



From left: Freshman guard Ace Baldwin, senior guard Taya Robinson, redshirt-junior guard Janika Griffith-Wallace and sophomore guard Bones Hyland. Both men’s and women’s basketball earned spots in the upcoming NCAA championship tournaments. Photos by Megan Lee and Jay Stonefield

# Both programs in NCAA tournament in same year for first time since 2009

## Men’s basketball prepares for NCAA tournament

**NOAH FLEISCHMAN**  
Sports Editor

For the 18th time in program history, men’s basketball is going dancing in the NCAA tournament.

The Rams, who lost 74-65 to St. Bonaventure in the A-10 championship game on Sunday in Dayton, Ohio, earned an at-large selection in the tournament as a No. 10 seed. VCU will play No. 7 Oregon in the first round on March 20.

“The emotions didn’t really get to me when we first seen the name,” sophomore guard Bones Hyland said. “Hours later, it definitely did. It definitely hit that we were playing in March Madness.”

See **MEN’S BASKETBALL** on page 5

## Women’s basketball secures spot in Big Dance, A-10 title

**JOE DODSON**  
Staff Writer

**NILE MCNAIR**  
Contributing Writer

After winning its first-ever Atlantic 10 title, VCU women’s basketball has punched its ticket to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2009.

“I’ve been a coach for 20 years, and this is my first NCAA tournament,” coach Beth O’Boyle said. “I think the best part of it was the smiles and hugs with my players after the game.”

VCU defeated UMass 81-69 on Sunday in the conference title game.

See **WOMEN’S BASKETBALL** on page 6



Stories of the week

**NATIONAL:** Eight people shot and killed at Atlanta-area massage parlors.  
**INTERNATIONAL:** New fragments of Dead Sea Scrolls found in Israel.



VCUarts student Shawn Terry transfers his sketch onto a copper plate using an engraving press in professor Holly Morrison's printmaking project class. Photo by Jay Stonefield



Professor Holly Morrison instructs students on how to etch plates in ferric chloride in their printmaking project class. Photo by Jay Stonefield

'IT'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS BEFORE':

Students, faculty return to campus midsemester

SAHARA SRIRAMAN  
Contributing Writer

Freshman graphic design student Ariadna Perez couldn't have been happier about VCU's decision to resume in-person classes on March 4, she said. Like most VCUarts students in virtual classes this semester, it was difficult for Perez to stay on top of assignments.

"I physically need to be there, or I literally won't do the work," Perez said.

Assignments in Perez's surface research class are physical, which she said helps her learn the material effectively.

"Before it just felt like doing busy work," Perez said. "Now I feel like we're doing actual, important, engaging projects."

It has been nearly a month since VCU announced its return to in-person learning on Feb. 18. The decision was met with excitement from some and concerns of COVID-19 from others.

VCU has reported 416 new COVID-19 cases this year. More than 40 active cases among students and seven cases among employees were reported as of Tuesday, according to university data.

Everett Carpenter, director of the physics department's nanoscience and nanotechnology program, wrote a letter to President Michael Rao on Feb. 24 on behalf of VCU's chapter of the American Association of University Professors. He expressed concerns in the statement regarding the return to in-person learning amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"It just seemed to be confusing, and part of the reason it seemed confusing was they didn't involve us in the decision making," Carpenter said. "We wrote the letter to highlight that."

Carpenter, who holds a doctorate in inorganic chemistry, said having the return at a different time, such as after midterms or after the spring minimester, would have solved some of the confusion.

"Our chapter has always maintained that there are some courses which the only way they meet the educational outcomes is in person," Carpenter said.

Justin Alexander, assistant music professor and director of percussion studies, said the students in his performance-based percussion ensemble class were thrilled to return to in-person learning.

"I was actually surprised the first time we met how jovial everyone was and how excited they were to be back in the same room," Alexander said.

Although the class of 12 to 15 performers used to play together, they now meet in small groups of two or three to ensure student safety, Alexander said.

"Even though we're meeting in person, it's not exactly what it was before," Alexander said.

Although his students were excited to be back in the classroom, it was difficult for them to adjust to playing together again

after a year at home, Alexander said.

"The students are just having to get back into the rhythm, not to say a pun, of actually playing together with each other again, listening to each other, instead of just playing solo," Alexander said.

VCU spokesperson Michael Porter stated in an email that the return to in-person learning has gone well. The university considered COVID-19 positivity rates on campus and in Richmond, the amount of quarantine and hospital space available and the amount of available on-campus testing before deciding to reopen.

"As the VCU COVID-19 dashboard shows, the trends continue to be favorable," Porter stated. "The increasing availability of vaccinations is another positive factor."

Porter stated that VCU "did not receive a great deal of feedback" from students, employees or parents regarding the return to in-person learning.

VCU begins Greek life cessation period following Adam Oakes' death

SAHARA SRIRAMAN  
Contributing Writer

Leaders of Greek life organizations sent an email to all members on Friday detailing a cessation of university fraternities and sororities, as well as the steps those groups are now required to take.

The announcement follows recent national outcry over freshman Adam Oakes, who was found dead on Feb. 27 in a house on West Clay Street, six blocks from the Monroe Park campus. Oakes' family said a Delta Chi fraternity hazing event caused his death.

"He's an only child, so he was seeking that social piece of finding his place and finding his brothers, and that was what he was looking for when he tried to join Delta Chi," said Oakes' cousin, Courtney White.

All Greek life social events are forbidden for the remainder of the spring semester, according to the email sent to students. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will reach out to each individual fraternity and sorority to schedule chapter meetings.

The message stated that all chapters are required to submit information regarding their specific groups, including:

- The organization's anti-hazing and risk-management rules.
- A list of all present leaders and official members.
- A list of all alumni and faculty advisers.
- Constitution or bylaws of both the national organization and VCU chapter.
- New member education and membership-intake policy.
- Outline of the organization's intake process.
- The organization's present insurance certificate.

"Any chapters or individual students found to have violated the law and/or University policies will be held accountable and may be subject to a range of disciplinary actions, including removal from the University," the email stated.

The email outlined details of the cessation, including the halting of intake events on campus for all organizations, evaluating groups' intake processes and prohibiting in-person events for the semester.

Greek life chapters must complete training webinars on RamsConnect before they can recommence normal recruitment activities. The training will begin Monday and



Adam Oakes was found dead in a home on the 100 Block of West Clay Street.

Photo by Wessam Hazaymeh

focus on topics including hazing and alcohol. The last day to complete the training is March 31. The full list of training dates is located on RamsConnect.

Other requirements include individually reviewing all Greek life organizations on campus and communicating with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life when a chapter completes its requirements.

For all leaders, there is an additional "Positive Organization Expectations Conversation" they must complete, which centers around how Greek life members should behave in order to adhere to VCU and FSL's principles.

"We recognize that not all students in-

volved in fraternity and sorority life engage in behavior that violates our community norms," the email stated.

Communication between current members and new members will be limited and mediated directly by chapter advisers and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the email stated.

The email was signed by Greek life leaders who oversee all fraternity and sorority organizations on campus, including the National Pan-Hellenic Council of VCU, the College Panhellenic Council of VCU, the Interfraternity Council of VCU, the Multicultural Greek Council of VCU and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.





Top: Protesters left candles on Monument Avenue near Marcus-David Peters Circle. Bottom: A protester referred to as Seven leads protesters down Belvidere Street with a megaphone. Photos by Enza Marcy

# Richmond protest marks one year since Breonna Taylor’s death

KATHARINE DEROSA  
News Editor

**B**REONNA TAYLOR, A 26-YEAR-OLD Black woman, was shot in her home in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 13, 2020. One year later, Richmonders marched in her honor.

Taylor, an emergency room technician, was killed in her sleep as Louisville Metro Police raided her home through the use of a “no-knock” search warrant. Three officers, Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly, Detective Myles Cosgrove and Detective Brett Hankison, fired shots into Taylor’s apartment. Cosgrove and Hankison have been fired.

Taylor was with her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, when police shot her. No officers were charged with her death.

“I don’t know what’s happening,” Walker said on a recorded call to 911. “Someone kicked in the door and shot my girlfriend.”

Protesters met in Monroe Park on Saturday and marched to Marcus-David Peters Circle. From there, the group headed east to the Richmond Police Headquarters on West Grace Street, where police officers directed them to get out of the street and onto the sidewalks.

The request was met by some with a chant of “Whose streets? Our streets.”

A protester, who wished to be referred to as Seven, carried a megaphone and led chants. At the Richmond Police Headquarters, they used the megaphone to make announcements and get the attention of police officers inside the parking garage at the headquarters.

“Children are scared of you,” Seven said. “Black kids are scared of you.”

VCU issued a public assembly alert for Monroe Park campus, estimating 25 people in attendance at the protest.

Protesters returned to the fenced Marcus-David Peters Circle later in the night. Police officers arrived and flashed blue lights shortly after the group’s arrival.

Some protesters approached the officers, and others shouted, “Don’t talk to cops.”

Deputy Chief Sydney Collier began talking to some protesters and told Seven to come talk to him in his office. People gathered around the conversation — half of which were wearing masks. He declined a reporter’s request to videotape their future meeting.

A protester, who wished to be referred to as Jay, said he was out because Taylor’s

killers didn’t get more than “a slap on the wrist.”

“I think that we need to keep the energy up from this summer,” Jay said “This isn’t a time to slow down.”

Jay said he believes people have become complacent due to President Joe Biden’s historical victory in November.

“Everyone thinks that because Trump is gone, that everything’s going to be fixed,” Jay said. “We need to be pushing Biden much further, much harder. We are not going to stop. We can’t stop.”

The crowd began to disperse after police left Marcus-David Peters Circle around 9 p.m.

This story was originally published Sunday, March 14 on [commonwealthtimes.org](https://www.commonwealthtimes.org).



A protester referred to as Pop talks to police officers at Marcus-David Peters Circle to discuss police presence. Photo by Enza Marcy



A Richmond local holds a painted portrait of Breonna Taylor in front of the recently fenced Robert E. Lee Monument at Marcus-David Peters Circle on the one-year anniversary of Taylor’s death. Photo by Enza Marcy





Illustration by Lauren Johnson

**SAGAL AHMED**  
Contributing Writer

# Student group petitions for mandatory racial literacy course

Some students are calling on VCU to implement a mandatory course at the university on racial literacy, or anti-racist cultural and societal teachings designed to educate and promote discussions about race and racism.

Marie Vergamini, co-director of the student advisory group within VCU’s Committee on Racial Equity, said she joined the group to promote racial equality in VCU’s curriculum. She said she believes the university’s diversity campaigns are performative.

“We all see through it, the students see through it and faculty act as if they are doing the right thing,” said Vergamini, an integrative life sciences doctoral student.

The group has met once a week for the past six months. During that time, it developed an online petition to make the racial literacy course mandatory for incoming freshmen and transfer students in fall of 2021.

“When I heard about this course, I felt this was an action that VCU could take in the right direction to actually saying, ‘We are a diverse university that supports our diverse population,’” Vergamini said.

The group has met with several committees to get approval of the course, such as the general education committee, which stated in a Jan. 22 meeting that the class would be an elective course in the “diversity of the human experience” category.

The committee told the group that the course was made an elective rather than mandatory due to scheduling conflicts and failure of the group to submit a proposal with a syllabus on time, Vergamini said. The organization has attempted to convince the committee to make the class mandatory, despite these issues.

The petition is still open for signatures, and has been updated asking that the class be made a mandatory course by the fall semester of 2022.

Senior African American studies major Madeline McDuffy said the course is being implemented as a trial period due to VCU listing it as an elective. The student advisory group is worried the class may not be offered in the future if too few students sign up for the class, McDuffy said.

The group is promoting the class by asking advisers and college recruiters to spread awareness to future students.

Adam Ewing, associate professor of African American studies, said the course is needed at VCU because of the institutionalized nature of racism in university spaces. “It’s hoped that with greater clarity about

the ways in which race and racism operates within American society, that clarity will produce anti-racist outcomes,” Ewing said.

Ewing said his definition of racial literacy relates to racial illiteracy; the latter exists because conversations about how race operates in society aren’t common.

“I think about racial literacy in that sense as an effort to address that consequential lack of literacy in thinking about this issue,” Ewing said. “And because we don’t have a shared language to really discuss it, we often don’t have very effective ways for dealing with racism and addressing it as a society.”

One way to address racial illiteracy is by prioritizing education about racial equality, Ewing said.

“Living in a society that doesn’t produce those outcomes requires more than simply declaring a commitment to not being racist,” Ewing said. “It requires taking active steps to change the current reality, which is rooted in racist practice and racist outcomes.”



Richmond locals receive their COVID-19 vaccine from the Virginia Department of Health at the Arthur Ashe Athletic Center in Richmond, Virginia.  
Photo by Enza Marcy



each week in Virginia was steadily climbing since December but has plateaued in the last two weeks, according to VDH.

In contrast, COVID-19 cases have fallen steadily since their peak in early January, according to VDH. Virginia was averaging more than 5,000 cases per day at the start of the new year; the average number is now about 1,200.

Fully vaccinated people are safe to gather with other fully vaccinated people indoors without masks, according to the CDC. Vaccinated people can also visit one unvaccinated household without masks, as long as no one in that household is at risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Vaccinated people can refrain from testing and quarantine following a known exposure to COVID-19, as long as they are asymptomatic.

However, vaccinated people should still wear masks in public, according to the CDC. They should also continue to avoid large gatherings such as weddings, sporting events, concerts, conferences and festivals; in which attendees cannot stay six feet apart.

Virginians who want to register for a vaccine must use the commonwealth’s centralized registration system, which can be found at [vaccinate.virginia.gov](https://vaccinate.virginia.gov).

# Virginia on track to meet Biden’s vaccination goals

**ANYA SCZERZENIE**  
Contributing Writer

An average of 50,000 vaccine doses are being administered in Virginia each day as the commonwealth begins using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

Gov. Ralph Northam stated in a Facebook post that Virginia would be able to meet President Joe Biden’s vaccination goal of making all U.S. adults eligible for the vaccine by May 1.

“Opening up vaccine eligibility to all adults by May 1 is an ambitious target, and one that we can achieve in Virginia,” Northam stated.

Northam stated the goal to “celebrate independence” from the virus by July 4 is within reach if Virginians get vaccinated and follow public health guidelines. That date is also a goal for Biden, who predicts that with widespread cooperation, Americans will be able to gather in small groups to celebrate Independence Day.

More than 21% of Virginia’s population has received at least one vaccine dose as

of Tuesday, up from 13.3% on Feb. 23, according to Virginia Department of Health data. More than 21,000 people in the city of Richmond are fully vaccinated.

“We are aiming to vaccinate about 75% of our population to reach herd immunity,” Catherine Long, a spokesperson for Richmond and Henrico health districts, stated in an email.

After the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration on Feb. 27, Virginia began using the single-dose vaccine along with the two-dose Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. The commonwealth began distributing its first shipment of 69,000 Johnson & Johnson vaccines on March 4, according to VDH.

The number of vaccines being administered



## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Stat of the week

Tyler Locklear was named Atlantic 10 baseball Player of the Week.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL PREPARES FOR NCAA TOURNAMENT

Freshman guard Ace Baldwin dribbles down the court against St. Bonaventure in the A-10 championship on March 14.

Photo by Megan Lee

*Continued from front page*

## HISTORY

VCU and Oregon have only played once before. The Rams won 77-63 in the 2014 Legends Classic during former coach Shaka Smart's last season in Richmond.

The Rams were the No. 14 team in the Associated Press Poll during the first meeting with the Ducks. Former guard Melvin Johnson led the black and gold with 19 points and four rebounds. Guard Treveon Graham added 13 points, while forward Mo Alie-Cox logged 10 points.

## THE SETTING

The duration of the men's NCAA tournament will be played in Indianapolis, using six different venues: Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall, Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indiana Farmers Coliseum, Lucas Oil Stadium and Mackey Arena.

The Rams will play at Indiana Farmers Coliseum, located just outside of downtown Indianapolis at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

The team will practice once at the Coliseum on Thursday before Saturday night's

game and will practice in the Indiana Convention Center for the other practices, coach Mike Rhoades said.

When the team arrived at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis on Sunday night, they were tested for COVID-19 and entered a 21-hour quarantine period, Rhoades said.

"There's no free time," Rhoades said. "These guys are confined to the hotel, and if we go anywhere, it's in a group. ... 'Inclusive' is the word that I use."

Hyland said he spent the quarantine laying in bed and watching ESPN's SportsCenter on TV.

"When we first got here, it was definitely very strict," Hyland said.

Each athlete needed two negative tests to exit the quarantine period, Rhoades said. When Jimmy Martelli, director of operations, texted the team that the period was over, many players cried out "freedom," Rhoades said.

## OREGON

The Ducks were the Pac-12 regular season champions, but lost in the conference semifinals to Oregon State 75-64 on March 12 in Las Vegas.

Oregon's strength is perimeter shooting with their top five scorers shooting 37% or better from deep.

Hyland said he knows the Ducks will make 3-pointers; the Rams just need to limit the amount of made shots from beyond the arc.

"Try to run them off the line, make them put the ball on the floor" Hyland said. "Just basically flying around, which is one of our core values. Just sticking to what we do, and that should work for us."

Oregon is led by forward Eugene Omoruyi and guard Chris Duarte, who are both averaging 16.7 points.

Omoruyi has logged seven games of 20 points or more, including a 31-point performance against Missouri on Dec. 2.

"They have four, five guys on the court at all times that can pass, dribble and shoot at a high level," Rhoades said. "They're one of the most efficient offensive teams in the country."

The matchup with the Ducks will be one of only two games in the first round that feature a top-20 offense and a top-20 defense. The Rams are No. 12 in the country in defensive efficiency and the Ducks are



Sophomore forward Hason Ward jumps for the tipoff against St. Bonaventure in the A-10 championship on March 14.

Photo by Megan Lee

No. 16 in offensive efficiency, according to KenPom.com.

L.J. Figueroa, a St. John's transfer, isn't a stranger to Rhoades and the Rams. When VCU played St. John's in 2018, the guard/forward scored 15 points in the Red Storm's overtime win.

This season, Figueroa is averaging 12.3 points for the Ducks, including a career-high 21 points in the Pac-12 quarterfinals against Arizona State.

The No. 10 Rams and No. 7 Ducks will square off in the first round of the NCAA tournament at Indiana Farmers Coliseum in Indianapolis at 9:57 p.m. on March 20. The game will be televised on TNT.

## Top goal scorer measures success through team's achievements

JOE DODSON

Staff Writer

Sophomore midfielder Célio Pompeu competes with the joy he had as a kid playing with his friends in Fortaleza, Brazil.

"Soccer for me? It's everything," Pompeu said. "I remember as a kid I always had a soccer ball with me. My first gift was a soccer ball."

Pompeu started playing organized soccer at Brazilian first-division team Ceará's Sporting Club School when he was nine years old. As his soccer notoriety grew, his family supported him, Pompeu said.

"They asked, 'so you want to be a soccer player?' And I said, 'yeah, it's my dream,'" Pompeu said. "They always helped me."

Pompeu was competing in a showcase tournament in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, when he was recruited by St. Benedict's Prep coach Jimmie Wandling.

When he moved to Newark, New Jersey at 16 to play for St. Benedict's, Pompeu struggled to communicate with others while he learned English, he said.

"In Brazil, I was always the first guy to talk," Pompeu said. "When I got here, I learned how to listen more because I couldn't talk."

Along with learning a new language and culture, Pompeu had to learn a different style of play from the offensive-minded style of Brazilian soccer.

"In Brazil, we always want to attack, dribble, score goals, have fun, laugh and give the fans a show," Pompeu said. "If you wanna succeed here in the U.S., you also need fitness, and you need to defend."

Although Pompeu was not expressive with his words, his personality shined through on the field, Wandling said.

"I think Célio's personality, his charisma, his enthusiasm is all reflected in the way that he plays," Wandling said.

By the end of his three-year high school career, Pompeu had scored 41 goals and dished out 51 assists. His efforts earned him a spot on the USA Today 2018-2019 All-USA first team.

"The thing that I'm most proud of is that toward the end of his time with us, he was playing for the people around him more than he was playing for himself," Wandling said.

Pompeu had professional contract offers from Europe after high school, but he instead committed to UCLA. The UCLA

commitment ended when coach Jorge Salcedo was found to be a part of an admissions cheating scandal.

Pompeu had been on VCU head coach Dave Giffard's short list prior to his commitment to UCLA, so once Pompeu decommitted, Giffard reached out.

Pompeu's "team-first" mentality sets him apart from top recruits that VCU has had in the past, Giffard said.

"I think he's the most gifted one we've had here," Giffard said. "The reason is he doesn't mind fighting for the team."

Pompeu sustained a leg injury three minutes into his collegiate debut against St. Bonaventure in September of 2019. He was forced to miss the remainder of the regular season.

Pompeu had never suffered a serious injury before, he said. Giffard said Pompeu used the time as a learning opportunity for how to better take care of his body.

In his first game back, Pompeu scored his first collegiate goal to help VCU



Sophomore midfielder Célio Pompeu jogs during a game. Photo courtesy of VCU Athletics



WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

# WOMEN’S BASKETBALL SECURES SPOT IN BIG DANCE, A-10 TITLE



Women’s basketball celebrates after winning the A-10 championship on March 14. Photo by Jay Stonefield

Continued from front page

After being picked first in the A-10 pre-season poll, the Rams struggled to start the season, going 2-5 in their nonconference schedule.

“We came out of the nonconference probably not where we thought we would be,” O’Boyle said. “But again, it was the response to it.”

The team found their footing and began to turn the season around by winning four straight games to start conference play, including a 73-49 away win over crosstown rival Richmond.

Despite the postponing of three conference games due to COVID-19, VCU finished with a 10-5 record in conference games. The Rams had multiple winning streaks of at least three games.

VCU won three straight games en route to the title game as the fifth seed in the tournament. One of those wins was a 56-50 upset victory against top-seeded Dayton.

“Even before the season started, we had a feeling that we were going to be great, and I think we proved everyone wrong and did what we had to do,” senior guard Tera Reed said.

Senior guard Taya Robinson earned her first A-10 First Team selection after averaging a career-high and team-high 14.7 points and 6 rebounds through the season. Robinson also earned her third consecutive All-Defensive Team honor. The Richmond native was named A-10’s Most Outstanding Player after dropping in 19 points in the title game.

Freshman guard Sarah Te-Biasu earned All-Rookie team honors after averaging 10.9 points and 3.4 rebounds.

Coming out of the regular season, VCU still had its ultimate goal in sight. After losing to Fordham and Dayton in the last two A-10 championship games, VCU was eager to win its first conference title.

“It’s been our goal every single year to win the championship, and we’ve been in

the game, so I think the experience really helped us,” Reed said.

VCU was the beneficiary of having the A-10 tournament at the Stuart C. Siegel Center, as the Rams went 9-2 at home this season.

Winning the conference championship adds to the impact the senior class has had on the program the last four years. The senior class consists of guards Robinson, Reed and Olga Petrova, forward Sydnei Archie and center Sofya Pashigoreva.

“Starting as a freshman it was tough, we won seven games, but we talked to each other and knew that the next year it wouldn’t be like that,” Robinson said.

Since that seven-win season, women’s basketball had two consecutive seasons with over 20 wins.

It was announced on Monday that No. 13 VCU will be playing No. 4 in their opening game of the NCAA tournament. The tournament starts March 21, with all games taking place in San Antonio, Texas.

However, the quick turnaround between the A-10 and NCAA tournament games doesn’t seem to worry the VCU players.

“Right now we’re on top of the world,” Reed said. “We’re living in this moment and enjoying this moment right now, but we don’t have any doubts that we can focus on advancing in the tournament.”

The Rams will play Indiana on Monday at 2 p.m. at the UTSA Convocation Center in San Antonio, Texas. The game will be televised on ESPNU.

## CAUSING GLOBAL RACKETS: Junior transfer aims to make impact in new surroundings

YANNI KOUIROUKIDIS  
Contributing Writer

Shivani Manjanna is the type of person to easily adjust to any situation. And as a tennis player, she says it’s all about the mental process.

Manjanna is from Bangalore, India, which is more than 8,500 miles from Richmond. When she left home and moved to the United States, she looked forward to playing in bigger tournaments.

“For me it came down to how I could plan my future better,” Manjanna said. “Back in India, apart from COVID and everything, we don’t really have a lot of tournaments. We need to be able to travel and financially, that’s also not sustainable.”

From leaving India to playing tennis at the University of Louisiana Monroe before transferring to VCU, Manjanna has stayed focused.

“In tennis, you can’t really go ahead with a game plan before because you don’t know how your opponents play,” Manjanna said. “You kind of have to figure out strengths and weaknesses, so I think I’m good at reading my opponent better and quicker.”

Manjanna’s ultimate goal is to use her time at VCU to help her get the experience she needs to go professional, she said. She looks up to her brother, who has been her coach since she was 15 years old.

“My biggest influence I would say is my brother,” Manjanna said. “He used to play

before, and he is sort of the reason why I got into tennis at a young age.”

Manjanna competed for one season at the University of Louisiana Monroe. Her transfer to VCU was an easy transition, she said.

“Here, the resources are definitely better,” Manjanna said. “The training facilities here are much better well equipped, and if you’re willing to work hard, there is always someone there to help you out.”

Manjanna currently holds a 5-4 record for her singles matches and a 4-3 record with her doubles partner, Alessia Ciuca. Ciuca, a freshman from Timisoara, Romania, welcomed the opportunity to play with Manjanna to learn from an upperclassman.

“She is a really calm person and she has a lot of patience,” Ciuca said. “Every time we play doubles together, she sees that I’m nervous and she comes over to me and calms me down.”

That one-to-one interaction between players is something that has been an advantage to both Ciuca and Manjanna while at VCU. With a squad of only eight girls, players are more likely to get more attention during practices and build closer relationships with coaches and teammates.

Vivian Segnini is in her first year leading the Rams. As a former player herself, she was the top-ranked professional player in Brazil in both 2008 and 2011. Segnini praised Manjanna as a leader and a key member of the team.

“She’s a very disciplined athlete,” Segnini said. “She does everything right on the court. ... I know that she’s doing her best in everything she does.”

Despite the uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Manjanna has said she’s kept a cool head and looks to keep going with gratitude to her situation.

“We’re really fortunate at VCU to play so many matches this year,” Manjanna said. “I’ve heard other teams’ seasons have been canceled, so I’m really glad we are able to compete again. I think that just pushes us to keep working hard.”

The Rams will face Duquesne this Saturday at noon at the Thalhimer Tennis Center.



Junior Shivani Manjanna awaits a serve in a tennis match at the Thalhimer Tennis Center. Photo by Kaitlyn Fulmore

### GAME RESULTS

#### MARCH 13

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL - VS. DAYTON**

WIN 56-50

Taya Robinson: 18 points

**FIELD HOCKEY - VS. RICHMOND**

WIN 3-1

Georgia Carr-Brown: first-career goal

**WOMEN’S TENNIS - VS. ODU**

LOST 5-2

**BASEBALL - VS. TOWSON**

LOST 8-7

Steven Carpenter: 4-for-5, 2 RBI

#### MARCH 14

**BASEBALL - VS TOWSON**

WIN 5-1

Jack Schroeder: 2-for-4, 2 RBI

**MEN’S BASKETBALL - AT ST BONAVENTURE**

LOST 74-65

A-10 title game

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL - VS. UMASS**

WIN 81-69

A-10 title game

**MEN’S TENNIS - AT NO. 16 ARIZONA**

LOST 4-0

**VOLLEYBALL - VS. DUSQUESNE**

WIN 3-0

Qairo Bentley: 12 kills

#### MARCH 15

**VOLLEYBALL - VS DUQUESNE**

WIN 3-0

Qairo Bentley: 14 kills

#### MARCH 16

**BASEBALL - AT ODU**

POSTPONED

Postponed to March 17 (Weather)



## On this day

In 1762, the first St. Patrick's Day parade in the United States was held in New York City.



Art curator Ra-Twoine Fields poses for a portrait in front of The Well, a Black-owned art gallery in Richmond. Photo by Enza Marcy

# Black-owned Richmond art gallery debuts new exhibit

**GRACE MCOMBER**  
Contributing Writer

**P**INK AND YELLOW BUTTERFLIES frame a Black woman dressed in a blue, floral dress. Shades of green, purple, blue and pink paint her skin as she confidently looks over her shoulder at the viewer. “Daisy” is one of two paintings by Richmond artist Justice Dwight that will be showcased in “The Many Faces of the Black Woman” at The Well, Richmond’s only Black-owned and operated art gallery, curator Ra-Twoine Fields said.

“It’s just always been really nice,” Dwight said of the gallery. “It always feels like family.”

The exhibit, which opened Tuesday and will run until April 16, centers on the complexities and intersectionality of being a Black woman in the U.S. It features the submissions of more than 13 artists from across the country and explores themes such as beauty, mental health and leadership.

“Daisy” and Dwight’s second painting, “Ruella,” both feature plus-size Black women, which the artist said he was inspired to portray after experiencing changes to his own body during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dwight said he wanted to highlight plus-size Black women in his work because he does not see them represented enough in art.

“There’s so much beauty in our bodies being different and our bodies being able to change,” Dwight said. “I wanted to showcase that in my artwork. I don’t see enough Black people represented, and I don’t see enough fat Black people represented either.”

Having previously showcased at The Well, Dwight said he considers the gallery to be a safe environment to explore a diverse range of themes.

“It gives us a space to tell our stories,” Dwight said. “And it’s a space where you can share these stories and you don’t feel like you’re going to get shunned for it, no matter what the story is.”

The Well was first opened in 2018 by co-owners James Harris and Ajay Brewer in 2018. Located on Hull Street in the Blackwell neighborhood of Richmond, Brewer and Harris opened the gallery to show the cultural changes occurring in the area and preserve the history of the neighborhood, according to the gallery’s website.

## “

I think Black women should always be highlighted. There are just so many stereotypes around Black women, so I hope that people will let those go and just be able to see a Black woman for who she is.”

**Genevieve DeMarco, artist**

Fields, a Richmond artist, has acted as curator for The Well since 2018. For “The Many Faces of the Black Woman,” Fields said he wanted to showcase an exhibit that represented the perspective of Black women during Women’s History Month.

“The intersectionality of being Black in America and pairing that with being a woman in America is a very delicate topic, and a lot of times you get people that try

to split the two,” Fields said. “Either we’re gonna talk about being a woman, or we’re gonna talk about being Black.”

Fields said it is important to use his platform as a curator to include a wide range of perspectives.

“It’ll be interesting to see what themes come out,” Fields said. “I’ve seen pieces that explore identity, mental health and different projections of beauty concepts.”

“The Many Faces of the Black Woman” is not The Well’s first politically and socially conscious exhibit. Last month, the gallery featured “Domestic Warfare,” an exhibit centered around police violence in the United States, in honor of Black History Month.

“We showed pieces that challenged people’s experiences and challenged people’s privileges as well,” Fields said. “I think that it was interesting to see how people create a conversation from pieces. And that’s always a goal.”

The Well acts as a center for a number of community resources, such as legal aid, mental health services and employment assistance, Fields said.

“We’re functioning kind of like a beehive,” Fields said. “I’ve noticed that a lot of non-profits and community organizations have a lack of space to centralize what they have going on. So that’s what we’re offering.”

Fields said The Well’s status as the sole Black-owned gallery in the city is upsetting.

“It’s kind of embarrassing that Richmond doesn’t have more Black-owned art galleries,” Fields said. “How Richmond tries to use Black artistry and creativity as a facade for change and progress in this city is laughable.”

Fields has encountered a number of Black artists in Richmond who believe they have been excluded or overlooked by other galleries, he said.

“I’ve had a plethora of artists come to me and just say, ‘Thank you for giving me a chance,’” Fields said. “The doors are often closed, and no one can get in unless you know so-and-so.”

Louisiana-based artist Genevieve DeMarco is also showcased in the exhibit. DeMarco has experienced rejection toward work that portrayed police violence against Black Americans from other galleries that did not want to showcase political or potentially controversial work, she said.

“A lot of my paintings are about social issues,” DeMarco said. “Anything like that type of subject matter, they sometimes want you to stay away from. A lot of the gallery board of directors are a whole bunch of older white people.”

DeMarco’s piece, “I’m a Fool to Want You” is an expressionist painting that features a colorblocked background of blues, oranges and reds. Overlaid is the likeness of a woman and the lyrics of “I’m a Fool to Want You” by jazz singer Billie Holiday, from which DeMarco said she took inspiration.

“I think Black women should always be highlighted,” DeMarco said. “There are just so many stereotypes around Black women, so I hope that people will let those go and just be able to see a Black woman for who she is.”



Richmond artist Justice Dwight has two paintings showcased at “The Many Faces of the Black Woman” exhibition — “Ruella” and “Daisy.” The exhibit opened on Tuesday and will run until April 16. Photo by Enza Marcy



*YEAR IN REVIEW:*  
**COVID-19, isolation transformed VCU students' lives**

**EBONIQUE LITTLE**  
Spectrum Editor

A university-wide announcement on March 11, 2020, upended the lives of many VCU students, who learned that a typical one-week spring break would be extended to two. The COVID-19 pandemic, which felt so distant before, was then present in the lives of college students worldwide. A safe return seemed far. VCU buildings were locked, and the once bustling campus was void of student life. Weeks of this new reality turned into months, and months became a year. Compounded with racial justice protests, 2020 was difficult for many to endure. The Commonwealth Times asked its readers what the COVID-19 pandemic has looked and felt like in their lives. We've selected a range of photo submissions from VCU students that visualize their perspectives of the past year.



**“Fire on Belle Isle.”** March 2020. Joe Myers, a junior photography student, spent time outside near the James River and witnessed someone light a fire near the water. Photo by Joe Myers



**“Chris Buzzing Dad’s Hair.”** July 2020. Luke Mancari, a senior film student, watched his sister cut their dad’s hair on the back porch, as hair salons and barber shops remained closed. Photo by Luke Mancari



**“New Lines.”** December 2020. Stay-at-home orders forced junior photography student Sophie Pimpinella to explore the complexities of the relationship with her mother. Photo by Sophie Pimpinella



**“Encouragement.”** July 1, 2020. Liza Hazelwood, a senior film student, quarantined at home with her mother and their “pandemic project”; a new puppy named Dasha. Photo by Liza Hazelwood



**“Still Searching.”** December 10, 2020. Karin Turner, a senior photography student, has spent the COVID-19 pandemic creating her thesis project, which explores escapism through hard times. Photo by Karin Turner



**“Floyd and Nansemond.”** September 10, 2020. Shane McFadden, a junior photography student, biked to the sites of some of the Black Lives Matter protests this past summer. Photo by Shane McFadden



**“Body.”** September 8, 2020. Junior photography student Angela Carr presents a self-portrait of her body. Photo by Angela Carr



**“Gas Station.”** June 4, 2020. Chris Muth, a junior cinema student, captured a photo of a group of protesters facing Richmond Police Department’s Fourth Precinct building on Chamberlayne Avenue. Photo by Chris Muth





The VCUarts dance department showcased its last performance of the Dance Now series on Friday, featuring VCUarts dance students N'dea Harris (front) and Marissa Schroeder (back). Its central theme was isolation during the pandemic. Photo by Enza Marcy

## *Feeling Distance:* VCUarts students explore isolation through interactive dance routine

**CLAIRE DARCY**  
Contributing Writer

KATE SICCHIO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of dance and media technologies, said she is thankful her toddler still gives her hugs.

"I'm lucky that I have my family and I'm really lucky that I have a toddler because they just want to touch all the time," Sicchio said, "but I miss hugging friends a lot."

Inspired by this void, Sicchio created an interactive dance routine, titled "Feeling Distance," which was the fourth and final installment of VCUarts Dance Now 2021. The delicate and intimate performance took place Friday on a website designed for the event.

Performances in the Dance Now series had themes such as COVID-19, isolation and mental health. The annual dance showcase event typically takes place in person over one weekend. This year, however, it was hosted virtually across four weekends.

Sophomore Marissa Schroeder and senior N'dea Harris performed in the series, wearing costumes that responded to electronic signals sent by viewers to simulate a physical connection between audience and dancers in a time of social distancing.

Having previously worked with wearable technology, Sicchio said she wanted to create a virtual performance that went beyond video streaming.

"The internet is so much more than that," Sicchio said. "There's all sorts of ways we communicate. We can do it in real time."

Sicchio and her team of two student researchers, juniors Tamara Denson and Taylor Colimore, worked to create costumes that would respond when audience members pressed a certain button on the streaming website. The "linger" button caused the costume to inflate, while the "release" button made the costume deflate.

The dance and its costumes represented themes of isolation and the lack of shared physical touch during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I miss touching people; I miss hugs," Sicchio said. "That was actually one of the early things we talked about with making the garment was 'how would you send a hug? Can we make it feel like a hug?'"

When inflated, the costumes simulate the lingering feeling of a physical touch, Sicchio said.

Denson, a dance major, helped to create the costumes by soldering all the electronic components and working with Sicchio to set up the livestream website and its audience interaction features.

The interactive costume pieces consist of two asymmetric, white triangular pieces of nylon fabric attached to the body by a white belt.

"We created this sense of feeling," Denson said. "We can't touch other dancers but we have something to touch and hold onto."

An electronic board and a fan blower inside the belt inflates and deflates the costume's fabric after receiving a signal. The signals connect to a German satellite between leaving audience computers and pinging the costumes, Denson said.

"What's happening behind the scenes is that the button pressing is going through a server which is sending that information back to my computer, which is networked to the costumes," Sicchio said. "All of this happens with almost no latency. It's super responsive."

Colimore, a kinetic imaging major, helped configure the livestream connection and settings, and operated the camera during the performance. She also contributed to the early stages of the costume design process.

Sicchio and Colimore said the camera was an unseen performer that roamed the stage to track the movements of the performers for the livestream audience.

"Usually in dance performances, you get to see the entire stage, and you only get to see it from one angle," Colimore said. "The point of view gets to be on the stage and constantly changing so you get to see the movement from a completely new perspective."

Colimore captured close images of the dancers while keeping a safe distance by utilizing a close-frame zoom feature on the camera, she said.

Schroeder and Harris wore masks while performing and danced in designated sections of the stage to maintain social distancing.

The choreography had two components: an improvised response to the changing costume based on its simulated "touch" and a set performance score. Although they could not dance with each other in close proximity, Sicchio said the dancers were able to communicate using call-and-response choreography and the movement of the costumes.

"It tries to emulate the feeling of dancing with others without actually being able to," Colimore said. "It's definitely a pandemic piece."



Freshman Marissa Schroeder and senior N'dea Harris analyze their dance routine. Photo by Enza Marcy

## EDITOR'S LIST OF FILMS TO WATCH

### "Coming 2 America" (2021)

The highly anticipated sequel to Eddie Murphy's 1988 comedic classic "Coming to America" finds African monarch Prince Akeem returning to Queens, New York, to meet his long-lost son. Prince Akeem unknowingly became a father on his first trip to America, when he was looking for a queen to his royal throne. Thirty-three years later, this film features much of the original cast and crew including Arsenio Hall, James Earl Jones and Vanessa Bell Calloway.

Available on Amazon Prime Video | 50% Rotten Tomatoes

### "Sorry to Bother You" (2018)

In an alternate present-day version of Oakland, California, this dark comedy follows a telemarketer named Cassius, played by LaKeith Stanfield, on a wild journey after finding a "magical key" to professional success — using a white accent to improve his telemarketing work.

Available on Hulu | 93% Rotten Tomatoes

### "The High Note" (2020)

Starring Tracee Ellis Ross and Dakota Johnson, this comedic drama showcases an aging pop star's wish to return to the forefront of the music industry. The singer has been riding the success of her classic hits, but music executives doubt her ability to create a chart-topping album because of her age — until she receives some help from her much younger personal assistant.

Available on HBO Max | 70% Rotten Tomatoes

### "The Lovebirds" (2020)

In this romantic comedy, Issa Rae and Kumail Nanjiani play a couple on the brink of splitting up. After witnessing a murder, they are forced to figure out if their relationship will survive when they go on the run.

Available on Netflix | 65% Rotten Tomatoes

### "Babyteeth" (2019)

"Babyteeth" follows a fatally ill 16-year-old girl named Milla who falls in love with a 23-year-old drug dealer named Moses. Fearing their child wound up in the wrong crowd, this dramatic comedy showcases Milla's parents' struggle with the unlikely relationship.

Available on Hulu | 94% Rotten Tomatoes

### "Girls Trip" (2017)

Four friends from college, known as the Flossy Posse, reconnect for a vacation to New Orleans for the annual Essence Festival of Culture. Equally comedic and provocative, the group's partying and drinking help them rediscover their wild sides. The film has a star-studded cast with Regina Hall, Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith and Tiffany Haddish.

Available on Amazon Prime Video for \$3.99 | 91% Rotten Tomatoes

Have suggestions for our watchlist? Email [spectrum@commonwealthtimes.org](mailto:spectrum@commonwealthtimes.org)



Quote of the week

“A man does what he can; a woman does what a man cannot.”

— ISABEL ALLENDE



Illustration by Isabelle Roque

**MONICA ALARCON-NAJARRO**  
Contributing Writer

**LIKE A FLOWER BLOOMING** — just as Selena Quintanilla said in her song, “Como la Flor” — Latina women are taking over various industries in the U.S.

It’s never too late to put our Latino roots in a country that has had so much systemic racism against the Latino community. Our homelands were colonized, but our lively culture and traditions remain in our hearts and in our actions.

Latina women have had some of the hardest times of their lives recently as news regarding the children of immigrant mothers being held captive in cages began last year. Influential Latina women have given others the strength to overcome seemingly impossible obstacles.

The actions they have made — whether it be changing the music and news industries or becoming an influential politician for Latinos — have had an astounding impact on how Latina women are being represented in the U.S.

When it comes to music, Selena shaped the lives of little girls, such as myself, by being one of the most influential Latina women to take on the pop music genre, which has historically been dominated by males. Selena took over the charts with Latin pop songs such as “Amor Prohibido” and “Bidi Bidi Bom Bom” in 1994.

This led to a domino effect with Latina women taking over music charts. Today, we have Kali Uchis spreading her song “Telepatía” on TikTok. The song “10%” by Kaytranada featuring Uchis won a Grammy for best dance recording on Sunday.

Artist Bad Bunny has raised awareness on sexual assault in his song “Yo Perreo Sola,” pushing the Latino culture boundaries with his display of gender fluidity in the music video. His album, “YHLQMDLG,” also won a Grammy for best Latin pop or urban album at this year’s award show.

Although it was an outstanding accomplishment for Selena to become the first female Tejano artist to win a Grammy for best Mexican American album in 1994, her everlasting effect shaped the lives of Latino migrants in America. She helped pave the

way for newer Latino artists to win awards, such as the Grammys.

As a little girl, I remember my Guatemalan mother always turning on the stereo full volume with a Selena CD on repeat as she told my brother and I to help her clean the house. “Baila Esta Cumbia” became the one song to which my mom would sweep around the house, inviting me to dance with her as we filled our Sundays with a clean house, lively music and delicious food.

When it came to news, María Elena Salinas did an exceptional job with her reporting on “Noticiero Univision.” Salinas informed us about the daily news, which my parents watched every day. Her bold red lipstick always caught my eye when she appeared on television.

Now, as a college student studying journalism, Salinas inspires me. She is not only one of the many women I look up to in the journalism field, but she reassured me as a woman that I would one day be able to become a journalist despite the sexism she faced in the industry.

In the realm of harsh politics, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s sharp and witty

comebacks have put rival politicians in their place. Not only has she taken Congress by storm, but she has also received widespread media coverage due to her boldness in fact-based arguments.

Ocasio-Cortez has paved the way for young Latina politicians who were inspired by her humanitarian efforts and political campaigning. She was the youngest woman, at 29 years old, to be elected into Congress.

She previously served as an education director at the National Hispanic Institute; her high titles give her the credibility to show just how far Latina women can get in the U.S.

These Latina women have not only influenced me, but other young girls that are first generation trying to find a way into their future careers as well. Their marks on the world prove that Latina women have the capability to reach these high titles where they can inspire other young girls to reach their fullest potential, despite how the U.S. tries to knock them down.

# Tea Time with Tagwa

## IN-PERSON CLASSES ARE AN UNNECESSARY RISK

**TAGWA SHAMMET**  
Opinions Editor

Tea timers, I remember how badly I wanted to be on campus this time last year.

With grocery stores empty, stores closed and classes moved online, life felt extremely abnormal. We were dealing with the new normal, but we didn’t know it yet.

When two of my classes got moved back in person this semester, my previous excitement turned into inevitable dread. Back in March last year, the COVID-19 pandemic didn’t seem real; many of us thought we’d be back to normal in no time. A year later, the virus still runs rampant in our lives.

VCU opened up its classrooms for in-person instruction on March 4. Classes that were originally scheduled for in-person learning but moved online at the start of the spring semester picked back up face to face. That meant two of my classes were back on campus.

I won’t lie — while I was terrified to be back in person, I was intrigued to see how VCU would phase students back into classrooms. Needless to say, I was unimpressed.

VCU is simply not doing enough to ensure the safety of its students.

Sure, students are required to wear their masks and maintain a social distance from one another, however, even just putting us all in a confined space is reckless and unnecessary. If I saw the need to return to in-person instruction, I could muster up the strength to get over the danger we are in — but I can’t.

Both my classes can be taught online. In fact, for the first half of this semester, they were. Why VCU decided they had to be in person is beyond me.

Some of you might wonder why I signed up for classes that were initially set to be face to face. Well, one of my classes only had two available sections, both of which were in person. As for the other class, it was the only open section I could find. If it were up to me, I’d avoid running the risk of exposing



Illustration by Karly Andersen

myself to COVID-19. But anything for a buck, right VCU?

The university is also requiring students to show their Entry Pass, which is approved only if students have completed a daily health check. The check-in asks students a simple “yes or no” regarding whether they are showing any active symptoms of COVID-19.

This is just VCU trying to cover its behind. There is no way to confirm that students who answer “no” are truly not feeling any symptoms. It is easy for a student who is feeling sick to answer in the negative because of their professor’s mandatory attendance policy.

I’m sure VCU would tell me that there is no other way of ensuring honesty from students and containing the virus. This is exactly why we shouldn’t be back on campus. If you cannot verify that students will be safe from exposure during their in-person instruction, then there is no need for face-to-face classes.

There is hope that classes will resume normally in the fall, and that some resemblance of normalcy will return upon the reopening of campus. That may be true. But I don’t appreciate being the test dummy. And that’s the tea.



# CT Comics

## Kroger Crush by Audrey Garrett



## Buyer's Remorse by Sarah Brady



The young gnome experiences a range of emotions after she promised herself she'd only buy what she needed for the week and then did the opposite.

## Eat at Home by Lauren Johnson



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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.

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CT

Puzzles

Los Angeles Times

Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
- 1

Yellow smoothie fruit

7

Chick’s sound

11

Turin-based automaker

15

One going through an eyelet

19

Anthology compiler

20

Loud sound

21

For the most part

23

Squeal on

24

Shrimp dish ordered online?

26

Equestrian action

28

Sticks in a parlor

29

Gulf of California state

30

Simile words

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Divert

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Mumbai apparel

34

Not someone you’d want in the cockpit?

39

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55

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56

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58

Hurl insults (at)

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Ricoh rival

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Retired jet

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Fertile

65

Hit with a water balloon, say

67

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72

Russian milk drink

75

Driver’s target

76

Punctilious to the extreme

77

Shakespearean “Shake a leg!”

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Carouse

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Temporary stay

86

Toledo is on it

89

Ukase

92

Defensive castle feature

93

Physician for longshoremen?

95

National symbol

97

See 96-Down

98

Bawl

99

No-brainer card game?

101

Soft drink options

106

Humiliate

108

Discernment meas., in meteorology

109

Tolerates

111

Fish tank buildup

112

Optimal

117

Like most clouds, compared to cirrus clouds?

121

Carried with effort

122

Doesn’t give up

123

Prayer wheel spinner

124

Missing the mark

125

CEO’s helper

126

Like venison

127

“The Killing” actress Mireille \_\_\_

128

Exclusive date

9

Celebrate an anniversary, say, with “out”

10

Like veggies in platters

11

Marker choice

12

Supermodel Sastre

13

FBI figure

14

Hardy title teenager

15

CNN medical analyst Wen

16

Protective suit

17

Blue Grotto isle

18

Sewing machine inventor Howe

22

Army sgts., e.g.

25

Flee

27

Valley known for viticulture

31

Small opening

32

Talk show VIPs

34

HVAC system openings

35

Nin of literature

36

Officer trainee

37

Etching supply

38

Terre Haute sch.

40

Enters en masse

41

Tokyo-born peace activist

42

Newton honorific

45

Betelgeuse’s constellation

46

Negative

47

Unworldly

48

Water container?

49

Aware of

50

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52

Word with interest

54

Gave money for

57

Figure (out)

59

Part of a moth’s life cycle

63

Hide

64

March \_\_\_

66

Significant times

68

NFL Titan, when in Houston

69

Let go

70

Break, as ties

71

Very much

72

Growth in a wet forest

73

Actor Morales

74

Expert’s discovery

77

Impresario

78

Goddess of peace

79

Shift key neighbor

82

Elevates

84

Give fresh energy to

85

Nabisco brand

87

Noisy disturbance

88

Bar supply

90

Game that might end in a library

91

Dance genre

94

Murkinness

96

With 97-Across, words before “good reason”

99

Free thing to try

100

Something done after a meal

101

Pioneering decaf brand

102

Orchestral pair, at a minimum

103

Enjoys an elegant meal

104

Skillful

105

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107

\_\_\_ stop

110

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111

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112

Bali products

113

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114

Et \_\_\_: and others

115

Transmit

116

Avant-garde

118

Touchdown hr. calculation

119

Holm of “The Hobbit”

120

Punk subgenre

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Contact Dominique Lee @ [leeds3@vcu.edu](mailto:leeds3@vcu.edu)

Pi Day by Jeffrey Wechsler

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18
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109																				
117																				
122																				
125																				

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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](https://sudoku.org.uk)

		4	8			7		1
2								
			6	1	5			
	6	9		7			5	
	7		4		3		6	
	4			5		1	3	
			3	2	4			
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7		6			8	3		

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The CT is holding leadership elections for executive and managing editor for the 2021-2022 school year.

Requirements

- Must be a full-time VCU student and have completed MASC 303 and MASC 305 or demonstrate equivalent journalistic writing experience through references and work samples.
- Must have served as a member of the CT editorial staff for at least one semester, or demonstrate equivalent experience.

**Interested?** Send a resume, cover letter and five work samples to [join@vcustudentmedia.com](mailto:join@vcustudentmedia.com) by 3/28. Voting will take place virtually on 3/31.