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BEYOND THE POLITICS

Experts talk gun violence at student-run panel discussion



Lori Haas

State director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence



Jessica Smith

Doctoral candidate in the Wilder School



John Aughenbaugh

Professor in the VCU Polical Science Department



Philip Van Cleave

Virginia Citizens Defense League President

SARAROSE MARTIN
News Editor

A Commonwealth Times town-hall-style panel on gun violence Friday may not have produced much in terms of compromise, but the tone of the discussion left panelists and observers alike walking away with a sense of optimism.

The forum was an opportunity for students and faculty to discuss the root causes of mass shootings, why the United States is uniquely prone to them and policy solutions.

The event occurred days after the nationwide school walkout organized by youth activists in response to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Shooting which killed 17 in Florida a month earlier.

“The last month has underscored the notion that young people have a voice when it comes to issues which affect their future,” said Allison Bennett Dyche, director of the VCU Student Media Center. “Their voices matter in this conversation.”

The discussion, which was moderated by CT managing edi-

tor Fadel Allassan, brought four panelists to the Academic Learning Commons, among them John Aughenbaugh, a professor in the Political Science Department who teaches constitutional law and public policy courses.

Lori Haas, state director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, who lobbies at the Virginia General Assembly and Capitol Hill for responsible gun laws.

Jessica Smith, a doctoral candidate in the Wilder School and former Public Safety Initiatives Coordinator at the Attorney General’s Office and School, Campus, and Public Safety Resource Specialist at the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety.

Lastly, Philip Van Cleave, president of the Virginia Citizens Defense League, a non-partisan, grassroots organization working to advance the right of Virginians to keep and bear arms.

The panelists addressed gun culture in the country, its relationship with American ideals and its existence as a privilege that may be regulated.



From a policy perspective, it’s remembering we are a system based on incrementalism and for both sides to expect that.”

Jessica Smith
Wilder School Doctoral candidate

“It is part of the culture where I grew up, it is part of my identity. I have hunted for most of my life,” Aughenbaugh said. “But like with operating an automobile or many other privileges or liberties afforded by government or in our Constitution, what was part and parcel of my culture where I grew up was you had to learn how to use the weapon and use it responsibly.”

The forum confronted policy discussions happening across the country, dealing with universal background checks, raising the purchasing age, arming teachers and banning assault weapons.

The panelists disagreed with mental health screenings as a solution. All except Van Cleave supported allowing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study gun violence as a public health issue. Van Cleave cited issues with bias in gun violence research.

Haas promoted, and Smith echoed, support for extreme risk laws, or gun violence restraining orders that California, Washington and Oregon have implemented

— which allow household members to petition a court to remove a person’s access to guns.

Compromise, patience and a clear goal can promote a mutual understanding and progress towards decreasing gun violence, Smith said.

“From a policy perspective, it’s remembering we are a system based on incrementalism and for both sides to expect that,” Smith said. “And to recognize on both sides, ‘hey if we’re passing a regulation it doesn’t mean the governments taking everyone’s gun’. On the other side, if we do pass a regulation it doesn’t mean all gun violence is going to stop overnight.”

Allassan said the forum included important voices and was productive in answering questions to the national debate.

“Every individual has the ability to be an agent of change,” Allassan said. “But the conversation won’t move forward at the individual level. We need to come together and start a dialogue. That’s what this panel attempted to address.”

University names new diversity and inclusion chief

The incoming vice president, a scholar and academic administrator, will take over the helm in April, relieving Kevin Allison from the interim role he has held since 2016.

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HIGH SCHOOLERS LEAD THE MOVEMENT

Students across the Richmond area join protest in honor of Florida shooting victims • page 2



Baseball shut out the 17th best team in country to continue its win-streak • page 6



CNS BRIEFS

Virginia Governor Calls Special Session to Tackle Budget

LOGAN BOGERT

After adjourning last week without passing a budget, members of the Virginia General Assembly will reconvene April 11 for a special session to complete their work on a biennial spending plan.

As Gun Bills Fail, Virginia Legislators Look Ahead to 2019

CHARLOTTE RENE WOODS

Three months before the start of Virginia’s 2018 legislative session, a gunman killed 58 people at a concert in Las Vegas. Midway through the session, 17 people died in a mass shooting at a high school in Florida. But by the time the session ended on Saturday, the Virginia General Assembly had passed just one bill on the subject..

Gov. Northam Signs 300 Bills on Issues From Taxes to Child Abuse

GEORGE COPELAND JR.

Before adjourning on Saturday, the General Assembly passed more than 870 bills, and about 300 of them – on subjects ranging from taxes and criminal justice to education and government transparency – have already been signed into law by Gov. Ralph Northam.

Governor Signs Bill Reshaping How Energy Giants Operate

SCOTT MALONE

Gov. Ralph Northam signed a bill Friday reshaping the way the state’s monopoly utility companies, Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power, are allowed to spend revenues received from customers..

Virginia Makes Play Time a Priority in Elementary Schools

IRENA SCHUNN

The Virginia Senate approved legislation Friday that defines recess as instructional time, responding to concerns from parents worried about a lack of unstructured play over a long school day.

Bay Advocate, Omega Proteins Differ Over Menhaden Cap

KIRBY FARINEAU

A Chesapeake Bay advocate says the General Assembly’s failure to place a cap on Virginia’s lucrative menhaden catch leaves unanswered questions about key elements of the region’s ecology.

These stories are courtesy of VCU’s Capital News Service. The full stories can be found at [vcucns.com](#).

Richmond students walk out in honor of Parkland shooting victims



VCU Spokesperson Michael Porter said the university welcomes applications from students who may have participated in the nationwide school walkout.

NIA TARIO
Staff Writer

High school students throughout Richmond staged walkouts in unison with a nationwide event March 14 in response to the Marjory Stoneman-Douglas High School shooting one month before. The walkout lasted 17 minutes as an homage to each of the students and staff who lost their lives.

Students at Richmond Community High School’s protest commemorated the Parkland shooting by reading biographies of each victim followed by moments of silence, citing statistics about

gun violence in schools, and honoring the lost lives to gun violence since the Valentine’s Day attack.

“I understand that peace begins with me,” chanted the RCHS students, “and I will do my best to make sure that our school stays safe.”

Student organizers at RCHS Emmaline Clark and Ariana Shahidi explained the walkouts represented the start of something beautiful — change.

“We all have a role in our community to be peaceful,” Clark said. “When we come together with that peaceful mindset, it creates an environment of anti-violence.”

Shahidi expressed her concerns that if the current gun legislation

does not change, one day she could become a victim, too.

“It just really breaks my heart every single time thinking about how those students and teachers say goodbye to their families for what would be the last time,” she said. “When my mom comes and kisses me goodbye when I’m still in bed in the morning, it’s hard to think that one day that could be the last time my mom says bye to me.”

Students also vocalized their concerns about the legality of military-style and assault weapons available to people as young as 18.

“[Change] starts with common sense gun laws,” Shahidi said. “No one in America needs to have an

AR-15 military style rifle in general. And to legally obtain it at age 19 is out of hand.”

Richmond Public Schools, in a recent statement, encouraged students who have stepped up in their roles as young activists. However, their main concern was student safety during the protests. RPS, along with other school districts in the area, disciplined students who participated in the protest with an unexcused absence.

“While we wholeheartedly respect every individual’s right to peaceful assembly and free expression,” the statement read, “our top priority is to provide a safe teaching and learning environment for all.”

VCU spokesperson Michael Porter reassured that VCU’s stance on the national walkouts is in support of students who participated, even if they may have been disciplined.

“VCU’s mission is one that embraces diversity of ideas and critical thinking, and our students are encouraged to challenge the norm,” Porter said. “Therefore, VCU welcomes applications from individuals who have exercised their rights to engage in peaceful protest and thoughtful dialogue.”



Partnership seeks to increase number of Spanish-speaking students in health care

ANYA SCZERZENIE
Contributing Writer

VCU announced a partnership with CVS Health to increase the number of Spanish-speaking applicants to the School of Pharmacy on March 9.

The company will be giving \$248,500 to the School of Pharmacy to create a Spanish-speaking applicant pipeline and increase cultural awareness within the school. The program aims to help students provide better care of Spanish-speaking patients.

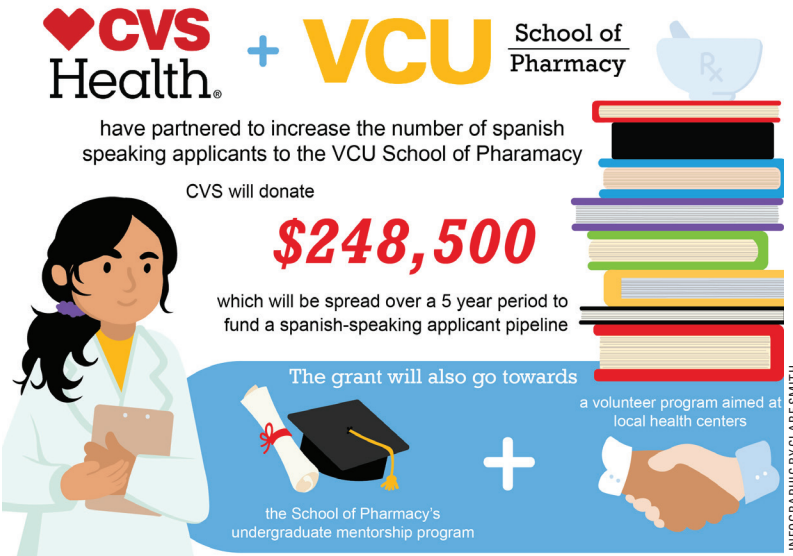
This grant also provides funds for a select number of undergraduate students to volunteer as medical interpreters at CrossOver Healthcare Ministry and Southside Community Health Center. These students, who will be trained in medical interpretation beforehand, will work alongside professional pharmacists, nurses and physicians.

“We’re looking to mainly Spanish-speaking students, to expose them in the clinic setting,” said Kelechi Ogbonna, associate dean of admissions at the VCU School of Pharmacy. “While shadowing a pharmacist in the clinical setting, they’re also going to be able to provide interpreter services along the way.”

The program plans to address the health care needs of Virginia’s growing Latinx population through the translating services of these students. Though only 10 students will be interpreters in the program’s first year, that number will increase by five students each year afterward.

Money from the CVS Health grant will also be used to fund the “boot camp” and mentorship programs for aspiring pharmacist undergraduates which help them to enter into the School of Pharmacy.

“For our company to thrive we need innovative partnerships with



institutions like VCU School of Pharmacy to help produce a highly trained, culturally diverse future health care workforce for companies like CVS Health,” said Eileen Boone of CVS Health.

University names new Vice President for Inclusive Excellence

SOPHIA BELLETTI
Executive Editor

Scholar and academic administrator Aashir Nasim has been named Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, effective April 2.

Nasim currently serves as interim senior vice provost for faculty affairs and director of the Institute for Inclusion, Inquiry & Innovation (iCubed) at VCU.

As vice president, Nasim will lead the Division for Inclusive Excellence and implement the newly adopted Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan designed to fulfill VCU’s mission of becoming a model university for inclusivity and be a visionary and collaborative leader for the university.

“Aashir is a respected scholar who is admired around the nation and who brings an important lens of diversity and inclusion to his work and to our university community,” said VCU President Mi-

chael Rao in a press release. “I have valued his leadership over the past decade and look forward to working closely with him.”

In January, the VCU community was invited to attend two Campus Forums to meet the two finalists: Nasim and Brian Corpening. Corpening currently serves as Assistant Provost for Diversity & Community Partnerships.

At the Forums, the candidates spoke about their vision for inclusivity in higher education.

The Division for Inclusive Excellence, established in 2012, focuses on nurturing a dynamic environment for people from all walks of life.

In addition, the division is responsible for materializing diversity initiatives outlined in VCU’s Five-Year Diversity Plan and the VCU Quest for Distinction that encourage a welcoming community that supports all people regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, political

affiliation, veterans’ status and disability.

As senior vice provost, Nasim has served as chief administrator for the Office of Faculty Affairs as well as lead faculty development and success initiatives on the university’s academic, medical and international campuses. In his position with iCubed, he has been responsible for new transdisciplinary academic and research programs, which included over 50 faculty and postdoctoral researchers from across the university. Nasim will continue his role of iCubed director.

“We are positioned to be a model in higher education for translating this institutional commitment into national prominence in how we educate our students,” Nasim said. “As our next vice president for inclusive excellence, I look forward to engaging our university community to make this happen, sooner rather than later.”

Nasim earned his Ph.D. in psy-

chology from Howard University and began his academic career in 2001 as an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at James Madison University. He arrived at VCU in 2008 as an associate professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology and the Department of African American Studies in the College of Humanities and Sciences. He was then promoted to professor in 2017. His administrative appointments have included tenures as chair of the Department of African American Studies and as a special assistant to the provost.

Nasim is a National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities Scholar and a VCU Massey Cancer Center Research Program member. His research focuses topics such as tobacco and other drug behaviors, sexual risk behaviors and culture, identity and behavior.

VCU researchers discover genetic links between severe trauma and depression

LOGAN REARDON
Contributing Writer

VCU researchers discovered three additional genetic indicators that have a significant effect on those only who have experienced severe trauma, contributing to the likelihood of depression.

Roseann Peterson, a professor at the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics and Institute Director Kenneth Kendler, in partnership with the European Bioinformatics Institute and Wellcome Sanger Institute, published their study in the American Journal of Psychiatry early March.

Peterson said the work could help identify subtypes of depression and lead to the development of more individually-targeted methods for treatment.

“The ultimate goal is to identify high risk individuals for early intervention and personalized medicine,” Peterson said. “Genetic approaches, such as we have applied here, will be increasingly used to illuminate clinically relevant subtypes that will have important downstream implications for diagnosis, subtype biotyping, intervention and treatment.”

The researchers conducted a genome-wide association study — a study of a genomes in different individuals to see if any variant is associated with a trait — and identified molecular processes that had not previously been associated with depression.

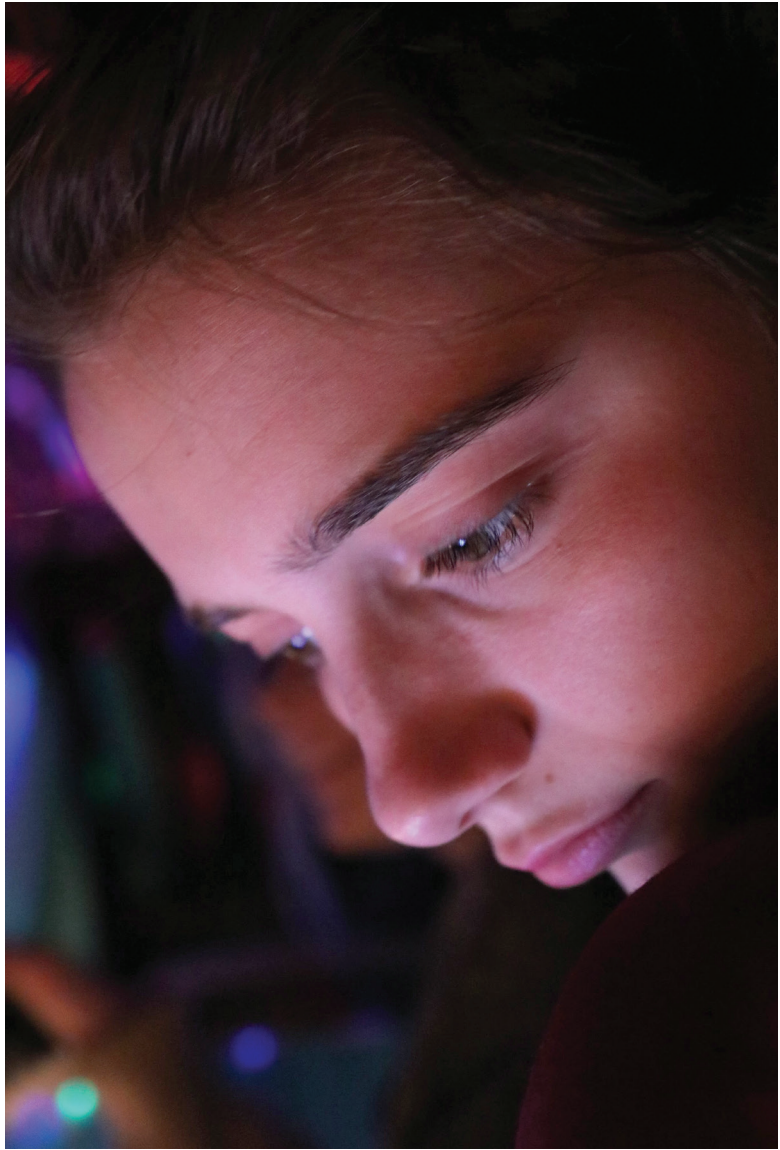
The Converge Project, an international collaboration of China, Oxford and the VCU Experimental Research on Genetic Epidemiology, used data from 10,000 Han Chinese women from 50 hospitals across China.

In 2015, partners in this study published findings that two brain regions have a connection to an increased risk for developing major depression. Now, researchers factored in life experiences of people in contributing to the risk.

This research extends the 2015 discovery of molecular genetic markers associated with major depressive disorder in Han Chinese women from two variants to five, Peterson said. The three additional genetic indicators were discovered because CONVERGE collected data on adversity measures.

According to Peterson, there is still research left to be done on the subject, and work has already begun on the next phase of this study. The second phase of Converge will see the addition of 24,000 cases of major depressive disorder and 24,000 controls, and together with CONVERGE-I, will give a total available sample size of 60,000 subjects.

“CONVERGE-II will also extend the work by incorporating a detailed life events calendar to allow a more dynamic view of how genes and environment together influence major depressive disorder,” Peterson said.



New findings by the Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics Institute may lead to more targeted treatment methods.



sports

Stat of the Week
After UMBC’s victory over Virginia, 16 seeds are now 1-135 all time against 1 seeds in the NCAA Tournament.

Press Box

Hall of Fame or Hall of Shame?

The PED debate

ADAM CHEEK
Contributing Writer

The Baseball Writers’ Association of America unveiled the 2018 Baseball Hall of Fame class a little over a month ago, and four stellar players were inducted into baseball immortality by ballot voting, with two additional legends elected by the Modern Baseball Era Committee.

Suspected performance-enhancing drug (PED) users Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens only gained about three percent of the votes from 2017, placing them both at just above 55 percent of the ballots.

With this induction, the

“

I have always considered the use of PEDs to be detrimental to baseball’s purity and a mark that taints its legacy.

Adam Cheek
Contributing Writer

inevitable steroid debate rose again, reigniting the conversation among millions of sports fanatics. In a nutshell, the debate centers around whether or not players accused of or confirmed to have used PEDs should be allowed into the Hall of Fame.

As a baseball fan and a student of the game’s history, I have always considered the use of PEDs and steroids to be detrimental to baseball’s purity and a mark that taints its legacy and sportsmanship. No player who either used PEDs or who is under a great suspicion of doing so during the

infamous “Steroid Era” should be voted into the Hall of Fame. For this analysis, I will primarily spotlight batting, as this is the chief telling factor of the era.

In a 15-season span between 1988 and 2002, the number of 40-homer players, a number considered to be the upper echelon of that statistic in a season, as well as the highest number of home runs hit by an individual player, skyrocketed. These seasons also approximately represent Barry Bonds’ peak years when considering batting. 1988 gave way to only one 42-homer individual, Jose Canseco, who later publicly admitted his use of steroids.

MLB implemented a steroid ban in 1991, but few players acknowledged this warning until power hitting began to take flight later in the decade.

A six-season stretch, beginning in 1996 and ending in 2001, proves to be the era’s harbinger of controversy. An average of nearly 14 players surpassed 40 home runs per year in that span, with the highest total averaging over 60 home runs per season. The latter years of the decade brought the Sammy Sosa-Mark McGwire home run race of 1998, a contest that captivated the nation as the two National League sluggers traded out-of-the-park bombs

throughout the season.

This cluster of seasons also brought about Barry Bonds’ 73-home-run campaign in 2001, a record that has never been surpassed. Bonds is the poster child for the steroid era, a solid hitter and fielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He came under scrutiny for PED use as his career continued, and skyrocketed, in San Francisco. His meteoric rise in home runs led to speculation that the statistical boost was artificially influenced. The San Francisco Giant also surpassed Hank Aaron’s all-time home run record of 755 in 2007, cementing him as likely one of the most prominent and controversial

figures in the sport.

Although Bonds was never confirmed to have enabled the use of these drugs, he was indicted for perjury in the BALCO case. This investigation into a laboratory that supplied PEDs to athletes produced few prominent names, but their supplication of steroids to players was enough for the baseball world to scrutinize Bonds.

I tend to side with the large portion of the baseball community that believes Bonds used steroids to aid his career. Stepping back and even simply comparing two photos supports that widely accepted theory, as two photos, 15 years apart, feature staggering

differences even without statistics. A 1992 photo features a thin, agile player who appears to be able to play any fielding position. However, a 2007 picture displays an abnormally bulky hulk of a player who only looks fit to be a designated hitter. The statistics of Bonds’ career follow the same pattern, peaking in the years that he began to exhibit these signs.

A large amount of credit should be given to MLB for attempting to control this problem, as the organization unsuccessfully attempted to implement an all-encompassing program for violators of the drug policy. This policy went into effect in 2006 and provides three levels of penalties for positive steroid test results, with an 80-game ban assigned to those penalized for the first time. Second-time offenders receive a 162-game suspension (the entire season) and players who test positive for steroids a third time are hit with a lifetime ban.

Over 60 players on major-league rosters have been penalized through this program as of 2018, with only Mets pitcher Jenrry Mejía, who violated the policy three times in the span of about 10 months, receiving a lifetime ban. Other prominent players disciplined include Alex Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez, Rafael Palmeiro, Ryan Braun and Miguel Tejada, but very few of those penalized became repeat offenders.

Regarding the Hall of Fame, membership of this elite class of legends should be based on natural ability alone. If there is substantial evidence or suspicion that indicates a player artificially enhanced his performance, their chances at an induction to Cooperstown should be waived.

Becoming a part of baseball immortality requires a devotion to the sport and a myriad of abilities. These athletes worked their way up through the ranks of the minor leagues to attain their position on a major league team. Given they record a stellar career and prove themselves to be one of the best at what they do through natural ability, they should be rewarded with a chance to be inducted into

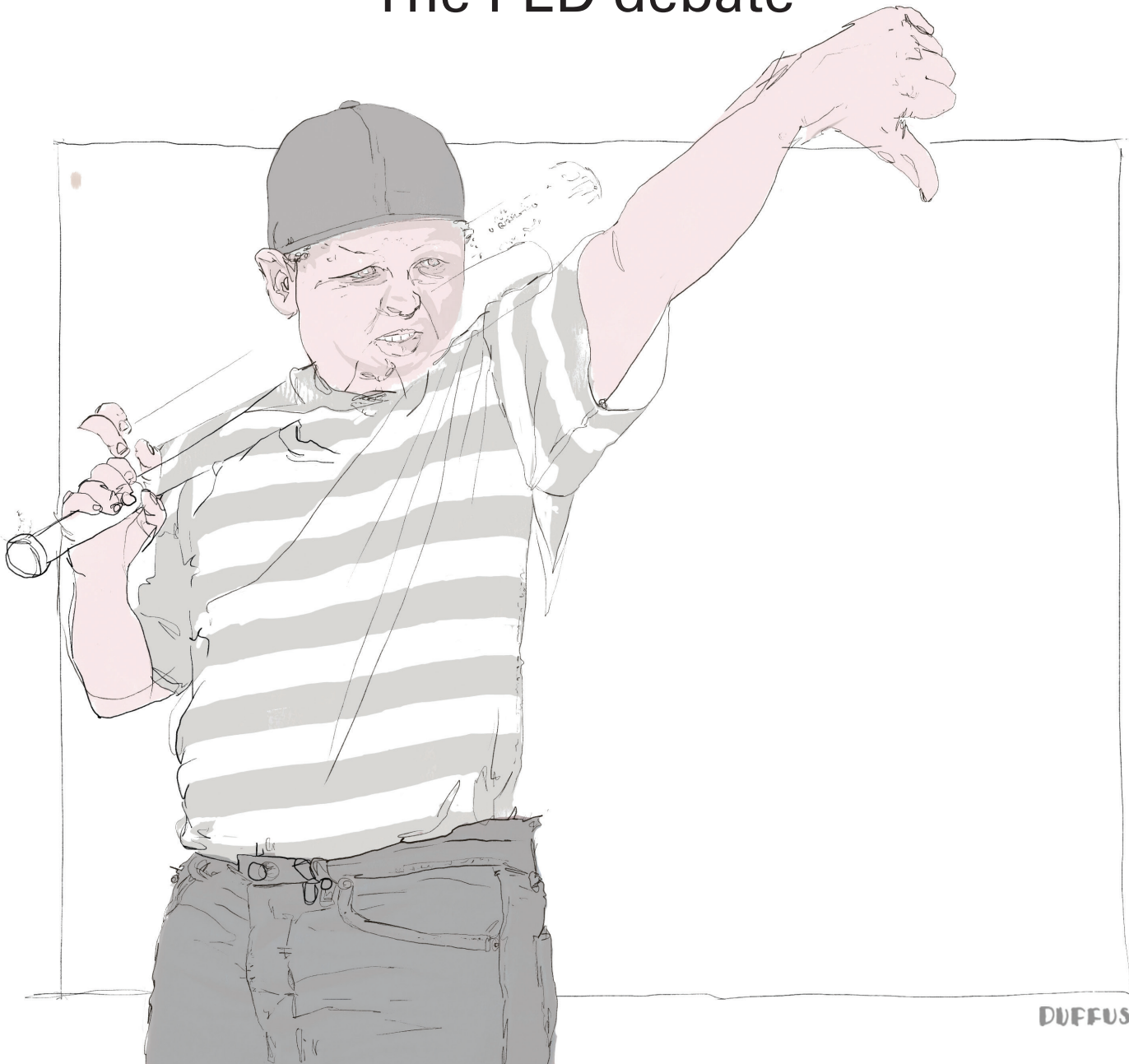


ILLUSTRATION BY IAN DUFFUS

Prey of bird: Tennis downs Eagles, falls to Pheonix



Junior Arvid Noren had 19 singles wins last year.

ADAM CHEEK
Contributing Writer

WOMEN

Women’s tennis posted a 1-0 record last week, emerging with a close win over Winthrop University Saturday to improve their season record to 11-2. Their ninth straight win came at the expense of the Eagles, who nearly edged out a victory over the Rams, but the Black and Gold managed to squeak by.

The Rams dropped Winthrop to 10-4, with freshman Melissa Ifidzhen picking up her 17th doubles win of the season. Ifidzhen, paired with freshman Sofia Sualehe, beat their opponents 6-4.

Fellow freshman Paolo Exposito Diaz Delgado blew out her match opponent, emerging victorious by sets of 6-3 and 6-1, and tied junior Anna Rasmussen for a team-leading 13 singles wins on the season. Sophomores Kanako Yano and Noumea Witmus each recorded two-set wins, with Suahele clinching the match with a three-set win.

MEN

On the men’s side, the Elon University Phoenix felled the Black and Gold Sunday with a sobering 6-1 loss to open the outdoor season.

However, freshman Inigo Torre Martin won his 12th singles match of the year, providing a bright spot for the Rams. Martin, from Bilbao, Spain, now sits in second on the team with that 12th victory. Elon dominated VCU, while two juniors and a sophomore all proved resilient in the latter stages of the race for the Rams.

Arvid Noren and Philip Mobius, both juniors, and sophomore Ignacio Rivero Crespo all battled to force third sets against their Phoenix opponents, but eventually fell in those final sets. Elon won the opening doubles point and recorded straight-set victories at No. 1 and No. 2 singles, opening their lead up to 3-0. Martin dominated at No. 5 singles, but it proved to fall just short of a team victory against Elon.

The VCU women’s team will face off next on Tuesday, March 20 against Liberty University at 2 p.m. The men’s squad will play their next match against Rice University on Saturday, March 24, facing off against the Owls at 9 a.m.



Freshman Paola Exposito Diaz Delgado hails from Spain.

PHOTO BY SHAYLA BAILEY

PHOTO BY MICHEL MAULDING

Track and field seniors dominate VCU Ram Invite



Track and field won 4 of the VCU Ram Invite’s 12 events. Sophomore Bryce Catlett finished second in the 1500-meter run. His 4:02.66 time is a new personal best in the event.

JESSICA WETZLER
Staff Writer

Track and field opened with success during the first day of the Ram Invite, winning 4 of the 12 events. The Rams dominated the 200 meter and claimed the top four spots in the event.

Junior Taylor Watkins was the first to cross the line in the women’s 200 meter. Watkins completed the half-lap in 24.85, a personal best for the junior. Three other VCU sprinters trailed Watkins by less than a second. Sophomore Kayla Smith was the second place finisher with a time of 24.90. Sophomore Alexis Willis and junior Candice James placed third and fourth, respectively. James’ 25.08 was also a

personal best.

VCU also took control in the women’s 1500 meter run with senior Courtney Holleran claiming first place. Holleran’s time was 4:56.59. Not far behind was fellow senior Ashley Brown, coming in at 4:57.83.

Senior Taylor McCormick leapt to another first place finish in the women’s triple jump with a mark of 12.15m.

On the men’s side, senior Shawn Scornaienchi earned a win in the shot put with a 14.41m mark. Freshman Jacob Greenless placed second in his first collegiate hammer throw. The freshman set a mark of 49.02m.

Also earning a second place finish was sophomore Bryce Catlett in the men’s 1500-meter run. Catlett,

who crossed the line just 0.81 seconds behind the first place finisher, recorded a new personal best in the event with a 4:02.66 finish.

Continuing to dominate during the second day of the Ram Invite, VCU seniors stepped up during their day of recognition, with six seniors on the men’s side earning first place finishes. The women won seven more events while setting a new meet record for the women’s 4x400 meter relay.

In a two-team 4x400 meter relay race between VCU and Virginia State, the Rams pulled out a win. The team completed the relay in 3:15.64, two seconds quicker than their competition. Three seniors, Devon Thompson, Bigal Harrison, and Kahlil Shepard, as well as sophomore Chukwuezugbo Aguolu

made up the team.

Senior Shawn Scornaienchi won the javelin by a nine-meter margin. His final mark was 54.85m. It was Scornaienchi’s second event win of the meet.

In the men’s long jump, senior Marcus Finnie claimed first place out of 14 by leaping 6.73m.

Another champion was sophomore Ian Davis in the 110 meter hurdles. Davis outraced everybody to a 15.36 time and a first place finish.

Freshman Xyan Xrichardson placed second in the high jump by clearing the 1.95m mark.

Freshman Willie Schwartz set a new personal best in the discus with a 42.03m mark. He placed fourth overall.

On the women’s side, sophomore Kayla Smith, junior Ann

Sheehy, sophomore Kara Lyles and junior Taylor Watkins were the winning combination of runners the Rams used to secure a first place finish in the 4x400 meter relay and to break the meet record that had stood since 2013. The squad’s time was 3:46.94, 1.3 seconds faster than the previous record set by George Mason University.

In the 400 meter, junior Candice James set a personal best with a 56.33 time. James was being chased by Sheehy, who came in at 57.18.

Sophomore Delaney Savedge earned a win in the 3000 meter run. Savedge, who led the entire race, recorded a time of 10:45.02.

Senior Olivia Coopwood won the 100m hurdles, earning a time of 15.16 seconds. Senior De’Nisha Smith also grabbed a first place

finish in the long jump with a 5.62m mark. Finally, senior Amiaya Carey recorded a first place finish in the high jump with a 1.65m mark, which ties a personal best for the senior.

“It’s great to have a home meet,” assistant coach Tom Sage said. “Obviously, we were hoping for better weather, but we liked the effort we saw out of all our kids. We came away with a few titles in events and we’re looking forward to heading down to South Florida next week.”

Next up, the Black and Gold travel to the University of South Florida for the second of their three out-of-state meets this season. The Bulls Invitational will begin Thursday, March 22.

Lacrosse sets new margin of victory record



Lacrosse’s 24 goals Sunday is tied for the most VCU has ever scored in a single match.

NILE MCNAIR
Contributing Writer

Lacrosse split a pair of games last week to move to 2-5 on the season. The Black and Gold fell at The College of William & Mary 15-5 before taking down Long Island University - Brooklyn 24-8 Sunday afternoon — a new single-game margin of victory record for the program.

LIU - BROOKLYN

Lacrosse racked up 24 goals Sunday, tying the program’s record for most goals in a game. The 15-goal margin of victory is the largest in VCU Lacrosse history. The Rams scored 24 last April 23 in a victory over Saint Bonaventure University.

The Rams led 6-4 with 13 minutes remaining in the first half, then VCU scored 18 of the game’s last 22 goals, coasting to victory down the stretch. Redshirt junior midfielder Sky Hyatt scored twice

to become the program’s first-ever 100-goal scorer. Sophomore midfielder Keriann McTavish scored four goals and dished out a game-high four assists. Junior attacker Molly Barcikowski and sophomore midfielder / attacker Isabella Evans-Riester also scored four times each.

W&M

VCU traveled to the Tribe of The College of William & Mary last Wednesday as they looked to rid themselves of a three game losing streak, but fell by a final of 15-5.

The Black and Gold came out firing in this game, getting out to a 2-0 lead quickly within the first five minutes, including a goal from McTavish on a free position shot. Junior midfielder Sofia Emond followed up McTavish a minute later with a goal of her own.

With a 4-2 VCU lead halfway through the first period, the Tribe

needed to respond quickly before this game got out of hand.

After going down by two, the Tribe retaliated with three consecutive goals. Two of those three goals came unassisted.

The game was tied 5-5 at half-time after VCU sophomore attacker Jessica Del Rossa scored to knot things up moments before the half.

In the second half the game became less competitive — VCU was shut out. The Tribe scored a whopping 10 goals in the second half.

With her two goals in the second half, junior midfielder / attacker Abby Corkum of William and Mary registered a hat trick against the Rams.

Lacrosse will return to action Wednesday in Blacksburg against the Hokies of Virginia Tech at 5 p.m.

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Baseball shuts No. 17 ECU out, wins ninth straight



Senior outfielder Haiden Lamb is hitting .315 this year with 17 runs scored and 14 stolen bases this season out of the lead off spot.

ZACH JOACHIM
Sports Editor

Baseball reeled off five wins last week to improve to 13-8 on the season and push its winning streak to nine games. The Black and Gold defeated No. 17 East Carolina University and Lafayette College Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, before sweeping a three-game weekend series with Iona University.

IONA — SUN.

VCU squeaked by the Gaels of Iona Sunday by a 5-4 final. Sophomore right-hander Connor Gillespie got credit for the win after fanning nine Gaels in four innings of work. Gillespie, who improved

to 3-1 with a stellar 1.88 earned run average on the year, scattered two hits and a walk.

Junior reliever and infielder Mac McCarty notched his ninth save of the year despite allowing Iona to pull within one run in the bottom of the ninth. VCU's two and three hitters, senior infielder Daane Berezo and sophomore infielder Paul Witt, each collected a pair of the Rams' seven hits Sunday afternoon.

IONA — SAT.

The Black and Gold walked off Iona Saturday to win 2-1 and push their winning streak to eight games. Junior infielder Zac Ching had both RBI for VCU, smacking a solo home run over the left-field fence in the bottom of the fifth and

ending the night with a walk-off hit to score Berezo after working a full count.

Senior starting right hander Sean Thompson went seven strong, only allowing one run on four hits and striking out nine. Junior reliever Benjamin Dun earned the victory after two innings of scoreless relief.

IONA — FRI.

Baseball won its seventh straight game Friday with a dominant 3-0 victory to kick off the weekend series. Four VCU pitchers combined for the shutout — sophomore Sam Ryan and juniors Jack Alkire, Michael Dailey and Mac McCarty.

Ryan struck out three in four innings of work and only allowed a

hit and a walk. Alkire was nearly perfect in three innings of relief, fanning four, walking one and not allowing a hit. Dailey and McCarty gave up a hit each in their single scoreless frames. Six Rams recorded hits on the day. VCU took the lead with two runs in the bottom of the second and never looked back.

LAFAYETTE — WED.

A three-run bottom of the sixth spurred VCU to an 8-6 victory Wednesday over the Leopards of Lafayette. VCU scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning to kick off a back-and-forth affair. Eight Rams batted in the first frame. A Berezo RBI double and sophomore infielder Brett Willett's bases loaded single highlighted the

early onslaught by the Black and Gold. Berezo went 3-4 with two runs scored.

The Leopards climbed all the way back to take a 6-5 lead in the fifth, but back-to-back RBI doubles by Witt and senior infielder Mitchel Lacey in the bottom of the sixth regained the lead for VCU, 8-6. McCarty, sophomore reliever Hayden Moore and senior reliever Ryan Fox combined to shut out Lafayette in the final three innings.

EAST CAROLINA — TUE.

VCU extended its win streak to five games in impressive fashion Tuesday by shutting out the No. 17 Pirates of East Carolina University in a 3-0 victory in Greenville, N.C. Gillespie, Dailey and Dum

combined to scatter three hits. Dum was credited with his second save of the season after working the final three innings. Sophomore catcher Josh Simon reached base thrice, going 1-2 with a walk, hit by pitch, RBI and run scored. Witt put VCU up 2-0 in the top of the fifth with a line drive through the left center gap.

VCU will look to ride their mid-season momentum surge into conference play next week. The white-hot Black and Gold head to Virginia Military Institute for a Wednesday night date with the cadets before welcoming Rhode Island University to town for the first three-game series of A-10 play.

PHOTO BY RAELEYN JONES

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On this day
The U.S. Congress established Daylight Saving Time and time zones on March 19, 1918.

Spoken word performances promote healthy sexuality



In an effort to promote awareness, audience members were asked to define terms like “rape culture” and “slut-shaming” before the performances began.

GEORGIA GEEN
Spectrum Editor

Slam poets and comedians promoted healthy sexuality and addressed sexual assault at a March 15 performance, “Who You Callin’ A Slut,” at The Depot hosted by Good Clear Sound and SAVES at VCU, an anti-violence group.

The comedy portion occupied the second half of the evening, in part so the event ended on a “lighter note,” said Marieka Turner, affiliated with Good Clear Sound and SAVES as president and diversity chair, respectively. She hoped the comedy would show how in-

dividuals move on and grow from difficult experiences and develop a healthy sexuality.

“Whenever I do comedy I think about how I can bring light and positivity to all of the dark things in my life like racism, sexism, homophobia, all the things that have happened in my life,” Turner said.

Jokes about dating married men and members of white supremacy groups appeared in Turner’s performance, though she assures she hasn’t actually done either of those things. She bases her jokes around real experiences with “ridiculous” twists and hopes audience members with similar experiences can

relate to her performances.

Turner started performing stand-up comedy about eight months ago, but has been a poet for much longer. She said she started feeling comfortable identifying herself as a comedian a few months ago.

“[Performance] is an outlet for all the crazy stuff that happens in my life,” Turner said. “What’s different about comedy, it’s really based off the audience and making sure the audience feels comfortable.”

It’s not common for slam poets to transition to comedy, Turner said, but the two fields are similar because slam poetry sometimes employs comedic elements.

“Poetry is definitely more cathartic, in like I want to just cry,” Turner said. “But comedy is cathartic in the sense that it’s an ‘f you’ to all the people that have hurt me and I’m going to make stories about it.”

The many facets of sexual assault — abusive relationships, victim-blaming and consent, among others — arose in the slam poetry performances. One performer presented the situation of a barista always asking a customer what she wants in her drink, despite the fact that she orders the same thing every day, as a metaphor for sexual consent. No matter how many times she requests the same thing,

the barista can’t make an assumption, just as a sexual partner can’t assume consent. The end of the poem alternated between lines of a coffee order and language associated with sexual assault.

Before the performances began, a speaker asked audience members if they could define terms like “slut shaming,” or stigmatizing a woman’s sexual behaviours. This is different from last year’s event, Turner said, when audience members were encouraged to ask questions after the performances. This segment led to an instance of victim-blaming, Turner said.

“I don’t think people intention-

ally try to be hurtful by any means, but I think sometimes it’s the whole essence of rape culture,” Turner said. “If you’re coming to this event to learn, it’s okay to ask questions, but [make] sure you’re coming from a place of listening.”

Turner encourages attendees of events that address sexual assault to make sure they listen more than they speak and be conscious of the impact of their intentions in order to avoid causing harm.

“The whole point of the event is to not have judgement. It’s a space for these performers to reclaim space,” Turner said.

SAM’S TAKE

“Tomb Raider” brutally stumbles into mediocrity

SAMUEL GOODRICH
Staff Writer

While “Tomb Raider” captures the look of the new Lara Croft, the film hardly justifies its own existence.

The “Tomb Raider” franchise of video games began in the late ‘90s as a take on Indiana Jones-style adventure films. The twist was that they followed an overly sexualized polygonal woman, Lara Croft, who soon became a pop culture staple. The game was hugely successful, leading to two film adaptations with Angelina Jolie. The series was not without obvious controversy over the way they objectified Croft.

In 2009, “Tomb Raider” was rebooted into a new game which aimed to make Croft a more complex character, putting her on a dangerous island as she fought for survival. The game was well received by critics and fans alike, and so, Hollywood decided to adapt this new story into a movie.

Croft is the daughter of a rich man who went missing seven years ago. Despite her intelligence and physical strength, Croft decides to live a “normal” life instead of inheriting her father’s fortune. One day, she discovers her father went to a secret island to find the tomb of an ancient Japanese queen. Croft immediately sets out for the island to find her father, facing threats along her journey.

“Tomb Raider” fails at almost everything it sets out to do. As an action film, it’s quite generic. The fight scenes and escape sequences are by the numbers, to the point where I zoned out during most of them. The camera work, the choreography, the deaths and take-downs are all so mediocre it comes off as lazy.

The only scenes that manage to capture the nail-biting tension found in the 2009 videogame are the ones they take directly from it. An escape from a ship as Croft first arrives is chaotic, while her ordeal on top a rusted airplane over a wa-

terfall is entertaining and intense.

The rest of the movie is beyond dull. This can be attributed mostly to a lack of consistent tone.

During the intense scenes discussed earlier, it feels as if the film wants us to understand Croft’s struggle to survive as she pushes her body to the limit. Yet these moments are undercut by overly dramatic music and a senseless plot that invades the quieter scenes. Comedy attempts rarely work, instead they come off as confusing or annoying.

Oddly enough, “Tomb Raider” attempts to be adventurous near the end with an entire tomb raiding sequence that does nothing to make it stand out. There are death traps, betrayals and even a slightly fun puzzle-solving scene, but it’s not enough to salvage this celluloid fire.

Despite all these issues, I’m not sure it’s worth anyone’s time to hate “Tomb Raider.” It’s not insultingly bad, though the lack of character logic can be frustrating at times. Alicia Vikander does a good job as Croft, but she isn’t given much to do with the flat characterization.

Even worse, all of the strong character development from the beginning is thrown out the window once she begins her search for her father. From then on, Croft simply runs around an island as male characters make the big decisions or give her things to help her out.

And herein lies the film’s main



problem: it doesn’t understand itself. The advertising, and even the source material, sell Croft as a strong, self-sufficient, resourceful woman pushed to her limits in order to survive. In “Tomb Raider,” Croft is barely a character and more of a vessel for what the filmmakers are hoping will become a film series in which she can be further developed.

“Tomb Raider’s” biggest offense is that it just doesn’t try hard enough, full of cliches and ideas that are neither done exceptionally or insultingly poorly. There were many moments when the film could have become something more, but all that’s left is a confused but average action film. It’s a forgettable flick hardly worth anyone’s time.

The Anderson “professionalizes” student exhibition with themed call

GEORGIA GEEN
Spectrum Editor

Arts students responded to the political theme, “Sic Semper Tyrannis” with broad and personal takes in work presented at the 2018 Undergraduate Juried Exhibition, which opened on March 16 at The Anderson gallery.

Charles Westfall, the director of The Anderson, said this was the first year the show has had a set theme.

“We wanted to introduce a wrinkle and professionalize it a little more in a healthy way,” Westfall said, “extend the challenge presented to the students by having a themed call so that it wasn’t just a ‘best of,’ but a show organized around a conceptual principle.”

The exhibition’s juror, Alex Klein of the University of Pennsylvania’s Institute of Contemporary Art, selected 37 works out of 199 submissions. She said she chose the theme in part because of its relevance to Richmond and the rest of the state being that it’s Virginia’s state motto. The latin phrase, which translates to “thus always to tyrants,” also relates to modern political debates, such as those surrounding Richmond’s Confederate monuments, Klein said.

“I was trying to think of something that would both relate to the local position, but could also have a broader interpretation,” Klein said. “There’s a lot of complications around art in public space, right now.”

Klein said she enjoyed seeing the different reactions to the prompt. Some artists — like the exhibition’s best in show winner, Summer Balcom, a senior studying craft and material studies and art education — produced a more personal interpretation.

Balcom’s performance piece was inspired by her sister’s military burial at Arlington Cemetery. At first, Balcom said she didn’t think the personal nature of the performance, in which she mim-



Thirty-seven works were selected out of 199 submissions.

icked the ceremonious folding of the flag with a slab of clay, would fit the political theme.

“Now that I see it in the space with other pieces, I feel like it really shows more of a struggle of personal power,” Balcom said. “The politics of experiences of loss and how that weight is carried through time.”

Though the performance was originally submitted as a video, Balcom said she was asked to perform the work live at the exhibition. The request was unexpected, but she thinks the work is best experienced as a live performance.

“I think it’s so much more impactful because you’re witnessing this moment that will never happen again,” Balcom said. “It’s really different to be in that space with the person and the artwork. I think it really changes the piece, makes it more personal to you.”

Balcom used a 140-pound slab of clay for the performance, a number she says is significant because it was her sister’s body

weight, in addition to her own. The physical weight is representative of the situation’s emotional heaviness, representing the effect on Balcom.

“I feel like every time, it’s a very reflective, kind of somber thing for me to go through and think about what’s happening,” Balcom said.

Klein said Balcom’s piece touched on every facet of the prompt and the work itself can be interpreted a multitude of ways, given the well-known nature of the symbol of the flag.

Participation in the exhibition also gives student artists an opportunity to see how their work interacts with other pieces.

“I think it’s great experience to think about how your work goes from a private studio to a public space of discussion,” Klein said. “You have to stand up for your work when it’s on the wall because a lot of different people are going to see it.”

What the *f#@&* are Juuls?

GEORGIA GEEN
Spectrum Editor

To answer the question, they're vapes ... but "cooler."

What started as an e-cigarette designed to help adults quit smoking has skyrocketed in popularity among young adults. VCU students are no exception — in fact, Juuls have become part of the VCU aesthetic, alongside mom jeans and cigarettes.

"This is something that became a college experience," said sophomore and Juul user Megan Watt. "It's just another way to get a nicotine addiction."

Watt's roommate, sophomore Carly Calabrese, says Juul culture is more "secretive" since the device is small -- comparable to the size of a flashdrive. Juuls are associated with going out, while vapes, honestly, are just weird.

“

It's totally peer pressure because you're surrounded by people who have [Juuls],"

Megan Watt,
Sophomore

How do you use a Juul?

The Juul brand offers five standard flavors and currently has three limited edition pods. Juulers remove the cap on the top of the



ILLUSTRATION BY JACQUE CHANDLER

device to insert the pod that lasts for about 200 puffs, which a lot of people blow through in about a day.

Beginners might experience a bit of a learning curve. The support section of the Juul website states it might take a while to figure out what kind of puff — long, deep or quick and shallow — works best. Those who transition from cigarettes might not get the same effect from the nicotine initially. That's not to say Juul goes easy on the nicotine: the pods have a 5 percent nicotine concentration by weight, compared to about 1 percent in a normal cigarette.

The Juul pods are better and stronger, Watt and Calabrese agree, but ri-

diculously expensive. For that reason, they've started refilling the pods with other, cheaper brands of juice.

Isn't it really expensive?

Oh, yeah. Calabrese said most juulers are pretty addicted, so they go through a ton of pods. The starter-pack with the device costs between \$35 and \$50. A pack of four pods costs \$15 and the company limits users from buying more than 15 pod packs per month from its website. Watt says her parents discovered her habit looking at her credit card purchases, asking something along the lines of, "What's Carytown Tobacco and why do you

spend \$15 a week there?"

The steep price and financial "commitment" was almost — emphasis on "almost" — enough to prevent Calabrese from buying a Juul.

Why even start? And what about that guy desperate to hit someone's Juul at a party?

"It's totally peer pressure because you're surrounded by people who have [Juuls]," Watt said.

Sophomore Morgan Grove, Watt and Calabrese's roommate, was introduced to Juuls when Calabrese bought one. She made the plunge to buy her own so she wouldn't have to keep asking Cal-

abrese to use hers.

"I just felt really bad because [Calabrese] had hers, and we would always use it, especially when we would go out," Grove said.

As is the case with other substances, broke people at parties mooch off of those willing to share a Juul hit. Some people don't have boundaries, Watt said.

"People will literally take it away from you," Watt said. "I've had people take it away from me at parties and go across the room."

Not wanting to be that "fiend" who asks to use a friend's Juul all the time is one reason people make the leap to buy their own. Once they buy their own, it's a lot easier

to get addicted. Watt said get users wrapped into it quickly — she used to be "that person," she says, but now gets annoyed when someone asks to use her Juul.

What about the high school students who Juul?

A prompt on the Juul website asks visitors their ages. When they select the "under 21 option," they're redirected to teen.smokefree.gov, which has information on the risks of tobacco and nicotine consumption, in addition to information on how to quit smoking.

The trend has become popular among high school students, something the company seems to be trying to negate. The website clearly markets the product as an alternative to cigarettes, despite the fact that many Juulers have never been avid cigarette users.

"I know it's hypocritical to say that I wish high schoolers didn't do it, but I do," Watt said. "I feel like the sooner you start, you become more impressionable and you're more prone to having other addictions in the future."

How often do people Juul? Do people plan on stopping?

Some people only Juul at parties, but Calabrese, Watt and Grove do it throughout the day. They agree the morning is the most satisfying to Juul because the nicotine withdrawal from the previous night is relieved, causing a "head rush" feeling. Juulers call it getting "nic'd," they said.

For Watt, whether or not she decides to stop Juuling is connected to the practice's popularity. She said she might stop when they go out of style.

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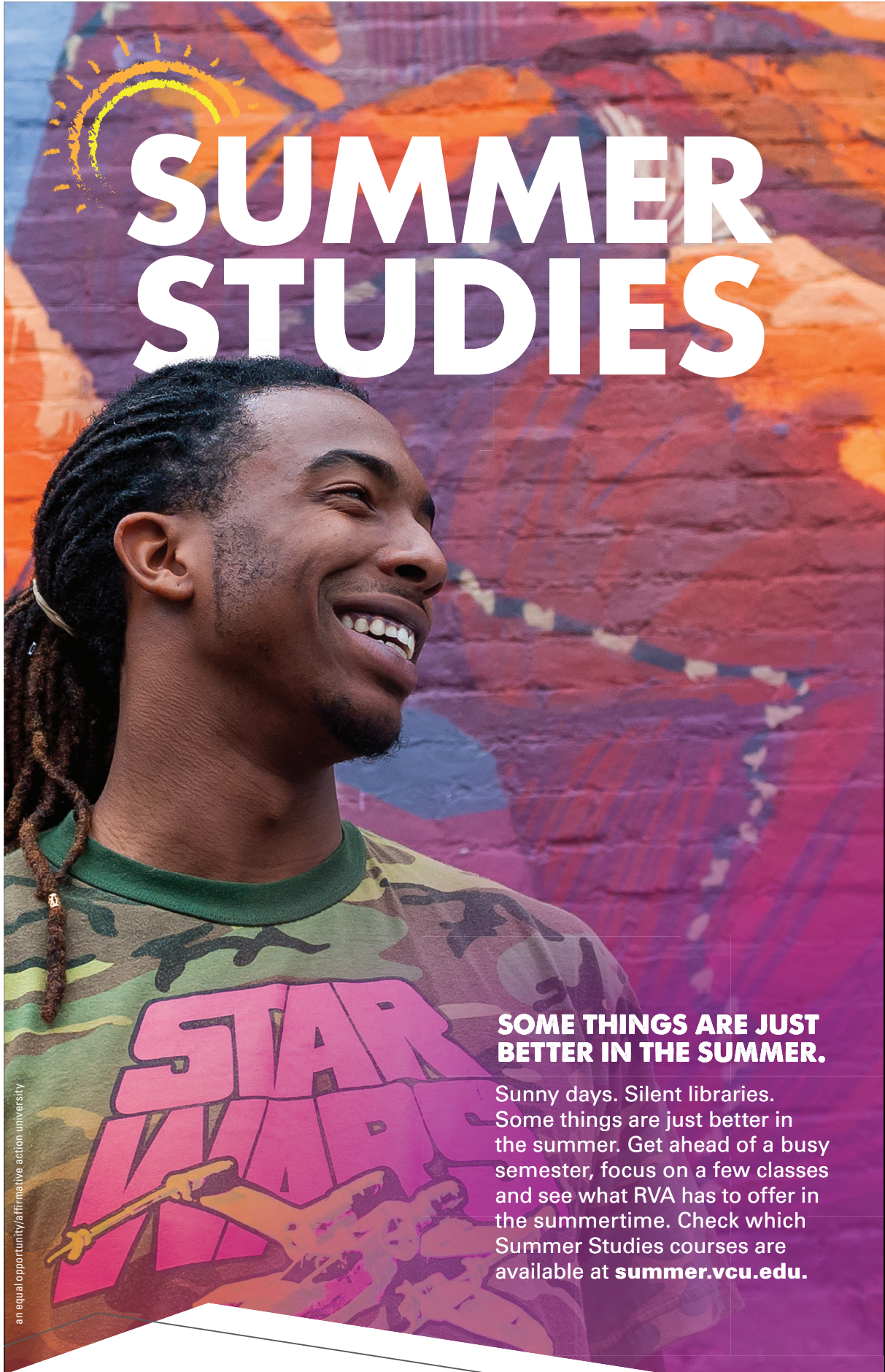
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opinions

Quote of the week

“Idolizing leaders based on niceties such as personality and charm is dangerous because it overshadows and masks the serious acts that these leaders partake in.” — Amna Kayani

Charismatic or deceiving

The actions of our political leaders

AMNA KAYANI
Contributing Columnist

Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau's recent trip to India sparked debate over the past few weeks. The usually beloved Trudeau is under fire for his ignorant and overzealous approach to Indian culture in hopes of forming a bond with the country. A Sikh extremist convicted of attempting to murder an Indian politician was invited to eat with Trudeau which also raised speculation. This backlash is new to Trudeau, who is adored on social media for his flashy socks and good looks, instead of his controversial decisions to export weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Trudeau is among the world leaders who, by displaying their personalities and charm front and center, are able to distract the public from their questionable actions.

With a constant media buzz and an array of news outlets, it is more important than ever to take a closer look at our politicians and leaders beyond what they choose

to show us. Idolizing leaders based on niceties such as personality and charm is dangerous because it overshadows and masks the serious acts these leaders partake in.

Former President Barack Obama's atrocious crimes, yet favorable image in some media, is an example of how charming politi-

cians are able to pull the wool over the eyes of the public. Obama is favored among young people for his witty tweets and appearances on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” he is able to maintain a ‘fun’ and ‘relatable’ image.

During his presidency, Obama ordered more than 500 drone

strikes against targets in countries such as Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism estimates around 300 to 800 civilians were killed in these countries between 2009 and 2015. What's most sickening is the Obama administration was able to normalize this practice. There

was no public outcry because the White House provided limited information and often false figures. In the first year of his presidency, Obama ordered more drone strikes than Bush did during his entire presidency. According to Gallup, by the end of 2009, President Obama's job approval rating

by Democrats was at 85 percent. This is why it is so vital to examine our leaders based on their actions instead of what they say. Perhaps the skepticism and doubt that is applied to unorthodox leaders such as President Donald Trump is one we need to apply to all leaders.

Ronald Reagan, Hollywood actor turned president, was an example of this as well. Reagan is held in high regard in the rankings of U.S. presidents. So beloved, his supporters call themselves “Reaganites,” however when the AIDS/HIV epidemic hit America, Reagan used his power and charm in leading the country towards ignoring the crises and enabling homophobia towards victims. When he left office in 1989, he had a remarkable approval rating of 63 percent.

Character and personality are traits we should examine in our leaders, but they should not be the only factors. It is our duty as citizens to be aware of the actions of our leaders and then hold them accountable, regardless of how we view them personally.



ILLUSTRATION BY VELLUM

4 takeaways from “Beyond the Politics”



PHOTO BY ERIN EDBERTON

Panelists Lori Haas, Jessica Smith, John Aughenbaugh and Philip Van Cleave discuss America's gun crisis during the Beyond the Politics discussion.

KATIE BASHISTA
Opinions Editor

The Commonwealth Times held a panel discussion Friday to talk about America's gun crisis in response to the Parkland school shooting last month. The event featured four panelists ranging from liberal, moderate and conservative. It proved that organized discussions provide for important and productive conversations that can potentially lead to change.

1. Student newspapers can serve as a forum for tough discussions

The event was organized by VCU's independent student newspaper with contributions from other student media organizations. Student media feel passionate about giving a voice to people in order to start conversations and promote change. The event allowed people to share their thoughts and ideas with other event participants in an environment they otherwise may not have been able to.

2. While we disagree on many issues, we can agree on some

Putting people with opposing feelings on the same topic in a room together sounds daunting. But the panelists and audience members were willing to hear from the other side instead of ruling out their opinions from the start. All panelists agreed there is a problem that needs to be fixed. Although their solutions were different, the fact that there is a gun problem in America was acknowledged by all parties.

3. Having productive conversations leads to a sense of excitement and readiness for change among individuals

At the end of the discussion, everyone was eager to continue speaking to each other. Audience members approached each other and the panelists to gain more insight and keep the conversation moving. There was a clear feeling of a need for change and this discussion allowed everyone to

discuss the most effective way of making that happen.

4. The students in the audience carried themselves with more maturity and patience than some of the older audience members

Towards the end of the event, the moderator opened the discussion up to audience members. After seeing the number of hands that went up given the little time left for the event, he clarified that it would be open to only students since it was an event intended for students. An older member of the audience shouted out that it was unfair and others verbally agreed. The students were respectful and continued to ask meaningful questions that were intended to get answers, not belittle anyone. Some other members of the audience were not able to do that.

An Ode to Self Care



ILLUSTRATION BY JAWDUPUS

SHAUN JACKSON
Staff Columnist

I've had sex with people I don't know that well but for some reason I feel like there's always some type of emotional connection. Is it just me as a person or does sex always translate into some type of emotional connection?

Now, I don't want to say it's just you because many others feel this way as well. When you share physical intimacy there is always some sort of connection. I'd like to think that there has to be, or else

you would not have felt comfortable enough to share yourself with them. I would contend that other people feel this more than others, and I think if you fall into the former of the two, you should just be more sparring with who you get on with, if you know you have the tendency to get attached.

Do you think one month is too soon to fall in love? Or two months? Three months? Is there a point where it's just too soon? Or should I just pay more attention to my feelings and less to my calendar?

Pay more attention to your feelings and less to your calendar. I will say though, even if you view time as an arbitrary construct when it comes to love, don't just give your love to anyone. Make sure they are worthy of you; worthy of being in your life, worthy of meeting the people you call family and for lack of a better term, worthy of your time.

Can you still take what a person says to heart even if they said it while under the influence of drugs?

When thinking about things of this nature I always think of the old Latin saying: “in vino vertias” or “in wine, truth.” I think that not only do people get unabridged, but people who tend to be inebriated tend to voice their hidden thoughts and desires. Take everything you hear with a grain of salt. It's pointless to have a conversation that only one person is going to remember in the morning.

Do you believe in breaks during a relationship? Do you think people can take time away from each other and come back and actually make necessary changes to the relationship, or do you think they're destined for failure?

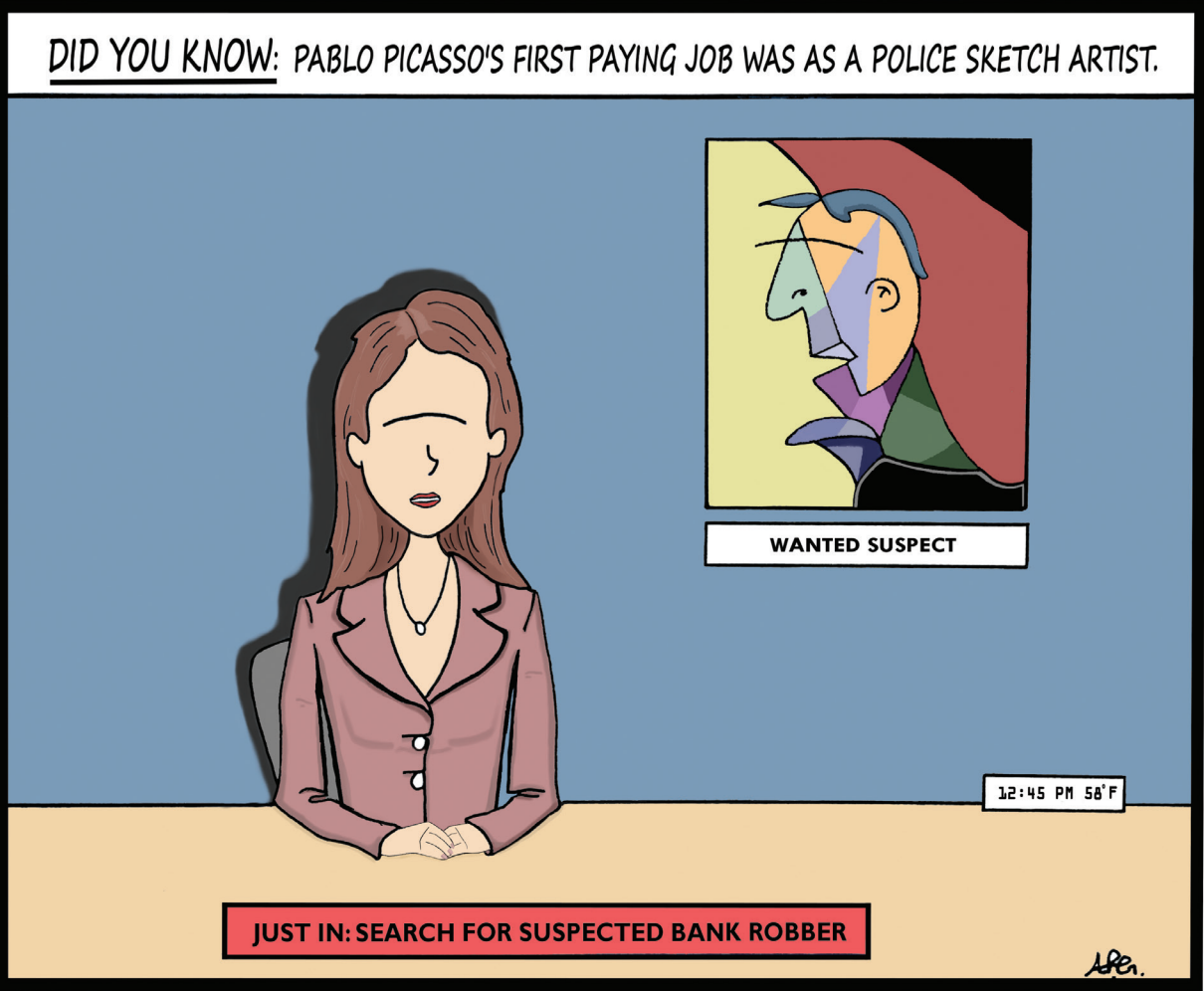
A break can be necessary when you've had too much of each other. You know those points in relationships where you've been around your significant other for an extended amount of time and every little thing grates your nerves? Yeah, if you're there take a break. However, if not, I don't think it's necessarily a bad thing if your relationship fails. I like to think of lovers as trees, growing to and from one another. If you grow apart, that's okay too. Take your time and decide if you want to remain amicable with this person and decide where to go from there.



comics

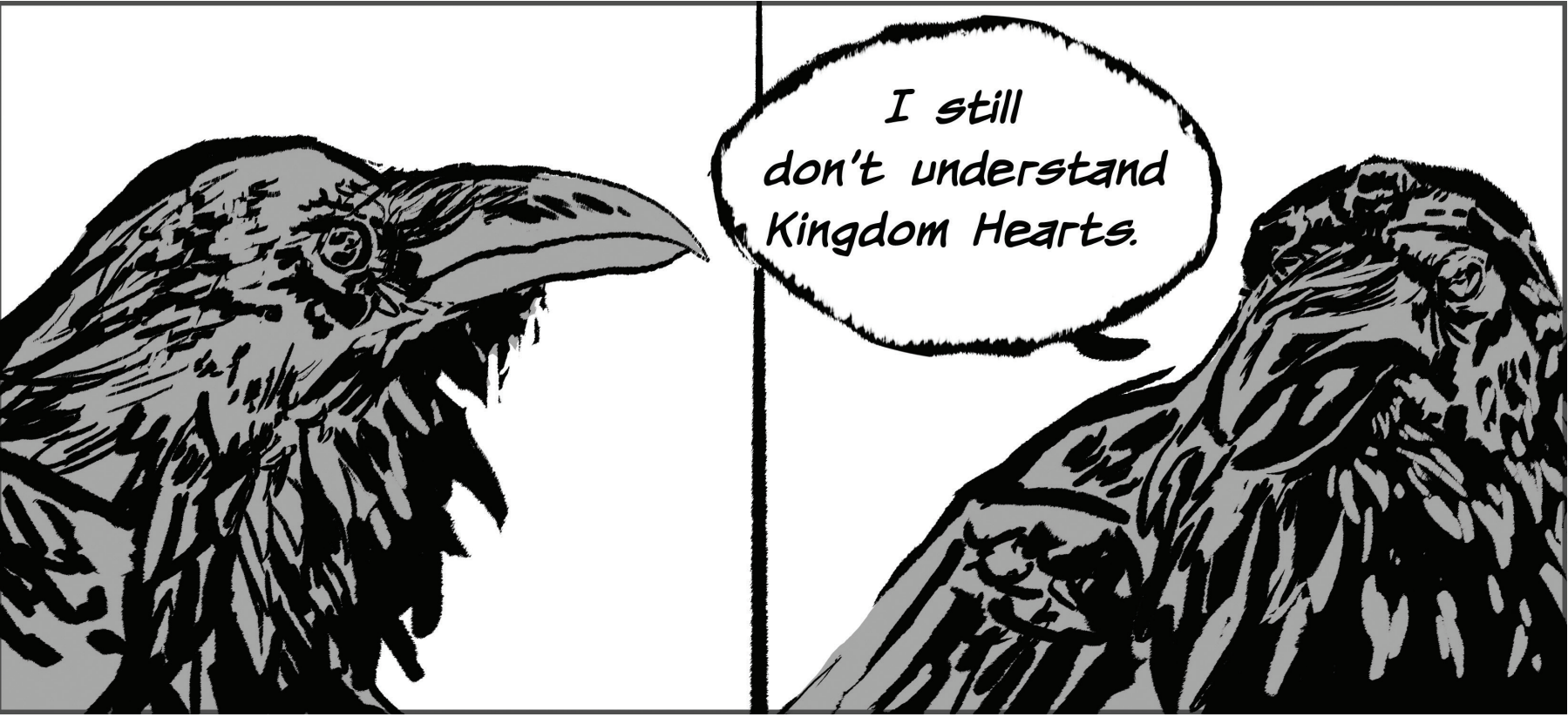
Sketch Artist by Adam Goodman

VERY LITTLE PULP



"LOCALS ARE TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ANYONE MATCHING THE SUSPECTS DESCRIPTION."

Quoth the Raven by Susannah Grady



Free Gum by Sophia Belletti

FREE GUM by SOPHIA BELLETTI



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