

On this day

Green Day released their debut album 'American Idiot' in 2004.

Fraternity's Fall Festival rings in season with music, charity

EMILY RICHARDSON
Contributing Writer

VCU's Theta Delta Chi fraternity held their second annual Fall Festival on Saturday, raising money for the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU.

The festival featured live music, food trucks and local artists. Theta Delta Chi's philanthropy chair Jamie Lehman said the group raised \$6,500 for the Children's Hospital at this year's festival. Last year, they raised \$3,000.

Choosing to benefit the Children's Hospital felt like a natural choice for members who grew up in the area and saw doctors at that hospital for their regular medical care, Lehman said.

"Some of our brothers grew up going to that hospital," Lehman said. "It was a cool thing for a lot of brothers to be able to give back to the same organization that was able to provide so much to them growing up."

Planning its first festival last year began with the group coming together and discussing their values as a fraternity, Lehman said.

"We really wanted to focus on the fact that a fraternity, at the end of the day, should be about community growth as well as personal growth," Lehman said. "And you achieve that personal growth through community growth."

All of the artists, vendors and organizations are from the Richmond community, according to Lehman.

"It's amazing to be able to host and work with so many organizations, and it's great to see people smile and bring that

sense of community," Lehman said.

Musical performances included bands Marshall Family Values, Takyon and Housesick, as well as singer Anna Leonard. Student organizations were also invited to perform between musical acts. Atomic Gold, VCU's Stomp 'n' Shake Cheer team, performed a routine to keep the crowd excited.

Lehman said their fraternity wanted to feature organizations that specifically help the Richmond community at the festival.

Nonprofit Art on Wheels gave their booth's visitors the chance to create a craft with rubber stamps. Its booth was an example of the classes the organization offers for the community, according to Gibson.

"We're a creative outreach program," Gibson said. "Whatever group we work with will come up with a space, and we will bring our art classes to them."

Many of Art on Wheels' classes cater to disabled people, children and the elderly, Gibson said.

Other present nonprofits included RampsRVA, an organization that finances and assembles modular wheelchair ramps, according to their website.

Volunteers of the organization gave out lemonade to attendees in exchange for donations.

Freshman Adam Oakes died as a result of hazing at a fraternity event on Feb. 27, 2021, according to a previous report by the Commonwealth Times.

In the time since, the Division of Student Affairs has conducted an "independent review" of misconduct in Greek life, alongside hiring consulting firm Dyad Strategies to conduct an external review of fraternities and sororities, according to the Division of Student Affairs.

“

We really wanted to focus on the fact that a fraternity, at the end of the day, should be about community growth as well as personal growth.”

Jamie Lehman, Theta Delta Chi's philanthropy chair

The passing of "Adam's Law" now requires Virginia universities to provide hazing prevention training to student organizations, according to the Virginia Legislation System.

All students who are members of selective organizations, including fraternities and sororities, will be required to attend training regarding hazing prevention and bystander intervention, according to an email sent on Tuesday by the Division of Student Affairs to the student body.

Theta Delta Chi president Samuel Donlon said his group is doing its part in trying to change the negative stereotypes surrounding fraternities.

"I feel like over the past 30 or 40 years there's been a mindset shift within Greek life where they focus more on partying and doing whatever they want, rather than giving back to the community and the school they're representing," Donlon said.

Theta Delta Chi has 12 members while the average Greek organization at VCU has 37, according to the Division of Student Affairs. As a small fraternity, Theta Delta Chi takes the image it puts forward seriously, Donlon said.

"Bad things do happen. But we're definitely a group that's trying to change that," Donlon said.

Instrumental duo Takyon performs at the TDX Fall fest. Photos by Jay Stonefield



1 LITTLE WOMEN (2019)

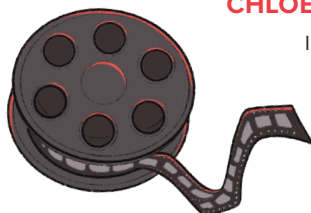
This movie is set in 19th century Massachusetts and follows four sisters: Amy, played by Florence Pugh; Josephine, played by Saoirse Ronan; Beth, played by Eliza Scanlen and Meg, played by Emma Watson. The movie takes the audience through their childhood and adulthood, as they go through the trials of life and love. The setting and time period delivers all the cozy feelings of fall, while also providing a relatable story about four women and the complexity of their family.

Available on Amazon Video | Rotten Tomatoes 95%

2 E.T. THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL (1982)

This Steven Spielberg science fiction film is set during the fall season and has many cute and festive scenes. Prominent actresses in this movie include Dee Wallace and Drew Barrymore. A young kid and his imaginary friend are the main characters of this movie, but people soon find out that his friend is not so imaginary after all.

Available on Netflix | Rotten Tomatoes 99%



Editor's List of FALL MOVIES

CHLOE HAWKINS, Spectrum Editor

Illustration by Killian Goodale-Porter

3 HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF ASKABAN (2004)

This movie is based on the third novel of a seven-book series by J.K. Rowling. It follows three teenagers who attend a school named Hogwarts, where they practice magic. This mystical film has many seasonal scenes as it follows their fall semester, and includes the chopping up of some pumpkins in one scene. One of my favorite fall activities is to cuddle under a blanket with my warm cup of tea and watch this film, along with all the other Harry Potter movies.

Available on Peacock | Rotten Tomatoes 90%

4 LADY BIRD (2017)

Throughout this coming-of-age film, a troubled teenager goes through the usual struggles of being a high school senior such as college stress, identity crisis and conflicts with her mother. This movie includes notable actors and actresses such as Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf, Timothée Chalamet and Stephen McKinley. Personally, this movie has helped me a lot with figuring out myself. I love to watch it during this season because it's a good comfort movie to combat the stress of school.

Available on Paramount | Rotten Tomatoes 99%

5 WHEN HARRY MET SALLY... (1989)

This notable romantic comedy perfectly fulfills the fall aesthetic. It includes many autumn scenes, like walks through the park filled with fallen leaves. This movie follows two people: Harry Burns, played by Billy Crystal and Sally Albright, played by Meg Ryan. These friends decide to drive across the country together where they battle the question, 'can men and women solely be friends?' By the end of the movie, this question is answered.

Available on HBO max | Rotten Tomatoes 91%

6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA (2008-2012)

This series is set in Forks, Washington. The climate of the area adds to the feelings of fall as the town is mostly "under a constant cover of rain and clouds," according to the main character Bella Swan, played by Kristen Stewart. This film series follows her moving to this town in the middle of the school year. As awkward as she is, she manages to make many new friends, and a mysterious new love interest.

Available on Netflix | Rotten Tomatoes 40%

Five VCU women's basketball games to see this season

ARRICK WILSON
Sports Editor

Stat of the week

The Atlantic 10 named VCU freshman midfielder Kendyl Sarver and senior goalkeeper Whitney Horton as Rookie of the Week and Defensive Player of the Week, respectively.

2 PARADISE JAM — VCU VS. MULTIPLE TEAMS: NOV. 24-26

The black and gold will be in this year's Paradise Jam. The tournament is set to take place at the University of the Virgin Islands from Nov. 24-26.

VCU will face Seton Hall University, the University of Georgia and the University of Wisconsin. The Island Tournament champion is to be crowned after the final game, according to the tournament website. The holiday tournament should be exciting for the black and gold as they will face high-level division one teams.

3 ATLANTIC 10 — VCU VS. UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON FLYERS: FEB. 15 (TBA)

University of Dayton Flyers defeated the Rams in the A-10 Championship Semifinals, ending its NCAA tournament hopes. This revenge game should be a highly contested matchup, as the black and gold look to defeat the Flyers.

The black and gold was the only team that defeated the Flyers in the regular season, according to Dayton Athletics.

4 ATLANTIC 10 — VCU VS. SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY BILLIKENS: JAN. 1 (TBA)

The Rams will face the Saint Louis University Billikens in their A-10 conference opener. The black and gold lost 60-55 last season in the Siegel Center in their match against the Billikens. Hopefully, this new season brings a new look and start to the season.

5 VCU VS. LAFAYETTE COLLEGE LEOPARDS: NOV. 7 (TBA)

VCU will open its season against the Lafayette College Leopards at the Siegel Center. This game should be a warm-up for the Rams, as the Leopards lost 18 out of 30 games last season, according to Lafayette Athletics.

1 ATLANTIC 10 — VCU VS. UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND SPIDERS: FEB. 22 (TBA)

The Richmond and VCU sports rivalry is one of the biggest rivalries across Virginia. The battle of who runs Richmond will be a great introduction to VCU's Havoc. This game is a must-watch for VCU students.

Last season, the Rams fell to the Spiders on VCU's Senior Day, 59-57, when Richmond sophomore Addie Budnik scored the game-winning layup with 1.1 seconds left in the game. This heartbreaker should be enough to motivate the Rams to come back and defeat the Spiders this upcoming season.

VCU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL IS COMING back full steam, as the season creeps upon the Stuart C. Siegel Center.

The black and gold's last season ended in the Women's National Invitation Tournament after facing Seton Hall University in a heartbreaking 70-67 loss. The Rams will return to the Siegel Center on Nov. 7 with 10 athletes from last season's team out of their 14-player roster.

For VCU women's basketball fans, here's a list of games to look forward to this season, with a mix of non-conference and rivalry matches.

1. VCU junior guard Sarah Te-Biasu looks to score during a game against St. Bonaventure on Feb. 16.
Photo by Kaitlyn Fulmore

2. VCU players celebrate during a win against St. Bonaventure on Feb. 16.
Photo by Kaitlyn Fulmore



Don't forget to claim free student tickets for home games at the Siegel Center. For further information and directions, visit vcuathletics.com for step-by-step instructions.

When at the Stu, remember to bring the Havoc.

The Rams will open up their season with a home matchup against Lafayette College on Nov. 7. The game will be played at the Stuart C. Siegel Center. For ticket information, visit vcuathletics.com.



VCU alcohol violations plummeted, students switching to cannabis.



VCU's Monroe Park Campus has seen less alcohol violations over the last five years. Photo by Kaitlyn Fulmore

SELNA SHI
Contributing Writer

ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS ON VCU CAMPUS HAVE decreased 93% within the past five years and a 72% decrease in liquor law referrals, according to VCU Police's annual report released last month.

David Guevara, a freshman living in Gladding Residence Center, said cannabis is more popular than alcohol among students due to health reasons.

"Students smoke weed because it helps with anxiety and depression," Guevara said. "Weed is also more accessible."

Virginia recently legalized possession of one ounce of cannabis for adults over 21 in 2021, according to Virginia law.

VCU changed their approach in 2020 to respond to alcohol and drug violations in the dorms. Instead of dispatching a police officer, a housing staff member, such as a resident advisor, gives students violation referrals, according to Corey Byers, senior public relations for VCU Police.

"We believe change in the protocols impacted the data on alcohol-related infractions. This was about the same time that cannabis was decriminalized in Virginia," Byers said. "There were also fewer students on campus during the pandemic was likely a factor, and comparisons for all the pandemic time periods' data are not consistent with a regular academic year."

Senior political science student Karen Dorgbadzi said the decriminalization of marijuana in Virginia has definitely allowed more students to have access to it.

"I don't personally know anyone who buys from dispensaries, but most people have friends who are over 21 for access to alcohol or weed," Dorgbadzi said.

Other Virginia schools — like James Madison University and Virginia Tech — have had alcohol violations increase within the past three years, according to their annual

security and fire reports. In 2019, JMU had 30 liquor law violations and in 2021, it increased to 109. For Virginia Tech, the university had 532 liquor law violations

in 2019 and 631 in 2021.

JMU has about 60% of the undergraduate and graduate enrollment that Virginia Tech has for this fall.

VCU Liquor Law Arrests

including both on-campus and off-campus arrests



Infographic by Tess Wladar

University of Virginia had a consistent liquor law violation between 2019 and 2021, with 328 in 2019, 319 in 2020 and 325 in 2021, according to their annual security and fire report.

Matt Lovisa, director of Communications and Marketing in Student Affairs, said VCU prohibits the unlawful possession and use of marijuana since it is considered a controlled substance under the current alcohol and drugs policies of federal law.

The possession of paraphernalia such as "roach clips, bongs, pipes, blow tubes, bowls, and any type of water pipe is also prohibited," according to the student code of conduct.

In VCU residential dorms, students who are over 21 are not allowed to possess or consume alcohol in common areas such as bathrooms and lobbies, but are allowed within their assigned room, according to Lovisa.

If an underage student is caught with alcohol or any student is caught with cannabis in their dorms, they're required to dispose of the substance while a Resident Advisor, or RA, is present, according to Rhoads Hall RA Sanjana Davis. The student will receive a write up as a warning.

"Just don't do it on the dorm premises, go somewhere else so RAs don't have to write you up," Davis said.

After the first write up, if the student violates the alcohol and drugs policy again, the issue will go to the student code of conduct, according to Davis.

Christina Tillery, first year graduate student studying counseling education, said students might prefer cannabis over alcohol due its after effects.

"Weed is considered 'non-addictive' and more natural. People use it to self-medicate and there are no hangovers," Tillery said.

Stat of the week

The Atlantic 10 named four field hockey student-athletes to A-10 honors: VCU graduate student Litiana Field to the A-10 First Team, graduate student Janne Wetzel and senior Lonica McKinney to the A-10 Second Team and freshman Ana Iglesias to the A-10 Rookie Team, according to VCU Athletics.

From across the pond: London native adapts to VCU basketball

ARRICK WILSON
Sports Editor

London native Toibu “Tobi” Lawal visited VCU for the first time this summer, considering his commitment.

“When I came for my visit — I could see myself being here,” Lawal said. “Richmond is a beautiful city.”

The VCU freshman and men’s basketball forward decided VCU was the place for him, committing to the black and gold in May. Lawal has spent the fall semester adjusting to VCU and Richmond as a college student.

Prior to arriving in the United States, Lawal went to the City of London Academy. From there, Lawal went to Lee Academy in Maine where he averaged 14.5 points, 11.4 rebounds and 3.0 blocks, according to VCU Athletics.

The VCU coaching staff found Lawal by a video highlight reel, according to assistant coach J.D. Byers. Byers said when watching the video, the staff was interested in bringing Lawal to Richmond to wear the black and gold.

“He was just impressive, and he had a lot of attributes that fit our style of play,” Byers said. “His character, the work he had put in — it seemed like a really great fit.”

Lawal is entering his fourth year of

playing organized basketball. Lawal said soccer and track were his sports of choice before taking to the court, but he decided to try out basketball due to his 6-foot-8-inch height.

“I enjoyed playing football for a long time, but I don’t know because I started to grow — I stopped playing because obviously, my friends are like, ‘Why don’t you try basketball?’” Lawal said. “It [basketball] can go from zero to 100 in a matter of seconds. It’s really quick, it’s exciting.”

Lawal said he’s found the transition from London to the United States manageable because of his focused mentality.

“It wasn’t really hard for me to adapt. When I came here, I had a goal. I knew what I wanted to get out of coming here,” Lawal said. “Me coming to the states was me taking basketball seriously, me saying I’m going to share this as far as I can.”

Lawal’s concentration has been on display to the coaching staff, as Byers said it has led to massive skill advancements over the offseason.

“He’s focused, he’s very determined and he brings a tremendous work ethic every day,” Byers said. “I think that’s why he continues to make these large improvements.”

VCU head coach Mike Rhoades said Lawal has improved greatly since he joined the black and gold this summer.

“He’s only getting better and better. I mean, how much he’s improved since June fourth, when he got here. It’s been pretty crazy and he’s a great listener,” Rhoades said.

Lawal took 12 credits over the summer, earning three As and a B, according to Rhoades. Rhoades said this is already a sign of Lawal being an exceptional student-athlete.

“He’s a great student. He really cares about learning and he cares about getting better. He’s a pleaser,” Rhoades said. “When you have that mentality as a freshman, he’s gonna play a lot for us.”

Lawal said his experience with summer classes helped him transition to becoming a college student business major at VCU.

“Obviously, it was something that I had to get adjusted to. It wasn’t really easy,” Lawal said. “I think I adjusted well — it helped me, especially coming into the start of school now, because now it seems much easier to handle.”

Lawal said he is looking forward to seeing the distance the black and gold can advance and develop as a team in the approaching season.

“I’m just trying to see how far we get because I know this team is very capable of going far, especially in March,” Lawal said. “I just want to see how far we can get.”

VCU freshman forward Toibu ‘Tobi’ Lawal shoots a free throw in a scrimmage against Shippensburg University on Oct. 29. Photo by Guy Enkh

Sports

pick of the week

MARCUS WILSON
Contributing Writer

For this week’s pick, we’re going to the NBA as the New York Knicks square off against the Utah Jazz at Vivint Arena in Salt Lake City, Utah on Nov. 15.

The Jazz, who were initially predicted to have a lackluster season, have started off their regular season hot, and are looking

to extend their winning record throughout the season, according to ESPN. The Knicks, on the other hand, have a losing record, according to the NBA.

Led by guard Jordan Clarkson, the Jazz’s best basketball has yet to be seen, averaging over 15 points for the season, according to Basketball-Reference. The players are noticing the chip on their

shoulder that has given more motivation, with such bold predictions for their 2023 downfall season, according to the NBA.

“If we keep playing with the same energy, come with the same fight, this is a team that can continue to win games,” Clarkson said in an interview.

The Jazz will continue their winning season by taking the win in front of

a home crowd in Salt Lake City. The cultivation of doubt from sources and the home court advantage gives the Jazz the push they’ll need to come out with this win.

With key players such as forward Malik Beasley and young guard Collin Sexton, the Jazz are looking for a successful season.