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PART 4: THE RIPPLE EFFECT

"THIS COULD BE A NATIONAL POWER PROGRAM"

As Virginia continues to attract recruits from the talent-laden Tidewater area, fans, players anticipate transformation into national powerhouse

Daniel Weltz
Sports Editor

Henry Coley, a star linebacker at Bayside High School in Virginia Beach in 2009, came to terms with a harsh reality prior to his senior season. His grandmother was dying of cancer.

Coley put everything else on hold to be by his grandmother's bedside, reneging on a commitment to attend his official recruiting visit at Virginia. Mike London, the new head coach in Charlottesville, reacted with empathy. He invited Coley back the following week and earned the linebacker's admiration

in the process.

"That's one of the biggest reasons that made me invest everything I had into coach London," Coley said. "That was more because it wasn't just about football for him. It was also about that family. My grandma is basically on her deathbed ... and he understood where I was coming from whenever I had to deal with that."

Coley became the first of a slew of top prospects to commit to the University from Bayside, and his presence at Virginia was far more than incidental in that trend. In many ways, Coley helped kickstart a movement that has drastically altered the Cavaliers' recruiting fortunes — whether he meant to or not.

When Bayside senior safety Demetrious Nicholson — a four-star prospect and Coley's close friend — began to consider his collegiate options in 2010, he called his former teammate to gauge his impressions of the University. Coley did not pressure Nicholson to join him, but he still affected Nicholson's December 2010 decision to decline offers from North Carolina, Michigan and others to become just the second Rivals Top 100 prospect since 2005 to commit to the Cavaliers.

"Him being here really influenced me because I enjoy coming to a school where I already had someone that could show me a way to go when I get there," Nicholson said.

Since Nicholson's 2011 class, at least one prospect from Bayside has committed to

the University each year: sophomore safety Anthony Cooper in 2012, freshman running back Taquan Mizzell in 2013 and class of 2014 top-rated safety Quin Blanding. The success that Nicholson enjoyed at Virginia in his first season — earning Freshman All-American honors for a team that enjoyed a revival on the field — resonated with Bayside's top prospects.

"I think that other guys look at how Tre carries himself, and the things that he does on the field as well as off the field, and I think more and more guys want to be a part

see RECRUIT, page 4



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Watford, offense seek to right ship

After horrid start to 2013 campaign, sophomore signal caller targets 'turning point' home game against Ball State

Michael Eilbacher
Senior Associate Editor

NATIONAL TEAM SUMMONS BRIAN

Virginia junior Morgan Brian will join the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team for a friendly against Australia in San Antonio, Texas, national team coach Tom Sermanni announced Tuesday.

The Oct. 20 match will mark Brian's third appearance on the senior squad. She debuted against South Korea June 15 and recorded her first international goal Sept. 3 in a 7-0 thrashing of Mexico.

ARMED FORCES

Due to the federal government shutdown, two football games involving armed forces' institutions scheduled for this Saturday may be postponed.

According to a report from USA Today's Dan Wolken, Navy officials will announce by Thursday at noon whether the Midshipmen will still host Air Force, as scheduled, despite the Department of Defense technically suspending all intercollegiate activities for armed forces institutions.

Though the football teams at all three institutions have practiced this week and coaches have reported to work, the vast majority of civilian employees—including athletic administrators—at the academies have been furloughed.

Navy, Air Force and Army have already cancelled contests in other sports in response to the shutdown.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I could tell he was tired from the start. He's one of the guys who got through it, and found a way to get us the winning goal."

Men's Soccer Head Coach George Gelnovatch on junior midfielder and captain Eric Bird, who slid a golden goal past VCU goalie Andrew Wells in the third to last minute of overtime to secure a Cavalier win.

A lot went wrong for Virginia against Pittsburgh. Save an impressive defensive performance, the team looked like a shell of the one that had blasted past Virginia Military Institute 49-0 in the previous week. The offense combined for a measly 188 total yards — including just 65 on the ground — and a series of frustrating drops and missed connections by the receiving corps and sophomore quarterback David Watford prevented any comeback efforts.

Going into the week's practices, Virginia head coach Mike London went to work on his offense, scrambling the offensive line and promoting young receivers to try and jump-start productivity. Watford, however, refused to pin the Cavaliers' offensive woes on anyone other than himself.

"After the [Pittsburgh] game, I didn't even shower," Watford said. "I just got on the bus right after the game, just out of frustration. I went and talked to my mom and saw my family and just got on the bus. ... I feel like we could have done more offensively and I have to take accountability for the offense, because me being a leader of that offense, everything runs through me."

The receivers were much maligned after Saturday's poor performance, but Watford was steadfast in defending his teammates. He insists that their success — or lack thereof — is the direct result of his play.

"I never really got too frustrated with my guys, because ... if they're dropping it, I need to change something up too," Watford said. "I have to put it in a better place where they can catch it easier, and just make it easier. Some of the drops were hard catches, they were difficult catches for the guys, and I have to take more accountability for that, just be accurate. ... I can't blame it all on them. It's my fault as well."

As soon as the team touched down in Charlottesville Saturday night, Watford took it upon himself to call his receivers to the practice field for a late-night practice session. After throwing late into the night, they were back out Sunday morning trying to iron out their issues.

"After a game, we try to do as much as possible, but after the past couple weeks, we have to switch it up," Watford said. "We have to sacrifice more, we have to throw more. We just have to be on the same page as the receivers."

Many fans have lambasted offensive coordinator Steve Fairchild, who came into his first year at Virginia with the goal of establishing a powerful running attack behind junior tailbacks Kevin Parks and Khalek Shepherd and freshman tailback Taquan Mizzell. Parks and freshman tailback Daniel Hamm both had more than 100 yards against VMI, but no Virginia rusher has yet broken that mark against an FBS opponent.

New systems take time to implement, but Virginia's shoddy performance against top opposition has

irked London.

"We want to see production," London said. "We want to see improvement because you see it defensively. You see a new scheme that's being played, that's being executed well right now. So there is a level of disappointment with the new offensive scheme that's not as productive, is not showing the type of production that it needs to help us."

Watford, in his typical self-effacing manner, spoke well of his offensive coordinator. He recognizes that Virginia has disappointed so far, but he believes the Cavaliers have underlying talent yet to manifest itself on Saturdays.

"I know that the media, they don't really like coach Fairchild or like his style of play, but it's not his fault," Watford said. "We as an offense just need to go out on the field and execute and just show that we can do the type of stuff that we have. We have so much, we just haven't been able to do it, because we're not able to execute right now. It's nothing to try to hide, because we know, everyone else knows it."

Virginia attempted some read option plays against Pittsburgh and has been trying to incorporate the scheme more in an effort to use Watford's mobility. The quarterback hopes he can continue to use his innate skills to create more offensive chances.

"Each week, I feel more comfortable running [the option]," Watford said. "When I watched the film I went back and I was like, 'Ah, I could have pulled that one.' ... The more I

rep it, the more comfortable I'll be with it. I just need to trust my speed."

London echoed the need for a varied offensive attack, but he said the specific plays would depend on the opponent.

"If it is spreading out just a little bit more to create a running game, if it is putting two tailbacks in the game, whatever it may be, we have to find those things that can help move this team," London said. "We'd like to be physically rugged and tough, but you also have to be smart about what you do, how you utilize the guys you have to help you be successful."

Saturday's matchup against Ball State could be an opportunity for Virginia to get its offense back on track. The Cardinals have given up an average of 426.2 offensive yards per game, which ranks 86th nationally.

"This is a very important game for us," Watford said. "We can't take this team lightly. They're a great defense and a great team overall. We have to focus on what we do and correcting what we do, correcting the mistakes that we made in the game, and just focusing on getting our offense to that level where we can execute as well as our defense does."

Despite his self-criticism, Watford still has a positive outlook for the Cavaliers' season.

"[Ball State] could be the turning point in our season," Watford said. "We get this win, and we string wins along and we end up in a bowl game. That's what we want to do."



Kelsey Grant | The Cavalier Daily

Sophomore quarterback David Watford has thrown for six interceptions through his first four games as starter, a total that ties for top in the ACC.

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

WHAT: Virginia (2-3, 0-1 ACC) vs. Ball State (5-1, 2-0 MAC)

WHERE: Scott Stadium

WHEN: Saturday, 12 p.m.

ODDS: Virginia by 5 points

THE SKINNY:

Ball State can score — and score a lot. The Cardinals are averaging 40.0 points per game — 26th in the nation — and even scored 27 points in their only loss of the season, a 34-27 affair against North Texas. Senior quarterback Keith Wenning leads the prolific offensive attack, and is second in the nation in passing yards so far this season with 1,650.

His favorite target has been junior Willie Snead, who ranks third nationally with 611 yards and has four touchdowns. The combo will provide a worthy challenge for Virginia's impressive pass defense, which is eighth in the nation at just 152.8 yards per game.

The Cardinal defense has allowed at least 14 points in each of the team's first five games, including 28 points to FCS Illinois State. The team ranks 86th nationally in total defense, giving up 426.2 yards per game, and is particularly ineffective in stopping the run, tying for 101st place nationally with 202.6 yards per game. Senior linebacker Kenneth Lee has been their most effective pass rusher, tallying 2.5 tackles for loss — including 2 sacks — and contributing an interception and a pass defended.

Veteran Rottman steadies Cavaliers

As young squad's sole senior, libero provides leadership, commanding defensive presence on back line

Peter Nance
Associate Editor

One thing about the 2013 Virginia volleyball roster immediately stands out: of the 18 players listed, only one of them is a senior.

An outside hitter-turned-libero, Emily Rottman has been one of the only constants on the court for the Cavaliers throughout the past three-plus seasons. Players and even coaches have come and gone, but she's stayed through it all. As a captain for the second year in a row, she uses her experience to lead the team both on and off the court.

"It's not so much that there's a vocal presence; it's how she plays," coach Dennis Hohenshelt said. "She knows how to play the game, so the girls sort of feed off that from her because they know she understands the game and is usually in the right spots. It's very important for this group, especially the younger kids, to see how to play the game, and she can show them that."

Her time at Virginia has taken her a long way from her home in

Santa Barbara, Calif. She certainly would have been able to attend one of the many elite programs in-state, but she knew she wanted to go somewhere else and see something different, and Charlottesville seemed the perfect fit.

"From the first time I visited I just really loved the entire campus, and I thought the girls on the team were really welcoming and really fun," Rottman said. "I was just ready for a new experience, so leaving California was definitely something I wanted to do."

When she first arrived, she was part of a five-person recruiting class of 2010 that was rated the ninth-best in the country. Only two of those players now remain on the team: Rottman and junior Mallory Woolridge, who redshirted the 2012 season due to injury and will therefore have another year of eligibility after this one.

"It's really weird coming in — we had five and now it's just Mal and I," Rottman said. "It's kind of sad to lose those people, but Mal and I have stuck together. We've gotten closer because of it. It's cool that her and I are just here leading the rest of the younger girls."

After Rottman's second year and halfway through her collegiate career, Lee Maes — the head coach that recruited her — resigned. Despite bringing in great recruiting classes, the team's record steadily worsened under his watch. Enter former Penn State assistant Hohenshelt, who soon realized how lucky he was to already have a player of Rottman's caliber on the team. Upon assuming control at Virginia, he approached her about a position change.

"She played some outside hitter, and that was sort of the one thing I told her when I got here, was, 'you're gonna play libero, because I need a strong libero and you're gonna be that person,'" Hohenshelt said. "To me it was one of the most critical pieces for us to have."

For Rottman, who had split time between

libero and outside hitter during her first two seasons, becoming the libero full-time was fairly easy.

see VOLLEYBALL page 4



Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

Senior Emily Rottman recently moved into fourth all-time in Virginia volleyball history for career digs.

VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

After splitting its first two conference matches, the Virginia volleyball team will enter a second weekend of ACC bouts this weekend. After Virginia pays a visit to Maryland Friday night, the team will continue on to Pittsburgh Saturday.

Last weekend saw the Cavaliers (8-6, 1-1 ACC) fall 3-0 against Duke before bouncing back to beat Wake Forest 3-0. Junior Tori Janowski put up a solid performance, tallying 24 kills and 18 digs between the two matches. The win against the Demon Deacons was the team's first road conference win since 2011.

Maryland (9-4, 1-1 ACC) enters the match having lost four of five, including its most recent match against Clemson. Senior Sarah Harper leads the team from the back line, averaging a conference-most 4.94 digs per set.

The Panthers (10-5, 2-0 ACC) swept their first two conference matches against Georgia Tech and Clemson. As a team, they lead the ACC with 1.67 service aces per set.

The non-football football dream team

The past few weeks, Virginia sports have followed an oft-repeated script. The football team offers a few moments of brilliance amid otherwise disappointing performances, while nearly every other sport excels.

The football program has a number of problems to address; the other sports just more victories to collect. So, in the vein of rash, crazy solutions to complicated problems, why not put the non-football athletes on the football team? Presenting: The first ever University of Virginia Non-football Football Dream Team!

No offense meant to Ian Frye, who has put in a solid performance so far, but we'll start with a new kicker. Where else to look but Klöckner Stadium? The Virginia women's soccer team holds the nation's top ranking and is currently the only Division I team that has won all of its games. From this very talented squad, junior midfielder and US Women's National Team member Morgan Brian makes the cut. With seven goals this season, including one in the team's comeback win against Duke last weekend, Brian would handle field goals and extra points for the Virginia non-football football team with ease. And if she can throw, no one

will ever see the Morgan Brian fake punt coming!

My next pick for this unorthodox roster is baseball's Nate Irving at center. Yeah, he's lacking about five inches and at least 70 pounds, but as far as holding your ground goes, you can't do much better than a catcher. Irving, who caught 88 percent of Virginia's innings last season and is featured in this week's Orange and Blue World Series, surely has the grit — and the low center of gravity — that a center needs.

Mike London and his staff promised us an improved ground game this season, and he gave David Watford the starting quarterback position in part because of his excellent speed. So far that rushing game has failed to materialize, so the non-football football roster will need productivity from new running back and cross country standout Barbara Strehler. True, Strehler prefers distance runs to sprints, but in her second place finish at this weekend's Panorama Farms Invi-

tational, she ran a 5K in 16:32.7. Seems pretty fast to me! And since I'm in charge of this team, that's all that really matters, right?

It will be hard to replace fan favorite Jake McGee, but the tight end position will go to a mix of size and agility: tennis player Alex Domijan. At 6'7", Domijan towers over his tennis and hypothetical football teammates alike. The nature of tennis also means that he has solid footwork and quickness. Domijan's only fault is that he has yet to play a match this season. He will make his return in the upcoming ITA All-American Championship, where he will put

a faulty shoulder to the test. If the injury persists, then we have a problem — healthy tight ends are a must against Ball State.

On the defensive side of the ball, we'll look to another successful Virginia team — one with weapons! The No. 4 field hockey team recorded a 5-0 shutout of Radford Tuesday, aided by a de-

fense that consistently shuts down its opponents' offensive attacks. Junior Kelsey LeBlanc has been a cornerstone of the defense, and will therefore lend her services as a linebacker. Sure, she's only 5'1", but since we've established that she can keep the stick, that just puts her at the perfect position to hack away at people's knees. What do you mean, that's "targeting"?

Should the non-football football team's defense allow a lot of touchdowns — which, of course, they will not — then they're going to need a weapon on the special teams unit. I'm no volleyball expert, but I do know that volleyball players can jump. Like, really high. The Virginia volleyball team recorded a big 3-0 win at Wake Forest this weekend, led by junior Tori Janowski's 14 kills, 11 digs and four service aces. Thus, she'll block punts and extra points.

Though basketball season has not yet begun, the men's team performed admirably at their Meet the Team Day, posing for photos, signing autographs and answering fans' questions. For this reason, and for his trademark enthusiasm, sophomore Justin Anderson may play whatever position he likes on the non-football football team. His athleticism will serve him well on

the field, but more importantly, Simba will boost morale on the sideline when things get ugly. Come on — with that smile, how could anyone be discouraged?

A final position to assign is, of course, the quarterback. The signal caller must be athletic, intelligent, mentally tough, and a natural leader. Since Thomas Jefferson is out of the question here, that obviously leaves one conclusion: Dean of Students Allen Groves. Never mind the fact that he's not a student — I bet he has really strong hands after receiving so many high fives. He's up for it.

In all seriousness, my non-football football team is probably not ready to face Ball State on Saturday. No matter how frustrating the actual football team can be, they're highly qualified athletes, and our best hope on the gridiron. Let's leave them be, while our non-football athletes carry on winning.

Just as Domijan and LeBlanc might not be able to win a football game, Watford and McGee likely couldn't jump into a tennis match or field hockey game and excel, either. And of course, I am obviously not cut out for creating a football team, let alone coaching one. So for now, let's all just stick with what we're good at and enjoy the results.



KERRY MITCHELL
SPORTS COLUMNIST

RECRUIT | Chance to rejuvenate program attracts marquee prospects

Continued from page 1

of that,” Bayside coach Jon White said. “That’s the main reason why Anthony Cooper chose it, that’s the main reason why Taquan Mizzell chose it, just follow suit. It started with Henry Coley.”

But the ripple effect from Coley and Nicholson extended well beyond Bayside High School. Positive reports about Cavalier football and the direction of the program under London have spread by word of mouth, from one recruit to another, from one class to the next across the Tidewater area. That message has enabled Virginia to improve its recruiting capabilities at a seemingly exponential rate — at least in the Tidewater area.

“The one thing that I recognize is that the sense of team is just fantastic, I mean it’s just beautiful,” White said. “And that’s why I think more and more guys are really buying into it and really putting forth efforts to get U.Va. strength because of the fact that the right things are

being preached and taught at that University in regards to football.”

Players that had already formed close bonds with one another since childhood were given an opportunity to reunite at an in-state school that prided itself on providing a family atmosphere for its players. That offer proved too much for many prospects to pass up, even when weighed against offers from more traditionally dominant football schools.

“Why wouldn’t you want to go somewhere where you’ve been around your brothers?” Coley said. “I didn’t move to Virginia until I was 12, but these guys have been playing together since they were 8, 9 years old.”

The tight-knit nature of the Tidewater area may allow current Cavaliers to reach back into their former hometowns to persuade undecided recruits to choose Virginia. Currently uncommitted Ocean Lakes senior defensive tackle Derrick Nnadi — the No. 41 prospect in the nation and the second best defensive tackle in the class of 2014 behind Oscar Smith senior and

Cavalier verbal commitment Andrew Brown — watched Virginia’s 59-10 loss to Oregon along with other recruits.

“We all train together, so I know what they’re capable of doing and I know how they play,” Blanding said of the uncommitted talent in the Virginia Beach area. “So you can go back to where you’re from and get the players from another year and get them up there with us.”

Rivals Mid-Atlantic recruiting analyst Adam Friedman said an effective selling point for Virginia has been the allure of building something up from scratch. In that sense, Virginia can offer something that esteemed programs such as Alabama cannot. By virtue of its checkered recent history on the gridiron, the Cavaliers can offer recruits the opportunity to be the catalyst for a turnaround rather than to simply maintain a program’s legacy.

“Wanting to build something is something that we see in recruits a lot,” Friedman said. “Taking pride in something that they’ve built, not something that they’ve just come

in and interviewed into, like you would at like an Alabama. That train’s already rolling. Guys who go to Virginia are guys who want to start something, really.”

Aside from the allure of playing with childhood friends and building a program from the ground up, strong recruiting success in the Tidewater area may improve the Cavaliers’ recruiting capabilities on a national level for another simple reason. Players want to play for good teams. If the recent commitments pan out the way London hopes, prospects nationwide may begin viewing Virginia as a viable destination.

“With this recruiting class, if they stay until they’re seniors, they have the potential — success breeds success, so if you can continue to have a great recruiting class this year, that can help the momentum into next year’s class and so on and so forth,” Friedman said. “So by the time that the 2014 class are upperclassmen, this could be a national power program.”

Friedman did caution that many variables could derail the Cavaliers’

ascent, including poor quarterback play, injuries and coaching turnover.

“There are so many things that can happen between now and then that it’s really tough to make a prediction like that,” Friedman said. “But they certainly have a chance to [turn things around], especially with the caliber of players they’re starting to get.”

Still, the balance of recruiting power in the Commonwealth, so long centered in Blacksburg, is seemingly shifting east. Something is brewing in Charlottesville, and more and more top-flight Tidewater recruits are shunning football mainstay Virginia Tech to be a part of it.

“Virginia is where I’m from pretty much,” Blanding said of his decision to commit to Virginia. “I mean, yeah, I know you’ve got Virginia [and] Virginia Tech, but I just feel like Virginia back in the day was the number one school pretty much in the nation, number two in the nation. So why not bring it back and be back to where we started from, and just go from there?”

VOLLEYBALL | Hohenshelt, teammates dig senior libero’s composure, skill

Continued from page 3

She had already proven how good a defensive player she was, leading the 2011 squad in digs.

“Passing and defense have always been the two skills I was best

at, so it’s been kind of nice to just focus on those two skills in my last two years here,” Rottman said. “I feel like those two skills are what I can help the team the most with.”

With her final season well underway, Rottman is playing the strongest volleyball of her career. She was named MVP at the Cava-

lier Classic two weekends ago and was selected to the All-Tournament Team at the Jefferson Cup earlier in September. On Sept. 21, she rose to fourth all-time for most career digs at Virginia.

Her sterling play this year will only make her departure after this season that much more difficult to stomach for the rest of the Cavaliers’ young roster.

“The team is going to miss a really good volleyball player [when she leaves],” Hohenshelt said. “When you look at it, probably the best all-around player we have. She’s going to be one of the best liberos that this program has ever seen or will ever see. I think that highly of her.”

Yet Rottman would rather be remembered for how she has approached the game as a Cavalier

than for what she accomplished on the court.

“It’s kind of fun knowing that people will look up to me, and I’m always there for anybody,” Rottman said. “[The legacy I’d like to leave is] someone who really loves the sport of volleyball and enjoys being competitive and going out there and just wanting to win and have fun at the same time.”

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Shutdowns impact University operations

Sullivan expresses concern about access to research funding if impasse persists, University investigates alternatives

Andrew D'Amato
Associate Editor

At midnight Tuesday, federal legislators announced an official government shutdown because of partisan contention surrounding President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement, the Affordable Care Act. The impact of the government shutdown on the University is minimal for now, but a prolonged shutdown could have severe consequences on University operations.

The biggest concern for higher education institutions is the research funded by federal grants, University President Teresa Sullivan said in a statement emailed to students Tuesday. University leaders are working to identify sources of temporary funding as well as alternative options in case of an extended government shutdown, she said.

"In the short term, such work will continue unimpeded," Sullivan said in the email. "Should the fed-

eral work-stoppage persist longer term, U.Va. and other universities face the risk of having certain federally funded research suspended."

Research and student loans have also already been awarded for the current semester and so will not be affected, she said.

The last government shutdown was 17 years ago, when President Bill Clinton and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich clashed over the federal budget.

History Prof. Brian Balogh at the Miller Center said the natures of the two disagreements — one about the overall budget and one about a particular health care policy — are fundamentally different.

"The Republicans are not demanding any action on the deficit," Balogh said. "They are demanding for a delay in the implementation of Obamacare. I don't think the take-away [from the shutdown] has to do with the deficit."

Tom Kramer, executive director of Virginia 21, an advocacy group which aims to involve youth with

state government, said the shutdown is particularly concerning for public universities throughout the state because of the long-term potential for a drop in National Institute of Health funding, as well as the potential loss of access to Pell Grants, a form of federal financial college aid which require annual government approval before they can be awarded to students.

"Students depend on the federal government for student loan money for Pell Grants," Kramer said. "All of these programs must be approved every year. You could have the government not helping pay for students to go to college. It's not right away, but it's a question of how long this will last."

Kramer said effects of the shutdown may also reverberate across Virginia as a whole. Since so much of Virginia's economy comes from federal spending, the state will likely see an economic contraction, he said.

Politics Prof. Larry Sabato, director of the University's Center

for Politics, said the shutdown will cause problems throughout the country, as well.

"It's tremendously disruptive, and it actually costs the taxpayers tens of millions a day," he said. "America looks ridiculous around the globe ... We can't even keep our own government open."

Partisan politics were relatively absent between the 1940s and 1980s, Balogh said. The recent trend in polarization began with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its subsequent signing into law, which pushed Southern whites to begin voting for the Republican Party, he said.



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Short-term effects of the government shutdown will be minimal for the University, but a longterm impasse in Washington could pose serious risks for the University's research funding.

Students, faculty discuss new rehearsal space restrictions

University administrators say frequent noise complaints prompt academic-space prohibitions; construction projects exacerbate issue

Kelly Kaler and Brendan Rogers
Staff Writers

Students and faculty gathered in Newcomb Hall Wednesday evening to discuss a recent policy change that restricts the spaces available to performance arts groups for rehearsals.

Starting this semester, administrators decided to prohibit student groups from practicing in academic spaces around Grounds to reduce noise and distractions where other students may be studying or in class.

"What we need to be careful of on the academic side is that we do not have an a cappella group practicing next to a class," said Wynne Stuart, associate provost for academic support and classroom management. "We do have complaints from [teachers] about that issue."

Construction projects have also reduced the available academic spaces by about 30 rooms, increasing the likelihood of noise complaints if the old rules remained in place.

Some suggestions for compromise between CIOs and fac-



Jenna Truong | The Cavalier Daily

Hoos in the Stairwell, First Year Players, OYFA, Salsa Club and other CIOs sent representatives to speak with Wynne Stuart, associate provost for academic support and classroom management. Stuart blamed construction issues for much of the confusion surrounding the lack of practice spaces for the CIOs.

ulty have included shutting doors and rehearsing without amplified sound. But the blanket ban on all "dancing" and "auditions" remains, as outlined in an email sent to CIO leaders at the beginning of the semester.

Fourth-year College student Arnel Agas, a member of the Organization of Young Filipino Americans, said the lack of practice spaces hurt her group's ability

to rehearse for Culturefest, a performance during Family Weekend.

"I could understand where they're coming from with volume control in academic space, but I also feel we shouldn't be completely cut off," Agas said. "Being in college isn't just about going to class every day, but doing what we love and doing what we're passionate about."

Agas said she is concerned that if these rules are made permanent



Jenna Truong | The Cavalier Daily

organizations like OYFA may have to cut down their number of performances per year.

Second-year College student Natalie May, a member of the a cappella group Hoos in the Stairwell and musical theater group First Year Players, emphasized the sheer volume and variety of groups that need space for practices around Grounds.

"There's all of the dance groups,

the Salsa Club, Mahogany ... and only three places relegated [for us to practice]," May said. "[Fortunately,] what I learned from tonight's meeting was that miscommunication tightened space availability."

Student Council will vote on a resolution this coming Tuesday regarding their stance on the issue. The decision, ultimately, belongs to the provost.

Miller Center forum discusses future of American Dream

Concerns about unemployment, rising college costs create divide between perception, empirical data on social mobility among youth

Rebecca Lim
Production Editor

A Miller Center town hall meeting discussing the state of the “American Dream” Wednesday developed into a discussion about changes to the AccessUVA financial program and higher education costs in general.

University faculty, students and Charlottesville community members had gathered to explore the results of a national survey which looked at the evolving definition of the American Dream and how it relates to the effects of the economic recession, technological change and education. The survey, conducted jointly by the center and The Washington Post, revealed inconsistencies between Americans’ perceptions of social mobility and actual empirical data.

Panelists at the forum included Washington Post executive editor Martin Baron, American Enterprise Institute researcher Jennifer Marsico, Cornell sociology professor Thomas Hirschl and Director of the Miller Cen-

ter Forum program Doug Blackmon.

“A formal college education is the single most important thing in getting people closer to the American Dream,” Marisco said. “However, if you look at a question of whether colleges give people skills that get them jobs, it seems the higher the education level goes, the less likely you are to think that colleges are helping you.”

Hirschl, author of the upcoming book “Chasing the American Dream: Understanding What Shape Our Fortunes,” addressed the challenges high unemployment rates pose to the perceived attainability of the American Dream.

“We have a society that has worked very hard, and in return they expect [economic security as] part of the bargain,” Hirschl said. “[But] 80 percent of Americans are at risk of unemployment or poverty because of the way their employment trajectory has gone.”

As the forum opened to audience questions, several students voiced concerns about the af-

fordability of a college education, particularly in light of the Board of Visitors’ recent decision to remove all-grant financial aid from AccessUVA’s offerings.

“The fact that the University of Virginia has made a decision that says that the American Dream is not part of its financial bottom line, that it is not a priority for hardworking, qualified students full of potential to be able to attend college even if they couldn’t afford it, that decision is the disintegration of the American Dream,” fourth-year College student Carl David Goette-Luciak said.

Though 57 percent of the Americans aged 18 to 39 identified the opportunity for a college education as the definition of the American Dream, the survey also found that 73 percent say it has recently become harder to pay for college.

Seventy-three percent of young Americans do still believe, however, that they will move up in social class in the next few years.

Many students at the forum

also called for a re-evaluation of the definition of the American Dream to be consistent with economic and political challenges faced by younger generations.

“I think we need to real-

ize the American Dream isn’t a singular dream,” third-year Batten student Michael Reilly said. “It’s important to give American people a reason to believe in the American Dream, and a chance to strive for it.”



Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

Fifty-seven percent of Americans aged 18 to 29 identify a college education as the definition of the American Dream, according to a joint study by the Miller Center and The Washington Post.

High-profile lawyers join effort to overturn same-sex marriage ban

Following Supreme Court decisions, judicial battle begins to reverse 2006 Virginia constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage

**Leopold Spohngellert and
Meg Gardner**
Senior Writers

The American Foundation for Equal Rights announced Monday that it would join a lawsuit challenging Virginia’s ban on same-sex marriage. The lawsuit aims to abolish the November 2006 Marshall-Newman Amendment to the Virginia State Constitution prohibiting same-sex marriage.

David Boies and Ted Olson, attorneys who successfully argued against Proposition 8 in California, will argue the case for AFER.

Boies and Olson were both listed among TIME magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world in 2010. They will join with the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia to argue on behalf of Timothy Bostic and Tony London, a couple who attempted to receive a marriage license in Norfolk in July, but were turned away.

Bostic and London’s suit has since been joined by Carol Schall and

Mary Townley, a lesbian couple who were married in California and want their marriage to be recognized by the Virginia government.

“As a result of the state’s marriage laws, same-sex couples are denied countless important rights and benefits, including the right to receive spousal employment benefits from government employers, the right to make medical decisions for an ailing spouse and the right to jointly adopt children,” said Rebecca Glenberg, legal director of ACLU of Virginia. “Additionally, same-sex couples are denied the respect and dignity conferred by the status of marriage that opposite-sex couples take for granted.”

Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, the Republican gubernatorial candidate, is a noted opponent of same-sex marriage and will defend the ban in the lawsuit according to previous statements by his office.

In addition to defining marriage exclusively as the union of a man and a woman, the Marshall-Newman Amendment also stipulates that the Virginian government will not rec-

ognize gay couples that were legally married in other states.

Olson believes that the severity of the ban is an advantage for its opponents. “The more unfairly people are being treated, the more obvious it is that it’s unconstitutional,” he said in an interview with The Washington Post.

The constitutional ban, however, passed with broad support in a 2006 referendum after two consecutive General Assemblies approved its spot on the ballot. Though same-sex marriage and civil unions were already illegal in the state at the time, the amendment was promoted as an attempt to prevent future judicial overturn. A recent poll conducted by Quinnipiac University showed that 50 percent of Virginia voters support legalizing gay marriage, and only 43 percent oppose it. The poll showed a partisan split on the issue, with 68 percent of Democrats supporting gay marriage and 68 percent of Republicans opposing it. Despite changing attitudes, any legislative attempt to overturn the ban would

face complex constitutional overturn procedures and opposition in the Republican-controlled House of Delegates. of those laws.

“Any change to Virginia’s constitution must be approved by two consecutive legislative sessions before it can even be put to a vote of the citizens,” Glenberg said. “The difficulty of undoing this [ban] ... is another reason why it must be challenged in court.”

It is possible the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *United States v. Windsor*, which was resolved in June, could provide momentum for Boies and Olson in their fight against Virginia’s constitutional ban.

United States v. Windsor struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, which listed the federal definition of marriage as between a man and a woman and prevented legally married gay couples from receiving federal benefits. The ruling, however, only prohibits the federal government, not individual states, from refusing equal protection and benefits, necessitating Virginia’s state-level challenge.

STACKING THE DECK

STUDY FINDS CORRELATION BETWEEN BOV APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL DONATIONS

UVA BOV MEMBERS' DIRECT
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
GOV. MCDONNELL'S CAMPAIGN*



Alia Sharif and
Catherine Valentine
Staff Writers

Recent data from the Virginia Public Access Project shows 15 of the 17 current Board of Visitors members contributed to the campaigns of the governors who nominated them, reflecting a statewide trend of political contributors being placed on public university governing bodies.

Fourteen of those 15 contributed to current Gov. Bob McDonnell's campaign. But McDonnell spokesperson Paul Shanks pointed instead to other demographic markers of the University's Board members.

"The University of Virginia Board of Visitors is one of the most competitive boards in the Commonwealth and it currently consists of 13 U.Va. alumni out of 17 seats," Shanks said in an email.

The contributions made by Board members to McDonnell's campaign directly total \$293,396 — a number which grows greatly when adding in donations to Political Action Committees. Donations to PACs, which are known as "soft money" contributions, are not subject to the same limitations as contributions directly to political campaigns, provided that these PACs do not coordinate with the candidate.

Shanks, however, denied any causal link between financial support and appointment to the Board.

"The vetting process for potential board members consists of reviewing their professional and personal qualifications and determining their commitment to helping lead these schools," he said. "Nothing else is considered or of interest."

Since 2004, the Board has collectively donated \$2,223,565 to political causes. Of this, approximately 85 percent has gone to Republican causes, 13 percent

has gone to independent causes, and slightly more than 1 percent has gone to Democratic causes.

Former Rector Helen Dragas, who was appointed during Tim Kaine's term as governor, is the only Board member to have donated more money to Democratic causes than to Republican causes. Included in these donations is one directly to Kaine's gubernatorial campaign, totaling \$1,000.

Current rector George Martin has donated about \$12,000 to political campaigns, including \$800 to Democrats and \$6,846 to independent recipients such the PAC for his employer, McGuire Woods LLP.

Vice Rector William Goodwin Jr. is the most active political donor on the Board, having contributed \$1,156,989 in total to mostly Republican causes. Marvin Gilliam, Jr. and John L. Nau, III are also large donors, having given \$522,882 and \$238,630 respectively.


The correlation between political contributions and Board appointments have led some to question the Board's selection method. "Personally, I like the idea of our alumni electing several Board members via a competitive vote managed by the Alumni Association," Politics Prof. Larry Sabato said.

There are no plans to change the selection process for the Board, despite recent proposals like those by University alumnus Jeffrey Walker. "The system is the will of the voters," said Kirsten Nelson, spokesperson for the state council for higher education in Virginia. "It's up to Virginians to decide what they want."

University spokesperson McGregor McCance said the University respects the current Board member selection process.

— Jordan Bower contributed to this story.

FACTS AND FIGURES



6 BOV MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY TO DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGNS

FORMER RECTOR HELEN DRAGAS IS THE ONLY BOARD MEMBER TO HAVE DONATED MORE MONEY TO DEMOCRATIC CAUSES THAN TO REPUBLICAN CAUSES

14 OF 17 BOV MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED TO GOV. BOB MCDONNELL'S CAMPAIGN

12 OF THE 14 MADE A DIRECT POLITICAL DONATION TO MCDONNELL'S CAMPAIGN

FOR ALL YEARS AVAILABLE, THE BOARD HAS COLLECTIVELY DONATED **\$2,223,565** TO POLITICAL CAUSES.

*DATA DOES NOT REFLECT DONATION TO PACS AND OTHER POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS. DATA REFLECTS DONATIONS SINCE 2004.

KILBERG \$2,500
ATKINSON, MARTIN \$2,000



Comment of the day

Comment of the day:
“Fraternities seem to attract all the blame for hospital visits...yet how many students went to the hospital for alcohol related incidents stemming from the recent addition of new UGuides this past Friday?”

“The Truth” responding to Anna Perina’s Sept. 30 article, “Virginia’s fight against hazing continues.”

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cavalierdaily.com](mailto:opinion@cavalierdaily.com)

LEAD EDITORIAL

Footloose

The administration should amend policies that limit performing-arts CIOs to non-academic spaces

Finding a place to practice indoors is no problem for the University’s football team. The University in the spring opened an indoor practice facility that cost about \$14.5 million.

For performing-arts groups, however, finding an indoor practice space is trickier. A recent policy change has limited the abilities of performing-arts CIOs to reserve academic spaces for rehearsals. The change has left a cappella groups, dance groups and others scrambling to book rehearsals in student activity spaces such as Newcomb Hall, Ern Commons, the Student Activities Building and the O’Hill Forum. Some groups, dislodged from their typical practice rooms, have taken to running through dance steps and harmonies outside the Chemistry Building. We do not mean to set up a misleading opposition between the interests of the football team — a multimillion-dollar enterprise — and the interests of the University’s array of performing-arts groups. Their interests are not mutually exclusive. Nor do we wish to haul forward a tired trope of jocks versus theater kids. But it is disappointing to see the University administration manifest its commitment to the arts with a highly publicized talk from Tina Fey, while at the same time cutting off opportunities for arts

groups — the very organizations that nourished Fey’s early appetite for theater.

Before this semester, many performing-arts groups relied on classrooms for daily rehearsals. The Provost’s Office, which has control over academic spaces, voiced concerns that rehearsals were disrupting classes. Amplified music was drawing complaints from teachers. Rather than address noise violations as they came, the Provost’s Office moved to issue a blanket policy prohibiting music, movies and auditions in academic spaces. In a *Footloose*-esque move, administrators also banned dancing.

Even if the noise concerns were valid, the way the Provost’s Office went about establishing the room-reservation policy was misguided. Administrators instituted the policy without seeking feedback from students who would be affected. For a University that prides itself on student self-governance, the failure to consult students marks a significant lapse in judgment. And the policy itself has already led to less-than-desirable consequences. For these reasons, administrators should work with students to devise a solution as soon as possible.

Performing-arts CIOs were blindsided by the policy change. These groups now face two sets of obstacles in securing rehearsal

spaces. First, the types of spaces available to them are limited to student activities spaces. Not all of these are suitable rehearsal rooms. Rooms in Newcomb tend to be too small, whereas the Ern Commons is unnecessarily large. Second, the Source notifies groups 36 hours in advance if they were able to successfully book their desired space. If a group’s reservation request is unsuccessful, it is difficult, if not impossible, to book another space in time for a rehearsal.

The policy change has already stymied the abilities of performance-based CIOs to carry out their basic functions. It could also negatively affect non-performance-based groups. Student activities spaces were difficult enough to book before arts groups were forced to rearrange their rehearsal plans. The policy change has forced performance groups out of academic spaces. If CIOs have to compete for already-limited student activity spaces with an exodus of performing-arts groups, student life will suffer accordingly.

Administrators have seemed receptive to criticisms and conversations thus far, which is promising. We urge the Provost’s Office to amend the room-reservation policy promptly in accordance with student concerns.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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Informational activism

To make a difference, health-related CIOs should provide students with scientific information and think of creative ways to attract students' attention

George Knaysi
Opinion Columnist

Last November, Student Council's Committee for Safety and Wellness held a forum for all then-active student CIOs with a health- or safety-related mission. Representatives from each organization gave a brief presentation about their purpose and goals followed by a series of small-group discussions. CIOs in attendance included One In Four, the all-male sexual assault peer education group, and Active Minds, the University's primary organization dedicated to mental health issues. As a moderator for one of these small groups, it struck me that each CIO seemed to have one of two chief complaints: 1) the group had the right facts, data and pamphlets but lacked strategies at encouraging students to pay attention to their information; 2) the CIO had decent student exposure but felt it was not providing students with enough helpful information.

One year later, these general problems still seem to hold true. I suggest that for a health- or safety-related CIO to maximize its effectiveness, it should pair scientifically backed information with activities

that directly engage the group with the student population.

Active Minds, which aims to destigmatize mental health issues, serves as an excellent case study for the Safety and Wellness forum's second point of revelation: CIOs can have large memberships but still be dissatisfied with the information supplied to their members. Since its founding several years ago, Active Minds' membership and name recognition has grown faster than the average newborn health and safety CIO.

Much of this success is undoubtedly due to its promotion strategy: extensive Facebook campaigns coupled with high-profile events like last semester's "Bare It on Beta: Post Secret 101," which allowed students to anonymously share their mental health stories with the public. Another event upperclassmen may remember is the "Send Silence Packing" initiative, which put 1,100 backpacks on the Lawn to represent the 1,100 college students who die from suicide each year.

Though these events successfully promoted one of Active Minds' primary missions (to increase awareness of mental health issues on Grounds), they were limited in accomplishing a more essential step: offering students

information and scientifically tested strategies to proactively address their own mental well-being.

To make the most of such community projects, CIOs must be aggressive about offering students information. For example, although "Send Silence Packing" made the University community more aware that suicide is the second-highest cause of death among college students, the event neglected to offer information on where to seek professional help as well as the social and psychological factors that contribute to suicide. Students could benefit from strategies for managing depression and anxiety in everyday life. A practical solution? Google the information and distribute it through Facebook, on-site fliers, or other creative measures.

In the coming year, Active Minds will implement a more information-based approach; hopefully other health and safety CIOs will follow suit. The old approach is a common one among organizations who believe that self-promotion is the key to positive impact. Undoubtedly, membership and name recognition is an indispensable first step, but the critical factor is what you do with students' attention once you have it.

If organizations like Active Minds strive for greater proliferation of factual information, groups like One In Four have the opposite problem: lack of student attention. This group crystallizes extensive research into a one-hour program entitled "How to Help a Sexual Assault Survivor: What Men Can Do." As their leadership noted in the Safety and Wellness forum last year, they are mostly satisfied with their audience (usually sports teams, residence halls, and fraternities) but feel their impact is limited. I suggest One In Four takes a strategy from Active Minds' playbook: step outside the rigid lecture format and plan events that engage the community in other mediums. No data in their 1-hour presentation — from statistics to strategies during potential sexual assault scenarios — would lose its message when taken to the University sidewalks.

Even with the changes that social media has inspired for CIO activism, face-to-face interaction with the college community remains the most effective method of engagement. Public discussion, game-like activities, demonstrations or informational tables in public spaces around Grounds — these all involve direct, peer-to-peer contact. If a student wit-

nesses (or even better, participates in) an Amphitheater skit demonstrating how to handle a sexual assault scenario, he is certainly more likely to apply the knowledge to real life than if he merely hears it in a monologue. These are the kinds of community-engaging events our CIOs should be brainstorming if they wish to maximize their effect on the University population.

If health- and safety-related student organizations are to make a maximum impact on student well-being, they must invest equally in information and community engagement. And though these problems hold particular relevance in the health arena, they likewise apply to other CIOs who wish to promote various causes — everything from environmental awareness to political clubs. Our University community takes pride in its ability to cultivate student leaders, committing us to unrelenting pursuit of those methods which work.

George Knaysi is an Opinion columnist for the Cavalier Daily. His columns run Tuesdays.

Not dreading the end

Students should not let graduation nostalgia hinder their view of the future

Alex Yahanda
Senior Associate Editor

My fourth year is far from over, yet I already have friends who are becoming nostalgic. Goals of graduate school and jobs are becoming realities and students are widely recognizing at this point that their stints at the University are coming to an end. But though their time at this school has been spent working toward specific postgraduate opportunities, it seems as if very few students actually want to leave the University after this year. I find that sentiment to be somewhat strange, because it is a feeling that I do not share.

If you regularly read The Cavalier Daily, then you know that we feature guest columns from fourth-year trustees entitled "Trust a Trustee." Though they are generally well-written and heartfelt, these articles inevitably center on a few core themes. The trustees usually write to impart wisdom on underclassmen for how to make the most of the University. The importance of stepping outside one's comfort zone, for instance, is a common topic, as is seizing any given opportunity.

Now, I am not going to say that

the trustee columns offer poor advice. Admittedly, I was already looking to follow that advice coming into college. Like so many underclassmen, I sought to immerse myself in the many activities that this school offers. And, to be sure, I have benefited from pursuing a wide range of different opportunities, from club tennis to writing for The Cavalier Daily. Nevertheless, I find it strange that the trustees, whose writing may be read by first years and fourth years alike, have little to say about leaving the University. Overall, it would be refreshing to see reminders — from trustees or other sources — that the University is not the end-all-be-all, and that some students may in fact be looking forward to graduation.

I have come to realize, with surprise, that I fall into that category. As my fourth year flies past, I have found myself developing an ever-growing case of senioritis. I am not put off by the idea that the fourth years will be graduating in less than eight months. Graduation, in my opinion, is coming at the proper time.

To be fair, this senioritis is less potent than that felt by, say, high schoolers. My brother, a senior in high school, is counting down the days before he can leave high school

and most of his classmates behind. I don't share those exact sentiments, and my feelings toward graduation do not carry the same sense of yearning. I don't actively wish that I were someplace other than Charlottesville. But I am entirely accepting of the end to my time here.

My sentiments are diametrically



Graduation, in my opinion, is coming at the proper time.

opposed to many of the students and recent alumni I know. Why, those people argue, would one ever want to leave the University? I see their points. Students at the University — and no doubt at any college — are frequently reminded of the notion that college comprises some of the best years of one's life. And it frequently seems like that sentiment holds true. College students exist in a very privileged bubble: they have to work hard to prepare for their future, but lack many of the stressful responsibilities that are encountered in the real world. I totally understand why peo-

ple want their four years here to drag out much longer. Indeed, I have nothing to look forward to at the moment, as I have no idea yet what I will be doing next year. The excitement of day-to-day routine of college life, though, has been supplanted by anticipation for the future. As strange as it seems, postgraduate life is becoming a welcoming option.

I don't think that such a mindset is unreasonable, or that it is incompatible with enjoying one's remaining time at the University. I have friends who now always highlight when they are doing their last go-around of a certain event. They mentioned when they attended their last first football game or their last Rotunda Sing. I don't think, however, that I enjoyed those events any less than they did because I lacked that sentimentality. One can definitely value an event for its own sake without tying it into our fourth year or graduation. Moreover, we have already had four years of to enjoy those events. At some point I feel that our futures outside the University should be looked at with more than a sense of repulsion.

The efforts by the trustees and other organizations to bring together fourth-year classmates before they graduate are admirable. A class in some respects functions as a giant family, and there is nothing wrong with promoting more student unity, even when it is in our final year. And perhaps at this point next year I will be missing the University much more than I anticipated. Yet I hope my sentiments are shared, at least in small part, by every fourth year before graduation. Students should not feel dread or fear at our upcoming graduation. Exiting the University is not a tragedy. While students' participation in University life may be immensely rewarding, it ultimately yields diminishing returns. Leaving our college lives behind is eventually necessary for us to shape truly fulfilling lives. At some point we must take what we have learned here and apply it to the outside world. Though some students find that prospect more enticing than others, all should find it exciting on some level.

Alex Yahanda is a senior associate editor for the Cavalier Daily. His columns run Wednesdays.

Don't rush into rush

Deferring fraternity and sorority recruitment to the spring semester allows first years to better adjust to college life

Bernstein
Opinion Columnist

A week ago, a friend of mine got a phone call from a crying high school friend. She (the high school friend) had just finished the often-stressful “rush” process at her college, and didn’t get a bid from any of her chosen sororities. After leaving home at least two weeks earlier than she had to, researching everything there was to know about Greek life, and spending the beginning of her time on her new campus competing to join a group of girls she didn’t even know yet, she was rejected — and devastated.

After hearing about this, I couldn’t help but feel grateful that the University delays the rush process until second semester. Being on Grounds is already an overwhelming experience: between taking college classes for the first time, trying out new clubs, meeting new people and even just fig-

uring out where Monroe Hall is, first years have no shortage of activities. An early and competitive rush process in the fall would add unnecessary stress, and would likely prevent first years from experimenting with the other social scenes we have.

I know a handful of people who came to the University knowing which sororities and fraternities are “best,” but most people I’ve met, even if they’re definitely rushing next semester, have limited knowledge about Greek life. I suspect that over the course of this semester we’ll learn more about specific sororities and fraternities, but in the meantime we have time to get to know one another first, before extensively planning out our social lives.

It is not just that rushing right now would be stressful. It is also that we don’t know enough to know what exactly we’re committing to. If all we know about Greek life is from hearsay (and for some

people, arbitrary listings of which groups are better than others), how can we possibly know if we’re making the right decision by rushing a specific fraternity or sorority? Moreover, with deferred rush, a lot of students come to important re-



I know a handful of people who came to the University knowing which sororities and fraternities are “best,” but most people I’ve met, even if they’re definitely rushing next semester, have limited knowledge about Greek life.

alizations about Greek life, the main one being that it’s not a vital part of the collegiate experience. If you choose to join it, it can be great, but there are so many other

activities, organizations, and ways to be social that don’t involve it at all. My friend’s high school friend was completely insecure as a result of the rush process, and understandably so. This experience was her first brush with college — her first exposure to student life at her university — and I’m sure it’s made the beginning of her time there much less enjoyable. If the process had been deferred just one semester, she would have had the opportunity to explore her school more, and, if after doing so, she still decided to rush, the potential for re-

jection would have been much less devastating, since she would likely have found other fulfilling activities with which to occupy herself. The fact of the matter is that

when you graduate high school, you don’t automatically leave it behind; you still cling to its social structure and hierarchy, because that’s what you’re familiar with. If you rush the first semester of your first year, all you do is replicate your high school experience in college, by scoping out sororities and frats (in high school, forming cliques) and organizing them into some kind of hierarchy. With deferred rush, first years have a chance to really leave high school antics behind. I’m glad that the University has a history of Greek life, and that it maintains it today, but there’s no question in my mind that our school is right to defer our introduction to it.

Dani Bernstein is a Viewpoint writer for The Cavalier Daily. Her columns run Tuesdays.

Some assembly required

Western companies ought to fight for better working conditions in the foreign countries that produce their goods

Fariha Kabir
Opinion Columnist

Recently, The New York Times published an editorial titled “Fed Up in Bangladesh” that supported Bangladesh workers’ demands for better labor conditions, particularly in garment factories, and higher wages. A number of protests in Bangladesh have brought the issue of worker conditions to the forefront after the collapse of a garment factory in April killed more than a thousand people. Much of the problem is the government’s refusal to raise the minimum wage, which is currently \$38 a month. Workers want the minimum wage to be raised to \$100 a month. But their bargaining power is limited. Bangladesh has a large population of unskilled workers — so if current laborers refuse to work, plenty of others are likely to be willing.

While the article was informative in addressing the problem of poor worker’s condition, it should have placed more emphasis on the

responsibilities of European and American companies who buy products from Bangladesh garment factories. By no means am I claiming that the Bangladesh government is not at fault, because it undoubtedly is. Rampant corruption and power politics make it difficult, in any meaningful way, to resolve problems like labor conditions. However, Western clothing manufacturers are also at fault, and this issue deserves to be fully discussed rather than mentioned in passing, as The New York Times did.

Western companies perpetuate poor working conditions because they (generally) turn a blind eye to them. The companies receive the goods that they need on time and at low cost. So why bother delving into how the goods were produced? Moreover, greater numbers of companies are taking advantage of the cheap goods by increasing their business in Bangladesh, thereby offering little-to-no incentive for the owners of garment factories to change how the factories

are run. On the contrary, the owners may fear that if they change their policies to improve factory safety and pay workers more — which will likely increase the prices of their goods — then the Western companies would simply take



Western companies perpetuate poor working conditions because they (generally) turn a blind eye to them.

their business elsewhere.

Another problem with this situation, particularly in Bangladesh, is that there are laws on the books that deal with safety and labor standards. Required inspections to ensure good working conditions and laws mandating fire safety drills theoretically provide protection for workers. But application and enforcement of these laws remain a hurdle because of

bribery and backroom deals. The Bangladesh government has failed to make workers’ safety a priority. With the government failing to address the issue, the owners, too, are ignoring it, because they do not fear repercussions from disregarding workers’ laws.

At this juncture between policy and implementation, Western companies can play an important role. They can apply pressure on factory owners to address the issue of workers’ conditions,

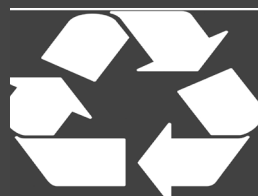
and threaten to withdraw their business if certain standards are not met. Western companies can request for the owners to improve their conditions, or they will take their business elsewhere. Sweden-based H&M, for example, signed onto a legally binding plan that requires retailers to help finance fire safety and building improvements in the Bangladesh factories that produce their goods. If a number

of large companies take a similar route and agree to help pay for safety improves while pushing the government to raise the minimum wage, that could be a significant step toward improving working conditions in Bangladesh.

While Bangladesh was the focus of this article, the problem of poor working conditions is present in other Asian countries such as Cambodia and China. Bangladesh is merely an example and a mechanism to highlight a widespread problem and the role Western companies have played in that problem. These same companies can also be the solution if they take stronger stances in advocating for better working conditions. They are in strong positions to apply pressure on factory owners to enforce change, especially if they work together.

Fariha Kabir is an Opinion columnist for the Cavalier Daily. Her columns run Wednesdays.

SAVE



TREES

Against the four-day week

Avoiding Friday classes may ultimately harm students' academic experience

Russell Bogue
Opinion Columnist

Against the- In, some miss the point of college. When I first arrived at the University last year, a number of traditions were new to me, ranging from University-specific customs — such as streaking the Lawn — to more universal college maxims: thou shalt celebrate “Thirsty Thursday.” Most of them I enjoy, and those I don’t generally elicit some sort of detached bemusement from me. I may not agree with all the choices my peers make, but I can understand where they’re coming from. For one tradition in particular, however, I continually fail to see the benefit: avoiding Friday classes.

For some students, this action isn’t even one they can choose. The Commerce School generally doesn’t hold class on Friday; students who enter in their third year gleefully celebrate the commencement of the four-day school week (if they haven’t done so already). Indeed, I can anecdotally report hearing from a number of fellow classmates that the Commerce School is enticing in large part because of its schedule. While I wouldn’t go so far as to say these students choose to apply based solely on the allure of truly unrestrained Thursday nights, the significance of this scheduling ranks

uncomfortably high on their list of priorities. For many other students, particularly outside the Commerce School, avoiding class on Fridays is a deliberate choice, one that entails meticulously crafting one’s schedule, refusing to take certain classes or doubling up on Mondays and Wednesdays in order to avoid ever having to set an alarm on Friday mornings. The three-day weekend, that particularly collegiate temptress, will not be denied.

Yet such an attitude is problem-



Sleep and socializing are necessary and desirable aspects of our life at the University; however, their importance should not be codified so as to permanently exclude an entire cohort of courses, many of which are some of the best at the University.

atic. First and foremost, it illustrates a disdain for the very reason we are at college in the first place: to educate ourselves as much as possible, while the option to do so is still feasible. I am the first to admit that education can, and does, occur outside the

lecture hall; I would challenge the notion, however, that most students who avoid Friday classes are doing so because they are seeking legitimate extra-curricular learning opportunities. Some students do work jobs while at the University, and use the extra time on Friday to work for a paycheck. This column is not addressed to such students. The majority of University students, though perhaps not all, do not intend to use their Fridays in this manner. Instead, they are looking for simply more free time, more time to sleep, another night to have fun, and a lengthened break from schoolwork — all legitimate pursuits, when not achieved at the cost of deliberately avoiding certain courses simply because of the meeting time.

We are here to seek and to thirst. Sleep and socializing are necessary and desirable aspects of our life at the University; however, their importance should not be codified so as to permanently exclude an entire cohort of courses, many of which are some of the best at the University. Indeed, one of my favorite courses I took last year was the American Political Tra-

dition, PLAP 2250, with Prof. Evan Pivonka. In the course, we discussed seminal topics in the development of American political thought. I spoke to many students, particularly upper years, who had expressed initial reluctance to take a discussion-based course that met at 9 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; by midway through the course, they were grateful that they had chosen to enroll in the course rather than keep their Fridays open. And this is by no means an isolated occurrence — stories like this proliferate at the University.

Moreover, while I maintain that our primary purpose at the University should be to educate ourselves as human beings — as vague and idealistic as that sounds — I admit that some degree of career preparation is necessary. Going to class five days a week mirrors the working world, where the vast majority of jobs require five full work days (sometimes more). Students do themselves a disservice when they become accustomed to the unrealistic demands of a four-day course schedule, which is rarely, if ever, replicated outside the college environment. There is a reason why the weekend has traditionally consisted of no more than two days: a longer reprieve tends to breed unproductivity and stagnation of the new skills and habits learned during the week, mirroring in miniature the

unfortunate effects of an overly extended summer vacation.

I would challenge University students to stretch their time here by using Friday as more than a day to recover from Thursday night’s antics. Besides the obvious benefit of making available the various classes that meet on Fridays — many of which are considered some of the best at the University — a five-day “study week” is reflects what will all-too-quickly become our new reality: five-day work weeks. If students find themselves free from Friday classes — thanks to the Commerce School, or some other reason — they should find some other way to make full and productive use of their Friday time: pursuing a hobby, taking up a job, or allotting a substantial amount of time for study, and then sticking to that schedule. In the end, you’ll get your fill of partying and sleeping off the hangover while at the University, as you should. Instead of adding one more night of revelry, though, choose to prioritize your intellectual exploration. That’s a path that leaves few regrets.

Russell Bogue is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily. His columns run Thursdays.

The rush to nowhere

Strict rules must be implemented and enforced to eliminate fraternity hazing

Forrest Brown
Opinion Columnist

The University must take a harder line on. The Cavalier Daily recently published an article about the exposed emails dealing with the hazing that led to an abrupt end to fraternity pledging in April. The article and its comments revealed a debate about what the role of the University should be in monitoring instances of hazing during pledging, and whether or not the actions taken by the Office of the Dean of Students were appropriate. Many felt that by punishing all fraternities by cutting pledging short, the University was creating a dynamic that lumped all fraternities together, despite the fact that not every fraternity violated the rules. While I support the Dean’s decision because far too many students were going to the hospital from a variety of places, I also agree with those calling for a re-evaluation of how hazing cases should be handled. The University needs to start punishing specific fraternities for specific infractions, but it also needs to in-

still harsher punishments to increase the incentive to follow the rules.

Last year, Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) was given five weeks of social probation and three members were removed from leadership positions in the fraternity or suspended. While certainly a punishment, this also is not a severe set of consequences for putting a student in the hospital with a .45 BAC. That level of inebriation is associated with severe alcohol poisoning that can lead to symptoms ranging from complete unconsciousness to death. In other words, that student was put in a life-threatening situation, and the fraternity’s punishment was five weeks of probation. More is needed.

How severe should consequences be? I would say the hospitalization of a student with life-threatening alcohol poisoning is worthy of a multi-year banishment of a fraternity from grounds. This standard could be judged by the doctor treating the student. Putting a student’s life in serious jeopardy in this way is no different than forcing a student to chug soy sauce to the point of hospitalization, which occurred a few years ago and

resulted in that sort of punishment. The type of liquid leading to a hospital visit does not change the significance of the transgression.

Many people would argue that this sort of punishment places too much responsibility on a fraternity, and that the student has no one to



I would say the hospitalization of a student with life-threatening alcohol poisoning is worthy of a multi-year banishment of a fraternity from Grounds.

blame but himself. I agree that students should know their limits. But at the same time, a student at a pledging event is getting the alcohol from the fraternity, being watched by his fraternity, and if he goes over the line it is because the older members failed to maintain a safe environment for pledges. If an incident occurs at a fraternity event with fraternity alcohol, the fraternity must take the majority

of the blame.

Another potential problem of this approach is that it will create so much fear of punishment that fraternities will avoid taking students to the hospital in an attempt to cover themselves, putting the victim at further risk. While I would hope that

this kind of unbelievably selfish behavior would never occur at a place like the University, it is certainly a possibility that would need to be addressed. One possible solution could be requiring the presence of a member of another fraternity at major

pledging events involving alcohol, not to police every action taken but to ensure extreme situations involving alcohol poisoning were handled with the safety of the student in mind. This would limit the peer pressure on the person deciding whether or not to call 911. While obviously not ideal, it would have almost no impact on the majority of fraternities who avoid those types of situations

at pledge events. And if a few secret traditions are exposed to one non-brother, that is a small price to pay for safety. If the privacy of an event is extremely important the alcohol could just be introduced after the tradition takes place. And while having a non-brother at an event might be a nuisance, it would be less painful than the administration cutting rush short again or a pledge suffering permanent harm because of an unsafe activity.

The benefits of these changes would be simple — fraternities that already follow the rules wouldn’t need to worry about the irresponsibility of others, and students could pledge knowing that someone involved had their safety as a top priority. And while the consequences of crossing the line would be severe, it is not difficult to prevent someone from drinking the amount necessary for severe alcohol poisoning. Taking a harder line on hazing would not

Forrest Brown is an Opinion columnist for the Cavalier Daily. His columns run Thursdays.

HUMOR

Just for wits.

Land of a thousand dead gerbils

“Did you bury Elvis?” “Basically.” “You didn’t bury him?”

“It’s below freezing outside. If you want to go out and dig a hole in the ground, be my guest.”

Elvis’s final resting place was behind the juniper bush. There his body would become one with the earth, or get eaten by a possum. Offended as I was over this unceremonious end, my self-righteousness didn’t extend to actually burying him myself, or to leaving my room. I had recently discovered the internet, and my Neopets required more care than a dead gerbil. Mom had wrapped him up in a paper towel, and decided that that was enough of a funeral service for an animal with a brain the size of a peanut M&M. Glenn would probably have fished him out from the juniper if I told him about it, but he was still mourning his pet, so I did the right thing and lied.

“Did Mom bury him?”

“Yeah.”

“Did he look peaceful?”

“...Yeah.”

Still young enough to feel emotional pain, Glenn hadn’t yet been numbed by the death of our family’s latest rodent. Our father is allergic to all animals that could be considered a real pet, and so every two years, the Raskovich family would experience a tiny tragedy. My first hamster was named after

the mouse in The Magic Tree House books. Halfway through the series, Peanut turned out to be a sorceress, which cemented my love for the books and for my new animal friend. Not yet over my witch phase, I held a deep secret hope that my Peanut was also a magic woman trapped in animal form. Clasp- ing her tightly, I would whisper that she didn’t have to reveal herself until she was comfortable, as she desperately clawed against my sweaty child hands. This was also a time in my life when I would try to convince Bloody Mary to come out of the elementary school bathroom mirror so we could “just talk.”

With Peanut’s death came the insight that everything is transient

and nothing matters. Having never experienced the fact of mortality before, I was emotionally destroyed.

What else would leave forever? Grandma? Snack time? My really cool red stretch pants? The answer was all of the above (the pants were thrown away by my mom, whose callousness evidently knows no bounds).

For Peanut, death was probably a sweet relief, final liberation from her glass prison and games in which she played the familiar to my alchemist. After about five escape attempts in her short life, Peanut found ultimate refuge buried in our backyard, where about half a dozen gerbils would join her

over the years. Napoleon, weak and patchy in fur, ultimately succumbed to the care of the family that was supposed to feed him while we were on vacation. The Maupins said that he ran away, but we all know it was Katie, the pet murderer who I still had to babysit after the fact. The Nameless One, remembered only for its tendency to run on its wheel late at night, died from a tumor, probably. Dustfinger died of grief after his brother left this world, sitting bereft in his pile of wood clippings for two days, refusing to do anything but stare into the middle distance with wizened beady eyes.

At some point between perfunctory burials, I stopped caring quite as much. My feelings of intense pain were better directed at more pertinent subjects, like society and how much my parents sucked. Glenn was gradually getting to that point as well. Three years ago he would have constructed a tiny coffin out of poster board and stickers, but now he was satisfied with saying his good- byes inside a house with central heating.

“How’s Glenn taking it?”

“He’s bummed out but he’ll be fine.”

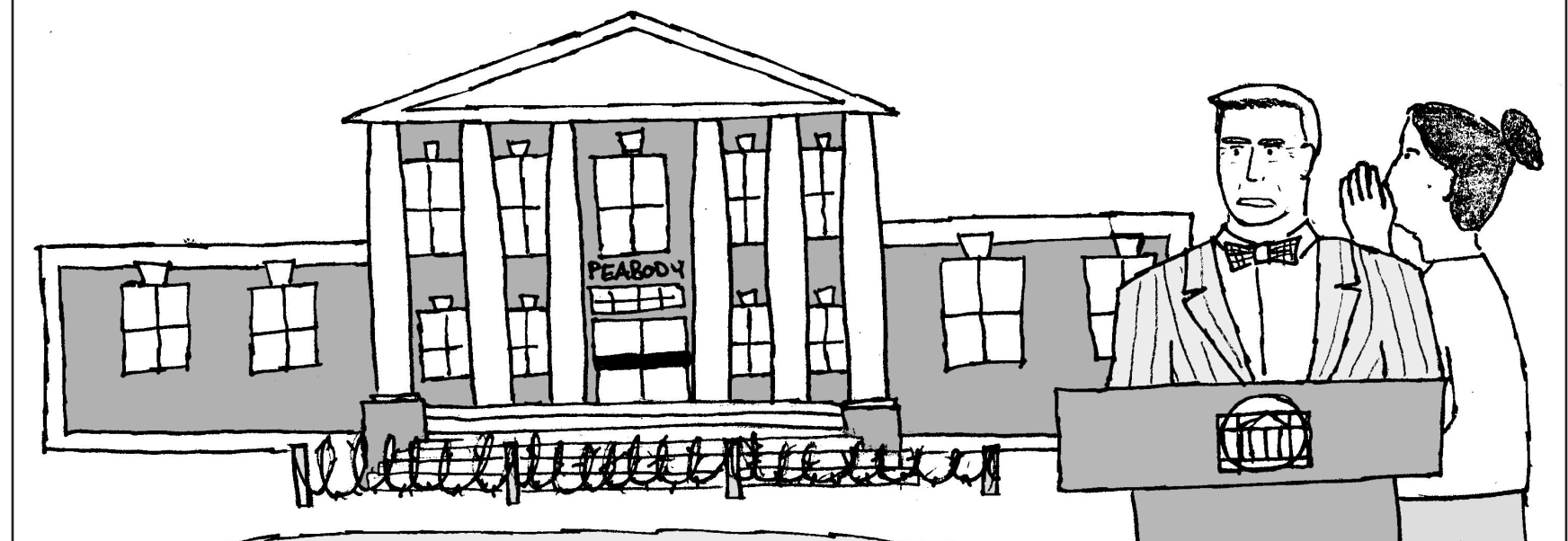
“Do you want to go to the pet store tomorrow?”

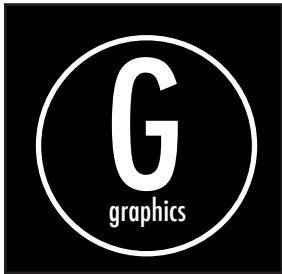


Editorial Cartoon by Peter Simonsen

After an incident last Friday where excessive drinking sent multiple people to the hospital, we have decided to revoke the housing charter for the Upsilon Gamma fraternity. All recruitment activity is suspended until we can determ... er... wait...

It was the U-Guides? ...Oh... carry on...





MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN



"You can't just throw your TOMS away young man, there are kids in America who have to pay for those!"

THE ADVENTURES OF THE AMAZING <THE> A-MAN BY EMILIO ESTEBAN



NO PUN INTENDED BY CHARLOTTE RASKOVICH



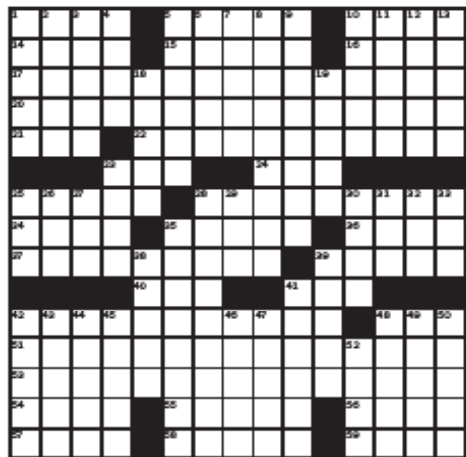
SOLE SURVIVOR BY MICHAEL GILBERTSON



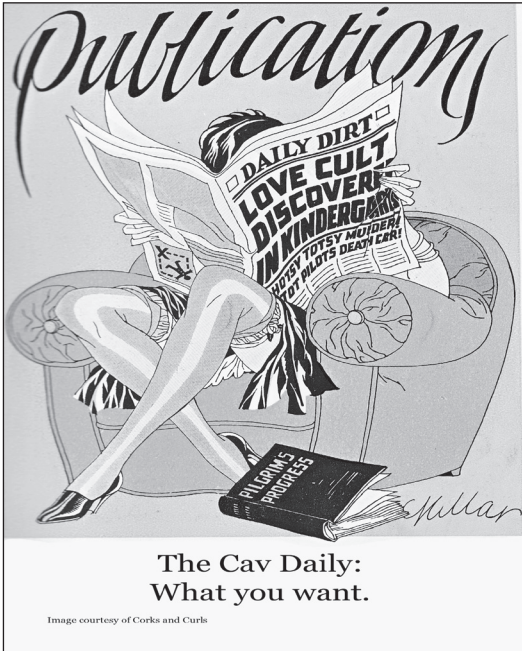
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0824

- ACROSS
- 1 Start of a phobia?
 - 5 All the best?
 - 10 Five-time U.S. Open winner
 - 14 Immensely
 - 15 Leisurely
 - 16 Sign of virtue
 - 17 Malted alternatives
 - 20 Be ruthless
 - 21 Run—
 - 22 Pair of word processors?
 - 23 Instinctive reaction
 - 24 Verbal gem
 - 25 Bygone country name or its currency
 - 28 Safe to push off
 - 34 It springs from Monte Falterona
 - 35 Brush off
 - 36 Place for tiger woods?
 - 37 Get going
- DOWN
- 39 Not at all sharp, maybe
 - 40 A shot
 - 41 Plant production: Abbr.
 - 42 "Go figure!"
 - 48 One of the muskrats in the 1976 hit "Muskrat Love"
 - 51 Play savior
 - 53 Dual diner dish
 - 54 Sticker's citation
 - 55 "Or else — despoiser of good manners": Shk.
 - 56 Newton, e.g.
 - 57 Event with body cords
 - 58 Not at all sharp
 - 59 Lands



- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
- 38 Venom 45 Frost, to Francois 48 Turnover alternative
- 39 Spot 41 Actress Matlin 46 Human Development Report publisher, in brief 49 Tax burden?
- 42 Words of support 50 Measures up to
- 43 Do the final details on 47 About 50% of calls 52 Like many a goody-goody
- 44 Not coming up short
- For answers, call 1-800-285-5555, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
- Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.
- AT&T users: Text NYT-X to 986 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information.
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).
- Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay.
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Off the beaten (tenure) track



Duquesne University adjunct professor's death prompts national debate about non-tenure track faculty compensation, job security

Rebecca Blank
Staff Writer

Recent debates sparked by the death of an impoverished adjunct professor at Duquesne University have brought issues of inequality between tenure- and non-tenure-track professors into the limelight.

According to a CNN report, 49 percent of faculty in higher education occupy part-time positions while another 19 percent are full-time non-tenure-track, meaning nearly 70 percent of faculty nationwide are ineligible for tenure. This generally equates to lower pay, less academic freedom and less job security.

The situation at the University is slightly different, however. A 2012 report by the provost's office found that the 62 percent of University faculty are tenured or tenure-track, a stark contrast to the national trend.

Anyone from an adjunct professor — teachers paid per course taught — to a full-time professor can be on a non-tenure track. Non-tenure-track faculty are often said to only focus on two of three main academic areas — teaching, research, and service — whereas tenure-track faculty focus on all three. But even highly respected professors may be

non-tenured, with few perceptible differences to students.

Non-tenure-track professors at the University, particularly the majority who are full-time, are better off than the national norm, said Gertrude Fraser, vice provost for faculty recruitment & retention.

"Non-tenure-track faculty can have relatively long-term careers at U.Va.," she said. "We give a sense of security [to non-tenure-track faculty] in having longer contracts," which on average last from one to three years.

After six years of employment, such faculty can then be awarded Expectation of Continued Employment, meaning they may be reappointed, reassigned or terminated only in accordance with the terms of this protective policy, allowing for higher job security.

So long as faculty members are hired at positions working at least 0.5 FTE, or half of the full-time equivalent, they may receive health benefits.

Though the University seldom uses the term "adjunct" to describe teaching staff, it would include any kind of part-time instructor or researcher. They can either be compensated on a course-by-course basis or be on one- to three-year contracts.

Each department has its own designations for these kind of faculty, making them hard to categorize. Some departments, like the English department, do not hire adjuncts but will employ graduate students in their place.

Peter Norton, a non-tenure-track professor in the Department of Engineering and Society and vice president of the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors, said overall compensation and policies governing the employment of non-tenure-track faculty are "pretty good."

Non-tenure-track faculty can occupy all ranks, including lecturers, researchers and combinations of both, and many often bear the same titles and responsibilities as their tenure-track counterparts. The two groups are also held to the same standards in performance reviews and have similar levels of promotion.

But just because the University generally treats non-tenure-track professors better than the national standard does not mean they're compensated as well as those with tenure.

"Compare two assistant professors — same field, same years, same productivity — and we predict that the tenure-track professor will be getting more money," Norton said.

Unequal compensation isn't the only issue, though. For Norton, much of the concern comes down to differences in perception.

"When faculty are held to the same standards, they should be [valued] comparably," he said. Non-tenure-track faculty are not given adequate representation in faculty governing bodies, he said.

Academic freedom is another major concern for non-tenure-track faculty said Walter Heinecke, president of the University chapter of AAUP and tenure-track faculty member. "If [tenure-ineligible faculty] are teaching classes, they need to have academic freedom," he said. "They need to be able to engage in academic free speech without worrying about their job security."

This includes being able to express their frustrations and feeling safe to vote on matters within the senate faculty without any hesitancy — a privilege that seems to be reserved for tenure-tracks, he said.

Because of a lack of quantifiable data these kinds of inequalities prove difficult to grasp. But the differential treatment showed itself when the provost's office conducted studies on compensation solely for tenure-track faculty, thus leaving out more than one-third of its members.

"This is an issue of serious con-

cern to [our AAUP chapter]," Heinecke said, as it reflects unequal concern for these two types of faculty.

As a result, last spring, the AAUP called on the provost's office to organize a task force to study the compensation — as well as working conditions — of tenure-ineligible faculty, similar to one conducted recently by the University of Maryland.

This study look at a variety of factors, including salary equity, terms of contracts, job security, participation in governance and possible gender inequities.

"The issues that we face at the University [in regard to non-tenure-track faculty] have to do with questions of governance, consistencies of policies and how they're applied at department and school levels," Fraser said, and that's what the provost's office intends to explore.

Norton and other AAUP members believe this is a step in the right direction, though the provost should have conducted it alongside the study on tenure-track compensation in the first place.

Norton is hopeful, however, that by closely comparing the two studies, the University will be able to see where it stands on the treatment of non-tenure-track faculty compared to those on the tenure-track.



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Katie Cole
A&E Editor

A Princess on Fire

Disney on Ice star skating on dreams

At the tender age of 5 years old, my grandfather took me to see Disney on Ice: Beauty and the Beast. I was enthralled, watching my favorite characters come to life, dance across the ice with ease, grace — perfection on. The skaters encompassed beauty, villainy and, in the end, the classic romance between two star-crossed lovers.

Disney on Ice has captured the hearts of children everywhere, travelling around the globe since 1981. The show uses stunts, props and skilled skaters to touch audience members of all shapes and sizes with Walt Disney magic. Though young girls now come to the show dressed more often as Rapunzel than in the Cinderella outfit I grew up in, the show still holds a special place in my life. Years after first bearing witness to the magic world, I finally had the opportunity to see the man behind the green curtain — or, should I say, the woman behind the Sleeping Beauty costume.

Talking with Disney on Ice star Courtney Mew, who plays Sleeping Beauty in Disney on Ice's latest hit, "Princesses & Heroes," finally brought me full circle. A college graduate and skating star since the age of 8, Mew continues to burst with Disney on Ice energy and enthusiasm even after performing on the tour with them for nine years.

Mew got her start with the program after rekindling her love of skating post-college, finding a "renewed passion" for performing. But a Disney on Ice production is not like most performances. It combines the creative demands of being in an acting troupe with the physical demands of a traveling athlete. Mew has to be sure that, even when travelling with only two 50-pound suitcases for extended periods of time, she takes care of her health, fitness and morale.

As Mew described her experience, standing on stage portraying a character, the pride she takes in her work was evident, the rush she gets from performing mirroring the unbridled enthusiasm of her young fans. It is more than just skating, she said — it's about bringing a long-lived, long-loved character the vivacity it deserves.

"Skating is an art and a way to express yourself, but it is so much further developed when it is your job — you can explore characters and it becomes a part of you," she said.

Many of the skaters in "Princesses & Heroes" have been performing since they were the age I was when I first saw Disney on Ice with my grandfather. Each of them has honed his or her skills with extensive practicing individually and with co-skaters to create a magical show.

But it's not just the skaters who work to make these shows fantastical. Though she loves the impressive stylistic staging, Mew said she is particularly entranced by the staging the crew creates with various lights and props.

In the opening scene, the stage becomes Aladdin's Agrabah — transporting the audience across the world, but then, an hour later, you find yourself in Cinderella's castle. In Mew's portion of the show, the Sleeping Beauty scene, there is a fire-breathing dragon. And let's not forget the bubbles that fall from the ceiling during Ariel's scene.

Packed with action and mystery, this production is suitable for all ages and genders. Mew said she particularly loves seeing young boys dressed as sailors and princes lining the stands, or a grandmother with tears in her eyes. "You know you're bringing enjoyment and a bright part to their day," she said.

Mew only has a few more performances before she goes on to fulfill a new life goal as a child life specialist. We might all have to grow up, but the magic that Disney on Ice leaves us with will never go away.

Disney on Ice's "Princesses & Heroes" comes to Charlottesville's John Paul Jones Arena Thursday Oct. 10.

Understandably awesome: Innovative surreal musical impresses

Robin Yeh
Senior Writer

When a friend told me she planned to attend to a workshop production of "Max Understood," I impulsively decided to tag along, not knowing what to expect. I've seen theater productions before, but most were mainstream musicals like "Wicked" and "Les Misérables." A quick Google search an hour before the show turned up the description "surreal musical," and I knew this production would be vastly different from what I'm accustomed to seeing on stage.

I attended a reading of the play, not a full-scale production. Actors read from a script in front of them, a narrator read their actions, and musical numbers were scaled back.

Despite the performance's austere production, it did not disappoint, with standout acting performances expertly tackling the serious issues of child autism through an imaginative and innovative script.

Directed by Charlie Otte, written by Nancy Carlin and composed by Rasbury, "Max Understood" is an invitation into the life of 7-year-old Max and the challenges his parents face in communicating both with their autistic child and with each other.

When Max wanders out of the house, he meets Homunculus "Munc" Jones, a leaf-blowing philosopher who takes him on a mystical adventure around the neighborhood. The show soon transforms into a dreamlike sequence, as each teenager Max meets is re-imagined to represent his fixations on Pegasus,

mermaids and U.S. presidents.

A key element of the musical is its use of synthetic sounds rather than live instruments. The show opens with a cacophony of loud, jarring sounds — an alarm clock, a leaf-blower and car horns — which allows the audience to sympathize with Max's distress. Max's toy recording of the U.S. presidents also functions as a major musical component of the show, leading to the show's most entertaining number, a rap about the heads of Mount Rushmore ("Rushed Up").

Despite the music's unconventionality, the production did not feature many show-stopping songs. Instead, the strength of the play emerged through its acting and dialogue. The script featured repetitive and fragmented conversations meant to illustrate Max's distracted and disconnected train of thought.

Max was the undeniable showstopper of the performance. Played by child actor Chris Kelly, Max was inspired by Rasbury's own autistic son. From his mannerisms to line delivery, Kelly shines in the role.

As a camp counselor, I struggle to get 8-year-olds to stand in a straight line, let alone convincingly read the role of an autistic child. But Kelly embodies the part with humanity and courage.

"Max Understood" is unlike any theater production I've seen, but it finds true strength in its novelty, blending innovative music and storylines to create a musical that begs to be understood.



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ournameisfun.com



fun. fun. fun.



all about havin' 'fun.'

Riley Panko
Staff Writer

Many have suggested fun.'s hit single "Some Nights" is a melodic cross between Queen and The Lion King. Though no song can match "Bohemian Rhapsody," fun. still put on a show worthy of Freddie Mercury's approval at the nTelos Wireless Pavilion Thursday night.

The show opened with indie rock duo Tegan and Sara, who played a solid 55-minute set before closing with their hit "Closer." The two sounded just as good live as on their recordings, and charmed the crowd with jokes and anecdotes between songs.

After a quick 30-minute transition, fun. came on stage with a surprisingly restrained entrance. Dressed in tuxedos, they sang their second album's opener "Some Nights (Intro)" as black and white images of the band performing played out on the large screen over the stage. Then, with a quick change into more casual clothing, the group launched into the upbeat and loud "One Foot." Lead singer Nate Ruess showed off his impressive pipes, even while sprinting and jumping around stage. Throughout the set, the band managed to maintain its energy and enthusiasm, sweeping the audience up in a fantastical cacophony of sound.

The set included songs from both of the group's two albums. Though more recent tunes such as "Carry On" and "We Are Young" had the crowd roaring and singing along, the band's talent really shined through on older tracks, such

as "The Gambler" and "Barlights."

Most impressive was the group's showmanship. Confetti, an act usually reserved for the finale, rained down on the crowd only halfway through. At one point, Ruess and guitarist Jack Antonoff pressured pianist Andrew Dost to play the trumpet solo from the Paul Simon song "Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard," an endearing gimmick. Pulsing lights and bright graphics contributed to the high-energy feel of the show.

Surprisingly, the band ended the set not with a song of its own, but with a cover of the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want." After a few moments of ear-splitting cheering, the group came back on stage to perform its biggest hit, "Some Nights." They ended with the closing song of their second album, the inspiring "Stars."

Nate Ruess and the rest of the band really connected with their audience as only true musicians can. After finishing their encore, the trio remained on stage, where Ruess spoke about how they'd visited Charlottesville three times on their two-year tour and always loved performing here. Finally, after leading the crowd on another reprise of the refrain from "Stars" and asking us to sing as if we never would again, the band made its well-deserved exit.

Singing the refrain "We're always holding onto stars" with Ruess and thousands of other concertgoers was one of those truly wonderful moments when listeners feel totally and utterly immersed in the concert. Few bands can offer fans such a powerful, memorable or fun experience.

Sigur Rós Sets Stage Ablaze

Hit Icelandic band mesmerizes JPJ audiences

Jacqueline Justice
Staff Writer



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John Paul Jones Arena was flooded last week by a sea of rainbow colored hair, non-prescription glasses and mustaches, with the faint scent of thrift store clothing floating through the air as fans from around Charlottesville streamed in to see Icelandic sensation, Sigur Rós. The crowd of Zooey Deschanel look-alikes, although relatively small considering the size of the arena, buzzed with excitement as they awaited the arrival of lead singer Jónsi Birgisson and his 10-person band.

Anxious fans first had to wait through a 30-minute performance by opener Julianna Barwick, who began by looping a variety of vocal sounds, forming a procession of various notes. The panorama screen in the background played a video throughout the performance of a bride drowning in a swimming pool, which left many in the crowd dismayed and confused.

Barwick's music created an "ambient folk" sound with gentle noises that flowed easily together. But the contin-

uous looping became tired after the first song, and the crowd's patience began to wither. When Barwick finally left the stage, she also left quite a few disappointed listeners, as those eager for Birgisson's arrival critiqued her musical chops and stage presence.

When Sigur Rós hit the stage, with Birgisson wearing a tight, black jacket with small tassels, the crowd went wild. He didn't say anything, but words became unnecessary as soon as he began to play; his ethereal sound enchanted the audience. He played his guitar with a bow and sang all of his lyrics in Icelandic, but the language barrier made little difference to the fans, who came for his mesmerizing voice and delicate but powerful sound.

Birgisson's falsetto vocals awed the crowd, as some simply swayed with closed eyes and others head-banged as if they were at a Metallica concert. I even witnessed a few tears streaming down the faces of fans captivated by the show.

The stage was decorated with light bulbs on stands intertwined among the band members, and the light show was overwhelmingly bright and flashing, with signs at the doors warning those prone to seizures. The show lasted just more than an hour, and after a set of softer, smooth-flowing music, the band finished with a loud, rock-like song, as strobe lights flashed alongside the loud, persistent drumming. The band ran off the stage and the crowd demanded an encore, but the 11 members of Sigur Rós simply held hands and bowed before conclusively leaving the stage.

The band's talent was undeniable, but the personality and charisma characteristic of the best live performances was lacking — perhaps because of the language barrier and cultural differences. Regardless, Sigur Rós knows how to put on an epic show, and its ability to wow the crowd through musical talent alone is sure to endure throughout the group's North American tour.



Margaret Furr

Margaret Mason
Staff Writer

The Charlottesville & University Symphony Orchestra kicked off its season Friday, filling Old Cabell auditorium with its production, “A Musical Kaleidoscope.” Parents in town for Family Weekend and members of the Charlottesville community dominated the crowd, filling the auditorium with an eager and engaged audience. Admittedly a novice to instrumental art, I was intrigued with the powerful and well-thought-out program.

Entering its 39th season, the orchestra has been bringing symphonic joy to audiences for decades — offering what the brochure boasts is “the highest quality symphonic music and educational experiences” found in the central Virginia area.

Friday’s performance took the audience back to the 19th century and incorporated works from all parts of Europe. The concert began with the Overture to “Rienzi,” starting off with a single trumpet call and swelling into a melodic, brooding crescendo to the finale. The piece, written by German opera composer Richard Wagner, proved enchanting, yet almost eerie. This 12-minute overture built like an exciting battle, keeping audience members on the edge of their seats.

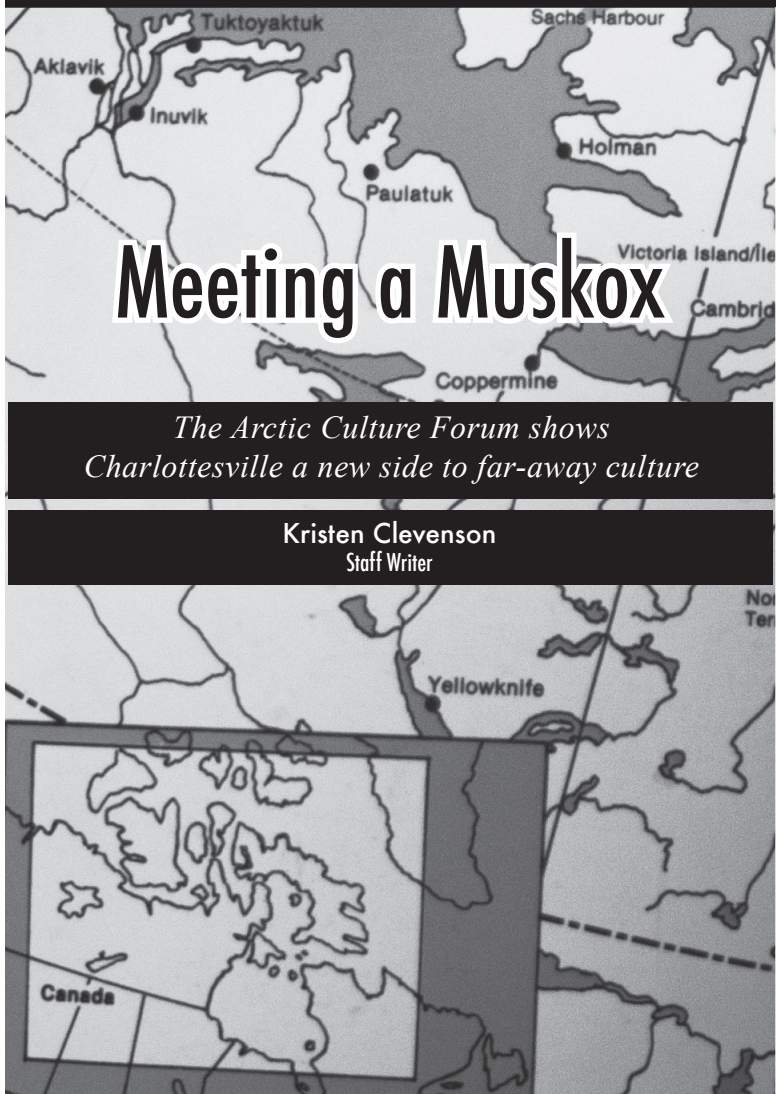
The concert then transitioned into the Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in B minor, Opus 61 — allegro non troppo, andantino quasi allegretto and molto-moderato e maes-

toso. For those of you who do not speak orchestra, these Italian words seek to describe the tempo and mood of the movements. Composed by Camille Saint-Saëns, Opus 61 began fast-paced and energetic, then slowly moved to a more moderate speed. Violin soloist Daniel Sender, the orchestra’s concertmaster, played a captivating solo that left all in awe.

Post intermission, the symphony resumed, stronger than before with Franz Schubert’s Symphony No. 8 in B minor — allegro moderato and andante con moto. In other words, moderately fast and at walking pace. This piece, less lively than the first two, showed a slower side of the orchestra, with a sound reverberating through the auditorium. This piece, commonly referred to as the “unfinished symphony,” is only composed of two movements, as opposed to the standard three. What it lacks in length, however, it more than makes up for in melody and pure romanticism.

The orchestra finished out the show with Franz von Suppé’s Overture to “The Beautiful Galatea.” This, by far, was the greatest movement of the night. Whether you like the symphony or not, the overture is undoubtedly one of the most exciting, energetic and dynamic pieces around. It begins with a bang of loud, vibrant harmony, then moves to a softer slower sound, until suddenly the music builds again to a beautifully melodic crescendo.

Even an orchestra novice can find joy in a performance as cleanly executed as this one — though I caution against coming even remotely tired, as it requires an alert and awake audience member to get the most out of the performance.



Meeting a Muskox

*The Arctic Culture Forum shows
Charlottesville a new side to far-away culture*

Kristen Clevenson
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, I met a muskox — well, in a way.

The Arctic Culture Forum, an educational art exhibit started by Judith Varney Burch to spread knowledge about Arctic cultures and conditions, opened its doors Saturday to students and Charlottesville residents. Community members were able to stop by, taste some delicious baked goods, play Arctic culture games — including the creation of traditional string figures — and learn about Arctic art and culture.

The forum is located in the Arctic Inuit Gallery, on the second floor of a small yellow house down Elliewood Avenue. The space, covered with framed pieces and packed with sculptures, allows visitors to relax into the welcoming environment.

The exhibit is inviting, encouraging visitors to carry on enlightening conversations rather than speak in hushed voices. With Inuit myths sprinkled across the incredible art throughout the exhibit, it feels like you have left Charlottesville and entered the Arctic. Most notably, the central piece, the

Muskox, a furry arctic mammal, brings the exhibit to life. Who would have thought I would meet one in central Virginia?

Burch personally collected the museum’s pieces and is able to identify their origins and even the artists who made the pieces. “With the art itself, there’s something — it’s a visceral kind of quality,” she said. “I’m seeing the story of the North in this art.”

Personally friends with many of the artists, Burch is able to get the full history of each work of art. One wall hanging tells the story of Sedna, the Goddess of the Sea. The added personality and context make visitors feel like insiders as they wander through the museum.

A hidden gem in the Charlottesville arts scene, the forum will be hosting a film for the upcoming Virginia Film Festival after partnering with Charlottesville’s Aboriginal art museum to produce “Uvanga,” the story of a mother and son who leave Montreal to travel to the son’s late father’s community in Igloolik in the Canadian Arctic.

Marshall Bronfin

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