



“If it’s done before,  
you can do it again,  
and you can do it better.”

—Nia Long

# BLACK GIRL MAGIC

## Nia Long speaks on black women’s empowerment

IMAN MEKONEN  
Contributing Writer

Nia Long, known for her roles in “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” “Boyz in the Hood” and “Are We There Yet?,” spoke on women’s empowerment and the intersections that come with being a black woman in the U.S. during an April 15 VCU visit.

VCU’s Activities Programming Board and the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs hosted Long as a guest speaker in the University Student Commons.

Throughout the lecture, the actress shared her personal experiences with racism in Hollywood and offered advice for overcoming similar situations.

“When I first started in this business, [black women] were not producing our own shows,” Long said. “You were either an actress or a producer. And most of the producers that I worked with were white.”

She pointed out directors, such as Spike Lee and John Singleton, who “changed the

game” for black representation in films, but had to work extremely hard to get to their current positions.

“I’m hopeful because opportunities that are on the table, for all of you in this room, are broader, wider, bigger and more abundant than they’ve ever been,” Long said.

Freshman music education major Lauryn Blizzard said she was inspired to hear Long’s perspective on how she navigates a field that doesn’t cater to her demographic.

“Getting to hear about her experiences navigating Hollywood and life in general was super inspiring,” Blizzard said. “Some of the advice she gave, that we stand up for ourselves, that we can do whatever we work hard for and set our minds to ... were some things I could definitely bring into my everyday life.”

When she referenced her childhood, Long immediately talked about rapper Nipsey Hussle’s death and how it, and his legacy, affected her community. Long lives

three blocks from where he was shot.

“Greatness doesn’t always have to be on social media, in your face,” Long said. “You can plant seeds and do things in silence and often times, that’s more powerful. And that’s what he represents for the community.”

Long also spoke about the gender wage gap along with broader social inequalities such as racial and gender issues.

“There’s a huge gap between men and women,” Long said. “And there’s a big gap between white women and black women.”

Toward the end of the lecture, Long took questions from the audience. Students asked Long for advice and shared stories about times they experienced oppression.

The actress emphasized the importance of hard work, doing your best and following your dreams.

“Surround yourself with people that you trust, who are smarter than you and who have just as much to lose as you do,” Long said.

Long closed out the two-hour event with words of advice: “If it’s done before, you can do it again, and you can do it better.”

## How a bill might revamp campus sexual assault protocols

*Proposed legislation would amend key measures*

*Story on page 3*



Stories of the week

**NATIONAL:** President Donald Trump vetoed a resolution passed by Congress to end U.S. military assistance in Saudi Arabia’s war in Yemen on Tuesday, marking the second veto of his presidency.

**INTERNATIONAL:** Sudanese citizens overthrew ex-president of Sudan Omar al-Bashir after 30 years in power. Protesters demanded a civilian administration while camped outside of the army headquarters in Khartoum, Sudan.



Panelist Lyn O’Connell presented “Roadmap to Recovery: From the Epicenter of the Epidemic to the Epicenter of Solutions” at last week’s conference. Photo by Gessler Santos-Lopez

# VCU hosts 3-day conference on drug and substance abuse

**HANNAH EASON**  
Contributing Writer

Tom Hill was nearly in tears as he reflected on his battle to recover from drug addiction in Manhattan in 1992. Hill described his former self as being only 125 pounds and spiritually weak, with a glazed look over his eyes.

“I was convinced that I was alone. I was convinced that I was flawed,” Hill said. “And I was convinced I was God’s mistake.”

Hill said the stigma associated with homosexuality and drug addiction is rooted in the same blame. During the AIDS epidemic, Hill recalled people in the LGBTQ community being told, “It’s your fault you’re dying, it’s your fault you’re gay.”

“

I was convinced that I was alone. I was convinced that I was flawed. And I was convinced I was God’s mistake.”

Tom Hill, conference speaker

“Now they say, ‘I didn’t put a needle in your arm,’” Hill said regarding the opioid epidemic.

Hill presented “From LGBT Advocacy to Recovery Advocacy — Lessons and Triumphs” at the “Research to Recovery” conference April 10-12.

Drug research, rehabilitation and recovery specialists highlighted the myriad improvements and battles the substance use community has faced amid a national

addiction crisis in the conference held in Cabell Library. Proponents find the term “substance use” more humanizing than “substance abuse.”

The three-day conference was presented by the College of Behavioral and Emotional Health Institute, also known as COBE, the Wellness Resource Center and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Five substance-use specialists spoke candidly on what they were worried and optimistic about at a panel Thursday afternoon.

“Our health care system is fatally broken in this country,” said Jim Hudziak, director of the Vermont center for children, youth and families at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Medical Center.

Hudziak said he was “irked” by the lack of proper treatment for many health issues in large areas of the U.S.

“We can give you a new heart, we can give you a new knee. We can replace things,” Hudziak said. “But we do a horrible job in diabetes, obesity and hypertension. We do a terrible job with depression, substance use disorders and anxiety disorders.”

Panelist Devin Reaves co-founded and serves as the executive director of the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition, promoting health and human rights for people impacted by drug use. He describes himself as the “doctor of the streets” and a grassroots advocacy leader on many issues, including the expansion of access to the life-saving opioid-overdose drug naloxone.

Reaves painted a picture of a sports player becoming addicted to opioids after surgery, forced into heroin addiction by an “evil” doctor and pharmacist.

“We consider him a first-class addict,” Reaves said. “Then there’s the person experiencing homelessness or mental health concerns that smokes crack cocaine, and we should throw that person in jail.”

Reaves said this causes many people to hyperfocus on opioid addiction and disregard other drugs such as meth and crack cocaine.

Panelist Lyn O’Connell serves as the associate director of community services for the Division of Addiction Sciences at Marshall Health in Huntington, West Virginia. O’Connell’s professional work has specialized in stigma and treatment for those struggling with substance use disorders and trauma.

O’Connell spoke of the obstacles faced by those convicted of drug-related crimes, including losing their jobs, housing and social services.

“If we don’t make employers ready to hire an individual with a substance abuse disorder, there’s no pathway out,” O’Connell said. “There’s no bootstrap in the world enough strong enough to pull out of that system.”

Loyola Marymount University psychology professor Joseph LaBrie said his biggest worry surrounding substance

use was the myths often attached to it. LaBrie said some parents think exposure to alcohol during adolescence can prevent binge drinking in college — whereas LaBrie says data indicates this increases college drinking.

Mental health and substance use counselor Ari Laoch specializes in individuals living with systemic and single-event-based trauma, substance use and brain injuries.

Laoch, a panelist and VCU alumnus, also provides services to a number of specific groups. Among them are LGBTQ people, adults seeking a provider knowledgeable on polyamorous relationships, people with challenges related to a past brain injury, people with HIV/AIDS and those seeking a kink-knowledgeable professional.

“There’s hope, there’s opportunity and there’s some trust,” Laoch said regarding his optimism for the future. “We are all having this conversation — not just as professionals in the field — but with students.”



Drug researchers and specialists gathered at Cabell Library lecture hall for a conference on drug and substance abuse. Photo by Gessler Santos-Lopez



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

# College: the petri dish where social norms are set

**FADEL ALLASSAN**  
News Editor

The students who gathered on the Compass to turn what would have been an otherwise unremarkable Wednesday in 2015 into a day of unrest came with improvised signage, personalized stories and steadfast demands for VCU administrators.

"I'm a transfer student from Louisiana State University, where there was a lot of racism," one student shouted out to the crowd, "One of the reasons I came to VCU was that it's supposed to be diverse, but when I got here I noticed we have the same problems."

These students were incensed, showing solidarity with their peers miles away after months of escalating racial tensions that started with a third wave of protests — following the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri — spilled over to the University of Missouri. The events mushroomed at a campus center, and the protests over a number of high-profile racist incidents led to the resignation of the school chancellor.

In Richmond, VCU students demanded changes on their own campus. And not even the presence of Senior Vice Provost Charles Klink, Senior Assistant to the President Kevin Allison and campus police chief John Venuti, could ease tensions at this highly charged demonstration.

While the right words may not have eased the strain, the wrong ones only stood to incite more frustration. This was certainly not the environment to use the wrong phrasing.

The temperature seemed to rise on an already hot day as members of the crowd responded with fury when Venuti's answer to a question from the crowd appeared to include the words "you people."

"You people?" one student screamed as she broke down in tears and students rushed to console her. "We're here talking about this and you're going to say 'you people?'"

The incident was one of many of its kind in a day of protests at campuses nationwide. Students demanded their institutions meet a high standard for issues of racial equity and social justice. This was a bar, they said, Venuti's department had not met in enforcing the law on campus, nor was it one Venuti personally reached in his choice of words while addressing protesters.

I discussed recent events like these while out to lunch with an older journalist in Richmond last week. When I was in college, he said, when things like this would happen, no one really cared.

Maybe there was a slight fuss over it and we moved on.

"What worries me," he said, "is that even when administrators try to respond to these events with open ears, students aren't willing to compromise."

He told me a lot of older folks, like a friend of his who works as a university administrator, felt like this kind of unyielding behavior by students could have serious implications for society and our social norms when students leave the campus environment.

I doubt it, I responded to him. In my experience, these demands for rigid application of a high standard for social norms tended to dissipate when confronted by the world beyond university.

I used the example of a person demanding their workplace hire more people of color. At a large multinational corporation, such demands would likely be ignored or drowned out by a sea of other voices.

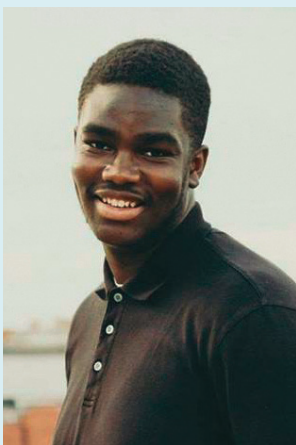
But later, I thought to myself that maybe it would indeed be the other way around. Maybe the stricter norms adopted by some students on campus could signify a broader cultural shift. In this case, college campuses can serve as a petri dish for society at large.

One example of this was the movement to hold those accused of committing acts of sexual violence to account, which caught wind at Columbia University when then fourth-year student Emma Sulkowicz carried a mattress on her back in 2014 to represent the burden rape victims carry with them throughout their daily lives and the failure of the university and law enforcement to hold her alleged perpetrator accountable.

This shined a light on campus sexual assault — an issue that had already garnered a lot of attention — long before the #MeToo movement broadened it to the general populace in 2017.

Though not every issue championed by college students has maintained a role on the national theater, young people have always launched their concerns far enough to turn them into widespread movements. Take the anti-war movement in the '70s, sparked by university intellectuals opposed to the Vietnam War.

It's possible that the energy of modern college students won't dissipate in collective defeat in a few years, when most graduates are employed and strained by the demands of their adult lives. Today's young people, and the new expectations around social justice they've established, might not change.



## Congressional bill could revamp sexual assault protocols

**HANNAH EASON**  
Contributing Writer

A bipartisan proposal being reintroduced in Congress could bring a set of reforms to the response to and reporting of sexual assault at universities around the country.

The Campus Accountability and Safety Act would establish new campus resources for student sexual assault survivors, ensure minimum training standards for on-campus personnel, provide statistics derived from surveys, require coordination between campus and local law enforcement and establish higher penalties for Title IX and Jeanne Clery Act violations.

The act was introduced by U.S. Sens. Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Republican Chuck Grassley of Iowa, and Democrat Jack Reed of Rhode Island. Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat, is one of the bill's co-sponsors and has been a lead sponsor since the bill's initial introduction.

"In recent years, the brave individuals behind the #MeToo movement have successfully increased public awareness and discussion about sexual assault and harassment," Warner stated in a news release, "and Congress has a responsibility to support these efforts with legislation that focuses on preventing sexual assault in colleges and universities across the nation."

Under CASA, universities would be required to designate response coordinators to assist survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. The coordinators would be responsible for assisting with support services and survivor accommodations.

An additional clause in the bill states students who report sexual violence, in addition to an illegal action — such as underage drinking — would not be punished for the illegal act.

Under the act, sexual assault response coordinators and investigators would be expected to receive specialized training on sexual crimes and their impact on survivors.

The legislation introduces a confidential survey about sexual violence for students at every college and university every other year. Gillibrand's website states the survey results would be published online for "parents and high school students [to] make an informed choice when comparing universities."

The Department of Education would be required to publish the names of schools with incidents related to Title IX and the Clery Act. Schools would be required to

disclose pending investigations, final resolutions and voluntary resolution agreements connected to Title IX.

The proposal includes a "one uniform process" for student disciplinary proceedings, meaning athletic departments or other campus affiliates would not be able to handle complaints. Additionally, schools would be required to notify the accused and victim of any disciplinary action within 24 hours.

"VCU Athletics will continue to work closely with the university to ensure our student-athletes are educated on the issues of sexual assault and sexual crimes — and reporting them — and we will continue to work towards eliminating them from our campus," said Assistant Athletic Director for Athletic Communications Chris Kowalczyk.

CASA aims to clarify jurisdiction lines between campus authorities and local law enforcement by requiring a memorandum of understanding, or MOU.

"These MOUs would ensure that the school and law enforcement clearly delineate duties and share information so that when a crime occurs, both campus authorities and local authorities can focus on solving the crime rather than debating jurisdiction," Gillibrand's website states.

Schools that do not comply with the bill's requirements may face a penalty of up to 1% of the institution's operating budget. Penalties for Clery Act violations would be increased to \$150,000 per violation — up from the current penalty of \$35,000.

The money collected from violations would be distributed to universities through a grant program for researching and preventing violence on college campuses.

CASA was first introduced to Congress in 2014. It was reintroduced in 2015 and 2017. No versions of the legislation made it to the floor of either chamber in Congress.

SAFER, a nonprofit that assists student movements that aim to curb sexual violence on college campuses, applauded the bipartisan effort in the act it referred to as "critically important" in a news release.

"In this time of extraordinary political polarization in Washington and around the country, it is particularly important and noteworthy that Democratic and Republican members of the United States Senate have joined forces to introduce and pass vital legislation that will strengthen sexual assault policies on our nation's campuses," said Danielle Christenson, SAFER's policy director.



New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is introducing the bill in its fourth iteration. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



# Monument 10K brings thousands to Richmond



Runners from across the country participated in the Monument 10K Saturday for the race’s 20th anniversary. Photo by Erin Edgerton

**MARY MCLEAN**  
Contributing Writer

Although the day started with drizzling rain and gloomy skies, runners from all over the country gathered at the starting line of the Ukrop’s Monument Avenue 10K April 13 to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

More than 25,000 runners registered for the Ukrop’s Monument Avenue 10K this weekend. Registration for the highly anticipated event started a year in advance.

Richmond resident Erin Ford, 25, was enthusiastic about the rain at the event.

“I wasn’t planning [on] running. But when I came to the 10K and saw the weather, I couldn’t help but run,” Ford said. “The gloomy weather may not seem like good weather for running, but it’s actually great.”

She finished with a time of 1:27:38.

The race began after the end of the mile-long Virginia529 Kids Run for children ages 5 to 12.

The main event, the 10K, began at 8:30 a.m. The last runners crossed the finish line around 1 p.m. The race had three winners: Philo Germano, Tim Young and Jack Bruce.

Germano crossed the finish line first, running 29:34, as the fastest male runner. Young came in second place in 29:45 and Bruce came in third in 30:08.

Bethany Sachtleben finished as the fastest female runner with a time of 32:39, 15th place overall.

The Ukrop’s Monument Avenue 10K also featured a “Dash for the Cash” contest, in which one runner was randomly chosen and given a two-mile head start. The person selected for the contest wins \$2,500 if they cross the finish line before any other runner.

VCU marketing professor Brian Brown successfully crossed the finish line in 28:54 to win the “Dash for the Cash” competition.

“It was definitely surreal running by myself, with no other runners within sight,” Brown said. “Especially with a camera in my face the whole time.”

Brown ran in honor of his late sister-in-law who lost her life to cancer.

The event’s main fundraising partner was the VCU Massey Cancer Center. It is in the top 4% of cancer centers nationwide and treats patients with many forms of the disease, including rare cancers for which treatment is usually difficult to find. The Massey Cancer Center conducts research into cures and less harmful drugs to fight tumors. The money raised by runners this weekend goes toward this research.

Registration for the 2020 Ukrop’s Monument 10K began April 15 and will also raise money for the Massey Cancer Center.

# Medical marijuana company looks to set up shop in Manchester

**WALTER CHIDOZIE ANYANWU**  
Contributing Writer

The Maryland-based medical marijuana company Green Leaf Medical, in association with Virginia Pharmaceutical Processors LLC, is looking to set up shop in the Manchester neighborhood of Richmond, according to Richmond BizSense.

On Nov. 28, the Virginia Board of Pharmacy granted Green Leaf Medical conditional approval to produce and dispense Cannabidiol, also known as CBD, and THC-A oils in Virginia’s fourth Health Service Area, which covers Richmond and some of its surrounding counties, including Henrico.

A number of local individuals and companies are involved with the project.

Virginia Pharmaceutical Processors LLC is made up of a group of Richmonders keen on bringing the medical marijuana business to Richmond. Led by Richmond business owners Angel Papa, Sunita Gupta and Auserine Kukteliionyte, VPP secured the real estate end of the deal, scouting locations and enlisting contractors.

Neither Papa, Gupta or Kukteliionyte could be reached for comment.

This alliance between Green Leaf and VPP was made official when the two amalgamated to form Green Leaf Medical of Virginia — a company co-owned by the heads of VPP and Green Leaf.

Before receiving the license, Green Leaf was backed by local Richmond developer and entrepreneur Tom Papa — who is married to Angel Papa, according to Richmond Bizsense.

Tom Papa is one of the co-founders and owners of real estate firm Fountainhead Properties. A body associated with Fountainhead owns the Decatur Street site, which is currently occupied by two old Philip Morris Tobacco warehouses.

Philip Morris is now owned by Altria.



A Maryland-based medical marijuana company is eyeing a warehouse in the Manchester neighborhood for a CBD dispensary. Photo by Gessler Santos-Lopez

These buildings are not far from the 28-warehouse site, also formerly owned by Philip Morris, that was converted by Clopton Siteworks back in 2016. Clopton is owned by Lynx Ventures, a development firm owned by Rick Gregory, an old partner of Tom Papa at Fountainhead.

The location adequately meets the zoning requirements of the city, one of which states that companies such as Green Leaf cannot break ground within 1,000 feet of a school.

It is not clear when work is to begin on the new Green Leaf dispensary, but as of December, Fountainhead has filed for demolition permits with the city.

The proposed facility will be about 50,000 square feet and will employ about

100 workers. The entire project should cost about \$16 million. Construction firm KBS is listed in contractor plans filed with the city’s planning committee.

When completed, the facility will handle the growth, processing, distribution and retail for their products.

Patrick Davis, a VCU employee, said he thinks the venture will attract more business traffic to Richmond’s Southside, an area that has been one of low income in the past.

“I don’t think it’s a [problem], because you can see [CBD] popping up around Richmond,” Davis said, noting a number of shops in the city that carry the product. “In the public eye, it would help if they invested in businesses that are already established and

hire people from Richmond.”

Green Leaf has similar operations in Maryland — there are more than 20 dispensaries carrying their products in the state.

The products will be sold strictly to users who have a prescription, per the provisions of House Bill 1251, which was signed into law by Gov. Ralph Northam in March last year.

VCU student Caitlin Waits expressed some optimism for the potential growth that Green Leaf could bring to Manchester.

“Anything that can encourage reputable businesses and encourage traffic through the Manchester area can’t hurt the neighbourhood,” Waits said. “I know that they’ve been growing over the last few years and ... there’s no problem with that.”



# VCU to keep Altria partnership amid potential tobacco ban

**ADRIAN TERAN-TAPIA**  
Capital News Service

VCU is considering a systemwide ban on cigarettes and other nicotine products — but the school will continue its partnership with Altria, one of the world’s biggest tobacco producers.

VCU officials finished taking public comments April 12 on the proposal to prohibit smoking, vaping and any other use of tobacco products on property or vehicles owned by the university. Under the plan, VCU would allow smoking only in designated outdoor areas.

The proposal now goes to the University Council and then to the VCU President’s Cabinet for review. If approved, it would take effect July 1.

Although a ban on tobacco products has been in place at VCU Medical Center since 2010, outdoor smoking is currently allowed on the Monroe Park Campus.

The proposal to prohibit nicotine products on all university properties has been in the works since last fall, said university spokesperson Carolyn Conlon.

“As health providers, the proposed policy is written to align with our values and is about creating an environment that is free of all known health hazards,” Conlon said.

Under the policy, VCU would provide education and smoking cessation programs for students, faculty and staff.

Altria, headquartered in Henrico County, has a net worth of more than \$100 billion, according to the company’s annual report. It is the parent company of Philip Morris



Altria is the parent company of Philip Morris USA and 35% of the e-cigarette maker Juul. Photo by Gessler Santos-Lopez

USA, U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co. and John Middleton Co., which makes cigars and pipe tobacco. Altria also owns 35% of the e-cigarette maker Juul.

For years, the tobacco giant has been the biggest corporate entity in Richmond and the biggest corporate donor to VCU. According to VCU donor relations spokesperson Samantha Marrs, VCU has accepted more than \$2.5 million in donations from Altria since 2016. The contributions include:

- \$600,000 in 2017 and \$375,000 in 2016 toward scholarships for first-generation college students; the gift also provides academic assistance for students enrolled in STEM and business disciplines

- \$1 million toward a facility to “enhance student creativity and maker culture” at the VCU School of Engineering
- \$360,000 toward graduate assistantships in chemistry in 2016
- \$150,000 toward the Richmond Teacher Residency program in 2016, which helps train teachers to make an immediate impact in the city’s public schools

VCU would continue its relationship with Altria, which has been “very beneficial to a number of areas in the university,” Marrs said. Not only has Altria made substantial financial contributions to the university, but the conglomerate is also one of the top recruiters at VCU, employing hundreds of alumni, according to Marrs.

Marrs does not believe the policy banning smoking at VCU will have any effect on the partnership between the corporation and university. She said Altria will continue to provide scholarships and other support for VCU students.

“I think Altria is absolutely committed to being a socially responsible corporate partner in Richmond,” Marrs said. “And they’re a very valuable partner to the School of Education, Engineering, Business and Department of Chemistry. They’ve made things happen by funding students to finish college.”

In explaining the policy, VCU officials pointed to the health risks of tobacco use and the dangers of second-hand smoke.

“In addition, cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world and cost the university money to clean up,” they said. “Smoke and tobacco-free campus policies also significantly reduce campus fires.”

The ban would not apply to government-approved smoking cessation products like nicotine patches or nicotine gum.

The American Cancer Society and CVS Health Foundation awarded VCU \$20,000 in grants last month to promote tobacco-free campus initiatives.

VCU also will host the Virginia Tobacco-Free Higher Education Summit on April 23. The daylong meeting, sponsored by the VCU Massey Cancer Center and the University of Virginia Cancer Center, “seeks to bring together university champions to end tobacco use among college and university students, staff and faculty in the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

## Hume-Lee Transplant Center hosts second ‘Celebration of Life’

**ANYA SCZERZENIE**  
Contributing Writer

Doctors, patients and sponsors came together April 13 at the John Marshall Hotel for the Spring Celebration of Life, hosted by the Hume-Lee Organ Transplant Center.

The event highlighted the achievements of the transplant center during the past year and honored the people whose lives were improved by organ transplants.

Richmond-based nephrologist Dr. Anne King and VCU President Michael Rao spoke at the event. The event also featured two video presentations: one about a new pumping technology designed to keep donated organs viable for longer and another about a patient who underwent a double organ transplant at the Medical Center.

Attendees included doctors, surgeons and others in the medical industry, like Deborah Orr, a speech pathologist.

“People meet up together when they come here, and people see each other,” she said, referring to the medical professionals at the event. “I haven’t seen them since last year.”

Other attendees had received organ transplants at VCU, like Gary Rafferty, who underwent a heart transplant last year and expressed his gratitude for the care he received.

“VCU made me so comfortable with [the transplant], I actually started looking forward to it,” Rafferty said. “They gave me hope.”

The Hume-Lee Center performed 202 kidney transplants last year, as well as liver, heart and pancreas transplants. This is the center’s 61st year of operation, but only the second year the Celebration of Life event has been held.

Anne King, who spoke at the event, is a nephrologist —also known as a kidney specialist — with the Hume-Lee Center. She spoke about her beginnings in the medical field and how the transplant program began.

“Back in 1985, there was no formal training in transplant nephrology,” King said. “So Dr. Lee and Dr. Posner [then-heads of the organ transplant center] took me under their wing and gave me their own basic training.”

The program lasted about three hours

and included a three-course meal with drinks and accommodation in Hotel John Marshall’s ballroom. At one point, those in the room who had undergone organ transplants were asked to stand up and were met with applause.

“The point of tonight is really just celebrating,” said Caitlin Winkler, the program manager for transplant services at VCU Health. “It’s Donate Life Month, and we are here to celebrate life and honor those donors and families who have decided in their worst moments to give people a second chance at life.”



VCU President Michael Rao spoke at the Spring “Celebration of Life” at the John Marshall Hotel. Photo by Anya Sczerzenie



## Stat of the week

Last week, sophomore defender Caroline Glenn was named A-10 Lacrosse Defensive Player of the Week.

# Truex emerges victorious in Toyota Owners 400

ADAM CHEEK

Staff Writer

Rain clouds loomed over the Richmond Raceway all weekend, but held off long enough for the Toyota Owners 400.

Joe Gibbs Racing's Martin Truex Jr. led with the most laps Saturday night, which was a good omen for many drivers.

Kyle Busch has had success in Richmond, having won four consecutive spring races from 2009-2012 and sweeping both races last year. He paced the field most of the way as an early favorite until a Kyle Larson crash brought out the caution. Busch was hit with a speeding penalty coming off pit road and never fully recovered, working his way back up through the field but stalled out once he got into the top five.

Larson's crash was just another installment in his dismal season. The driver of the No. 42 has only two top-10s this year.

"[It's a] pretty crappy start to the year," Larson said. "We've got decent speed, but we still run into issues."

In the last 100 laps, Clint Bowyer and 2018 championship winner Joey Logano closed in on Truex for the lead. Bowyer worked his way to Truex's bumper, but used up his tires and soon faded.

Bowyer and Truex's battle opened the door for Logano. The No. 22 passed Bowyer for second, inching toward Truex as the laps wound down. Many expected the finish might be a second installment of Martinsville last year, when Logano moved Truex on the final lap and won the race.

However, Logano couldn't quite get there. Truex kept his car in front, taking away Logano's preferred line and working through lapped traffic. Truex and Logano were nose-to-tail as they took the checkered flag, both drivers racing hard enough to slide sideways across the stripe.

Truex finally won his first race at a short track after 80 tries, snapping the drought while scoring his first win with Joe Gibbs Racing. The 2017 champion is the third Gibbs driver to lock himself into the playoffs with the 2019 Toyota Owners 400 victory.

"I'm just really excited to win here at Richmond," he said. "I've always loved coming here ... tonight we didn't have the best car, but we've lost here with the best car a bunch of times, so we just fought."

Truex said Bowyer and Logano growing larger in his mirror was added stress to the fact that his car lost grip as the race wound down.

"I was struggling the last 40 laps," he said. "I had no front turn, I was tight that last run. Thanks to the pit crew ... [they had] the defensive stop of the year tonight."



Chris Buescher and Paul Menard had solid runs on Saturday night as well, with Buescher running inside the top 10 most of the night and Menard finishing in that range.

After a week off for Easter, the touring series — minus the Truck Series — will head to Talladega Superspeedway to end April. The Xfinity Series will kick off at 1 p.m. on April 27, while the Cup Series will get the green flag at 2 p.m. on April 28.

**Above: Martin Truex Jr. won the Toyota Owners 400, his first short track win in his career. Below: Truex Jr. led 186 laps at Richmond Raceway in the Toyota Owners 400.** Photos by Gessler Santos-Lopez





# Baseball dominates in series win over Fordham

**ANDY RIDDLER**  
Contributing Writer

Baseball won its fourth consecutive conference series, taking two of three games from Fordham.

## SUNDAY

VCU found itself on the scoreboard early with a double down the left field line by junior catcher Josh Simon in the bottom of the second inning. The Rams never relinquished the lead on the way to an 8-3 win.

The game was blown open in the third inning with run-scoring hits by sophomore infielder Liam Hibbits and junior outfielder Brandon Henson. Hibbits scored junior infielder Brett Norwood on a single, then Henson emptied the bases with a home run — his fifth of the season — that scored Hibbits and junior infielder Paul Witt to balloon the Rams' lead to 5-0. Witt earned three hits and one RBI in the game.

Junior right-handed pitcher Connor Gillispie earned his third victory of the year on the strength of his 12th consecutive start allowing one or fewer earned runs. He recorded four strikeouts, allowed four hits and one earned run across 5.1 innings, his longest start of the year.

Junior right-handed pitcher Sam Ryan closed the door on Fordham when he pitched the final 3.2 innings in relief to clinch the win. Ryan recorded two strikeouts and only allowed two hits for his fifth save of the season.

## SATURDAY

The Rams struggled to find any rhythm following the extensive rain delay against Fordham's pitching, losing 11-1 as Fordham tied the weekend series.

Senior catcher Andrew Schatz scored the only run for VCU with an eighth-inning solo shot, which set his new career-high in RBI: one.

VCU pitching struggled to stop the Fordham offense for most of the day, but the duo of freshman left-hander Jaden Griffin and freshman right-hander Danny



**Above: Senior right-handed pitcher Curtis Bafus has pitched 29.2 innings this season, logging 25 strikeouts and 16 walks. Below: Junior outfielder Alex Taylor has a .203 batting average this season. He has hit five doubles and logged 10 RBI.** Photos by Shayla Bailey

Watson combined to allow no runs and only two hits during the final three innings.

## FRIDAY

The Rams pitching dominated throughout the first meeting against Fordham, including a stretch to end the game in which the Rams retired 16 consecutive Fordham batters to win 3-0 — the third Rams shut-out of the season.

The Rams took the lead early on a Hibbits single that scored sophomore utility player Hogan Brown in the first inning.

Redshirt-sophomore right-handed pitcher Justin Sorokowski started for VCU and did not disappoint on his way to six

strikeouts, only allowing only two hits across five innings pitched. It was Sorokowski's second victory of the season.

Senior right-handed pitcher Benjamin Dum tallied four perfect innings with five strikeouts to close out the victory for VCU. Dum earned the save, his second on the season.

VCU extended its lead to three on a sixth-inning double by junior outfielder Alex Taylor, who scored Hibbits and Witt for his first RBI since March 30.

VCU is back in action April 19-21 on the road against Richmond.



## PRESS BOX

# NBA Playoffs center around the Eastern Conference

**NILE MCNAIR**  
Contributing Writer

The NBA Playoffs started this past weekend, and the Eastern Conference will be much more entertaining than the Western Conference.

For starters, the Eastern Conference is far less predictable than the Western Conference. In the

West, there are the two-time defending champions the Golden State Warriors, who are the overwhelming favorites to three-peat.

In comparison, the top four seeds in the Eastern Conference are all serious championship contenders. It's unpredictable who out of the Boston Celtics, Toronto Raptors, Philadelphia 76ers and Milwaukee Bucks will emerge as Eastern Conference champions.

The Raptors would face the 76ers, and the Bucks would face the Celtics if all four teams were to win their first round



Illustration by Steck Von

matchups. These are conference-final caliber matchups that fans would have the luxury of seeing in the second round.

For the first time in the last eight years, there will be a new king of the Eastern Conference. There's added intrigue to see who will become the best team in a Eastern Conference, now that it's no longer ruled by LeBron James.

The number of upcoming free agents playing in the Eastern Conference will make the bracket more entertaining, as they make the games are more meaningful.

Jimmy Butler, Kyrie Irving, Tobias Harris and Kawhi Leonard are all superstar free agents playing in the Eastern Conference.

Every team that possesses one of these potential free agents knows anything less than a championship run could lead to a superstar leaving their franchise via free agency.

Adding to the entertainment is the influx of new teams this year. Three teams — the Orlando Magic, Detroit Pistons and Brooklyn Nets — didn't make the

playoffs the past three seasons, or more, are back in it.

With these three franchises in the playoffs, it brings back fan bases that were desperate for home playoff games. Beyond that, casual basketball fans get a chance to see young emerging teams that could be the future of the NBA.

The simple fact is the talent of teams in the Eastern Conference has finally caught up to that of teams in the Western Conference. In return, fans should now be rewarded in June with a better NBA Finals.

Last year, Golden State swept the Cleveland Cavaliers 4-0 in the NBA Finals. But this year, the Warriors should prepare for a seven-game series, no matter what comes out of the Eastern Conference.

Past super teams have caused the NBA to be predictable. Now that the Eastern Conference is the more entertaining of the two, it gives the NBA the parody it desires.



# Rams streak into A-10 tournament



Left: Senior Anna Rasmussen sealed the match for the Rams with a 6-2, 6-0 win. Right: Freshman Rayane Stable won his singles match 7-5, 3-6, 6-4. Photos by Jon Mirador

RAM IN ACTION

JARON NUTTER  
Contributing Writer

Tennis was victorious this week — the women knocked off Richmond April 16 and the men defeated UNC-Wilmington April 13.

WOMEN’S

The Black and Gold defeated cross-town rival Richmond April 16 on the road 4-0 in a dominating fashion.

VCU started off taking the doubles point from the Spiders. The sophomore duo of Melissa Ifidzhen and Paola Exposito Diaz-Delgado won the first doubles match for the Rams 6-2. The second sophomore pairing of Sofia Sualehe and Marina Alcaide Bakkari took the second doubles match 6-4, sealing the doubles point for the Black and Gold.

Exposito Diaz-Delgado, who is No. 77 in the country, continued her hot start, winning her singles match 6-2, 6-0. Ifidzhen was the second Ram to finish her singles match taking down the Spiders’ Ana Ramirez 6-0, 6-1. Senior Anna Rasmussen closed the match out for the Rams when she won her singles match 6-2, 6-0.

MEN’S

The Rams defeated UNC-Wilmington 4-3 on the road April 13. The win capped off another successful season regular season for the Rams as they prepare for the Atlantic 10 Championship.

The Seahawks took the lead early in doubles. Bruno Caula and Agus Savarino defeated the Rams’ freshman Rayane Stable and junior Javier Amantegui 6-4. VCU responded quickly when senior Philip Mobius and junior Inaki Rivero Crespo beat Josh Hublitz and Michael Copeland 6-4. The duo of senior Arvid Noren and sophomore Inigo Torre Martin sealed the doubles victory for VCU, taking down Michael Morphy and Cole Groetsch.

In singles, UNC-Wilmington got ahead of the Rams early. Caula defeated Mobius in straight sets 6-1, 6-1. The Rams responded again in the proceeding match after Torre Martin continued his winning ways and beat Copeland in straight sets 6-2, 6-0. Davide Innocenti got the best of Amantegui in straight sets to give UNC-Wilmington the lead. Savarino followed up and defeated Noren in three sets 1-6, 6-3, 6-1 to stretch the Seahawks’ lead to 2 points. The Rams finished strong however, as Rivero Crespo recorded another win for the day and beat Leo Spovieri 7-6, 6-3. Stable bounced back after his doubles loss and won over Austin Hussey in a close match 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 to close VCU’s rally.

The win moves VCU to 13-9 and an undefeated 3-0 in conference play. UNC-Wilmington drops to 10-10 and has yet to record a win in its respective conference.

The Rams will gear up to defend their Atlantic 10 title April 24 in Orlando, Florida.

## From Sweden to Richmond, a friendship lasts on the court

NILE MCNAIR  
Contributing Writer

Senior Arvid Noren has played a crucial role in Men’s Tennis’ three straight Atlantic 10 conference titles.

Like all of his fellow teammates, Noren is not from the U.S. He made his way to Richmond from Piteå, Sweden.

“A small little town in the north of Sweden, with about 40,000 people,” Noren said of his hometown. “And right now, we have about seven feet of snow.”

After leaving Piteå at 16, Noren attended Akademi Båstad Gymnasium in Båstad, Sweden with his current teammate and now best friend, senior Philip Mobius. The relationship Noren developed with Mobius is the reason he ended up at VCU.

Paul Kostin, director of Tennis and former Men’s Tennis coach, knew Mobius’ father, who played in college. Since Kostin is also Swedish, it was an easy decision for both Noren and Mobius to come to VCU after Kostin’s recruitment.

“I’ve known Philip [Mobius] since I was 15, and we’ve been best friends since. We lived together in Sweden, we came to VCU together,” Noren said. “We did this whole journey together, so it feels good to graduate with him.”

Noren played multiple sports growing up in Sweden, including track and field, soccer and golf. But he decided to stick with the sport he played best.

“I choose tennis because I used to go with my mom when she played tennis matches against her friends when I was about 7,” Noren said.

In college, Noren has seen the differences between European and American tennis play.

“In Europe, it’s more of an individual sport,” Noren said. “But here, you play as a team. People are screaming, and it’s more of a mental game here.”

As the regular season comes to a close, Men’s Tennis is looking to capture its fourth straight Atlantic 10 Championship title.

“We’re going to be first seed, so I guess we’re going to be the favorites heading in there,” Noren said. “We should have a good chance because we worked a lot on fitness and conditioning this year.”

Noren’s favorite memory from playing at VCU was playing in the NCAA Tournament in New York.

“Playing in the NCAA tournament at the U.S. Open facility and just traveling around the country is very interesting to me,” he said. “Since you get a chance to learn about different cultures.”

“

In Europe, it’s more of an individual sport. But here, you play as a team. People are screaming, and it’s more of a mental game here.”

Arvid Noren, senior tennis player

Looking beyond his May graduation, the business and finance major is prepared for what comes next. He recently applied for an extended visa.

“I’m applying for jobs,” Noren said. “I have offers, but I just don’t know which one to take. But for sure I’m going to stay here and work.”



Senior Arvid Noren was named All A-10 First Team last season. Photo by Jon Mirador

Since the team’s 10 members all hail from outside the U.S., Noren said, Men’s Tennis is a tight-knit group. The team has also made record-breaking academic accomplishments.

“Last semester our tennis team had the highest team GPA in VCU history,” Noren said. “We finished with a 3.82 GPA average. So we’re getting things done in the classroom and on the tennis court.”



# Hyatt and Slack push Rams to consecutive victories

**ANDY RIDDLER**  
Contributing Writer

Lacrosse found its way back to victory with week-end wins over St. Bonaventure and Davidson to bring the season record to 7-9, 4-5 in the Atlantic 10.

## DAVIDSON

The Rams needed extra time against Davidson, but they finished on top with a final score of 16-15. Red-shirt-senior midfielder Sky Hyatt scored the game-winning goal in the extra frame April 14.

After missing the last two games, Hyatt returned for VCU to score 7 points — six goals and an assist — to help propel the Rams to victory for their first back-to-back wins in more than a month.

The first 14 minutes of the game were even — neither team held a lead larger than one goal — but VCU put some distance between them and the Wildcats behind three unanswered goals from senior midfielder Clare Murphy, junior midfielder Kerianne McTavish and senior midfielder Ryann Shaughnessy to give VCU a 9-6 halftime lead.

In the second half, the Rams surrendered three straight goals in the first five minutes, but responded with four of their own to

give VCU its largest lead of the game at 13-9 with 12 minutes remaining.

Davidson closed out regulation on a 6-2 run — including three consecutive goals in the final five minutes — to tie the game and send it to overtime tied at 15.

Hyatt scored the game-winning goal with less than five minutes left in overtime to secure the victory over Davidson.

Shaughnessy closed out a strong week-end with consecutive hat tricks against both Davidson and St. Bonaventure — and

against St. Bonaventure — to bring her season total to nine.

## ST. BONAVENTURE

The Rams exploded out of the gates April 12 with six straight goals to take the commanding lead they never relinquished on the way to a 17-5 win.

Freshman midfielder Savannah Slack — who piled up three goals during the early run — was a key contributor for the Rams.

Her performance was critical and something head coach Jen O'Brien said she was excited to see.

“For a team with 17 seniors, having freshmen play as big a role as they are is just so exciting for the future,” O'Brien said. “Savannah [Slack] doesn't play like a freshman. She's so confident, she's so smart. She works really hard, and she elevates the level of our team.”

Senior attacker Molly Barcikowski logged 5 points — four assists and one goal — to eclipse the 50-point mark for the third straight season.

“It is just so calming to have her out on the field and see her out there, because you know she is always going to make really good decisions. She's going to get everybody involved,” O'Brien

said. “She's just somebody that the whole team looks for as an on-the-field leader.”

McTavish finished the game with two goals and three assists to match her season high in the win. She also had a game-high seven draw controls.

VCU returns to action for its final conference game April 20 against George Mason at Cary Street Field. The contest against the Patriots is senior day for the Rams.



Senior midfielder Clare Murphy scored four goals and logged two assists over the weekend. Photo by Tzeggai Isaac

## 2 first-place finishers highlight Track and Field at George Mason

**RYAN GRUBE**  
Contributing Writer

Track and Field took home some hardware over the weekend with two first-place victories at the George Mason Spring Invitational April 13 in Fairfax.

## WOMEN'S

Redshirt-junior thrower Samantha Yankson kicked off the meet with an opening-event win for VCU in the hammer throw. Yankson hurled a toss of 50.13 meters to become the first Ram on the podium for the day.

The Black and Gold secured their second first-place finish when junior distance runner Delaney Savedge crossed the finish line with a winning time of 17:47.18 in the 5000-meter.

The 100-meter hurdles saw Khoi Banks narrowly place second. The junior sprinter finished with a time of 14.14.

Sophomore jumper Aliyah Newman tied for second in the long jump following her 5.66-meter leap.

Junior distance runner Judith Marley White added another second-place finish for the Rams, ending the 3000-meter steeplechase with a time of 11:26.05.

Senior sprinter Taylor Watkins contributed to the podium in the 200-meter dash, finishing with a time of 24.78.



Senior mid-distance runner Ashley Greenlee placed eighth in the 400-meter with a time of 58.06. CT file photo

Senior thrower Denise O'Rourke also finished third for VCU, this time in the discus throw, recording a 43.32-meter toss.

## MEN'S

Much like the Women's side, the Men's team was quick to get on the podium Saturday.

Sophomore high jumper Xyan Xrichardson got the Rams on the board, vaulting 1.99 meters to secure third place in the high jump.

Junior hurdler Ian Davis finished second in the 400-meter with a time of 53.89, falling just .03 seconds short of a first place win.

VCU's 4-x-400 team — freshman sprinter Emmanuel Waller, junior mid-distance runner Matthew Pittman, sophomore multi-event runner Jonathan Panda-Mukeni and senior sprinter Justin West — placed third with a time of 3:23.87.

Track and Field will travel to Charlottesville for the Virginia Challenge April 19-20.

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## On this day

In 2011, the television adaptation of George R.R. Martin's fantasy novels premiered on HBO. "Game of Thrones" has now been airing for eight years.

# Photography seniors take over social media

**AARON ROYCE**  
Contributing Writer

This spring, the VCUarts Photography and Film seniors' Instagram account was taken over by the students in the program in an effort to share student work online and promote an upcoming group exhibition.

Each student photographer posted work to the account's feed, sharing their techniques, thesis and chosen pieces to the account's "story." So far, 10 seniors have taken over the account for the project.

"We all just knew as a class that it would be a great way for each of us to share our finished thesis work, and hopefully get people excited to come to our show," said Jacob Medley, whose photography is inspired by his queer identity and social interactions.

Medley said the endeavor was "super fun to do" amid the stress of senior year. But it was harder than he anticipated.

"It's unexpectedly tiring, and [I] have so much more respect for Instagram influencers because it's hard," Medley said. "It sounds so dumb to say that, but just try it and you'll understand."

Medley said the process provides followers a look into his artistic visions. In general, he said, Instagram makes art more accessible and forces an artist to think about its effectiveness, although some of a piece's nuance is lost when viewing work through a phone screen.

"This'll sound insanely corny, but I think that the takeovers are an opportunity to



**This image from Jacob Medley was among others shared to the photography seniors' Instagram account. His work is inspired by his queer identity and his interactions with society.** Photo courtesy of Jacob Medley

immerse viewers into the artist's world and to introduce people to your vision," Medley said. "Personally, my takeover forced me to distill the insane amount of thoughts swimming around in my head as briefly and effectively as possible."

When choosing photos to showcase during takeovers, many students chose from their current portfolios to show their artistic trajectory.

Photography social media director Adriana DeRosa chose to share her pieces with background and context, similar to a

"behind the scenes" look at her work.

"My main focus was not just showing all of my finished work, but to give people an idea of who I am, what I make and how. I wanted to show that human touch from my processes and personal history," she said. "At the end of the day, you can see the finished work in person. But you won't necessarily get to see how it's made or what I researched to get there."

DeRosa said nowadays, many people tend to view art digitally rather than in person.

"The takeover, it provides a semi-exclusive opportunity to view your work without just sharing it 24/7 for the world to see," DeRosa said. "You can either play into it and share your work online, or say screw that and do your own thing."

One of the largest benefits for seniors was using the platform to promote works that will be shown at the senior exhibition.

"Takeovers are a really good way to give people a taste of what's going to be in our senior photo show, like an hors d'oeuvre," Dominic Hernandez said. "It's cool to see everyone share their works with the public so people can have a better understanding of it when they see the show."

The exclusivity of takeovers through Instagram stories, as well as students' promotion of their physical work, allows the project to expand beyond the digital realm.

Paul Thulin, graduate director of the Department of Photography and Film, said these takeovers will continue next semester. "It is not about getting 'likes' or 'hearts,'"

Thulin said, "but rather gaining a sense that one's studio practice is a journey that should be celebrated and shared."

The VCUarts Photography and Film senior group exhibition will open May 10.



**Dominic Hernandez shared this image during his takeover of the Instagram account. He said running the page for two days was a good opportunity to preview the senior photo show.** Photo courtesy of Dominic Hernandez

## Alumni lead Risograph press from living room to nationwide zine fests

**ANDREW RINGLE**  
Spectrum Editor

In a small studio behind the McDonald's on Chamberlayne Avenue, two Risograph printers stand in an even smaller corner room. Each machine is topped with an outdated laptop, and they tower over low desks littered with designs for zines and posters.

The humble workspace and its curious assortment of decor belong to Clown Kisses Press, a Risograph printing company started in a living room by three VCUarts alumni. They only moved into their first real studio space last year, but their work has brought them to zine fests across the country, as well as one in Canada.

"It's sort of halfway between physical screen printing and a Xerox machine," Clown Kisses co-founder Harrison Stewart said, demonstrating a simple Risograph print with co-founder Rellie Brewer.

The other co-founder, James McPherson, was on his way to the studio from his day job.

The process is relatively simple, Brewer explained. First, load in the drum of ink wrapped in a stencil of your choice. Then, insert paper and proceed as if using a typical office copier. The machine whirs, and a cartoon squirrel emerges on its small digital screen.

Stewart called it "the mascot of Risograph printing." As it runs in a pixelated exercise wheel, the printer's inner parts roll layers of ink onto paper before spitting the pages out into a pile.

The result is a series of slightly unique versions of the same design, mimicking



**VCUarts alumni James McPherson, Rellie Brewer and Harrison Stewart started Clown Kisses Press in their living room. The Risograph printing press has since attended zine fests around the country, including one in Canada.** Photo by Erin Edgerton

traditional screen printing in a more cost-effective way. The soybean oil ink used in the machines is cheap, and it can be rubbed off very easily. But the process is a favorite among artists looking for a vintage feel without breaking the bank on fancier alternatives.

Stewart, Brewer and McPherson were friends in college, and they started Clown Kisses Press after discovering their shared interest for Risograph printing.

"Harry, Relly and I were in printmaking classes together at VCU. Mainly screen printing," McPherson said. "And there, we kind of fell in love with producing our own comics

and zines and stuff."

Much like the designs they print, Clown Kisses Press is unique among the other groups in the field. Even the color chart tacked to their studio door shows a deviation from the standard color palette used in Risograph printing: The press uses magenta instead of fluorescent pink and cyan instead of cornflower.

And on the same page, a picture of their friend Nick provides an example of a printed image while also conveying the group's charming homemade attitude.

"It started in Harry and Relly's living room

because we didn't wanna pay rent on a studio," McPherson said, "and they were kind enough to sacrifice their living room for like two years."

One of their printers came from a church — which is common, because many churches once used the machines to print programs and handouts for Sunday services — and the second printer belonged to an office.

Stewart pulled a stack of letters from the second printer's door. One, written from the office to the printer's manufacturer, complained about a malfunction while attempting to print sheets of adhesive business labels. There was also a series of work invoices from Risograph inspectors, all of which urged the business to stop trying to make the stickers, because that's not what the machine is meant to do.

Despite its history of occasionally being jammed with stickers, the old Risograph printer still buzzes and beeps in the corner of its newest habitat. It serves a new community now, adapting with changing times just as its process adapted to a community of young rising artists like those in Clown Kisses Press.

"It's grown," McPherson said about his business. "And my next step would probably be to get a bigger studio with more printing and publishing infrastructure ... and just buying that machinery that helps me produce larger and more complex works."

Work from Clown Kisses Press can be viewed online at clownkissespress.com, and the group can be followed on Instagram at clownkissespress.





Left: Various restaurant vendors and food trucks participated in the 16th annual Intercultural Festival outside the University Student Commons on April 13. Right: Performers took the stage at the festival despite the rainy weather. Photos by Gessler Santos-Lopez

# Intercultural Festival celebrates diversity through food, music

**WALTER CHIDOZIE ANYANWU**  
Contributing Writer

Local vendors lined up along Main Street outside the University Student Commons April 13, catering to students and attendees of the 16th annual Intercultural Festival.

The event has occurred in Richmond for 20 years and became part of VCU in 2003. This year's theme was centered around the concept of being a global citizen.

Sabrina Rusli, marketing chair for the ICF planning committee, said they hoped attendees would come to the festival and understand what it means to be a global citizen, how they can act as global citizens and share the responsibilities of global citizens.

"There was really no collaboration, it was kind of just ICF," Rusli said of the festival's organization.

The festival also received assistance from the University Student Commons in securing the space.

Featured restaurants included M&F Jamaican Cafe and Monique's Crêpes, as well

as Soul-Ice Vending, whose drinks were popular with attendees. A stage set up in front of the Ram Horns featured performances and other vendors were scattered around the Commons Plaza.

The event began at noon and, despite the dreary weather, continued as planned.

There were performances from student groups as well as some from local musicians and dancers. One such group was I&I Riddim, a reggae band based in Washington, D.C.

The word "riddim" describes the upbeat dance rhythm that is almost synonymous with reggae music. I&I is an allusion to Bob Marley's "One Love," which the legendary musician used to express the importance of equality for all people. Lead singer Nikoli Andrews led the band in covering an array of reggae standards.

I&I manager Kori Coleman said the band has performed at the ICF for about four years.

"We love the concept of it, [we] love to support young people," she said. "And it's just always been a fun thing to do."

Ayo Abifarin of Culture4MyKids, an arts education and culture program, led a dance troupe that performed in African attire and was accompanied by loud, rhythmic drums.

"It's become an annual tradition to come and celebrate the Intercultural Festival," Abifarin said. "I prep students from VCU as well as my community group to come together and just share in the culture, share what they've learned with other people."

Charles Brown of Urban Traders had a station at the ICF where he sold handmade accessories and other Afro-centric wares such as sunglasses and clothing. Brown is something of a staple in the VCU community; most days of the week he can be found outside the University Student Commons with his van and a small kiosk of an assorted range of products.

"This is probably maybe my 20th year at the [ICF]," Brown said. "I've been selling on campus for over 25 years. I started this business in 1979. And my goal then, as it is now, was to sell [international products] and reflect who I am as an African American."

He said he was glad to be there to

experience the cultural diversity, which he said did a good job of representing VCU's own diversity.

"VCU is one of the most diversified campuses that you're going to see visually," Brown said. "I don't know the real statistics, but when you walk around ... any given day, you see diversity."

While the turnout was marred by bad weather, students still expressed optimism for the message the event was trying to propagate.

"I think we're here to promote cultural awareness and exposure to different ideas," Coleman, I&I's manager, said. "Every year [VCU has] the most unique vendors. I wish the weather was on our side, but it has been great so far."

The ICF was previously held in Monroe Park, and Brown said he thinks the event should be relocated there.

"They need to take it back to the park," he said. "In the park [there's] a better flow. It brings more of the people that actually live in the city."

## LONDON'S OUTLOOK

# Laika's 'Missing Link' is full of hilarity, heart and beauty

**LONDON ROBERTS**  
Contributing Writer

The studio heading the current revival of stop-motion animation is Laika — its newest film "Missing Link" is a pulpy action adventure romp filled with jaw-dropping achievements in stop motion.

Laika made a name for itself by using stop-motion films to execute darker stories through creepy character designs and unsettling realistic backdrops. While Laika thrives on these darker tales, general audiences never embraced them, because the horror element was too much for a family film.

"Missing Link" steers away from Laika's darker themes. The film still keeps the epic scope the studio is known for but relies more on a comedic narrative.

The film follows an explorer named Sir Lionel Frost on his journey to be accepted by his peers in the exploring community after he discovers the elusive Bigfoot, whose name is Susan. However, Susan strikes a deal with Frost. He will give Frost all the evidence he needs to prove Bigfoot exists if he delivers Susan to the lost city of Shangri-La, a sasquatch utopia.

This deal is the beginning of their epic journey that spans continents. The ever-revolving scenery gives Laika a chance to experiment with backdrops and set pieces, resulting in a feast for the eyes.

The North American frontier is a tediously animated barren desert, so every speck of sand moves freely, making the environment feel alive. This is also felt in the snowy, breathtaking peaks of Mount Everest. The lush jungle of India is so incredibly vibrant and detailed that you get lost in the overlapping greenery that consumes the screen.

Similar to the different settings, the characters and actions are so precise in their animation, it's hard to believe it's stop motion.

The film is filled with so many action scenes; the fluidity and choreography is perfectly executed. Frost's proper demeanor and charming actions translate directly into fights with precise punches and jabs. Susan's portrayal is the opposite, with a bumbling unconfident aura about him that results in timid and clumsy exchanges of anger.

A perfect example of this is seen pretty early in the film during a bar fight. The scene itself plays out like a slapstick bit straight out of "The Three Stooges" and pulled quite a few guttural laughs from me.

Laughs like this are scattered throughout the film. The witty dialogue between the odd pairing of Frost and Susan is so absurd and misconstrued that their conversations lead to nonstop laughs.

This is mostly because of how well written the characters are. Both Susan and Frost are ostracized by their



Illustration by Sammy Newman

communities, and this common feeling of being unwanted leads to an inner journey of acceptance. The friendship they forge culminates in a rewarding and heart-warming tear-jerking finale.

The film only falters in one aspect. While it is beautifully animated and designed, background characters are often quite basic and plastic-looking. This can take the audience out of the meticulously animated scenes, because the contrast between the almost photo-realistic backdrops with basic background character

designs results in an uncanny feeling.

"Missing Link" is a heartfelt adventure that echoes back to the pulpy nature of "Indiana Jones" while also offering slapstick that comes from great silent era comedies. All these aspects are tied together perfectly with detailed and beautiful stop-motion animation in all of its epic glory.

Rating: 4.5/5



# ‘The Color of No’: Tenured professor debuts newest tapestry exhibit

IMAN MEKONEN  
Contributing Writer

Multiple versions of the same word are woven like echoes on the white walls of the True F. Luck Gallery of the Visual Arts Center of Richmond. Each word is presented in a variety of colors, fonts and sizes, but they all read the same: “No.”

The 70 iterations of the word are the subject of Susan Iverson’s latest exhibit of hand-woven tapestries titled “The Color of No.”

“The word ‘no’ was chosen because it doesn’t conjure up an image, except maybe the word itself as an image,” Iverson said. “In this investigation into color and content in contemporary culture, I needed that. If I used the word ‘horse,’ it wouldn’t make any sense.”

The exhibit opened April 12 and was followed by an opening reception and discussion led by Iverson. Richmond community members attended, along with Iverson’s current and former students.

The VCUarts professor emerita handwove and dyed each tapestry over the span of 4 1/2 years.

Iverson completed her tapestries on a Gilmore floor loom with wool and silk, and sometimes linen and cotton.

“I prefer these natural materials and select them for their properties — the way they reflect light, their texture and their affinity for the dyes I use to give them color,” she said.

Iverson said the word “no” is too often viewed as negative, but is actually “mostly positive.”

“It’s everything in between,” she said. “It all depends on your tone and the language around it to color your feelings.”

Iverson said her inspiration for the exhibit was rooted in the significance of color and how it can alter meaning.

“I’m also looking at things I’ve studied historically with how different colors mean different things at different times to different people,” Iverson said. “Some [tapestries] are just plain silly and funny, some have political content or have a serious tone. Some can even be read as standing colors



VCUarts professor emerita Susan Iverson debuted her newest tapestry gallery, including “Nuanced Conversation” at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond. Photo by Shayla Bailey

for military emblems, or you might even find school colors.”

One section of the exhibit displayed a piece called “Nuanced Conversation.” The artwork consists of a series of strip-like tapestries on a blank white wall stacked in opposing colors, with each strip containing either a red and black or blue and green color. This appears on a center wall seen immediately upon entering.

“I started to think the blue and green voice as more fertile and affirming and optimistic as my friend and the other is my enemy,” Iverson said. “Somehow it swished around and the more I look at it, the red, white, black and gray may be a little rude or strident.”

Executive Director at the Visual Arts Center Stephanie Fedor acted as the coordinating curator for “The Color of No” and worked closely with Iverson to lay out the gallery. Fedor said Iverson created this piece specifically for the back wall, so that every other tapestry in the exhibit would be placed around it.

“We started there and approached the installation in a very collaborative manner,” Fedor said. “We both see the works when placed side by side as acting like conversations.”

Iverson said “Nuanced Conversation” is supposed to resemble a phone conversation between two people, represented through the opposing colors. She said the two colors could even portray one person with two different voices.

“It’s really about our horrible phones that we carry around with us all of the time in message,” Iverson said. “The blue that’s on my iPhone in the message section, there’s one silk blue there that’s exactly that blue. I didn’t dye it intentionally, but I think my subconscious worked overtime and helped me along that.”

Iverson said she wants her exhibit to spark a conversation about the significance of color and the different ways to read the word “no.”

“I hope [the audience] will consider the impact and meaning of color in a new way after seeing the show and the power of both language and color within our culture,” Iverson said.

The exhibit is on display in the True F. Luck Gallery of the Visual Arts Center of Richmond until June 2. To learn more about the exhibit, visit visarts.org.



Artist Susan Iverson stands in front of her tapestry piece, titled “In the Ether.” Photo by Shayla Bailey

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### See something

THU. 4/18

Mitski — “Be the Cowboy” spring tour

Indie rock singer and songwriter Mitski will perform in Richmond as part of her latest album tour. Los Angeles-based bedroom pop artist Jay Som will open. Sales end April 18 at midnight. 7:30 p.m., The National (708 E. Broad St.) \$20

FRI. 4/19

Sculpture Annual Senior Show

Students from the VCUarts sculpture department will present their work, featuring performances, video, installation and sculpture. A closing reception will be held April 26. 6-9 p.m. (3015 Cutshaw Ave.) Free

### Do something

THU. 4/18

VCUarts 90th Anniversary Event

In commemoration of VCUarts’ 90th anniversary, events are scheduled throughout Thursday evening across campus. Conversations with the school’s alumni will be followed by a graduate thesis exhibition and performances from students in the music, dance and theater programs. Register online at support.vcu.edu/event/vcuarts90. 2-10 p.m., Monroe Park Campus, \$10

SAT. 4/20

Richmond Book Art Fair

Book makers, zine makers and independent publishers will display their work in an art fair to culminate a week of workshops and panel discussions. There will also be a coffee bar, food trucks and music from Space Bomb DJ. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Studio Two Three (3300 W. Clay St.) Free

SAT. 4/20

RVA Field Day

This annual festival offers unlimited beer sampling and a day full of live performances. Designated drivers will get a discounted rate on general admission tickets. To purchase tickets online, visit rvafieldday.eventbrite.com. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. City Stadium (3201 Maplewood Ave.) \$20-\$40

### Learn something

TUE. 4/23

Questioning Cinema: ‘A Fantastic Woman’ Screening

VCU Libraries is hosting a screening of “A Fantastic Woman,” a film about a trans woman whose struggle with prejudice and a deceased partner is portrayed. A discussion on the film will be held afterwards with a panel of guest speakers. Register online at vcu.libcal.com. 5-8 p.m., Room 250, James Branch Cabell Library (901 Park Ave.) Free

WED. 4/24

VCU Graduate and Professional School Fair

Graduate school representatives from around the country will give information on their schools’ application processes. Noon-3 p.m., University Student Commons (907 Floyd Ave.) Free





Quote of the week

“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.”  
— CONFUCIUS

It’s a great time to be Sudanese

TAGWA SHAMMET  
Contributing Writer

It’s a great time to be Sudanese. As I write this piece, my home country is undergoing one of the largest revolutions of our time. My people are gathered in the streets chanting and demanding freedom. They are united in an uprising so beautiful, it brings me to tears. I’m filling my social media timelines with pictures and videos of the flawless harmony and accord happening less than 10 miles outside my home in Sudan. It’s a great time to be Sudanese.

But it’s not such a great time to be Sudanese American. The U.S. and its media don’t care about our revolution. Let’s be honest, aside from minimal coverage from a few outlets, Sudan’s revolution hasn’t received much Western media attention. Sure, if you know a Sudanese person or two, you might have seen it on your timeline, but that’s about it. If you follow me on any social media, you know what’s going on in Sudan — but if you don’t, let me give you a recap.

After 30 years in power, ex-president Omar al-Bashir has been overthrown by the people of Sudan. Thank goodness.

The former president has done nothing but bring injustice, violence and genocide on my people. He and his regime are the sole reason for the separation of Sudan and South Sudan. His office has implemented some of the most unspeakable violations of human rights I’ve ever had the displeasure of witnessing.

The government has attacked dozens of Sudanese villages such as Darfur, Blue Nile and Kordofan, opening fire on protesters countless times and censoring media. Al-Bashir and four of his aids have been charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

He robbed my people of their earnings, let them starve and suffer — and when they

started retaliating this past December, he incarcerated and murdered them. He is the worst thing to happen to Sudan since British colonization. For as long as I’ve been Sudanese, al-Bashir has terrorized my country. Not anymore.

Throughout the week of April 7, Sudanese citizens flooded the streets and expressed their grievances with the al-Bashir regime. The sight was empowering.

So you can imagine my disappointment when Western media coverage of the revolution was scarce. I wish I was exaggerating. Social media and my family back in Sudan are my primary sources of knowledge about the situation. But it’s not just Sudan that the western world doesn’t care about — it’s all of Africa. I cannot stress this enough to you: the West does not care about Africa. It barely even cares about its black citizens.

On March 23, more than 120 people were killed in a village in central Mali. This attack — caused by Islamic tension — came only days after the shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand. It’s not surprising that most of us didn’t hear about Mali. The truth is, the American media cared and provided news coverage about the New Zealand shooting because the attack happened in a predominantly white country. We haven’t heard anything about extremist attacks in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Somalia, Eritrea, Togo and so many other African countries.

It’s bold of the West to completely ignore Africa, especially since all the disaster and terror stems from white imperialism and colonization. Europe and the U.S. cut up Africa like a birthday cake, and they provide zero help to anyone they hurt in the process. Predominantly white nations dried up African



Illustration by Steck Von

countries and left their people to fight for themselves without any resources.

Now, these same countries are trying to catch up with fast-growing economies and societies — but they can’t. In fact, according to the World Bank, African economic growth remains below population growth for the fourth year in a row. The Western world made sure of it. All African nations ask for now is coverage and help.

That is not too much to ask for.

The U.S. knew about the human rights violations in Sudan and the genocide in Darfur. Instead of stepping in to help, it sanctioned the country. Punishing a regime strangling its citizens sounds good in theory, but this only further harms these citizens. Help, don’t harm. Give these countries the media coverage they deserve so people can see the grave injustice.

On April 11, the Sudanese public overthrew a 30-year-old regime. On April 11, the Sudanese public won.

We have a long way to go — the Sudanese military, which controls the country, cannot be trusted. But, for now, it’s a great time to be Sudanese.

This revolution wasn’t a bloody tragedy. Yes, there were martyrs who gave their lives in honor of their beliefs. But this revolution was, and still is, an exquisite display of unity.

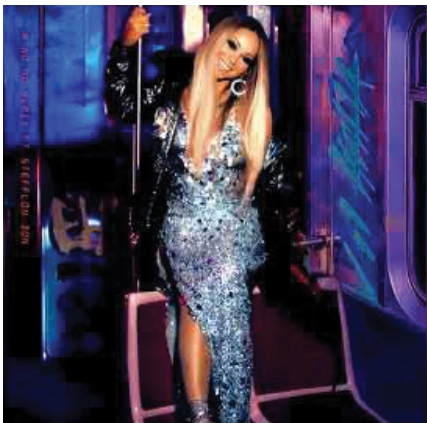
Men create barriers of interlocked arms to protect people praying. Women link their scarves in an effort to cover their fellow sisters as they change clothes. Children sit in circles, singing the songs of the uprising. My mother is out in the crowds, helping the wounded and fighting for her country.

Don’t be fooled by the Western lies and stigma that have time and time again claimed African women are nothing but oppressed. Sudanese women led this revolution. The “image of the revolution” depicts Alaa Salah — a 22-year-old engineering student — standing on top of a car preaching amid a sea of protesters. She is grace. She is elegance. She is power.

This revolution has me seeing clearly. With or without Western attention, my people and African people everywhere are stronger united. Nevertheless, this is my plea to the media, to the West and to you: Start caring about Africa. Stand with us and show those who seek to destroy us that together we are stronger than anything the deceitful throw at us. Injustice will no longer stand. Let Sudan be the beginning of many more revolutions — revolt until the world is equal and united.

On April 11, Sudan made history. It’s a great time to be Sudanese.

An Ode to Self Care



Recommended listening while reading:

A NO NO (FT. SHAWNI)  
[REMIX]  
Mariah Carey

SHAUN JACKSON  
Staff Columnist

I recently was given some information that would be the end of a certain coworker. She has a history of sub-par performance and general bitchery, we never got along and we both keep it civil for work’s sake but we both don’t like one another. Be that as it may, she is human, and I know she is a single mother. Should I go to my boss with what I know or do I let events unfold without my involvement?

This is all very vague, and you sound a little too pleased with yourself. So you have something on her that may or may not be used as leverage, but to what end? What do you really want to happen here? Will you gain anything from her being fired? Even if you do, will it all be worth the potential blowback? Ask yourself what’s really in it for you, because if you tear your coworker down just to watch her fall, you are just as shady as she is. Don’t waste leverage on

drama. Use it to achieve a specific goal and be prepared for the consequences. And if all else fails, never forget you could always mind your business and do your job.

I just asked another guy out for a drink (as a date) for the first time, and I’m nervous. We have met at a couple of parties but when he shows up, how do I greet him? A hug feels too forward and a handshake makes it feel like a business meeting. Help a fellow gay out?

Just relax! The best advice I can offer here is for you to get out of your head and get into the moment. Overthinking something so minimal is a sure way to make a situation awkward and kill any hope of a second date. Be you and have a good time. The rest will fall into place.

Why do I feel obligated to date a guy just because he likes me?

Oh honey, it has everything to do with that gaping void where your self-worth is supposed to be. And unfortunately, because of society, you’ve only been taught to fill it through external validation and compliance.

My ex wants me to give back the gifts he bought me while we were dating so he can sell them to buy himself something. He said he “isn’t petty, but needs to start putting himself first.” Thoughts?

Girl, keep those gifts on principle! Even if you don’t want them, donate them to charity or hell, set them on fire in the street before letting him take them back. This is 100% petty, even if he doesn’t want to admit it. No one who truly loved you would give you a gift and then snatch it back when all is done. And while you’re at it, cut all contact off with him. He sounds like garbage and nothing but trouble.





Illustration by Karly Andersen

# Hussle and Tupac

## *Two legends can coexist*

**ALEXIA HOLLOWAY**  
Contributing Writer

Rapper and community activist Nipsey Hussle was gunned down March 31 in Los Angeles outside his clothing store. The moment he passed, the world stopped for a second. Hussle was a man who used his time and resources to better his community. His death felt wrong and evil.

Shortly after his death, people started comparing Hussle to Tupac. Both rappers emphasized the betterment of the black community in their music and interviews.

Tupac displayed his militant, community-minded side when he said, “We asked 10 years ago. We was asking with the [Black] Panthers. We was asking with the civil rights movement. We was asking. Those people that asked are dead and in jail. So now what do you think we’re gonna do? Ask?”

Hussle reflected the same sentiment. “We got enough resource. We got enough

influence to make our own Gucci — we can make our own products,” he said earlier this year at the Roc Nation Brunch.

He expressed that black people didn’t need to ask or beg to be let into white spaces — we have the resources and ingenuity to do it ourselves.

Some people consider Hussle and Tupac victims of government assassinations. Tupac was the son of Black Panther party member Afeni Shakur. Rumors that he and his mother were under FBI surveillance have circulated for years. Hussle was making a documentary that followed the life of deceased herbalist Alfredo Bowman, better known as Dr. Sebi. Up until Sebi’s death in 2016, he claimed to have cures for cancer, AIDS and diabetes through his use of herbs.

Many assumed this information angered the pharmaceutical industry and made Sebi a target. Hussle’s documentary on Sebi would disperse this information widely and has caused some to speculate

whether Hussle’s death was intended to cover up information.

Whether these conspiracies are true, the parallels between the two have caused their juxtaposition. On social media, some say Hussle was the Tupac of his generation — while others say Tupac was all talk, and Hussle actually took action.

This “one or the other” mentality is damaging. The black community has a tendency to compare icons, rather than just accepting their impacts for what they were. We seem to not be able to accept that Michael Jackson and Prince were both iconic musicians. Instead, we feel the need to pick between the two.

It is important to recognize that people pave the way for those that come in the future. Long before there was Malcolm X or Martin Luther King Jr., there was W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington. Without the work of the latter, the former wouldn’t have had any sort of impact.

That does not mean one did more or was more influential than the other. Everyone serves their purpose.

Comparing Hussle and Tupac diminishes their individual legacies. Tupac recognized he would not change the world. Instead he guaranteed he would, “Spark the brain that would change the world.”

Tupac inspired and sparked the brains of the people who grew up listening to him — Hussle was one of those people Tupac inspired to be an activist.

Hussle was a great and humble man, and his work for the black community should not be reduced or compared to that of another black icon. Hussle’s work was rooted in his honest love for his people — not to be the “big man.” Hussle’s ultimate goal was for those coming after him to continue the marathon. Tupac and Hussle were both legendary, and it is disrespectful and unfair to pit these men against each other.

# Rejection

## doesn’t dictate your future

**EMMA SCHIRMER**  
Contributing Writer

On May 1, National College Decision Day, millions of kids around the country will accept their colleges of choice. Whether it be an Ivy League, a small liberal arts college in rural Massachusetts, a gargantuan public university or a quaint private college in the city — students are planning out the next journeys in their lives based on a piece of paper.

While I no longer have to worry about what college I’m going to, I think about it often because my younger brother and friends

still in high school are. They’re posting on social media about the daunting idea of choosing the school that “fits” them, uploading exuberant photos with their schools of choice’s names proudly displayed. I know the pressure placed on them, and I know the path they are about to walk down all too well.

To say my first semester at VCU was turbulent would be a massive understatement. I spent every day thinking I made the most rash, ill-advised decision of my life.

I came to VCU because the financial aid package I received was too good to turn down, and because my friends said they thought I would fit in well here. I also got rejected from most of my top choices in one of the most brutal college decision years my high school had seen. I didn’t tour the other schools I had been accepted into; I chose VCU because I figured it was as good as I was going to get.

So, I packed my life up and came to VCU last fall.

In just two semesters I met some of my closest friends, changed my major, came

out as bisexual, discovered heartbreak and felt failure. I worked on research that excited me about the world. I learned my way around campus like the back of my hand while exploring Richmond.

I fell in love. I fell in love with VCU.

I realized even though VCU was not my first choice — I had a list of 17 possible transfer colleges and an escape plan — this was my home.

My friends were here, my people were here, the community I wanted, and more importantly needed, was here.

I don’t believe in fate. I think life happens and we deal with it. But what I do believe in is myself. I have never believed in myself more than I do here. I can accomplish anything put in front of me, solve problems and create solutions, and build long lasting relationships professionally, romantically, socially and within myself.

College is much more than a purely academic education.

So here is what I have to say to the incoming class of 2023: Trust yourselves. Be

confident and unapologetic. Explore the world around you, and don’t let anyone tell you what to do.

And finally, and most importantly, welcome home.



Illustration by Elora Romo



# CT Comics

## Minty Fresh by Erin Joo



## Springtime by Ellie Erhart



## Shafer S\*\*\*\* by Andy Caress



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### ABOUT THE CT

The Commonwealth Times is the award-winning independent student newspaper at VCU, since 1969. The CT staff maintains all editorial and operations discretion. There is absolutely no prior review by the public, university or VCU Student Media Center administration or staff. The Executive Editor writes and manages the Operations Budget.

### ADD YOUR VOICE

The opinions pages of the CT are a forum open to the public. Contributions are welcome by email to Brianna Scott, by mail or in-person at 817 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23220. Opinions expressed are those of individual columnists and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Commonwealth Times. Unsigned editorials represent the collective opinion of The CT staff.

The Commonwealth Times strives for accuracy in gathering news. If you think we have made an error, please email the appropriate section editor. Corrections will appear on the news pages and/or online. One CT per person. Additional copies can be purchased at the Student Media Center for \$1 each.



CT

Puzzles

For answers to this week’s puzzles, check [commonwealthtimes.org/puzzles](http://commonwealthtimes.org/puzzles) every Friday at noon.

Los Angeles Times

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
- 1 Stationery item with printed margin lines

9 Arrive with a flourish

16 Artistic dynasty

20 Haydn’s “The Creation,” for one

21 Casual beer order

22 Suzette’s gal pal

23 Ryder Cup two-man team?

25 Othello deceiver

26 MLB info

27 Virus’ protein shell

28 Moved with effort

30 Bunk array

31 Cinque e uno

33 Gooney treat

34 Locally organized event with rides and games?

41 Photogenic expanse

44 Copied, old-style

45 Wilder’s “\_\_\_ Town”

46 Occultist symbol

50 Lazy ones

51 Little ones

52 Look too closely?

53 Rhyme scheme in Frost’s “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”

54 Boop frame

55 Blunt, as reality

57 Zagreb native

58 Biblical mount

59 Cad

60 Pass

62 Don of talk radio

63 Choir group

66 Signpost signaling farmland?

70 Evening, in ads

71 Kale unit

72 Memorial \_\_\_

73 Kettering: NYC hospital

75 Unthreatening

76 Sewing cases

78 Brush brand

79 Rock bass supplier?

82 “The \_\_\_ that men do lives after them”: Antony

83 Wang of fashion

84 Some beer orders, initially

86 Immature insects

88 Moved

90 Okinawa okay

91 “Just watch me!”

92 More clement

93 Source of Capitol Hill water?

95 Europe’s longest river

98 Vulcano of “Impractical Jokers”

100 Stare open-mouthed

101 Frozen treats

104 City near Mount Rainier

106 Exemplar of corporate malfeasance

111 Medical lab liquids

112 Overworked employee at a desert diner?

116 Wells people

117 Words of desperation, perhaps

118 Metaphorical scrutiny, in modern lingo

119 Nursery staple

120 Charge for using

121 Took stock of

DOWN

1 Cut

2 Times to remember

3 Track pace

4 Big name in razors

5 Hit in the 7-Down

6 They know the ropes

7 See 5-Down

8 Many a late ‘90s startup

9 Leaves the office for a bit

10 WWII females

11 Plaza Hotel imp

12 Get away from \_\_\_ favor

14 Part of MIT: Abbr.

15 At no time, poetically

16 Periodical for some Downton Abbey employees?

17 Mature insect

18 Neighbor of Chad

19 Crystal-bearing rock

24 One holding a derby?

29 Open org.

30 Fish-and-chips fish

32 “No need to shout”

34 Banking org. since 1933

35 One might run an errand

36 “\_\_\_ take a while”

37 GPS datum

38 “Too little payment \_\_\_ great a debt”: Shak.

39 Relax between games

40 Union title?

42 Visiting the Griffith Observatory, say

43 Editor’s mark

46 Place for a rocker

47 Spider-Man films director

48 In the area of

49 Cleric’s residence

51 They work on books

56 How to talk to the hand?: Abbr.

57 “The Godfather” actor

59 Only bucket you’ll ever need?

60 Genesis grandson

61 Clandestine org.

63 Transmogrify, e.g.

64 Get going

65 Sri Lankan people

67 Homeric epic

68 2010 health law: Abbr.

69 Airport serving Washington

74 Ski resort helpers

76 Pre-hurricane emergency op

77 Footballer’s tool, in France

78 Literally, “folding paper”

79 Sports shoe brand

80 Star trek figures?

81 Low-level laborer

84 Saigon soup

85 Ram

87 Sleep stage

89 “See you later!”

91 Old-school “cool”

93 Artist Monet

94 Its capital is Kigali

95 Carpentry shop gadgets

96 Kitchen sponge brand

97 The king of France?

99 Old-time actor Lew

102 February forecaster from Punxsutawney

103 Sound measure

105 Make woolens, say

106 They’re woolly

107 Travel pillow spot

108 Clears (of)

109 Redding of blues

110 “Party of Five” actress Campbell

113 In-flight drink option

114 Some appliances

115 Like most of Denmark’s flag
- 
- Summer in the pool? Learn to swim and improve your form with Aquatics! [recsports.vcu.edu](http://recsports.vcu.edu)
- I Candy by Jeffrey Wechsler
- |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |     |     |
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| 101 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 102 | 103 |     | 104 |     | 105 |    |     |    | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 |
| 111 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 112 |     | 113 |     |     |     |    | 114 |    |     |     |     |     | 115 |
| 116 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 117 |     |     |     |     |     |    | 118 |    |     |     |     |     |     |
| 119 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 120 |     |     |     |     |     |    | 121 |    |     |     |     |     |     |
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- Sudoku
- By The Mephram Group
- DIFFICULTY LEVEL
- 1

2

3

4
- Complete the grid so each row, column, and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |   | 6 |
|   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |   | 7 |
|   | 1 | 9 |   |   |   | 4 | 3 |   |
|   | 8 |   |   | 2 | 5 | 7 |   |   |
|   | 6 |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |
|   |   | 2 | 6 | 7 |   |   | 4 |   |
|   | 7 | 8 |   |   |   | 6 | 5 |   |
| 2 |   |   | 8 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   | 1 |
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