hilbert said.

—continued on page 4

Sports

New-look Rams gear up for the season



Women's basketball welcomes senior-standout transfer Mooriah Rowser in the wake of Adaeze Alaeze graduating in May.

NICK VERSAW
Contributing Writer

VCU women's basketball is set to start their 2016-17 campaign after finishing fifth in the Atlantic 10 conference.

The women had a 23-10 run last season and landed a spot in the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

This season, the rams — who were picked to once again finish fifth in the A-10 AP Preseason Coaches Poll — return 10 letterwinners and welcome four new freshmen,

as well as senior-standout transfer Mooriah Rowser.

Rowser joined the team after graduating from the University of Memphis in May. The Rockville, Maryland native, who was tabbed as the no. 38 recruit out of high school in 2012 by ESPN, provides the team with a solid veteran scoring option after senior Adaeze Alaeze graduated last season and now plays professionally in Spain.

Rams third-year head coach Beth O'Boyle said she hopes Rowser can provide a scoring spark in Alaeze's absence.

"We are very excited to welcome Mooriah

into the VCU family," O'Boyle said. "(She) is an experienced, hardworking and talented player. Her toughness, athleticism, and ability to score in a variety of ways will be a great fit into our up-tempo style of play."

Rowser appeared in 95 games during her Memphis career while averaging more than 11 points per game and 44 percent shooting from the field.

Over the course of her four years as a Tiger, Rowser earned several accolades after putting up double-digit scoring 16 times in her collegiate career.

—continued on page 7



In this section:
Right-to-Work. Mayoral endorsements.
CoStar. Unemployment rate. Abortion
clinic regulations.

CRIME LOG

(All data obtained from the VCU PD daily incident log)

10/24/2016
Simple Assault
B800 W. Grace St. Exceptionally Cleared

Theft From Building School of Engineering
601 W. Main St. Unfounded

Peeping Tom
1030 W. Franklin St. Pending

Stalking/All other Offenses
301 W. Main St. Pending

Fraud - Credit Card
1015 Floyd Ave. Pending

10/25/2016
Hit and Run
1 N. Harvie St. Reported by Outside Agency

Theft From Building/Fraud - Credit Card
Brandt Residence Hall
710 W. Franklin St. Pending

Destruction of Property - Private
W. Main St. Deck 801 W. Main St. Pending

Harassment
511 N. Harrison St. Pending

Destruction of Property - Private
1100 W. Broad St. Pending

Obscene/Threatening Phone Calls
404 W. Broad St. Reported by Outside Agency

10/26/2016
Threats of Bodily Harm
B700 W. Broad St. Pending

Harassment
7-11 1101 W. Main St. Pending

Fraud - Impersonation
Hibbs Hall 900 Park Ave. Pending

Fraud - Credit Card
1500 W. Broad St. Reported by Outside Agency

10/27/2016
Sexual Assault
W. Clay St. Reported by Outside Agency

10/28/2016
Simple Assault/Drunkenness
904 Catherine St. Pending

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.

ELECTION 2016

Know what you’re checking off

MAURA MAZUROWSKI
Online Editor

Virginians will have more than just their next president to consider when heading to the ballots next Tuesday.

On Nov. 8, Virginia residents will vote on a proposed amendment that would put the provisions of Virginia’s right-to-work law into the state constitution.

The right-to-work law gives employees the right to work without being required or compelled to join a union. Virginia has had a right-to-work law since 1947; however it is not listed as one in the state Constitution.

A vote in favor of the amendment supports adding a section to the Virginia Constitution that would make it illegal for workplaces to require mandatory labor union membership for workers as a condition of employment. A vote against the measure supports maintaining the right-to-work law in state statutes, however it opposes adding this section to the state Constitution

Supporters of the proposed amendment, which the General Assembly passed in a party-line vote, are seeking to add right-to-work regulations to the Virginia Constitution to prevent future lawmakers from undoing the state’s current right-to-work status.

A constitutional prohibition can only be changed by a future constitutional amendment approved by the voters. For this rectification to be passed, it would have to go through the legislature in two separate years and then be approved by the voters in a referendum.

“The right to work, just like the right to life, liberty and the pur-



PHOTO BY JULIE TRIPP

Virginians will choose whether to add Right-to-Work status to the state constitution.

suit of happiness, is fundamental, and it deserves constitutional protection,” said Del. Dickie Bell (R-Staunton), a sponsor of the proposed amendment, in a statement.

In addition to Bell, the proposed amendment is sponsored by Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-Harrisonburg), as well as the Virginia Chamber and the National Federation of Independent Business.

John Rackoski, Vice President of Communications of the College Republicans at VCU, said he supports this initiative because under Virginia’s laws “workers still have the right to join a union if they wish”.

“But no one can be compelled to do so against their will, which is in keeping with the principles of the

free-market,” Rackoski said. “And in states without right-to-work legislation on the books, many workers find their own money being given to politicians and organizations that they do not support.”

On the other hand, some political groups are against the proposed amendment. Bill Farrar, the Director of Public Policy & Communications of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, said this proposed amendment is an “ill-advised ballot measure”.

“Virginia is already a right-to-work state, and incorporating that into the state constitution would only serve to shut down any future public conversation about policy and law,” Farrar said.

All in all, the proposed amendment seems to be more heavily pushed from the right-wing.

“This is a political maneuver in an election year, an attempt by my Republican colleagues, backed by special corporate interests, to weaken the rights of hardworking Virginians,” said state senator Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax) in a statement.

The Department of Planning and Budget found the amendment would not fiscally impact the Department of Labor and Industry. According to state law, the State Board of Elections is required to prepare written announcements and advertisement to provide public notice regarding constitutional amendments on the ballot. Therefore, this pro-

posed amendment would total to an estimated one-time cost of \$131,158 for public announcements, according to Ballotpedia.

During the state Senate debate on the measure in February 2016, Virginia democrats said the right-to-work law is well and alive. Senate Minority Leader Richard Saslaw (D-Fairfax) said in his 41 years, “nobody has ever put in a bill to repeal the right to work”.

In addition to the proposed right-to-work amendment, a second constitutional amendment will be on the Virginia ballot next month meant to aid the families of first responders killed in the line of duty.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Commonwealth of Virginia
City of Richmond
General and Special Elections
Tuesday, November 8, 2016

President and Vice President (vote for only one)

- ☐ **Democratic Party**
Electors for
Hillary Clinton, President
Tim Kaine, Vice President
- ☐ **Republican Party**
Electors for
Donald J. Trump President
Michael R. Pence, Vice President
- ☐ **Libertarian Party**
Electors for
Gary Johnson, President
Bill Weld, Vice President
- ☐ **Green Party**
Electors for
Jill Stein, President
Ajamu Baraka, Vice President
- ☐ **Indepedent**
Electors for
Evan McMullin, President
Nathan Johnson, Vice President

☐ _____

Member House of Representatives 4th District (vote for only one)

- ☐ **Democratic Party**
A. Donald McEachin
- ☐ **Republican Party**
Michael L. “Mike” Wade
- ☐ _____

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Question 1
Should Article I of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to prohibit any agreement or combination between an employer and a labor union or labor organization whereby (i) nonmembers of the union or organization are denied the right to work for the employer, (ii) membership to the union or organization is made a condition of employment or continuation of employment by such employer, or (iii) the union or organization acquires an employment monopoly in any such enterprise?
☐ **Y**
☐ **N**

Mayor (vote for only one)

- ☐ Jon T. Baliles
- ☐ John F. “Jack” Berry
- ☐ Bobby A. “BJ” Junes
- ☐ Joseph D. Morrissey
- ☐ Michelle R. Mosby
- ☐ Levar M. Stoney
- ☐ Bruce W. Tyler
- ☐ Lawrence E. Williams
- ☐ _____

Member of City Council District 2

- ☐ A.S. “Charlie” Diradour
- ☐ Kimberly B. Gray
- ☐ Rebecca “K.W.” Keel
- ☐ _____

Member of School Board District 2

- ☐ Mariah L. White
- ☐ J. Scott Barlow
- ☐ _____

Question 2
Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to provide an option to the localities to exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any law-enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel who was killed in the line of duty, where the surviving spouse occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence and has not remarried?

- ☐ **Y**
- ☐ **N**

Member of City Council District 5

- ☐ Parker C. Agelasto
- ☐ Montigue T. Magruder
- ☐ Garrett L. Sawyer
- ☐ _____

Member of School Board District 5

- ☐ Patrick M. Sapini
- ☐ Mamie L. Taylor
- ☐ _____

Meet the city council, school board candidates

—continued from page 1

Gray has received endorsements from The Richmond City Democratic Committee, the Richmond Education Association and the current second district seat holder, Charles Samuels, who is not running for reelection.

Diradour has received his own endorsements from the Richmond Coalition of Police, the Richmond Professional Firefighters Association, the Richmond Association of Realtors, the Home Builders Association of Richmond and The Richmond Crusade for Voters.

“The biggest endorsement one can receive is a vote on Nov. 8,” Diradour said.

City Council: District 5

Fifth district City Councilman Parker Agelasto faces competition from Garrett Sawyer and Montague McGruder in his bid for reelection next week.

The incumbent moved to Richmond during his college years when he attended University of Richmond and began working at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts afterward.

He serves as the Vice-Chair of the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee, Member of the Education and Human Services Standing Committee, Member of the Organization Development Standing Committee, and Alternate of the Public Safety Standing Committee.

His opponent, Sawyer, is a lifelong Richmond resident. He said he has always been active in the city’s political scene, either canvassing for other politician sor attending city council meetings.

His slogan “Move the fifth forward,” represents his pride of his city and how far it has come, yet disappointment in the city’s government dysfunction.

Like Sawyer, McGruder is a Richmond-native. He graduated from Armstrong High School in 2006 and has been a member of the GRTC and Transit Study Task Force and the General Executive Board of the Industrial Workers of the World.

He said his interest in local politics spurred from a 2010 City Council proposal to raise the GRTC fare, which he openly opposed.

Magruder has been endorsed by the Richmond Green Party.

Agelasto; the Richmond Education Association, Richmond Association of Realtors, Richmond City Democratic Committee, Richmond Coalition of Police, Richmond Firefighters Association IAFF Local 995 Chapter and the Central Virginia Labor Federation.

Sawyer is endorsed by the Richmond Crusade for

Voters, Homeowners Association of Richmond and the Greater Richmond Regional Democratic Coalition PAC.

School Board: District 2

For the second district school board candidates, a seat on the board has personal stakes.

Scott Barlow comes from a long line of teachers. He is the son, grandson, nephew, and great-grandson of teachers. At 28 years old, Barlow is among the youngest candidates seeking office in the River City this year.

He said his message is based on “belief that every child, no matter their neighborhood, background, or experiences deserves access to a quality education.”

The Drexel Law School graduate has been endorsed by the Richmond City Democratic Committee and the Richmond Educators Association, an endorsement which he said he holds in high regard because “Richmond’s teachers have an intimate understanding of the issues facing our students in the classroom every day.”

Barlow said his endorsements show he is the candidate best equipped to represent his district in the school board.

These endorsements don’t faze his opponent, Mariah White, who attended Richmond Public Schools and now has two sons doing the same.

She said Barlow only received the RCDC endorsement because of his position with the young democrats.

“My opponent is new to Richmond. He just became a registered voter in October 2015,” White stated in an email, “so I feel he does not know the Richmond Public schools or culture.”

She instead touts her endorsements from the Richmond Crusade of Voters, the oldest black voter advocacy organization in the city.

The retired army major has been a Carver Promise Mentor at George Washington Carver Elementary for seven years and has volunteered for Richmond Public Schools since 1994. She is also involved in the policy council and parent committee of the Head Start Program, which provides services to low-income pregnant moms.

“For the past seven years, I have fought for change within Richmond Public schools, demanding equal opportunity for ALL children,” White stated. “I have advocated for better teacher pay, better facilities, Special Education requirements, nurses, and buses.”

School Board: District 5

Mamie Taylor, who represents Richmond’s 5th district in the school board, is facing a challenge this year

from podiatrist Patrick Sapini.

Sapini is a resident of the 5th District and has lived in the Randolph Community for the past seven years. As a father with four school-age children, Sapini is active in his community. Among other volunteer activities, Sapini serves as a PTA’s Parent volunteer at Clark Springs, John B. Cary and Linwood Holton elementary schools and is a board member for the Wyatt T. Walker Education Foundation.

In September, Sapini was endorsed by the RCDC, the Richmond Education Association and the Richmond Association of Realtors, endorsements which he said will give him an “edge” in the race.

“These endorsement says that my campaign is credible, my candidacy is being accepted and that my message is resonating with the voters,” Sapini stated. “I still have to do my part and reach each and every voter.”

Taylor, who just served her first term in the school board, has received her own endorsement by the Richmond Crusade of Voters.

“I am very appreciative of the Crusade for Voters endorsement that I have received,” Taylor said. “However, the people in the 5th District have the ultimate say as to who represents them, and their collective voice is the affect on this race that truly matters.”

Taylor is a teacher at Richmond Community and Huguenot High schools. She said that she can give voice to members of her district.

“Everyone has a role to play in making our schools great, and voters should remember that the power is in the hands of the people,” Taylor said. “Elected Officials work for you, and as a result, they should vote for the individual who will give them an ear and a voice - speaking on their behalf - and that is me.”

“We need to get budget under control, know where it is and how to find it. People are concerned about core city services and that is what I’m talking about.”

Charlie Diradour

Morrissey faces scandal days before mayoral vote



PHOTO BY AL JONES

—continued from page 1

Morris told the Times-Dispatch she has a son with a chronic medical condition and could not afford a three month jail sentence in the final weeks of her current pregnancy.

On Friday, Morrissey released a statement in response to the Times-Dispatch article, stating the allegations set forth are “absolutely false.”

“I did not handle (Morris’) guilty plea,” reads the statement, “The two lawyers who represented Ms. Morris will confirm that her allegations are specious.”

Morrissey held a subsequent press conference at his home Friday evening while standing before reporters with his wife, Myrna. Again, Morrissey denied the Times-Dispatch’s story and said a female attorney in his law office, Catherine Mullins, was present during the entire initial February meeting with Morris.

To back his account, Morrissey provided an email from Mullins dated Oct. 28 which reads, “To my recollection, I was with her the entire time and she was never alone in Joe’s office. She told me she knew Joe previously from his work with his group home.”

At the time of the alleged February encounter, Morrissey was less than three months engaged to Myrna, who was pregnant with the couple’s second child.

While Morrissey refuted at any point being alone or “otherwise intimate,” with Morris, he did acknowledge sending “flirtatious” texts.

“And while I don’t recall the exact texts, I don’t deny them at all,” Morrissey said during the Friday press conference. “What I do deny is ever, ever having any contact with her outside of my office after that first day with the exception (of) a preliminary hearing in June.”

Shortly after this, Myrna asked the media present in her foyer to leave, repeating several times that her husband had answered all the questions he needed to.

“I nicely asked you guys to stop the questioning, and to stop your video and to please exit my home,” Myrna said when her husband and reporters ignored her initial request. “I can’t ask you guys any nicer. Please.”

Morrissey said he will not be withdrawing his candidacy for mayor in light of the new allegations. Henrico Commonwealth’s Attorney Shannon Taylor is investigating the case while Morrissey campaigns for the mayoral bid on Nov. 8.

According to the most recent poll, conducted by ChamberRVA in preparation for the only televised debate earlier this month, Morrissey is leading in six of Richmond’s nine districts.

“My husband, Joe Morrissey, is seeking to be Richmond’s next mayor,” Myrna Morrissey wrote in a September email statement to local news outlets. “Tired of seeing so many people ignored in parts of our city, Joe wants to fight for those in every Ward, doing everything from fixing potholes to overhauling our schools — be they off of Hull or Cary Street.”

Myrna, who is 20-years-old, has been adamant about maintaining her agency throughout she and her husband’s publicity-riddled relationship. She is currently a full-time student at J. Sargeant Reynolds.

“Can you imagine picking up the Richmond Times-Dispatch and seeing Jeff (Schapiro) describe you as an ‘alleged sexting partner-turned-wife and the mother of two of his five children by four women?’” Myrna wrote in her letter to local outlets. “Another Richmond Times-Dispatch reporter referred to me as the woman ‘also known as his wife.’ That was most hurtful.”

In 2014, Morrissey entered into an Alford Plea after prosecutors charged him with delinquency of a minor in connection with his now-wife who was then a 17-year-old receptionist at his law firm. Morrissey spent 17 months in jail and won his General Assembly seat while serving time.

Flurry of endorsements in mayoral race



PHOTO BY JULIE TRIPP

(L to R) Mayoral candidates Levar Stoney, Jack Berry and Joe Morrissey.

JIM THOMMA Contributing Writer

Former state delegate and Richmond mayoral candidate Joe Morrissey announced an endorsement at a press conference Thursday from 75 “hardworking women of this city,” which he described as his “most valued endorsement of the campaign.”

Morrissey also announced endorsements from former state NAACP director King Salim Khalfani and former City Councilman E. Martin Jewell following endorsements by his rivals former Secretary of the Commonwealth Levar Stoney and former Venture Richmond executive Jack Berry.

“In contrast to my opponents,” said Morrissey, “I stand today with the women of Richmond, who my opponents overlooked.”

Jack Berry, who was in second second to Morrissey in a ChamberRVA poll released Oct. 15, received endorsements last week from the Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial board and former City Councilman Chuck Richardson.

Richardson represented the 5th voter district from 1977 to 1995, when a felony conviction of distribution of heroin barred him from holding office.

Levar Stoney, who placed a close third in the same poll, announced endorsements last Tuesday from former Richmond mMayors Henry Marsh and Rudy McCollum.

“Levar Stoney is the only candidate,” said McCollum at a press conference, “who has the ability to unite our citizens, take our city to the next level and ensure a better future for our children.”

Marsh added “(Stoney’s) aspirational vision, broad appeal, and commitment to Richmond

families will make him an exceptional mayor and dynamic leader.”

Henry Marsh was the first-ever African American mayor of Richmond, and served in the General Assembly from 1992 to 2014.

Morrissey dismissed his opponents’ recent endorsements as being from “male politicians flaunting their government titles.”

Morrissey clarified that he didn’t presume to have support from all Richmond women — just the 75, including six women flanking him at the press conference, who later came up to explain why they support him.

Richardson held a press conference earlier in the month to denounce the Richmond Crusade for Voters, the city’s oldest black voter advocacy group—of which Richardson is a member—for its decision to endorse Morrissey for mayor.

The group’s president told the Richmond Times-Dispatch Morrissey secured 18 votes to second-place Berry’s 10.

“Chuck is entitled to his opinion,” Morrissey told the Times-Dispatch, “but I’m very pleased to have (the Crusade’s) endorsement. I think it’s very significant when you get more votes than all the other candidates combined.”

Stoney received 4four votes and former mayoral hopeful Bruce Tyler received 1one vote. Five members did not cast ballots.

Rudy McCollum won election to the 5th city council district seat after Richardson in 1996, and became the last council-appointed mayor in 2001, before the city adopted a mayor-at-large system in 2004 where candidates are elected by popular vote. McCollum ran for re-election under the new

system and lost by a nearly 60-point margin to former Va. Governor L. Douglas Wilder.

Wilder hinted at endorsing a mayoral candidate while appearing at an Oct. 20 district meeting to voice his support for 8th district Councilwoman Reva Trammell’s re-election bid.

“I plan to write something for the RTD that will probably be out in a week or so relative to my positions on the endorsements related to mayor,” said Wilder.

An endorsement from Wilder might help swing the nearly 40% of likely voters who are still undecided, according to the ChamberRVA poll. He won the 2004 mayoral race with 79% percent of the popular vote.

“Levar Stoney is the only candidate who has the ability to unite our citizens, take our city to the next level and ensure a better future for our children.”

Rudy McCollum

Vote reduces abortion clinic regulations



The Virginia Board of Health voted 11-4 to reduce or eliminate more than a dozen regulations on abortion clinics last week.

—continued from page 1

Hilbert said the final amendments to the regulations will not take effect until the completion of a review of the Office of Attorney General, Department of Planning and Budget, Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Governor.

“If the Governor approves the final amendment, it will be published in the VA Register of Regulations,” Hilbert said. “They have a 30 day adoption period until they take effect.”

The regulations initially took effect in 2011 when Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell signed them into law.

“I do not believe these regulations should have been rescinded,” said John Rackoski, vice president of communications for the College Republicans at VCU. “I do not believe they were unreasonable given the findings of several studies that have identified deficient hygienic practices. In numerous clinics in several states, including Virginia, they have lead to the deaths of a num-

ber of women.”
In contrast, members of the VCU Planned Parenthood Generation Action club attended the VA Board of Health meeting and spoke during the public comment period.

“If abortion facilities have to adhere to regulations other outpatient facilities should too,” said VCU Planned Parenthood club president Sara Thornton. “It’s important that these regulations were repealed because they weren’t medically necessary and proposed an obstacle for women. This is a huge win for Virginia.”

“
This is a huge win for Virginia.

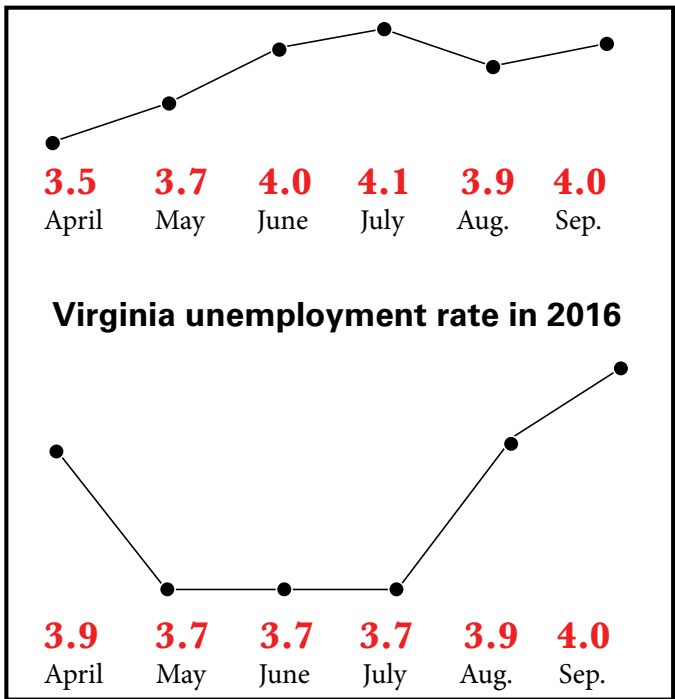
Sara Thornton
VCU Planned Parenthood

Unemployment rates in Richmond rise

HIBA AHMAD
Staff Writer

“Unemployment rates rise slightly in new report”
According to the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the unemployment rate has risen slightly since August from 3.9 percent to four percent in Richmond as of September.
Richmond’s rate is the same as the state of Virginia’s, which has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation.
The highest rate of unemployment Richmond had ever faced is in 2010 when rates peaked at 8.7 percent following the 2008 economic recession. Those rates have now been cut in half through added jobs to the state’s economy.
Unemployment rates have slowly increased since this past spring where April had a rate of 3.5 percent and May with 3.7 percent.

In comparison to last year, the number of people who are unemployed stood at 4.2 percent in September 2015.
Chilton explains what exactly the unemployment rate tells us about the economic status of a country.
“Unemployment is just one measure of the health of the economy,” Chilton said. “Based on that measure alone you might think the state of the economy was good, but there are reasons to believe the economy is not in the best of health.”
Typically after a great recession, like the one that took place in 2008, there is a drastic recovery of jobs and economic output.
However, the recovery that took place after 2008 has been a gradual recovery of not only jobs, but economic stability of the US.
Though the unemployment rate recovery has been slow, the national unemployment rate has been cut in half from ten percent to five percent.



CoStar picks Richmond for research center



Richmond mayor Dwight C. Jones and Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe announced CoStar’s arrival at the state capitol last Monday with CoStar Group founder and CEO Andrew Florance.

JIM THOMMA
Contributing Writer

A powerhouse in the commercial real estate industry tapped Richmond for its new operations and global research center last week. It is slated to bring 732 jobs to the region along with it.
Andrew C. Florance, founder and CEO of CoStar Group, a Washington, D.C.-based research and analytics firm and owner of Apartments.com, joined Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Mayor Dwight C. Jones at the state Capitol last Monday to announce the decision.
Florance explained the decision to tap Richmond stemmed from its low traffic congestion, cost of living, and the presence of institutions of higher education such as Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Richmond, and Virginia Union University.
“The CoStar team couldn’t be more excited about the expansion into Richmond and connecting with the community on a deeper level,” the company said in a statement.
Florance told the Washington Business Journal the company’s national search eventually narrowed down to Richmond, Charlotte, N.C., and Kansas City, Mo. CoStar expanded its operations in Atlanta as recently as last year, adding hundreds of tech jobs.
Forbes magazine recently dubbed CoStar one of the 100 Most Innovative Growth Companies.
Just two weeks ago, Fortune declared it one the 100 Fastest Growing Companies nationwide.
Florance told the Times-Dispatch approximately 85-percent of all commercial real estate transactions now filter through CoStar’s system.
As part of the announcement, McAuliffe presented the city with a \$4-million check from the Commonwealth’s Opportunity Fund, which the city plans to match by offering CoStar tax incentives and funding improvements for downtown infrastructure and jobs training.
“I would just like to say to the few states to the southeast and the midwest that could not rise to everything that we have here obviously in the Commonwealth of Virginia,” said McAuliffe.
He said the state places second in the country for technology workers, with 172,000 residents in the sector, and houses more data centers than any other state in the country.
But the announcement that CoStar picked the capital of its neighboring Virginia over Charlotte surprised and even angered some of those involved in the Charlotte bid.
“The primary reason they chose Richmond over Charlotte was HB2,” said David Dorsch, senior vice president at Cushman & Wakefield’s Charlotte office, in a statement to the Charlotte Business Journal.
CoStar wouldn’t comment on whether or not controversial N.C. state law House Bill 2 (or HB2) factored into the decision, but they did respond to a previous inquiry by the Charlotte Observer.

“We will not comment on Charlotte,” read the statement. “We will affirm LGBT rights and the rights of every one of our employees and those in the community are a very high priority and core to our firm’s values.”
Florance said in an interview with the Times-Dispatch that the company looks forward to being an “engaged corporate citizen.”
But CoStar wouldn’t comment on whether or not that role will include lobbying for state-level protections for LGBTQ folks against housing, private-sector employment, or public accommodation discrimination, all of which are currently legal in the

“
VCU has a strong real estate track in the business school and CoStar is currently exploring ways to support the endeavors of those students.

CoStar Company

state of Virginia.
They said that role would be more geared towards supporting economic development in the city, as well as providing “volunteer opportunities for employees and (investing) time and resources into local education, healthcare and sustainability.”
CoStar is already in communication with VCU about recruiting opportunities for young researchers.
“VCU has a strong real estate track in the business school and CoStar is currently exploring ways to support the endeavors of those students,” the company said in a statement.
But those opportunities extend beyond the real estate track.
A promotional video highlighting members of the CoStar research operations team was posted to the company’s Richmond recruiting website. It features Erica Doll, who graduated from VCU in 2010 with degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology, and a minor in Forensic Science.
“So not exactly commercial real estate,” says Doll, laughing.
CoStar plans to move into the top two floors of the WestRock office building on S. 5th St. by the end of November, occupy the third within six months, the fourth within a year, and hire people as space permits.

Go to
elections.
virginia.
gov
for polling
information

7

Days
Until
Election
Day

- MAYORAL
- CITY COUNCIL
- SCHOOL BOARD
- 4TH DISTRICT
- PRESIDENT

VIRGINIA
GENERAL ELECTION

AT THE POLLS

Clinton

Democrat

46%

Trump

Republican

39%

Johnson

Libertarian

5%

Stein

Green

1%

CNU Poll, Oct 23-26, +/- 3.9%

ADVERTISEMENT

WORKING WITH US IS EASIER THAN FINDING FREE SPACE IN CABELL.



You have options when it comes to picking a retirement plan. TIAA can help you get to a place with less stress.

Enroll in your retirement plan today at TIAA.org/VCU.



INVESTING | ADVICE | BANKING | RETIREMENT



BUILT TO PERFORM.

CREATED TO SERVE.

C34118a

Field hockey midfielder Emily McNamara now has 45 points on the season, breaking the school’s previous single-season record set in 2004 by Carlot Verloop.

THE PRESS BOX

The NFL needs to address its violent psychological problem

ZACH JOACHIM
Sports Editor

NFL players, league personnel, fans and sports writers across the country reacted with a uniform sentiment when news broke about Josh Brown, then-kicker for the New York Giants, abusing his ex-wife. How do we keep letting this happen?

Brown, an NFL veteran who entered the league in 2003, was arrested and charged with fourth degree assault in May 2015 after an incident with his then-wife, Molly.

Still, the Giants well-respected owner John Mara re-signed Brown in the offseason. According to Mara, the organization was well aware of Brown’s history of abuse.

In a shocking interview on New York Radio Station WFAN, Mara said Brown “admitted to us he’d abused his wife in the past. What’s a little unclear is the extent of that.”

Mara’s inability to handle this situation with the seriousness it deserves is indicative of the grossly inadequate consideration given to domestic violence cases in the NFL.

Remember when Baltimore Ravens former running-back Ray Rice knocked out his then-fiancee (now wife), Janay, in 2014? The Ravens and NFL went to huge lengths to ensure fans Rice would be back for the upcoming season until TMZ made public the video of Rice punching Janay in the face and dragging her unconscious body out of an elevator in Atlantic City.

Suddenly, the commissioner, league, team and Rice couple had conflicting stories. Rice was indefinitely suspended and his Ravens contract terminated because the NFL commissioner alleged Rice had been “dishonest.”

To quell the situation, former FBI director Robert Mueller led an independent investigation overseen by Mara and Steelers co-owner Art Rooney III. Mueller was also instrumental in negotiating the NFL’s deal with DirecTV.

Rice’s suspension was revoked and he has reiterated he is working to better himself and family by going through counseling with Janay. But Mara, the Giants co-owner who publicly admitted knowing about Brown’s abuse of Molly, is the same Giants co-owner who oversaw the Rice investigation.

Coincidence? Another example, also from 2014: former Carolina Panthers running back Greg Hardy physically

assaulted his ex-girlfriend, Nicole Holder, to the point she told police she thought he was going to kill her. Despite images of Holder’s body being significantly battered in addition to convincing testimony — even

verbal or sexual abuse — if not ignored entirely. Brown told ABC News he has taken measures to get help and “it’s important to share” he never struck his wife and never would.



ILLUSTRATION BY GARETH BENTAL

after Holder’s initial steadfast refusal to talk for fear of her life — Hardy easily won the case on appeal and was immediately signed by the Dallas Cowboys. But Brown’s situation deserves additional examination too, because his behavior sheds light on the psychological depths and damage of abuse — a consequence too often viewed as a “side-effect,” of physical,

“Abuse takes many forms,” Brown said. The King County Sheriff’s Office in Washington released documents last week where Brown detailed the psychological abuse. “I viewed myself as God basically and she was my slave,” Brown wrote in a letter. “I carried an overwhelming sense of entitlement because I put money

higher than God and I used it as a power tool.” Furthermore, the documents indicate a habitual pattern of abuse clearly existed in Brown’s relationship, and this abuse was reinforced by a sense of entitlement associated with status. Although Brown claims he did not strike or otherwise physically assault his ex-wife, the psychological nature of his abuse illuminates the underlying causes of domestic violence in the NFL more than just the cases like Rice’s or Hardy’s.

The NFL must stop treating the issue of domestic violence as a slew of incidents and start treating it as a psychological epidemic in order for change to occur.

This problem is not about isolated incidents of assault — these are only tangible manifestations of an attitude reinforced by many who will never commit acts of domestic violence. Steve Smith, an NFL veteran and wide-receiver for the Baltimore Ravens, captured the outraged sentiment in a post on Sgor Sports.

“We have valued the amount of air in a ball but yet devalued when persons have been harmed and fail to put forth necessary actions or energy and time in which far less important things have taken precedent!” Smith wrote.

There is a sense of entitlement associated with power and superiority complexes ingrained in some NFL players, and that psychological organ cannot be destroyed by suspensions and fines. The latter disciplinary actions, as Smith suggests, are meaningless gestures made by a multi-billion dollar corporation in order to save face and a few extra viewers on Sundays.

It will take an overhaul of how the NFL treats players’ mental health and stability in order for change to be initiated. In other words: league-wide treatment plans in which this issue is treated as what it is — a psychological epidemic.

“Our system is broken,” Smith continued in his Sgor Sports post. “The NFL needs to stop acting like they care and start showing people they mean what they say!” The system is broken when we find ourselves asking, “how do we keep letting this happen?”

Brown’s owner and organization knew about his habitual abuse, and they decided to re-sign him and attempt to handle it in-house. They treated his patterns of abuse as an isolated incident. That’s how we keep letting this happen.

ANOTHER ONE: Emily McNamara gets second hat trick, totals 18 goals

JESSICA WETZLER
Contributing Writer

VCU field hockey ended their 2016 campaign on a high note after struggling against conference opponents this year. The Rams finished with a 5-5 out of conference record and went 2-6 in Atlantic-10 play. Junior goalkeeper Chessa Kownurko recorded a shutout on senior day Sunday, Oct. 30 in a 3-0 rout of Missouri State University. The Black and Gold beat conference foe Saint Louis University by a final of 5-1 on Friday, Oct. 28.

Missouri State

The seniors capped off their careers in the Black and Gold on a high note. The Rams beat MSU 3-0 on senior day at Sports Backers Stadium Sunday afternoon. Sophomore forward Emily McNamara recorded her second hat trick in as many games and raised her goal count to 18 for the season, double the number of goals she recorded during her rookie campaign. The Centreville, Virginia native also broke VCU’s single-season record for points with 45. It was a quiet and scoreless first half on both ends. During the first three minutes, MSU junior forward Andrea Soler Codina took the first shot of the day but Kownurko was there to deny her. Kownurko made another save eight minutes later against Soler Codina.

McNamara, who applied constant pressure to the MSU

back line all day, took the first shot for VCU but MSU goalkeeper Megan Drew came up with the save. McNamara took two more shots but failed to find the back of the net before the half ended. At the 42 minute mark, McNamara put VCU on the board for after stealing the ball from the top of circle and hitting the shot far post. This was McNamara’s 13th goal of the season. Over a minute later, McNamara scored the second goal for VCU when she rebounded the ball off of Drew and dribbled around her for a straight shot on net. McNamara completed her hat trick thanks to an assist from senior defender McKenzie Bowler on a cross.

Saint Louis

After Saint Louis took an early lead, the Rams scored the final five goals en route to a 5-1 victory behind McNamara’s three goals. McNamara recorded her first hat trick of the season and added an assist. The Billikens opened the scoring in the 14th minute when Katie Moss passed to Molly Fied who deflected the shot in from close range. The Rams evened the game at 1-1 in the 18th minute after a ball played into the circle was controlled by McNamara. Junior forward Jamee Albright was waiting at the back post to complete the play, scoring her fourth goal of the season. VCU took the lead in the second half at the 36 minute mark. Junior midfielder Spencer Tossone played the ball from the outside circle to McNamara who ripped a shot from

the top of the circle to far post. McNamara scored again a minute later to extend the Rams lead to 3-1. McNamara blew past the Saint Louis defense on a streaking run and beat the keeper head on. McNamara made it a hat trick in the 65th minute off another Tossone assist, this time finishing from close range. VCU closed out the scoring in the 69th minute as senior defender McKenzie Bowler collected the ball of the goalkeeper and made a move to her left and scored on the open net. This was Bowler’s fourth goal of the season. Kownurko made six saves out of the seven shots she faced against the Billikens. The Rams decisive 14-3 edge in penalty corners allowed them to outshot Saint Louis 32-12 overall and 13-5 in shots on goal.

Seniors Krystal Mayers, Kelsey Hideshima, Kaylee Maunz, Sydney Weise and Bowler completed their final season as Rams with a 7-11 overall record while going 2-6 in Atlantic-10 play. The senior class finished their final season with seven goals and six assists.



PHOTO BY ERIC MARQUEZ



PHOTO BY ERIC MARQUEZ

Junior defender Natalie Bohmke was selected to compete in the USA Field Hockey Young Women’s National Championship this past summer.



PHOTO BY ERIC MARQUEZ

Sophomore defender Hannah Fox is a product of Maury High School in Norfolk, Virginia.



Junior goalkeeper Pierre Gardan has 120 saves in his career at VCU. Gardan hails from Lorient, France.

KEYRIS L. MANZANARES
Contributing Writer

Junior goalkeeper Pierre Gardan was named the Atlantic-10 Conference Defensive Player of the Week last month.

To earn that title the VCU men's soccer keeper collected a pair of shutouts in a tie against #14 University of Akron on Sept. 27 and then with a 2-0 win against George Mason University in the A-10 conference opener on Oct. 1.

Gardan made five saves in his effort against the Zips, but only needed to make one save against the Patriots.

Gardan, who hails from Lorient, France, was also named to the A-10 All-Academic and Championship teams as a sophomore in 2015. As the regular season comes to a close, he caught up with the Commonwealth Times to discuss VCU soccer and his plans for the future.

Is the season going how you expected?

Not really — we had a rough start, losing our first four games, and then we bounced back not losing for six games and right now we lost our last two games. So we have two games to really get to the A-10 tournament in a good position.

We will see from there. Personally, it didn't go as well as I wanted it to. I didn't do as well as I wanted in the beginning, I did well after. But the most important part of the season is the end.

After Dayton next week what happens?

So if we are in the top eight teams of the A-10 conference, we go to the tournament which is the week after at Davidson and we would leave Wednesday and play the Thursday and Friday, and hopefully on Sunday for the final.

What do you do in the off-season?

We have the break and I go back to France for the winter and then when we get back we work a lot. The first few weeks we go to practice for eight hours — we run, lift, we practice indoor because it's too cold out.

How many hours a week would you say you dedicate to soccer?

Oh my god, a lot. We practice about two hours a day. Five days a week. Plus a game. Then you have to take the van to go to practice which is 10 to 25 minutes depending on where we are practicing. And we lift in season once a week that is about one hour.

Then treatment which can take up to an hour. We recover and prepare for games, like taking ice baths. After the game we have to watch the video, which is typically two to two and a half hours long. And then there's travel time when we play away. So I would say it's a full time job, maybe even more than that.

How do you balance soccer and college?

Organization is key.

Where do you feel VCU stands when it comes to game attendance? Do you think a lot of fans attend or would you like to see more?

I think if the stadium was on campus there would be more fans. But if you compare to other schools, we are so lucky at VCU because we have The Peppas. They are amazing. I haven't seen a better atmosphere. We also have the Rowdy Rams — we have organizations that make VCU game attendance amazing.

Do you think Americans play soccer differently than in France — is the style different?

Yes. Here it is more physical and athletic than it is in Europe. In Europe it is way more tactical and I think it's based on the way soccer is set up and the way kids are taught to play soccer here and in France.

Do you think it takes more active thinking to be a goalkeeper than it takes reflex?

Yes. I think so but the danger is that I think too much. You have to think a lot of how the game goes and where you have to be and how you have to speak to your teammates but then if you think too much about what you have to do and stuff it's not automatic and you become slow and agitating. And then you lose it.

Your VCU Athletics bio says you aspire to work on Wall Street. Why not professional soccer?

In the U.S. it's really hard to have a job in soccer because you don't make as much money like you do in Europe and the contracts are not as secure, I feel like. So if soccer was something safe that I could for sure do for several years then yes.

Catch Gardan and the rest of the team in action at their last game on Saturday, Nov. 5 as they take on A-10 rival Dayton University at Sports Backers.

“
We are so lucky because we have The Peppas. They are amazing. I haven't seen a better atmosphere. We also have the Rowdy Rams — we have organizations that make VCU game attendance amazing.
Pierre Gardan

Women's basketball gears up for season with new squad



Senior guard Ashley Pegram is originally from Richmond and attended Meadowbrook High School.

— continued from page 1

As a redshirt-freshman, Rowser was named to the American Athletic Conference All-Freshman team and was twice awarded AAC Freshman of the Week. She also received the UM Coaches Award at a team banquet last season.

Rowser will play alongside senior guard and elite sharpshooter Isis Thorpe — the Rams' top returning scorer.

Thorpe averaged 9.7 points per game during the 2015-16 campaign and scored double figures 17 times. Thorpe's best outing came against La Salle University in February, when she scored 21 points and helped the Rams seal an 84-76 overtime victory against the Explorers.

Thorpe's backcourt partner, senior guard Ashley Pegram, will also take on scoring duties in the wake of Alaeze's departure. The Richmond native was third on the team in scoring last year with 8.8 points per game on 45 percent shooting.

Other key returners for the Rams include junior forwards Curteeona Brelove and Camille

Calhoun.

Calhoun appeared in seven games in 2015-16 before sitting out the rest of the season with a foot injury, but her pre-injury numbers leave Ram nation with something to look forward to this year.

Calhoun, a Bowie, Maryland native, averaged 11.3 points and 5.3 rebounds per game on just under 50 percent shooting from the field. She was also named Virginia Lottery Student-Athlete of the Week after her 20 point, 15 rebound performance against Campbell University last November.

Pair those stats up with Brelove's 5.7 points and 4.8 rebounds per game performance in 2015-16 and the Rams have a dynamic front-court duo with a strong ability to score and a dominant rebounding presence down low.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of this relatively new-look Rams squad is their incoming freshman class — consisting of a trio of three-star recruits. Guards Nyra Williams, Jailyn Maddox and Niya Johnson all received recruiting grades of 88

or better by ESPN, and Williams was named a top-30 point guard in the nation.

Then there's freshman guard Danielle Hammond, a 6-foot-4 center who averaged more than three blocks per contest in high school and provides the aggressive ability to protect the paint.

O'Boyle said she looks forward to helping mold the four young Rams and seeing what they have in store for the Black and Gold.

“We are very excited about (this) recruiting class,” O'Boyle said. “Nyra, Danielle, Niya, and Jailyn are all high quality student-athletes who will exceed both in the classroom and on the court.”

The women kick off the 2016-17 season Nov. 11 against Coppin State University at the Siegel Center.

The Rams will spend Thanksgiving weekend in Puerto Rico where they will take on American and Villanova Universities in the 2016 San Juan Shootout.

Men's soccer fights to the finish

ADAM CHEEK
Contributing Writer

VCU men's soccer had an up and down week on the road.

The Rams edged out a 2-1 win over Davidson College Saturday night, improving their record to 6-8-3, after dropping their game Wednesday 4-0 to the College of William and Mary.

Davidson

Redshirt-junior midfielders Luc Fatton and Greg Boehme each tallied goals for the Rams; Boehme netting his first of the season and Fatton securing his position as leading scorer on the squad with seven so far.

VCU only had two corner kick chances in contrast to Davidson's nine, but VCU's sure-handed junior goalkeeper Pierre Gardan stonewalled all but one shot by the Wildcats.

The Rams' offense attacked early, with two scoring opportunities for senior forward Jorge Herranz, including one where Davidson goalkeeper Andrew Kenneson was barely able to poke Herranz's effort wide.

Boehme broke free less than 15 minutes into the first half and fired a shot finding its way into the goal, giving VCU a 1-0 lead.

Junior midfielder Rafael Andrade Santos and senior midfielder Brandon Eaton both tested Davidson's goalkeeper but sent shots wide of the goal in the first half. VCU managed to stay on top going into halftime.

After numerous chances for the Rams to extend their lead early in the second half, redshirt-sophomore midfielder Eli Lockaby made a crisp pass in the 75th minute to Luc Fatton. Fatton easily evaded defenders and scored, stretching the Rams' lead to two goals.

Lockaby recorded his fourth assist of the season, tied for second on the team in assists.

Davidson ended the shutout bid in the 83rd minute when the Wildcats' leading scorer Maxi Pragnell netted his eighth goal on the season. The Wildcats attempted a rally near the end of the match, with two shot opportunities and a chance at a corner kick but could not execute. The Black and Gold sealed a 2-1 victory, winning their fourth conference match.

William and Mary

On Wednesday, the Rams visited Williamsburg to take on non-conference rival William and Mary. The Tribe routed the Black and Gold in a 4-0 shutout. VCU dropped to 5-8-3, while William and Mary improved to 9-6-2.

The Tribe scored quickly and seized momentum after notching two goals in the first five minutes. They tacked on two more later in the match to

extend their lead and secure the win.

“It was a very good game for us. Against a good opponent we were able to give guys who have been playing a lot the night off and get everyone significant minutes who hasn't played much or at all this year,” said coach Dave Giffard.

The Rams got off to a slow start in the opening half and only mustered one shot, but rallied in the second to add seven shots.

Three total shots on goal were racked up by the Rams, but none came to fruition. Six corner opportunities were tallied by each squad, and the Tribe led with 14 overall shots, nine of which were on target.

William and Mary charged out of the gate to start the game, with Jeff Bombelles sneaking the ball past Gardan 18 seconds into the game for his first goal of the season, assisted by William Eskay.

Ryder Bell did not help VCU's cause, as he added to the Tribe's lead with a header into the net. Bell's goal came only four minutes after Bombelles'.

William and Marys' two-goal advantage was nearly split in half about 20 minutes in, with senior forward Simond Kargbo's shot ricocheting off of the crossbar and bounced out of scoring range.

As the opening half concluded, Reeves Trott scored to complete a trio of goals for William and Mary in the opening period. Trott slid past a VCU defender and placed the ball in the lower right corner of the net.

VCU's offense came alive at the outset of the second half by holding possession, snapping out of their slump in the first half and putting offensive pressure on the Tribe.

Corner opportunities and shots arose, shots mostly from redshirt-sophomore midfielder Joseph Gonnella and backline freshman Ryo Shimazaki. Eaton lead the way with three total shots on the night.

The Rams and Tribe held each other in check throughout the second half as the pace of the match stagnated and a scrum for possession around midfield ensued. Julian Ngoh scored on a through-ball from the outside the 18, tallying William and Mary's fourth and final goal.

“Tonight, I thought some guys really helped us and showed that in a tough game against a quality opponent, they are ready to help us,” Giffard said. “At the same time, for the guys who aren't ready, it's good for them to see what needs to be done on their end to be able to contribute to the team on game day. It's key for us in the final stretch to know who those guys are.”

The Rams will play their final match of the season on Saturday, Nov. 5 when they host Dayton University at 1 p.m.



Fact of the week:
The first car, invented in 1879, had three wheels like a tricycle.

SremmLife 2 takes on The National

MUKTARU JALLOH
Staff Writer

Promoting their new album “SremmLife 2,” rap duo Rae Sremmurd brought their tour to Richmond Tuesday Oct. 25 at the National.

Known for their 2015 top-40 hit singles “No Type,” “No Flex Zone” and “Throw Sum Mo,” the group, consisting of members Swae Lee and Slim Jxmmi, has become a staple in the party rap scene.

Since their debut album last year, “SremmLife,” the group has amassed several chart-topping and platinum songs. At their Richmond show, they performed those hits and newer album cuts from “SremmLife 2.” Their latest two singles, “By Chance” and “Black Beatles,” have become radio regulars this year.

Main opener Lil Yachty performed songs from his debut mixtape “Lil Boat.” With songs like “One Night” and “Minnesota,” Yachty proved to be one of the rising stars of Hip-Hop’s newest generation this year.

Yachty has made headlines for his dismissal of older generations of rap. With the mixed-generation, his music seemed to resonate well regardless of age. Performing for almost 45 minutes, he closed his set with his biggest song to date, his feature on Hampton native Big Baby D.R.A.M.’s hit “Broccoli.”

“I wanna thank y’all for rocking with me Virginia. I love everyone of y’all,” Yachty said to the crowd.

Soon after a brief DJ intermission, Rae Sremmurd rushed the stage to their song “Start A Party.” With confetti throwers and party favors, the group played to the crowd all night. The duo also took time out on several occasions to take photos with fans in the front row.

In addition, Swae Lee live streamed the crowd from his phone on the stage screen. They also dedicated a short portion of the show to display their angst toward Presidential candidate Donald Trump with their song, “Up like Trump.”

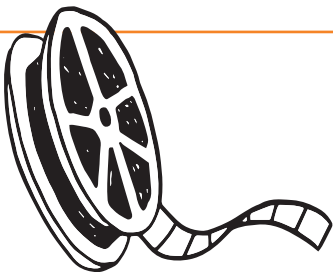
With the success of this tour and their two studio albums, rest assured that Rae Sremmurd is here to stay.

The SremmLife 2 tour continues in Houston, TX on Nov. 1.



PHOTOS BY GEO MIRADOR

The Sremmlife 2 U.S. tour will take Rae Sremmurd through 35 cities and performances featuring Lil Yachty along with special guests Earz, Bobo Swae and Impxct.



Sam’s Take: Top Horror Movies For HALLOWEEN

SAMUEL GOODRICH
Staff Writer

With Halloween night unfortunately falling on a Monday, many students will have gotten their costumes and parties out of the way come Sunday. In fact, you may still be recovering while reading this.

But, if you feel up for some more horror, I’m here to recommend some movies that will keep you up at night. For those who can’t sit through jump-scares or bloodshed, there are still plenty of films to get you into the spooky mood.



ILLUSTRATION BY SYE ALI

FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

The Thing (1982)

This cult horror film from genre master John Carpenter is full of creative gore and suspenseful moments. “The Thing” is simply a damn good movie, mixing great characters and dialogue with the horror.

Attack the Block (2011)

While a horror film in name only, “Attack the Block” is a fun and unique take on the alien invasion movie. Mixing “The Goonies,” “Alien” and British youth culture, the film is full of exciting action, memorable characters, and a great electronic soundtrack.

LAUGH SO YOU DON’T SCREAM

Tucker and Dale vs. Evil (2010)

An expertly made subversion of the killer redneck trope of many slasher flicks, “Tucker and Dale vs. Evil” never lets up on the laughs. By making the rednecks into lovable oafs and the teens into cynical idiots, the film uses the concept to its fullest potential.

The Evil Dead Trilogy (1981-1992)

If the Three Stooges decided to make horror movies, they would make the Evil Dead films. Part demon gore-fest, part slapstick comedy, these Sam Rami and Bruce Campbell collaborations are some of the best in the genre and are a blast to watch unfold.

NIGHTMARE FUEL

Don’t Look Now (1973)

You may not be shaking with fear while watching “Don’t Look Now,” but the film’s claustrophobic and tense atmosphere will stick with you for weeks after. Strange and unnerving, Nicholas Roeg’s slow moving film will never feel quite right until the end, living up to its title by not allowing you to trust anything you’re seeing on screen.

Sinister (2012)

As one of the best horror movies to come out in the past decade, the images and atmosphere of “Sinister” will make you terrified to stay in a dark home by yourself. It also aims to scare with disturbing images rather than tired jumpscare, creating an endlessly effective film.

FEAR OF THE BIZARRE

House (1977)

Nothing can prepare you for the Japanese fever dream that is “House.” A mixture of supernatural horror, kung-fu action, goofy comedy, and special-effect exploitation, it’s impossible to comprehend. But, if you can lose yourself to the madness, you’ll never forget your experience with “House.”

Videodrome (1983)

Half commentary on the invasion of violent media in society, half showcase of unforgettable practical effects body horror, “Videodrome” is a indescribable rollercoaster of emotions. It’s weird, intelligent, and just plain gross, but the end, you’ll agree that it is fantastic.

And to end the list, we have the most Halloween-y movie ever made:

Trick R’ Treat

This horror anthology is the R-rated version of Goosebumps you never knew you wanted, and it’s atmosphere makes its impossible not to get into the spirit of the holiday.

ZOMBIFICATION:

Halloween staple returns for 12th consecutive year



The 12th annual charity event **The Richmond Zombie Walk** trudged down Cary Street on Saturday Oct. 29 with competitions for most disgusting, 2016 zombie of the year, best zombie kid and best group theme with all donations going to the **American Cancer Society.**

TEDxRVAWomen idea series returns

JESSE ADCOCK
Spectrum Editor

Nonprofit speaker and idea conference series TEDxRVAWomen returned to Richmond with a line-up of women community, business and academic leaders to promote the theme of “It’s About Time.”

“There’s a really enthusiastic crowd that just gets it,” said organizer Lloyd Young. “The shared experience of being a woman.”

TedxWomen events are held all around the world during the week of the Ted Women conference in from Oct. 26 to 28, on the theme “It’s About Time.”

“We didn’t think we were going to be this big going into it,” Young said.

This is the first TedxRVAWomen since 2013 due to scheduling conflicts.

Instead of the traditional application and nomination process that other Tedx talks use, Young said this year they brainstormed and found speakers through community outreach. The event sold out, and featured presentations from 13 women in industry-wide learned positions of influence.

“It’s time to change the conversations,” Young said. “To have women’s voices heard as they are.”

Young said Ted leaves it up to individual organizers and speakers on how to interpret that theme.

“Our speakers, our sponsors and volunteers are all separate,” Young said.

All of TedxRVAWomen’s staff are unpaid volunteers, and their sponsors are all local businesses and charities. Young said because of this, the speakers are chosen by the community, and not corporations.

“When I think of the great ted talks I’ve seen they’re people who have overcome incredible adversity,” said principal investor Christina Bechhold. “It’s hard to think of yourself at that level.”

Drawing on her experience in venture capital, Bechhold said she’s seen a disparity in women’s investing and women’s startups. According to Bechhold, women hold more than half of the nation’s private capital but make up less than a third of all startups. Bechhold said the goal is for women to both start more business, and have more women invest in them.

“It could be a win-win for both sides,” Bechhold said.

The event featured lectures from social entrepreneur Kelli Lemon, Richmond Police Sgt. Carol Adams, adventurer Emily Kimball, musician Hannah Standiford, molecular biologist Jennifer Fettweis, restaurateur Joy Crump, Sugar Gamers founder Keisha Howard, spoken word artist Michelle Dodd, attorney Mona Siddiqui, Dean of VCU College of Humanities and Sciences Monsterrat Fuentes and social justice artist Patricia Herrera.

View the TedxRVAWomen lecture series at <http://tedxrva.com/women/>



‘Forbidden’ captures the struggles, triumphs of an undocumented, queer man

“Forbidden: Undocumented and Queer in Rural America” won the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Social Justice Film award in 2016.

MUKTARU JALLOH
Staff Writer

Richmond Public Library unveiled the River City premiere of film, “Forbidden: Undocumented and Queer in Rural America,” followed by a Q&A with its producer, Heather Mathews, on Oct. 27.

The film chronicles the struggles and experiences of Moises Serrano, an undocumented queer man from Mexico who grows up in North Carolina.

When Serrano was just months old, his family immigrated to the U.S., risking their livelihood and safety in hopes to achieving a better life.

“We are so ill informed about immigration in our country. It’s depressing,” Mathews said. “The institution is racist. We built this country for white men on the backs of slavery.”

North Carolina, a state known for its homophobic history and laws, presents Serrano with various personal and professional obstacles that culminate in his passion for political and social activism.

An undocumented and gay man, Serrano devotes his life to reversing the narrative that affected many people who deal with stereotypes and face similar challenges that he overcomes.

Throughout the documentary, Serrano becomes an active member in his community and begins to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform.

Along with his family, friends and partner, Brandon, Serrano participates in protests and sit-ins to help create change. An example of his activism is his involvement in the “Road to Reform” organization.

Despite having to deal with the struggles of finding a job and breaking through the barrier of white supremacy, Serrano ultimately finds his way.

The documentary concludes with him finding out he’s been accepted into his dream school, Sarah Lawrence College, and is awarded a four-year scholarship. He will graduate in 2018.

“I never thought that I would be here. Going to college,” he said.

After the film, Mathews answered questions from the audience.

“There should be other undocumented and queer individuals going to school and getting an education,” Matthews said.

She also revealed that Serrano is currently studying public policy and headed in the direction of politics.

“It’s been received very well. We didn’t expect much,” Mathews said. “To win the social justice southern poverty law center award. We never thought we’d get that recognition.”

The film, which took two years to produce, was paid for out of pocket with the help of kickstarter and other donations.

“I think the hardest part of making the film was saying enough a lot immigration reform to make an impact without having to tell the entire story,” Matthews said. “It’s such a complicated issue.”

Released this year, the film now has a distributor for colleges and universities across the country. Since September, the film has been shown every weekend at a different college.

“You could be stopped for a parking ticket or loitering while brown,” Mathews said. “They can check your immigration status and lock you up.”

“We are so ill informed about immigration in our country. It’s depressing. The institution is racist. We built this country for white men on the backs of slavery.”

Heather Mathews, Producer

King on LGBTQ identity: be authentic

—continued from page 1

Following Godbeer’s introduction was a video presentation of King’s extensive career — both on and off the court.

The screen displayed images of King’s greatest athletic achievements: her triumph at the French Open in 1972, snapshots of King’s 20 career titles at Wimbledon and her 1973 victory against Bobby Riggs at the Battle of the Sexes.

Perhaps the most important part of the video were clips of King’s service work, though.

In 1973, King founded the Women’s Tennis Association and by leveraging her position as the most celebrated player at the time she threatened a boycott of the 1973 U.S. Open if athletic pay inequality was not addressed. Shortly after, the U.S. Open became the first major tournament to offer equal prize money to women and men.

The following year, King and her ex-husband, Larry King, founded the World TeamTennis co-ed circuit. She was one of the first women to coach professional male athletes. The audience also watched political figures Bill Clinton and Barack Obama praise King for her social work. Obama even called her a “social justice pioneer.”

King proceeded to list great accomplishments of her heroes and “sheroes” in the LGBTQ community. She commended those who founded the Society for Human Right in 1924, the Daughters of Bilitis — the first lesbian civil and political rights organization in the U.S. — which formed in 1955, and the VCU students who battled in the 1974 GAS court case.

“40 years goes by fast,” King said.

King told the story of being at a country club when she was 11 years old. She had only been playing tennis for a year, and one thing stood out to her.

“Everyone was white. Where was everyone else?” King said. “That was the day I knew I wanted to start changing things, and I knew that tennis was my platform.”

That moment jumpstarted King’s advocacy for gender equality. “I would fight for equality the rest of my life,” King said.

King also discussed the importance of her match against Riggs in 1973 during the Battle of the Sexes. She explained that going into the competition she knew the event would be important for social change and public perception.

After the match, King said women contacted her saying her win against Riggs inspired them to ask for a pay raise. It inspired them to use their voice and take a stand. King said men reached out and said triumph in the Battle of the Sexes changed the way they would raise their daughters.

King’s speech took a leap forward to 1981 when she began to transition from “tennis player to businesswoman.” It was the first time

King received endorsements and her professional life was flourishing, although she said her personal life was in turmoil.

That year 32-year-old former hairdresser Marilyn Barnett came forward exposing she and King had been in a lesbian relationship for seven years. Barnett filed a lawsuit contending she was entitled to share King’s assets because of their relationship.

King grew emotional as she resurfaced the painful details of her past.

“I wasn’t being my authentic self,” King said. “Secrets don’t work. If you are living in shame, you have work to do.”

The scandal led to King losing her endorsements, so at age 38 she returned to the court and continued playing on the women’s tennis tour for a year, ultimately making it to the semifinals of Wimbledon in 1982 and 1983 and ranking in the top 10.

King emphasized the importance of coming out on your own terms.

“If you’re ready, you’re ready. If you’re not, you’re not,” King said. “Don’t let anyone else define you.”

While being gay in the 1980s was “not something you talked about,” King proudly stated she — and countless other equality advocates — paid the price for a better future for the LGBTQ community. She added that although the LGBTQ community has come a long way since she was outed 35 years ago, there is still work to be done.

“We are still not inclusive and equal,” King said.

Two years ago, King founded the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative (BJKLI), a nonprofit created to address the critical issues required to achieve inclusive leadership that will lead to significant changes in how women and men operate in the world.

King said she started the BJKLI in part of her efforts to equalize the workplace. Currently, 28 states do not have nondiscrimination laws, which provide protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Virginia is one of those states. King described the difficulty of having to hide your authentic self while in the workplace.

“You’re forced to have two jobs: to hide and fit in and to do your actual job,” King said.

Next month King will celebrate her 73rd birthday, but she said she’s not done yet.

“Millennials, it’s your turn,” King said. “How do you want to shape our future?”

Before stepping off the stage, King said to the audience to remember three things — never stop learning, remember that relationships are everything and be your authentic self.

“It will all start with one simple belief: choose love, not hate,” King concluded.



King founded the Women’s Tennis Association in 1973 and successfully advocated for equal pay among men and women professional players.

PHOTO BY PILAR CURTIS

OMSA educates on allyship

GEORGIA GEEN
Contributing Writer

As part of LGBTQ History Month, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) concluded its series of ally trainings on Oct. 26 with a session geared towards white allies of LGBTQ people of color. A panel of speakers answered questions posed by facilitators, later responding to questions from the audience.

“I think that the panel is just providing a space for these conversations to begin happening. There are different mediums absolutely, but I think a panel just has that face-to-face interaction,” panelist and VCU senior Ayanna Ogaldez said.

According to OMSA Assistant Director Camilla Hill, the panelists were selected, “based on people who have done past work in our office, who are passionate and who identify as queer and as a person of color.”

The brief presentation before the panel discussion began defined allies as those with privilege who support individuals within marginalized communities, such as those of LGBTQ people of color.

“It’s very important to recognize that the intersections of race and your LGBTQ identity are ones that imply socioeconomic status, there are ones that imply access, there are ones that imply different stereotypes being put upon you,” Ogaldez said.

Hill said that racial bias within the queer community is an important issue to address, and formed the program around it.

“Previous trainings include a program for straight allies, one for cis allies to trans and nonbinary individuals and one specifically geared towards resident assistants,” Hill said.

According to Hill, the focus of the program was to give people the tools to transition from saying that they’re allies to participating in allyship.

“I think that allyship is a buzzword that we throw around a lot, but we have trouble as a community focusing on how to actually do that,” Hill said.

Hill identified factors like discomfort around discussing privilege as a hindrance to these types of conversations. She said it’s important to navigate

how to be productive in our privilege rather than just being a member of a privilege class and being blind to the things that other people are facing.

“[Allies] should play a role that is supporting more than anything else. I think that if you’re doing it correctly, then that can be powerful and that can be very impactful,” Ogaldez said.

Ogaldez said she’s had a range of both positive and negative interactions with allies—oftentimes those wishing to provide support will upstage the voices of marginalized communities.

“It’s actually been super problematic and harmful to have these ideas about their places as allies be kind of overshadowing the real issue, especially when we’re talking about QTPOC [queer and trans people of color] and the intersections of those things,” Ogaldez said.

As an example, the panelists discussed their opinions on the overarching responses to the June 12 Pulse Nightclub shooting; they felt that the media coverage improperly handled the incident by inappropriately revealing LGBTQ identities and oftentimes using incorrect pronouns. In addition, during vigils, many individuals outside of the community obstructed the voices of LGBTQ people of color who were significantly affected by the events, they said.

“I think that it’s important to amplify the voices of QPOC [queer people of color],” Ogaldez said, “Especially on VCU’s campus in terms of being able to hear those narratives and share those stories. I think it’s vital because being on this campus is a privilege and having these conversations can potentially help folks that don’t have the access to this university like we do. I think it’s important for us to recognize our place and use that.”

Both Ogaldez and Hill stated that VCU as a university still needs to take further steps to accommodate the needs of LGBTQ students of color.

“So let’s say [OMSA] does do a good job, but the university as a whole should always be working to progress and always should be working to make it more inclusive and accessible,” Ogaldez said. Hill said that the sessions of ally training will continue in the future.



Students fielded questions and discussion with a group of POC LGBTQ panelists.

PHOTO BY BECCA SCHWARTZ



GEORGIA GEEN
Contributing Writer

VCU’s Catholic Campus Ministries (CCM) hosted its third annual charity haunted house on Oct. 28. Attendees were asked to bring a canned good or \$1 in exchange for admission.

All of the proceeds from the event, funds and goods alike, were donated to Ram Pantry, a group that provides food for VCU students facing food insecurity.

“As college students we’re already paying a ton of money just

to be here, a lot of students don’t have the basic necessities that they need. Ram Pantry serves as that, it’s open to students and it doesn’t cost anything,” CCM President Ashleigh Ebreneyin said. “We’re just giving what we can to supply [Ram Pantry’s] needs.”

Ebreneyin explained that in addition to serving as a charity fundraiser, the haunted house provides a way for CCM to connect with the student body.

“We started the haunted house as sort of a way to get more students involved with CCM just because a lot of people have the general miscon-

ception, like ‘Catholics, oh my gosh, you guys do this sort of stuff?’” Ebreneyin said.

In the planning phase, blueprints were created in order to specify the layout of the haunted house, which spanned the entirety of CCM’s three-story building. Each room had a designated theme, such as “Rapunzel’s Castle” and the “Mad Hatter’s Rabbit Hole.”

Following the conclusion of the haunted house, a bonfire was held in the courtyard for s’mores and community engagement with CCM members.



All proceeds and canned goods were donated to the VCU Ram Pantry.



PHOTOS BY BECCA SCHWARTZ



Cracking or resealing the glass ceiling?

LAURA BRYANT
Contributing Columnist

During any other election cycle, Trump's campaign would've been over the moment it began. When Trump's lead in the polls began to disintegrate, the Republican presidential nominee fired his second campaign manager, Paul Manafort, and Kellyanne Conway became the first female to manage a GOP presidential campaign. Conway first ventured into the 2016 spotlight when she began appearing on talk show as a surrogate for the Ted Cruz super PAC, Keep the Promise, before she started working with the Trump campaign in July. Conway's resume includes working with a long list of noteworthy Republicans, including assisting Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich's 2012 Presidential bids in the 1990's when Gingrich was speaker of the House. In short, Conway is a force to be reckoned with. She deftly maneuvers her way through spin rooms and Sunday morning talk shows. She exudes poise and politeness, all while making voters look like the fool for question her support for a candidate like Trump. The latter is precisely what highlights the quagmire in Conway's case, though. Although she's making history and breaking through the glass ceiling as the first female GOP campaign manager, Conway's simultaneously resealing those cracks in the ceiling by supporting her boss' atrocious policies. For example, when a male cohort said Conway can't be a campaign manager because she's a mother, she responded in the vein of a true feminist trailblazer: "This smacks of misogyny and sexism, to suggest that I can't do the job of a campaign manager — I can only go on TV. How about if I could do all of the above?" But then, in total contrast to her admirable statements against sexism, Conway's response to Trump's now-infamous sexual assault comments was lackluster. "It's his campaign, and it's his candidacy, and in the end, yes, I feel comfortable with his voice and his choice," she said. It is difficult to celebrate Conway's accomplishments when she actively supports a candidate who strives to rip apart policies such as Roe v. Wade or "punish" women who seek an abortion, even if the mother's life depends on it. These are policies women desperately fought for with the intent to specifically benefit women. Women did not gain the right

to vote by remaining silent; we did not get the freedom of choice for our bodies by not showing up; our voices will not be heard if the majority representing our interests are old, white men. Regarding women's roles in politics, this isn't the first time the GOP has made history, though. Back in 2008 when John McCain appointed Sarah Palin to be his vice president, it marked the first time a GOP presidential nominee picked a woman as running-mate. Nationally, there are only three Democratic and three Republican female governors. Republican governor Susana Martinez is not only the first female governor of New Mexico, but the first hispanic governor of the state. In 2014, Utah elected the first GOP African American female to congress. For a party that seems to garner so much criticism for it's lack of diversity, the GOP seems to have quite a bit of female representation... right? Well, yes and no. Perspective is important when comparing the GOP and the Left regarding their inclusivity of women. Despite making history for having their first female campaign manager for a presidential election, the GOP is still about 28 years behind. The Democratic party had their first female presidential campaign manager in 1988, when Susan Estrich managed Michael Dukakis's bid. The same applies for nominating a female vice president. Democrat Geraldine Ferraro was nominated 24 years before Palin, in 1984. Despite these stark differences — neither party is making way for women to the extent they should be. Out of the total members in Congress, women only comprise 19.4 percent, with 20 women in the Senate and only 84 in the House. Democrats may have nominated the first female candidate for President, but this is the first time in the party's history, since its founding in 1828. The bottom line: women need to run for office, regardless of party affiliation. The sheer fact is there's 157 million women in the U.S and yet we make up only 19.4 percent of Congress and of 50 states only six women are governors. The only way we can move issues affecting our daily lives from the shadows and into the light is by voting women into office. So, to my fellow women and those who identify as such, if you have ever had the dream of running for office: do it. There is no better way to run than to run like a girl.

Don't hate the player, hate the game: the democratic system created these candidates

ELEANOR FIALK
Opinion Editor

Excitement surges through the auditorium as men and women clad in red hats and supportive t-shirts chant wildly at the announcement of their idol's entrance onstage. The crowd claps and hollers as the man saunters to the podium, signs thrashing in the air in overwhelming support. Despite resembling a rowdy herd awaiting a famous musician, this is not the case. "I'm going to make America great again!" Donald Trump howls as the room is swallowed by an echoing round of applause. With Nov. 8 right around the corner, many Americans sigh in relief at the impending end to the far-from-ordinary election that has, in many instances, seemed nearly-impossible to distinguish from a "Hunger Games" movie clip. As the media continues to paint the candidates as celebrities, both Trump and Clinton's campaigns reflect and feed off of this idolization. Rallies and debates have transformed into the likeness of a concert or play, with each of the candidates auditioning for the persuasive lead role. Many Americans claimed Trump's presidential campaign was nothing more than an act since the get-go. Equally as many citizens claimed Clinton was actively attempting to cover her trail with a facade of innocence and honesty in order to win the support of the country. Regardless of the truth behind these assertions, are the candidates to blame for their behavior? Numerous Trump opposers assume the Republican presidential candidate acts in this manner simply because he lacks a decent moral compass; his actions reflect his personal character. But the truth is — Trump is just playing the game that is the American democratic system, and he's done so quite strategically. Trump has followed in his own footsteps by allowing for his previous fame and experience in reality television to seep into his campaign strategy. Trump perpetually attempts to appeal to the public through manipulation and nationalistic ideals — and for the most part, it's working. With the world's current state of terror marinating as a substantial threat in the minds of American citizens, Trump's brazen statements against terrorism and immigration are more convincing than ever — even if they do not hold much weight. But how has he gotten away with using these tactics? The fault may lie in the American democratic system more-so than in the candidates themselves — and this theory is nothing new.



Plato foresaw this flaw in democracy long before our time, which he discussed in book IV of "Republic," published in 380 BC. According to the Stanford Dictionary of Philosophy, Plato anticipated "those who are expert at winning elections and nothing else will eventually dominate democratic politics." Plato believed "the state will be guided by very poorly worked out ideas that experts in manipulation and mass appeal use to help themselves win office." Sound familiar? The 2016 election appears to best epitomize Plato's convictions of Democracy's imperfections thus far. Between claims of singlehandedly destroying ISIS and saving the American economy, Trump has repeatedly made bold statements lacking any factual details or realistic plans for their execution or implementation. Although vague, these statements (and blatant lies, at times) are exactly what a decent portion of America wants to hear. The American democratic system emphasizes and glamorizes victory, and in turn, downplays the vital importance of policy-making. With such a strong focus on winning, Trump was able to creep to the front of the Republican candidate pool and receive the party's presidential nomination. While switching the United States democratic system to another political system does not appear

to be in the country's near future (nor the best solution), there are steps that can be taken in order to lessen the emphasis on victory we as individuals put on candidates. Recognizing this flaw in our democratic system and actively striving to distinguish between well thought out policy-making and mere propaganda is our responsibility as voters. The system may not change, but the way we view the system can. The power to decide our country's next leader rests in our hands.

The system may not change, but the way we view the system can. The power to decide our country's next leader rests in our hands.

RBG's response to Kaepernick deserves no standing ovation

SHAUN JACKSON
Staff Columnist



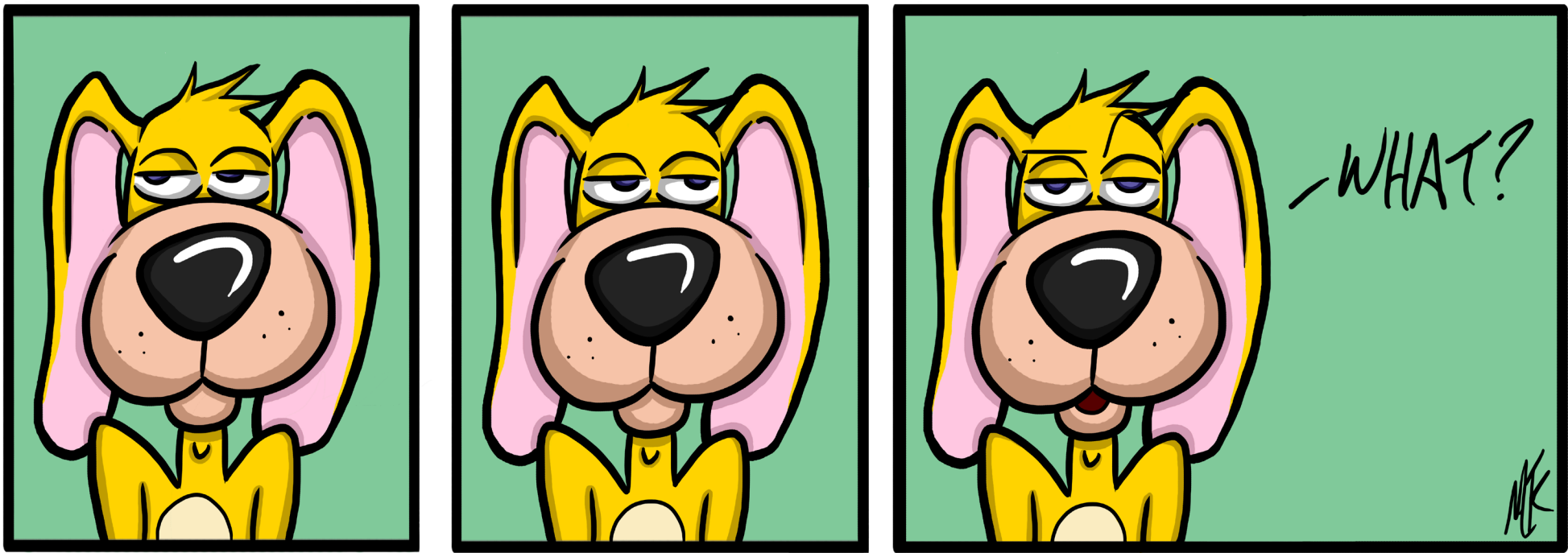
Due to the significant amount of media coverage, most Americans have already formed an opinion on probably the most interesting thing to happen in sports since boxer Mike Tyson bit off competitor Evander Holyfield's ear: Colin Kaepernick protesting during the national anthem. For those living under a 21st century rock, here's a quick recap of the controversy surrounding Kaepernick, the San Francisco 49ers quarterback: In his team's third preseason game of the year, Kaepernick chose to remain seated during the singing of the national anthem to symbolize his disapproval of the treatment of Black Americans. His actions spoke volumes to some, but left many others feeling both offended and disrespected. Since then, Kaepernick's actions have been met with a myriad of responses, including affirmation by other professional athletes such as Megan Rapinoe and Derek Jeter, who have also participated in or defended the practice. One dissenter, however, rose above the rest and is what I find most concerning: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's opinion of Kaepernick. In an interview with Katie Couric earlier this month, Ginsburg compared Kaepernick's actions to the likeness of flag burning. "I think it's dumb and disrespectful. I would have the same answer if you asked me about flag burning. I think it's a terrible thing to do, but I wouldn't lock a person up for doing it," Ginsburg said. What Ginsburg doesn't seem to understand is Kaepernick's actions were not rooted in the mentality of most who commit acts such as flag burning and intend to exhibit their abhorrence for the United States. Kaepernick refusing to stand during the anthem was not only indicative of where he stands on issues that have been affecting Black lives — with police brutality at the forefront — but also symbolizes what so many people of color learn at an early age: America is not meant for everybody. Now before you all start emailing me and listlessly threaten to send letters to the editor, allow me to scratch the surface of the vastly complex issue we are trying to dissect: A country cannot support the claim of being a land where all are equal when a great deal of the people are completely disenfranchised and marginalized in entire groups. A country cannot be equal when various groups watch as they are disadvantaged economically, educationally and socially at institutional levels. A country cannot be a place where there is promised "freedom for all," but law enforcement kills those they have sworn to protect. Kaepernick's protest was not one of treason, nor was it an insult to America, and it certainly was not "dumb" as Ginsburg suggested. It is completely acceptable to love an entity — whether a person, place or thing — and still criticize it for its shortcomings in hopes of bettering a future relationship. Furthermore, I am profoundly perplexed by Ginsburg, an individual born in 1933 and lived through Jim Crow, segregation, integration and the Civil Rights movement. Ginsburg has since apologized for her comments, saying she was hardly aware of the incident or it's purpose, recognizing her comments were harsh and dismissive. Still, Kaepernick's actions were both completely warranted and exactly what America needed to see. I am glad an individual with influence and exposure chose to make a statement about issues that affect not only him, but millions of Americans. Aside from being an athlete, Kaepernick should be granted the agency and space to speak his mind — whether America likes it or not.

The Best Idea by Kelly Macrae

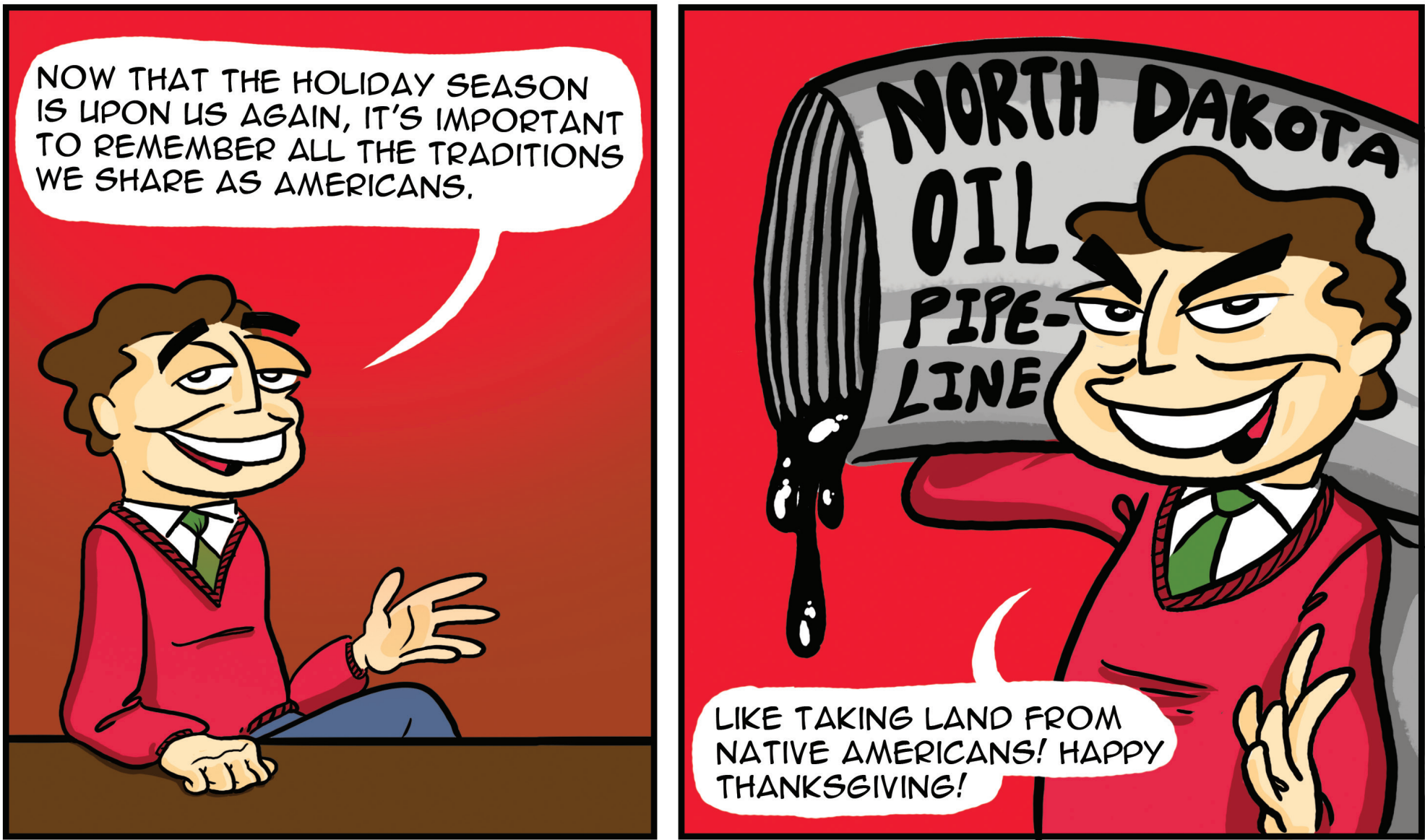


Politeness by Malik Radford

POLITENESS.



Holiday Spirit by Gareth Bentall



THE CT STAFF

- Executive Editor**
Sarah King
kingsa@commonwealthtimes.org
- Creative Director**
Ashley Moody
moody@commonwealthtimes.org
- News Editors**
Fadel Allasan
alassanf@commonwealthtimes.org
- Online News Editor**
Maura Mazurowski
mazurom@commonwealthtimes.org
- Sports Editor**
Sophia Belletti
bellettisr@commonwealthtimes.org
- Zachary Joachim
joachimz@commonwealthtimes.org
- Spectrum Editor**
Jesse Adcock
adcockj@commonwealthtimes.org
- Opinion Editor**
Ellie Fialk
fialke@commonwealthtimes.org
- Illustrations Editor**
Gareth Bentall
bentallgr@commonwealthtimes.org
- Photography Editor**
Julie Tripp
trippjm@commonwealthtimes.org
- Staff Writers**
Gabe Hauari
hauari@commonwealthtimes.org
- Hiba Ahmad
ahmadh@commonwealthtimes.org
- Joe Johnson
johnsonj@commonwealthtimes.org
- Mary Lee Clark
clarkml@commonwealthtimes.org
- Muktaru Jalloh
jallohmm@commonwealthtimes.org
- Siona Peterous
peterous@commonwealthtimes.org
- Staff Photographer**
Ali Jones
jonesa@commonwealthtimes.org
- Becca Schwartz
schwartzb@commonwealthtimes.org
- Erin Edgerton
edgertone@commonwealthtimes.org
- Staff Columnist**
Shaun Jackson
jacksonsk@commonwealthtimes.org
- Staff Illustrators**
Carson McNamara
mcnamarac@commonwealthtimes.org
- Skye Ali
alis@commonwealthtimes.org
- Graphic Designers**
Ashley Moody
Sarah Butler
Rachel Lee
Desiree Choe
Eric Ngo
designers@vcustudentmedia.com
- Advertising Representative**
Abigail Keatinge
advertising@vcustudentmedia.com
804-828-6629
- Outreach Coordinator**
Felix Mallaby-Kay
smc_outreach@vcustudentmedia.com
- Student Media Director**
Allison Dyche
abdyche@vcu.edu
804-827-1975
- Production Manager**
Mark Jeffries
mjeffriesVCU@gmail.com
- Business Manager**
Jacob McFadden
mcfaddenjc@vcu.edu
- Assistant Business Manager**
Mikaela Reinard
smc_assistant@vcu.edu

the
CT

The Commonwealth Times strives to be accurate in gathering news. If you think we have made an error, please call Sarah King, executive editor, at 804-828-5317 or email her at kingsa@commonwealthtimes.org.

Corrections will appear on the Opinion page or online at www.commonwealthtimes.org.

Opinions expressed are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Commonwealth Times or Virginia Commonwealth University. Unsigned editorials represent the institutional opinion of The CT.

One CT per person. Additional copies can be purchased at the Student Media Center for \$1 each.

ADD YOUR VOICE
The opinion pages of The Commonwealth Times are a forum open to the public.
Clear, concise and compelling contributions are welcome by email to Eleanor Fialk at fialke@commonwealthtimes.org, by mail or in person at 817 W. Broad St., Richmond, Va. 23220-2806.