

The Cavalier Daily

WEEKEND EDITION

Thursday, January 17, 2013



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe, above left, addressed potential supporters at C'ville Coffee Wednesday evening. McAuliffe remains locked in a close race with Republican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

Thomas Bynum | Cavalier Daily

Va. governor race intensifies

Democratic nominee McAuliffe closes fundraising gap, likely to outraise Republican Cuccinelli, Sabato says

By Matt Comey
Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

New fundraising numbers and a pair of polls on the Virginia gubernatorial race released in the last two weeks show a tight contest between presumed candidates Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and former Democratic National Committee Chair Terry McAuliffe. Cuccinelli, who announced his intent to seek the Republican nomination in 2011, reported raising \$1.07 million in the second half of 2012. McAuliffe, who announced his bid in November 2012, reported raising \$1.15 million in December 2012 alone. Cuccinelli still has more cash on hand than McAuliffe, but the margin is decreasing rapidly. Center of Politics Director Larry Sabato said in an email that although fundraising may be important, it is not the only thing at play. “No one will be surprised if McAuliffe outraises Cuccinelli,” Sabato said. “That’s McAuliffe’s

liffe, who announced his bid in November 2012, reported raising \$1.15 million in December 2012 alone. Cuccinelli still has more cash on hand than McAuliffe, but the margin is decreasing rapidly. Center of Politics Director Larry Sabato said in an email that although fundraising may be important, it is not the only thing at play. “No one will be surprised if McAuliffe outraises Cuccinelli,” Sabato said. “That’s McAuliffe’s

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Forum seeks student input

Strategic Planning Steering Committee working groups lead discussions, brainstorming sessions

By Kaelyn Quinn
Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee hosted a student forum Wednesday evening to garner input for what Senior Vice Provost and Steering Committee member J. Milton Adams called “the brainstorming stage” of drafting a blueprint for the University’s future.

The forum covered all topics addressed by the steering committee’s seven working groups: student life; synergy; technology; faculty recruitment, retention, and development; public university; resources and streamlining. A mix of faculty, alumni, students and administrators

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Students and administrators joined members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee Wednesday evening to discuss online courses, the rapidly growing undergraduate student population, and mediocre student advising, among other topics.

Thomas Bynum
Cavalier Daily

SPORTS

Virginia welcomes FSU

Cavaliers chase return to win column in ACC contest Saturday against Seminoles

By Fritz Metzinger
Cavalier Daily Senior Associate Editor

The injury-ravaged Virginia men’s basketball team will look to its bevy of young contributors to help halt a two-game skid and earn the program’s first win against Florida State in nearly six years when the Cavaliers host the Seminoles Saturday.

Fresh off an exhilarating 61-52 home victory against North Carolina, Virginia (11-5, 1-2 ACC) managed just 96 total points and shot under 40 percent from the field during last week’s two road losses to middling Wake Forest and Clemson.

To junior forward Akil Mitchell, the disastrous road swing testified to the dangers of playing any game at less than full

throttle, regardless of the quality of the competition. With four first-year players receiving substantial floor time as part of coach Tony Bennett’s rotation, Mitchell is hoping the message sinks in sooner rather than later.

“It should have been a lesson we learned [during losses] at George Mason or against Old Dominion, but for some reason, we didn’t,” Mitchell said. “Hopefully, this will be the time that we realize that we have to come out with the same intensity for every game.”

Still, the freshmen trio of forward Evan Nolte, guard Justin Anderson and forward-center Mike Tobey, along with redshirt freshman point guard Teven Jones, has proved invaluable for the Cavaliers this season.

The four have combined to score nearly a third of Virginia’s points this season.

Anderson and Nolte offer versatility on the wing to complement Mitchell and junior guard Joe Harris, and Jones has helped dull the sting of senior point guard Jontel Evans’ nagging health issues with a broken right foot.

Tobey has impressed the most in recent weeks, leading the team in scoring twice in the past four games and helping compensate for sophomore forward Darion Atkins’ swoon as he copes with a shin injury. Combining a polished low-post game with an adequate jumper, Tobey has helped stretch opposing front courts

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Freshman forward Mike Tobey has been a force the past few weeks, leading the Cavaliers in scoring twice in the past four games. The Monroe, N.Y. native is one of four freshmen to receive significant playing time from coach Tony Bennett this season, along with forward Evan Nolte and guards Justin Anderson and Teven Jones.



Jenna Truong
Cavalier Daily

U.Va. seeks statement win

Team faces road test Thursday against athletic ACC power No. 11 North Carolina

By Michael Eilbacher
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The Virginia women’s basketball team faces one of its most brutal tests of the season Thursday as it heads to hostile Chapel Hill to take on No. 11 North Carolina.

It has been nearly three years since the Cavaliers (11-5, 3-2 ACC) last beat the Tar Heels (17-1, 5-0 ACC), and that February 2010 victory was Virginia’s only win in the series in the last 17 meetings. Last year’s matchup featured a heartbreaking double-overtime 78-73 loss at home. That memory is helping drive the team this time around.

“I’m excited for the pressure that they’re going to bring and about the game,” senior guard

China Crosby said. “Knowing that we were just that close to them last year gives us a little more motivation.”

North Carolina has been tenacious on defense this year, allowing just 55.1 points per game and averaging an ACC-best 14.9 steals per game. The Tar Heels’ defensive scheme is predicated on throwing their opponents out of rhythm. But the Cavaliers are determined to keep their composure against the pressure.

“We’re putting in a couple of new plays, but the main focus is staying poised,” Crosby said. “That’s what we did [in our Jan. 10 win] against Georgia Tech and their pressure, and that’s the kind of poise we need to have against North Carolina, and it starts with me. If I’m flustered in

their traps, then everybody else is flustered.”

Offensive execution was key to Virginia’s win against NC State Sunday. The Cavaliers’ 78 points scored was their second-highest output so far this season and the highest conference total under coach Joanne Boyle. Boyle’s squad is not necessarily built for high-scoring affairs, but the Cavaliers will need to put up points against the Tar Heels, one of two remaining undefeated teams in ACC play.

“If we continue to be the aggressor, then we’ll score those 78 points, or those easy 10 or 15 transition points that we can get,” Crosby said. “If we back it out and get stagnant, that’s what

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Senior forward Telia McCall is averaging a team-high 8.4 rebounds and 7.4 points a game this season. McCall has started 15-of-16 games in her first season as a starter, giving the Cavaliers a versatile post presence.

Jenna Truong
Cavalier Daily

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Additional contact information may be found online at www.cavalierdaily.com.

Three-Day Weather Forecast

Provided by the Cavalier Weather Service

 TODAY High of 46 °	 TONIGHT Low of 28 °	 TOMORROW High of 45 °	 TOMORROW NIGHT Low of 25 °	 SATURDAY High of 50 °
Overcast skies, with light northerly winds around 3 mph	Overcast skies with northwesterly winds increasing to 4-7 mph	Mostly sunny skies with northwesterly winds shifting to the south at 6-9 mph	Clear skies, with winds around 5 mph	Clear skies
A stationary boundary will remain to our south through Thursday. As a low pressure system passes to our south, there is a possibility for some wintry precipitation to mix in Thursday evening. All of this dreary weather should clear out for a beautiful weekend.				To receive Cavalier Weather Service forecasts via email, contact weather@virginia.edu

State goals require in-state enrollment uptick

University must enroll additional 1,673 undergraduates by 2018 to meet higher-ed recommendations, boost Virginia’s intellectual capital



Thomas Bynum | Cavalier Daily

Admissions officials will need to accept more than 1,500 additional students within the next seven years, University Spokesperson McGregor McCance said.

By Elizabeth Turner
Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

In-state enrollment must increase by nearly 42,000 within seven years in Virginia’s public and private colleges to meet the commonwealth’s higher-education goals, according to a report by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

The Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011, which sought to promote higher education and economic growth, outlined a goal of 100,000 additional undergraduate degrees earned in Virginia by 2025.

For the University, this means enrolling an additional 1,673 undergraduate students by the 2018-2019 academic year, an 11.9 percent increase from 2010-2011, University spokesperson McGregor McCance said in an email. Of these additional students, 1,171 would hail from

inside Virginia’s borders.

Additional students must be followed by additional funding from the General Assembly, McCance said.

“The Board’s growth commitment is contingent on the appropriate state support for that growth,” McCance said.

To date, the General Assembly has fully funded the state’s share of the growth. “We are optimistic that they will continue their commitment,” McCance said.

Most of Virginia’s in-state growth between 2001 and 2011 occurred at Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, George Mason University and James Madison University. Together, these schools represent 67 percent of in-state enrollment among public four-year institutions.

Of private universities, Lib-

erty University, Regent University, Shenandoah University, Ferrum College and Lynchburg University contributed an additional 11,885 students within the same time frame, and these schools account for 93 percent of total enrollment growth at private nonprofit institutions.

Six community colleges — Tidewater, Northern Virginia Community College, John Tyler Community College, Thomas Nelson Community College, Germanna Community College and Lord Fairfax Community College — enrolled an additional 37,141 students during the same period.

If the state reaches its goal of increased enrollment and degrees, by 2025 nearly 55 percent of Virginia’s working population will hold an associate’s degree or higher, compared to the 43 percent recorded in the 2010 census.

Businessman donates \$2.26M to Miller Center

Philanthropist Howard Milstein funds public policy, political history symposia to create recommendations, target Washington, D.C. gridlock

Businessman, real estate developer and philanthropist Howard Milstein has donated \$2.26 million to the Miller Center to sponsor a five-year public policy symposium, the University announced Tuesday.

The Milstein Symposium will bring scholars to Charlottesville to discuss policy recommendations and political history. Jeffrey Chidester, the center’s director of public programs, said in an email the center hopes to use the initiative to

generate innovative policy ideas to resolve “political, economic, and cultural challenges.”

“It’s the Center’s mission to provide historical insights and, in some cases, offer practical, nonpartisan solutions to today’s policy and governance challenges,” Chidester said. “The country is in need of fresh ideas to meet these challenges, built upon the lessons of history and forged through bipartisan action.”

Miller Center Director Gerald

Baliles said in a press release that the center hoped the program would help combat the current political climate in Washington. “The Miller Center has a proven track record of bringing together people with diverse points of view to develop innovative solutions to the complex challenges facing our nation,” Baliles said. “Thanks to Howard Milstein’s generosity, we can do more of this important work. And with partisanship in Washington at an all-time high, it could not

come at a better time.”

The center will hold three Milstein Symposium programs a year. Based on the deliberations of groups of scholars brought together by the symposia, the center will produce policy recommendations and release these reports to a national audience through various media, including the center’s show on PBS.

The center has not yet determined how it will involve students in the symposia, Chidester

said, but the center has drawn from student support in previous projects.

“U.Va. students have made significant contributions to Miller Center programs and research for decades now, and we anticipate similar involvement in the Milstein Symposium,” Chidester said.

The multi-million dollar grant will be split evenly over the program’s five-year run.

—compiled by Kelly Kaler and Joseph Liss

Governor | Candidates face poor name recognition

Continued from page A1

specialty. He raised over \$8 million to run for governor four years ago, but he lost by 23 percent in a party primary. So money obviously isn’t everything.”

McAuliffe has previously been recognized for his fundraising abilities, but despite outraising his two opponents prior to the 2009 Democratic gubernatorial primary, McAuliffe eventually lost the bid to Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-Albemarle). McAuliffe spokesperson Josh Schwerin said the campaign was enthusiastic about this year’s numbers.

“With more than 1400 individual donors, it shows there is a broad range of support for Terry,” Schwerin said. “What Virginians are looking for is someone who is avoiding ideological talk and focusing on

the economy and widespread issues. The support is a good sign.”

The Cuccinelli campaign raised about an additional \$1 million in the first half of 2012 and has received contributions from 8,153 total donors since the campaign began — a mark significantly higher than that reached by the McAuliffe campaign.

“In the last year, Ken’s campaign for governor has displayed tremendous grassroots strength and support,” Cuccinelli campaign manager Dave Rexrode said in a press release. “Having such a broad base of support this early in the campaign is impressive and will be essential for victory this fall.”

The Cuccinelli campaign had to stop fundraising last Wednesday for the 45-day Virginia General Assembly session, a

requirement for all candidates currently holding public office.

Given the results of last November’s election, money did appear to be a deciding factor in races all across the state. In every Congressional race and the Senate race, the candidate who raised the most money won the election.

Two polling agencies, Quinnipiac Polling and Public Policy Polling have shown McAuliffe with a slight, but likely insignificant lead over Cuccinelli. Quinnipiac showed McAuliffe ahead 40-39 with 18 percent undecided, with a margin of error of 2.9 percent. Public Policy Polling showed McAuliffe ahead 46-41 with a 3.8 percent error margin.

“You can rely on a coin flip about as accurately as polls a year out,” Sabato said. “Most polls show the race close, with a

decided lack of enthusiasm for these two candidates outside their party base.”

Both polls found that name recognition appeared to be an issue for each candidate, but Schwerin said the campaign was not worried.

“Name recognition is something that will come with time,” Schwerin said. “Terry is travelling all around the state of Virginia, and by the election I have no doubt that people will know he is someone looking for mainstream solutions for the economy.”

Cuccinelli officially became the only Republican candidate in the race Monday evening when the deadline to announce candidacy set by the Virginia GOP passed. Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling withdrew himself from consideration for the Republican nomination last year, but he is

considering running as an independent.

“When Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling is added as a possible independent candidate — he’ll decide in March — then both Cuccinelli and McAuliffe drop to 34 percent each [in the Quinnipiac Poll],” Sabato said. “Bolling is generally measured in the teens right now. No one knows whether he will run.”

Because Bolling has been elected as a Republican, many expect he would take significantly more votes away from Cuccinelli than the Democratic nominee. McAuliffe is currently the only Democrat on the ballot for June’s primary, but candidates have until March 28 to file. Former U.S. representative Tom Perriello, U.S. Senator Mark Warner, and state senator Chap Petersen have said they will not run.

Forum | Group to report findings to Board next month

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make up the working groups.

A key component of the brainstorming process, the working groups act as receptors to community members’ ideas, Adams said.

Attendees broke into seven discussions, each led by a working group member. After 20 minutes, they shared their ideas with the group.

Several issues brought to light were the University’s move toward online courses, the growing undergraduate population, and problems with mediocre student advising.

Some students questioned the relevance of the topics discussed.

“Sometimes I worry there is maybe a disconnect between ... the actual issues that students are facing in their day-to-day

lives and the kinds of things that we discuss at these forums,” third-year College student Sam Atkeson said. “You have these elusive people who decided these are the issues we are facing and this is what we need to do about it, but you don’t necessarily feel that those same issues are on the minds of students.”

It’s equally important that community members are on the

same page — a condition that Graduate Education student Christina Mattaliano said is conspicuously absent at the University. “[It] interests me to hear ... what [faculty and staff] think should be going on, and then to hear what a student actually thinks is going on,” Mattaliano said.

The steering committee’s “blueprint” will take student opinions from the forums into consid-

eration when it crafts the University’s strategic plan, Adams said. In addition to Wednesday’s forum, each group will or has hosted an individual meeting to gather student input.

The steering committee will report to the Board of Visitors in February, and then again after graduation in May, Adams said. The final plan will be presented to the Board during their August retreat.

Support local arts...
...go out and see a play, a band or an exhibit today!

Home:

Saturday, all day, Women's Tennis @ UVA Winter Invitational
Saturday, 12 p.m., Swimming & Diving v. North Carolina (Men)
Saturday 3 p.m., Swimming & Diving v. North Carolina (Women)
Saturday 4 p.m., Men's Basketball v. Florida State
Saturday 7:30 p.m., Swimming & Diving vs. Duke (Diving)

What to watch for this weekend

Away:

Friday, 7 p.m., Wrestling @ Chapel Hill, N.C.
Saturday, 9 a.m., Track & Field @ Indoor errapin Invitational in Landover, MD

Teams’ ACC opener features talented foe

Virginia hosts fellow conference powerhouse North Carolina Saturday before facing Duke Sunday at the Aquatic & Fitness Center

By Matt Comey
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The Virginia swimming and diving teams open ACC competition this weekend with home dual meets against North Carolina and Duke.

The dive teams are coming off a successful trip to the Tennessee Diving Invitational two weeks ago, but the swimmers have not faced competition since the first weekend in December.

Sophomore JB Kolod led the way for the men’s diving team in Knoxville with a school-record breaking performance on the 3-meter springboard. Kolod finished fifth in the event overall and also notched a fifth-place finish in the 1-meter springboard competition. For the women’s team, freshman Becca Corbett

finished seventh on the platform and 12th on the 1-meter springboard.

“JB Kolod had a tremendous weekend on the springboards,” coach Mark Bernardino said. “From the perspective of our athletes, that was their first competition since December, so we’re hopeful that it was a good opening meet for them and that it will guide them through the remainder of the season ... There’s no question that good divers can make a huge difference in your results in dual meets and championship seasons.”

For the swimmers, the last six weeks have been filled with rigorous training Bernardino said is critical to late-season success. Though fatigue may be starting to set in for the team in the short run, the strength and

conditioning work should pay dividends during the championship season.

“Sometimes you get so beat up over winter break that you feel like you’re going slower, but we get a lot stronger at the same time,” junior Jan Daniec said.

Saturday’s dual meet against the Tar Heels will likely be the fiercest ACC competition for both the No. 8 Cavalier women and No. 15 Cavalier men until the conference championships in late February. The No. 16 North Carolina women are the second-highest ranked ACC team behind the Cavaliers, and the No. 22 Tar Heel men fall behind only Virginia and No. 17 Virginia Tech.

“UNC is one of the strongest teams in the conference,” Daniec said. “We can use this meet as a measuring stick to see where we are. I think we’re in a good place. We haven’t raced since the Georgia Invite six weeks ago, so there’s no better way to start the spring than with [a] dual meet with UNC.”

Junior Stephanie Peacock is the most threatening of the Tar Heel women. In December, Peacock broke the NCAA record for the 1650-meter freestyle. She leads all ACC swimmers in the 500 and 1000 free, in addition to the 1650. The Tar Heels and the Cavaliers both account for the majority of the top conference times in every freestyle event, most notably in the 500 free, where each of the top nine times comes from the two schools.

“This meet is a great chance to get focused and see a preview of the ACC championship meet,” junior Rachel Naurath said. “UNC is without a doubt our biggest competitor in the conference — at least on the woman’s side — so that rivalry is a huge thing for us.”

On the men’s side, the 500 free looks to be just as interesting as the women’s contest. Virginia and North Carolina swimmers account for the eight fastest conference times in the event, including Virginia’s Daniec, who tops the list. In the 1650 free, however, Daniec sits slightly more than a second behind conference-best Brett Nagle, a senior from North Carolina.

“I really like swimming in [a] high-pressure situation like that,” Daniec said. “I know if I win, I’ll be one of the best guys in the conference in the event, so I’m really looking forward to it.”

Virginia senior Tom Barrett looks to lead the Cavaliers past the Tar Heels in the shorter distance freestyle events. Barrett ranks above every North Carolina swimmer in the 50, 100 and 200 free. The 200 individual medley provides another interesting matchup on the men’s side: Cavalier sophomore David Ingraham holds the conference’s best time, but Tar Heel freshman Matt Kwatyra sits five one-hundredths of a second behind him.

A year ago when the teams visited Chapel Hill, the women’s squad earned the victory but the men’s squad was less fortunate,

falling to the Tar Heels 166-134.

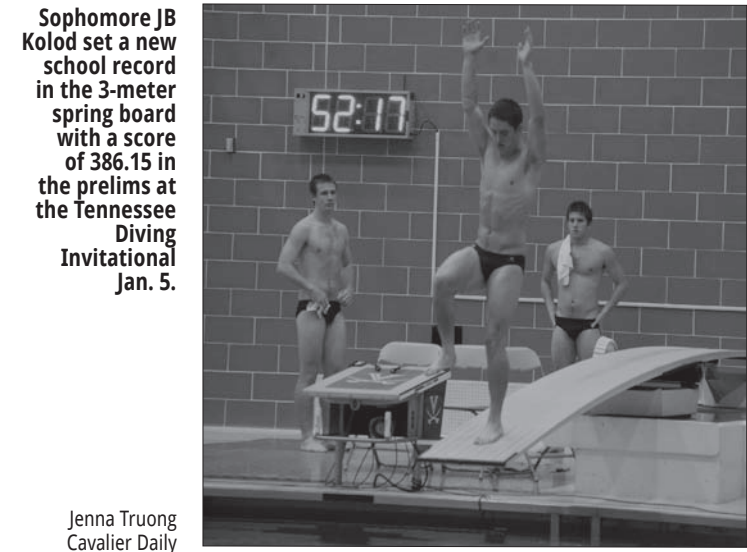
“This meet has become one of the most talked about and most anticipated meets in college swimming,” Bernardino said. “The two teams have been so closely matched and are so highly ranked programs nationally with so many great athletes.”

The Cavaliers will have another opportunity against ACC competition before the championships when they face Duke Sunday, but the unranked Blue Devils should not provide the same challenge as North Carolina.

On the men’s side, however, Duke junior Hunter Knight has a faster time in the 100 and 200 breast than any Cavalier, and on the women’s side, Duke junior Christine Wixted also boasts better times in those same events than any Virginia swimmer.

“Duke is one of the most improved teams in the ACC over the last four years,” Bernardino said. “They’ve made steady and impressive progress, and they represent a different kind of challenge than North Carolina does. This weekend will be two days of competition for a team that hasn’t raced in six weeks, so we need to be mentally, physically and emotionally sharp and be prepared for the pressure both teams can bring.”

The Cavaliers begin swimming against North Carolina Saturday at noon and against Duke Sunday at noon. Both meets will be held in the Aquatic & Fitness center.



Sophomore JB Kolod set a new school record in the 3-meter spring board with a score of 386.15 in the prelims at the Tennessee Diving Invitational Jan. 5.

Jenna Truong
Cavalier Daily

Fresh off stunning upset, Cavs seek ACC win

No. 11 matmen hope to avoid letdown against unranked North Carolina after first-ever victory against top-10 opponent

By Matthew Wurzburger
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Following a record-setting week that catapulted Virginia to its highest ranking in school history, the No. 11 wrestling team travels to Chapel Hill, N.C. for a conference matchup against North Carolina Friday.

The Cavaliers (9-3, 1-0 ACC) are fresh off a runner-up finish at the Virginia Duals in Hampton, Va. where the team defeated Bucknell, Boise State and No. 12 Central Michigan before falling to ACC-rival Virginia Tech in the finals.

By beating then-No. 9 Central Michigan, Virginia earned its first victory against a top-10 team in program history. That upset caught the eye of the nation’s coaches, leading the Cavaliers to climb eight spots in the ranking and surpass their previous school-best ranking of 16th in 2010.

Despite their Virginia Duals loss, the Cavaliers still carry with

them newfound highs in confidence and momentum.

“We’re so excited because from that tournament we became a team,” head coach Steve Garland said. “I don’t know if we were exactly a team up until that point.”

That heightened sense of camaraderie could be key to avoiding a letdown against a streaking underdog looking to upset a conference foe at home in North Carolina (4-2).

“Coming off a big weekend, we tend to slow down a little bit,” redshirt freshman Zach Nye said. “We’re putting a lot of pressure on ourselves to not slow down because UNC is a decent team.”

The Tar Heels struggled out of the gate this season, going 1-2 in dual meets and netting unimpressive finishes in several major tournaments, including a 21st place result at the Southern Scuffle. But North Carolina has begun to turn things around recently, winning three consecu-

tive dual meets against Michigan State, Clarion and Drexel.

Virginia redshirt senior star Matt Snyder, the No. 7 wrestler at 125 pounds, will face stiff competition in the match’s opening bout against No. 13 Tar Heel freshman Nathan Kraisser. Joining Kraisser in the top 20 for North Carolina are freshman Joey Ward and sophomore Evan Henderson.

“Right off the bat their 125 is ranked, their 133 is top-20, 141 is ranked,” Garland said. “They are a really tough team. You cannot look at national rankings and treat them any different.”

The Cavaliers are not pulling rank on the Tar Heels in their preparation for the match. If their upset win against Central Michigan over the weekend proved anything, it is that national recognition means little inside the mat.

“The big thing I stressed is that nobody cares,” Garland said. “This team does not care that you are good, that you are

nationally ranked. They don’t care that you just had a good weekend. They want to beat you at home because that is what competitors do.”

Friday’s match signals the beginning of the stretch run for the ACC schedule. Virginia has four conference matches in the next two weeks followed by two non-conference matches before the ACC tournament. The final

two months of wrestling feature some of the team’s most challenging matchups, giving the Cavaliers a chance to make or break their 2012-13 season down the stretch.

“The season isn’t even close to being over,” Nye said. “We have two months left, and if we let up, we will lose momentum going into ACC’s and Nationals.”



Thomas Bynum | Cavalier Daily

Redshirt senior Matt Snyder faces Tar Heel freshman Nathan Kraisser in a 125-pound matchup of ranked opponents Friday in Chapel Hill.

M Basketball | Star freshmen form team’s foundation

Continued from page A1

defensively and granted Mitchell more room to operate.

“With teams keying in on me so much on the offensive glass and setting traps and stuff like that, we get some easy buckets,” Mitchell said. “When you have to account for both [Tobey and me], there’s no way you can do both at the same time.”

Even though Bennett noted that Tobey is still learning how to defend bigger, stronger forwards such as Clemson senior Devin Booker last Saturday, Tobey’s potential is hard to

ignore.

“He had a little trouble [against Booker], but I think what’s promising for him is he’s shown the ability to adjust and improve, and he does have that offensive prowess,” Bennett said.

Tobey’s difficulties with Booker epitomized one of Virginia’s shakiest defensive afternoons all season. The Cavaliers allowed Clemson — which entered the game second to last in the ACC with 64.3 points per game — to shoot 17-of-33 from the field and 6-of-10 from beyond the arc.

“It was a very impressive second half,” Bennett said of

the Tigers’ 35-point eruption in the period. “They certainly were effective, and we didn’t do a good enough job, obviously, to stop them.”

Virginia will need to tighten its usually staunch defense against the Seminoles (10-6, 2-1 ACC), who rank fifth in the ACC in field goal percentage. Less than a year after winning the ACC Tournament and earning a No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament, Florida State has failed to meet lofty preseason expectations, dropping its opener to South Alabama and dropping three straight games in late November

and early December. But the Seminoles didn’t catch fire last season until the 17th game on their schedule — a 90-57 drubbing of then No. 3 North Carolina — and still feature senior guard Michael Snaer, who leads the team with 15.1 points per game.

Florida State has handily defeated Virginia in past contests, winning 10 of the last 11 matches between the two schools. The last seven times the two teams faced off, the Seminoles came out on top. Last March, with the teams neck and neck in the ACC standings, Semi-

nole then-sophomore guard Ian Miller sank a game-winning 3-pointer to help Florida State escape John Paul Jones Arena with a 63-60 victory.

Ultimately, Virginia will depend upon its young contributors to strengthen its NCAA tournament prospects by earning another ACC win against a talented adversary.

“They’ve been a huge help,” Mitchell said of the newcomers. “We need them to step up and make big plays for us, and they have. The young guys, they just need to continue to do what they’re doing now.”

W Basketball | U.Va. prepares for swarming Tar Heel defense

Continued from page A1

they want us to do, so we just need to be aggressive and hopefully those points will come for us.”

Virginia may have an edge against North Carolina on the glass, where the team has out-rebounded opponents by 6.7 boards per game. Although the Tar Heels feature nine players on their roster listed at six feet or

taller — including 6-foot, 6-inch senior center Waltiea Rolle — the Cavaliers have been the superior team on the glass.

“We know that they’re not as good at rebounding as they were last year,” senior forward Telia McCall said. “We know that we can rebound. We’re not going to go down not playing Virginia basketball, we’re going to go down and play our game.”

McCall has averaged a team-

high 8.4 rebounds per game, good for fifth in the ACC, and her play has been crucial of late. The 6-foot, 1-inch McCall has notched double-doubles in three consecutive games and has shined in her first season as a starter.

“[McCall] has been tremendous. We’re not the deepest team, we’re not the most athletic team in the conference, but as long as everyone is fulfilling their role, we’ll be successful,” junior guard

Ataira Franklin said. “She’s stepping in and filling that role.”

North Carolina comes into the game riding a 10-game win streak, including a 60-57 victory against then-No. 8 Maryland Jan. 3. Virginia’s resume would receive a major boost with an upset against the Tar Heels, giving the squad the statement conference victory that it lacked a season ago when the team fell short of an NCAA tournament

bid.

“Last year, when we didn’t make the NCAA tournament, one of the things they were saying was that we didn’t have a signature ACC win,” Franklin said. “Any time that you can go and just beat a top team in the conference, it’s definitely a confidence booster, and just the fact that it’s on their home floor would be a great steal for us.”

Tipoff is set for 6:30 p.m.



The Cavalier Daily

"For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it."

—Thomas Jefferson

Matthew Cameron
Editor-in-Chief

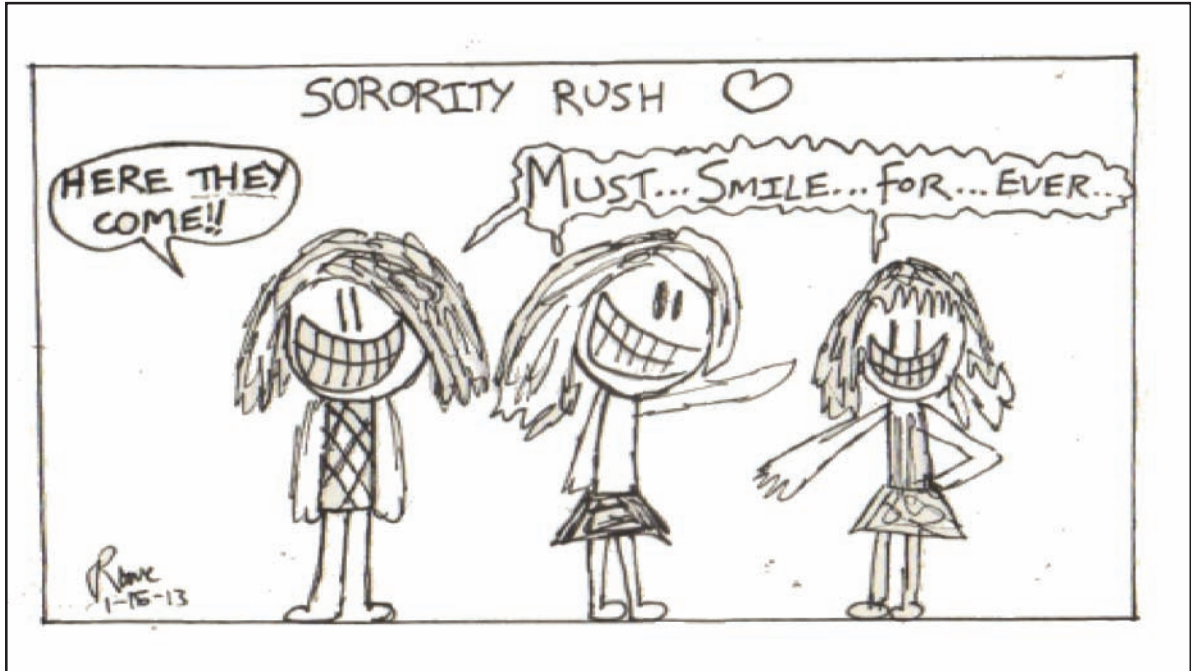
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Resolution solution

New Year's Resolutions are an essential part of bettering yourself

ONE PART which I love about coming back to Grounds in January is seeing all of the fresh faces in the gyms. I can only assume that the reason for the crowded weight rooms and whirring treadmills is that students have resolved to be fit in the new year. After a few weeks of enjoying post-semester hibernation and general holiday laziness, our disappointment with our couch-potato state triggers us to create New Year's Resolutions.

The staff at the Aquatic and Fitness center are initially overwhelmed, but inevitably extraneous factors such as exams pull students from their commitment to be fit and the gyms become less crowded.

People do not just resolve to improve their health in the New Year. Some resolve to improve their finances, some resolve to stop bad habits, and some even resolve to learn something new. According to author Tom Connellan, 88 percent of New Years Resolutions are broken by the end of the year. Why, then, is it important to make a resolution if a majority ends up being ignored?

At the beginning of the month, I resolved to keep my computer shut during lectures. Even though my handwriting rivals that of a 6-year-old, let's be honest: When you have your computer open during class, are you actually just taking notes? Have you ever zoned out of lecture as something interesting popped up on your browser, and then trying to catch up on the thirty seconds of missed lecture seemed like decrypting an enigma? Asking a question from that point on could expose you to ridicule for repeating something that had just been asked.

I thus became fixated on using only paper note taking materials during the lecture, and so far I have been surprised not only by how short lectures seem, but also I enjoy asking questions about material that was dubiously explained.

It is obvious that our resolutions are improvements on our past behavior. Logically, then, keeping these resolutions would benefit us, as they would change aspects about our behavior that we wanted changed. But, for some reason, most of us lose the desire to accomplish our goals as time passes. There are quite a few strategies that the 12% use to prevent the erosion of their will to change.

Chiefly, writing down these resolutions helps the brain keep sight of an overall goal over the backlog of small tasks that pile up each day. Further, making sure that your resolutions are in a place where you can commonly see them—perhaps on your dorm room door as you walk out in the morning—can remind you of this outcome that you set to achieve.

Another tactic some employ to stick to their resolutions is to compete with friends. Accountability through games such as making bets with your colleagues will encourage both of you to persevere during times when it seems as though your own willpower has failed. In many classes, we sit in the same places as we did the week before. This semester, I'm asking my friends beside me to hold me accountable for taking notes only by pen. By

informing others of my goal, it is not only myself that will know I fail, but the friend sitting besides me as well.

Keeping realistic resolutions that are easily traceable and not necessarily one year in duration can also help remind your of your goals. If my goal was to lose 10 pounds over the course of the year, and my resolution was to accomplish this goal by stopping candy intake, I would probably put it off until later in the year, in which case I would forget about it. Instead, if I made a goal to lose 2 pounds per month, and my resolution was to gradually replace deserts with fruits, I would be able to more frequently track effectiveness of my resolution in accomplishing my goal of losing weight.

If you forgot to make resolutions on January 1st, it is never too late. Zig Ziglar, a motivational speaker who passed away last November, summed up the importance of keeping resolutions by saying, "What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals." <http://www.motivatingquotes.com/goalsq.htm> I think that writing down your resolutions, keeping them in front of you, involving friends, and being realistic are the best ways to ensure that your resolutions help you achieve your goals.

"Keeping realistic resolutions that are easily traceable and not necessarily one year in duration can also help remind your of your goals."

Andrew Kouri's column appears bi-weekly Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at a.kouri@cavalierdaily.com.

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"As much as I like a good 'Harumph' on so many issues, this editorial goes a little too far. It is not the job of StudCo to advertise for either side of a particular legislation. In this case, that is the task of supporters like Neil Branch, who has done about as good a job as one person can do from what I can tell. As for the subject of the delay, it was stated in ms. Horowitz's article this morning that the representatives of students wanted to talk to their fellow students more before voting. There is still a huge amount of gray about where students stand on the issue of re-appointing Dragas as only the vocal opponents have even been heard from. This is contrary to the assertion in Monday's editorial that 2,100 petition signers constitute the vast majority of 21,000 students, 44,000 Cville residents, or the over 100,000 people living in the Cville metro area. Finally, that was the second day of the semester. I still have seen maybe half of my friends. I doubt our representatives have chatted with even a tenth of their constituents."

"Joel Taubman" responding to Jan 15 lead editorial "Empty chairs and empty tables."

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THE CD

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Cutting more than corners

Democrats should consider cutting social entitlement programs to invest more in education and infrastructure

IN THE aftermath of the fiscal cliff deal, Democrats had a lot to celebrate. They had successfully raised taxes on the wealthiest Americans, even if they had to compromise on how many. This was an important part of President Obama's plan to reduce the deficit, and one of the main ideological sticking points between the two parties. But they now have to face another showdown about spending reductions — one where the major entitlements will be under significant scrutiny. Most leading thinkers on the left want to take advantage of the growing schism in the Republican party between the new hard-line Tea-Party wing and the more moderate establishment to avoid any substantial cuts to Medicare or Social Security. They believe cuts to defense can suffice and allow entitlements to remain unchanged. This strategy seems relatively sound in the current political climate, and if successful would be another major partisan victory. It would also be an enormous mistake. Medicare, Social Security and other support programs are important to ensure that people do not fall victim to poverty, starvation or sickness when they suffer setbacks. But they are also expensive, rapidly expanding and will

FORREST BROWN
OPINION COLUMNIST

need even more money in the future, money that can only be produced through more debt, taxes or cuts to other important programs. They provide vital services, but not enough to warrant the enormous costs they will demand as the United States' population continues to age. More importantly, cuts to these programs are the best bargaining chip available to negotiate with GOP leadership. The focus of Democratic leadership should not be on preserving every ounce of enormous welfare programs, but rather on creating a more productive economy and skilled workforce that will reduce the need for these programs. This goal can be accomplished most effectively by boosting spending in infrastructure — especially in areas of transport and energy — and education. Would investments in these areas be effective? Our education system is rapidly falling behind, with only 70 percent of students graduating from high school nationally. Many schools are unable to provide enough useful skills to those who do graduate, as seen by the United States ranking 17th amongst developed nations in education. The most important factor to a strong economy is skilled workers, which we are simply not producing in our

underfunded and unsuccessful schools. In 2010, a lack of investment in transportation infrastructure — under-maintained or obsolete bridges, roads, trains, etc.—resulted in the loss of about \$130 billion to U.S. businesses and citizens when they were unable to move goods efficiently or get to work in a reasonable amount of time. By modernizing our increasingly ineffective methods of transportation we could prevent these types of losses to American workers in the future. It would also provide increased opportunity for business growth and improved efficiency for postal services, commuters and every other facet of business that relies on physical transport. More money needs to be spent in both of these areas to achieve a sustainable recovery. How does spending in these areas compare to that in Social Security, Healthcare and defense? In 2010, almost identical amounts of money were spent by the Department of Defense and the Social Security Administration, about 16

percent of total federal spending each, while the Department of Health and Human Services comprised 20 percent of the budget. In contrast, the Department of Education and the Department of Transportation were 2 percent each. This ratio could certainly be more balanced. Could defense entitlements be cut while maintaining their integrity? The military has a glut of unnecessary funding that does not represent the modern security needs of our nation. Lives will not be threatened by cuts in defense spending. In terms of entitlements, two different plans could produce significant spending reductions in a simple manner. The first would be to impose some kind of income limit to receive social security checks. People with millions of dollars of savings don't need a check from Uncle Sam to pay the bills. The second would be simply to increase the age necessary to receive benefits by 1-3 years. This would free an enormous amount of money, and would still ensure that all seniors eventually get

the benefits they have earned as longtime taxpayers. There would be consequences, such as more seniors in the workforce pushing back retirement and preventing young people from finding a job. But if the money saved allows for effective investments to boost job growth these effects will be tempered. Increased compensation to workers would also allow for families to support older relatives without government assistance more easily. Spending cuts will be painful for many regardless of the outcome of the fiscal debates, but the Democratic leadership has an opportunity to push for a long-term solution. If they can put aside politics and allow Social Security and Medicare along with other entitlements receive moderate cuts, they can create more opportunity for growth through increased investment in internal programs. While there would certainly be repercussions, hopefully the benefits of improved infrastructure and education will allow more families to support their older relatives without the help of the government and reduce the need for welfare programs in the first place.

Forrest Brown's column appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at f.brown@cavalierdaily.com.

Tightening the grip

The government should enact stricter gun control laws in order to keep the country safer

COLUMBINE. Virginia Tech. Aurora. Newtown. All Americans are familiar with these names — signposts along the tragic path down which the gun-laden United States is traveling. After the latest massacre in an elementary school in Connecticut — my home state — the American people seem to be fed up. The old adage “guns don't kill people; people kill people” has a bitter ring to it; people are beginning to realize that a more appropriate phrase would go something like “people kill people, but guns make it easy.” However, gun control legislation in the works has uncertain prospects. If the United States wants to start making a dent in a gun homicide rate that is twenty times higher than other developed nations, we need to end our love affair with a murder weapon. There seems to be two possible explanations for why the United States' gun homicide rate is so much higher than other countries': Either Americans are excessively violent compared to our peer nations, or it is our society's saturation with guns that has contributed to more than 10,000 gun murders per year. The first explanation falls flat both on

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OPINION COLUMNIST

simple observation — we are not a nation of Vikings — and on statistics that show that the United States has rates of violent crimes — including aggravated assault and rape — roughly comparable to nations such as Canada and Australia, both of which experience far, far fewer gun homicides. We are left, then, with the second explanation: The 88.9 firearms for every 100 people in the United States have contributed to our grossly inflated gun homicide rate. It is true that the presence or absence of guns will not change man's violent nature; people in our societies will always harm and kill one another. But guns can drastically change the outcome of these attacks, as proven by the elementary school attack that occurred in China on the same day as the Sandy Hook shooting. In that scenario, the perpetrator only managed to get his hands on a knife and as a result managed to kill no one. The difference in outcomes — namely, the lives of twenty children and six adults — is startling, but the only real difference in the conditions is the fact that the American attacker used a gun. Many in the gun lobby argue that the solution is in fact more guns, not less. They cite

studies that attempt to find a correlation between increased gun ownership and decreased crime. The findings of these studies are dubious and highly controversial. Nevertheless, I think it's valuable to consider which path we would want to take. Were enacting stricter gun laws and encouraging concealed weapons equally effective at bringing down gun homicide rates, which option would be best for American society? Do we really want to live in a society where citizens have to carry around lethal weapons just to feel safe, our teachers keep semi-automatic rifles locked in their desks, and as Nicholas Kristof of The New York Times notes, it is easier to buy a gun than to adopt a pet? To me, such a society is a failed society, a reversion to the state of nature. The philosophical premise of a society reliant on gun ownership for security is highly unappealing, regardless of any effect it may have on crime rates. Any government that cannot provide basic security for its citizens is a failed government. We know, however, that enacting stricter gun laws has

tangible effects on rates of gun homicide. A mass shooting in Australia during the 1990s resulted in legislation to curb gun sales and ban certain firearms. Before the legislation, Australia suffered thirteen mass shootings in 18 years. It hasn't experienced a single mass shooting since, and gun homicide rates have dropped 40 percent. The conclusion is clear: Strictly regulating guns saves lives. Banning all guns, however, is extreme and unnecessary. There are more reasonable steps we can take. High capacity magazines should be banned as a baseline. Although these measures have a marginal effect on crime rates, the possibility of a shooter taking a semi-automatic rifle with high capacity magazines into another school should be reason enough to make their acquisition impossible for the average citizen. Additionally, we should ensure that rapidly stockpiling guns is impossible. We can do so by limiting gun purchases to one every several months. Canada requires gun buyers to have two people to vouch for them — a requirement that would be easy for

those who wish to purchase guns for non-violent purchases, but a stumbling block for the secluded and mentally deranged criminals who often acquire their weapons in secret. The United States should also implement ambitious gun buy-back programs to reduce the number of guns already in people's hands and require training for anyone to own a handgun. We may even consider adopting a policy from Japan that requires a psychological evaluation for any potential gun owners. There is no fix-all for this problem, and we will never eliminate gun homicide completely. But any significant reduction in our sickeningly high murder rate would be a victory, as would the corresponding increase in our peace of mind. The United States can and should look to other countries that have successfully implemented gun regulations, while coming up with our own original solutions to this problem. The political capital necessary to take action may be high, but the cost of inaction is terrifying to contemplate.

Russell Bogue's column appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at r.bogue@cavalierdaily.com.

Resident evils

The RA application process should be completed earlier, in order to reduce housing complications

WITH THE start of the new semester comes plenty of certainties — the grades of last semester are no longer a concern, our living arrangements have been tried and tested over the course of a semester, we know this semester will see warm weather, with summer hot on its heels. And yet, some students do not even know where they are going to live next year. How can this be, when leases were signed forever ago, back in October and November? The answer can be found in any student who is, even now, working to finish his or her Resident Advisor application and preparing for — or at least stressing about — interviews. The new generation of RAs is hard at work, and their future is far from certain. RA applications are due near the end of this month. Then, in early February, come the group and individual interviews. Finally, in mid-March, applicants will hear whether or not they have been offered a position as an RA. If they got the

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OPINION COLUMNIST

job, fantastic. If not, then they find themselves in a difficult spot. Almost all other students' living arrangements are finalized, almost all deadlines to sign leases have passed — including on-Grounds housing — and all of the unaccepted RA applicants are left to fill the gaps. This was the case with me and several friends of mine last March. I had signed to live in Lambeth some time before and knew my room assignment before I heard back on my RA application. This is the case with all RA applicants. Unless there is some certainty of getting the post, they have to sign on to some random housing arrangement or other as a fall-back, or sign on with friends who will be forced to find a replacement should the applicant get the job. As things turned out for me, I wound up in an apartment in Lambeth with five people I did not know. It is a great place, they are great people and I have no complaints. Some rejected applicants are not so lucky, however, nor are

they the only ones inconvenienced by the process. Non-applicants are negatively affected as well. Say, theoretically, that I was an intolerably annoying RA reject. Then these five guys would be pretty frustrated as well. Furthermore, RA applicants throw off a lot of the planning when it comes to signing leases in October and November. If you know you will be applying to be an RA, you are wary of making any binding agreement with anyone, in case you end up having to back out when you get the job. By that same token, people who would like to live with you are forced to treat you as a fairly hazy option. The RA application process throws off many a living arrangement, both for would-be RAs and their non-applicant counterparts. One possible solution would be to have the applications due, and the inter-

views held, in September, which would allow for selections to be announced before the rush to sign leases. This would have the negative side-effect of eliminating rising second years from the admission pool, as few first years are going to be signing up to be an RA just one month into school. But of at least ten rising second-year applicants that I knew, only one got the job. Many would not have done well in the position — with only one year under one's belt, how much can one hope to help out incoming students? Is the loss of those qualified rising-second years an acceptable loss to straighten out the annual housing debacle? I cannot claim to have the answers. This solution is just one that has struck me as workable, as it frees up applicants and non-applicants during the housing bustle without forcing housing — on- or off-Grounds

— to change its deadlines. Is this the best solution? I do not know. All that I know is that applying for a position as an RA, as it works now, has been a tricky process, both for me and for people I know. Friends have been forced to search for random roommates, several fellow applicants and I have been shuffled around, responding “maybe” to any friend's housing offer that comes our way, and soon — before we hear back on RA selections — we will be signing on to this or that apartment, most likely on-Grounds, just to have a fall-back. No one said being an RA was easy, and that is certainly not why people sign up for the job. It is a position of service to others and a long and important commitment for the students applying. The least that can be done, at least for now, is to look at steps that would ameliorate this housing frenzy.

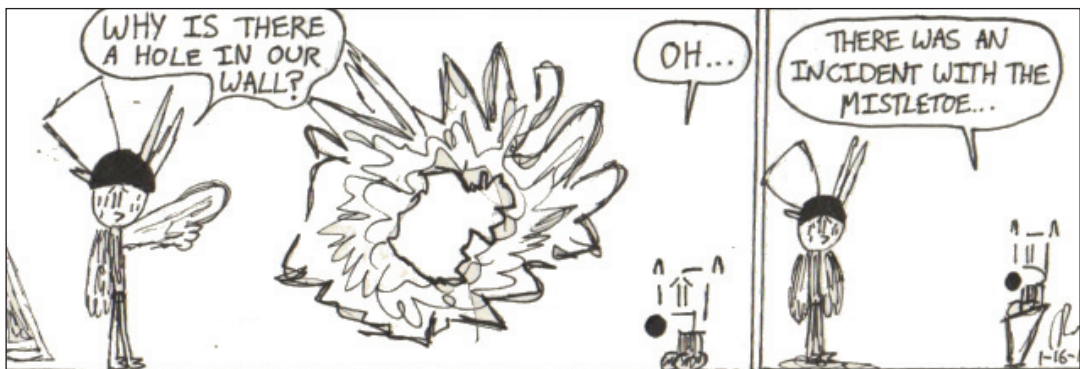
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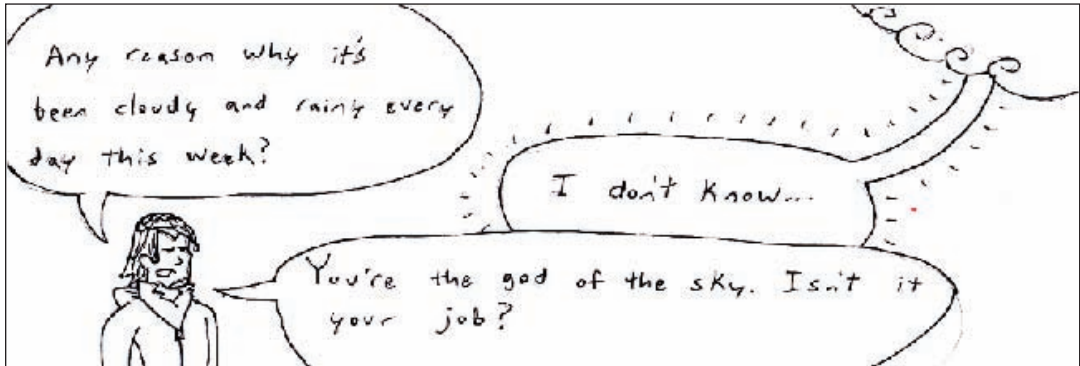
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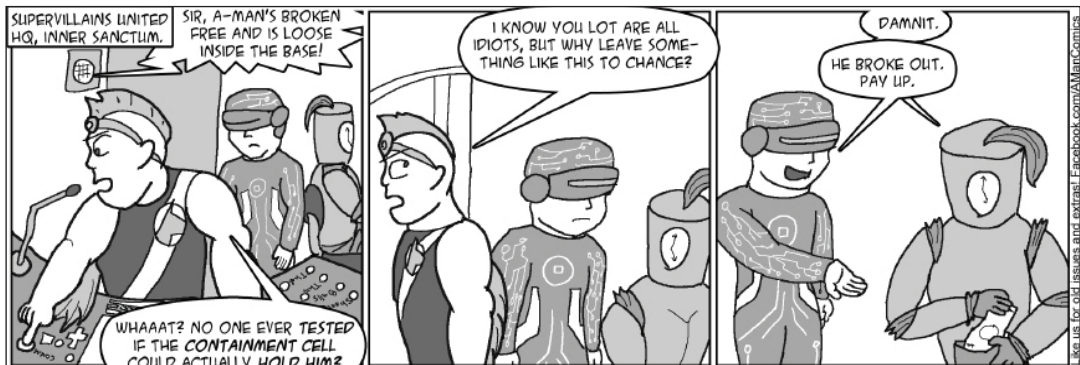
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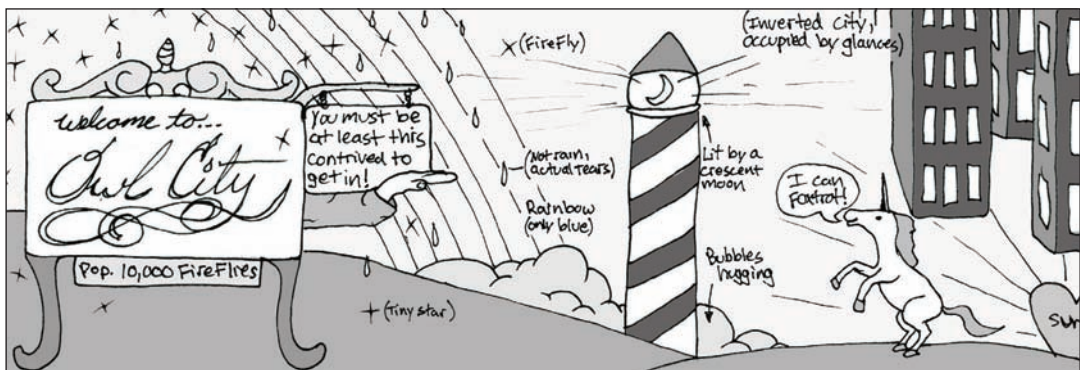
GREEK LIFE BY MATT HENSEL



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



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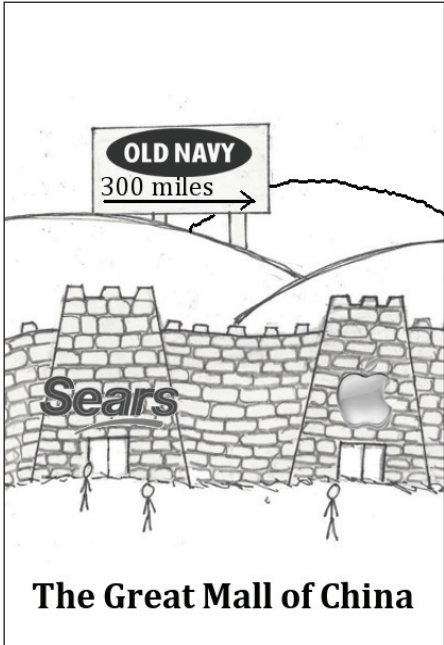
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BEAR NECESSITIES BY MAX MEESSE & ALEX SCOTT



MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN



A BUNCH OF BANANAS BY JACK WINTHROP & GARRETT MAJIC



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be working in a group of people whose opinions seem to get heard more readily than yours. Be aware that you're going to have to speak up. Bring a bullhorn if you have to, but get heard.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Education will put you in good standing with those around you. Whether you're relearning geography with a 10-year-old or taking technical classes to stay up to the minute, you'll get a favorable return.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll go above and beyond what is asked of you, both for love and for money. Furthermore, you don't even care if your efforts get noticed or not. You'll act purely to expand your own character and heart.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be politely enthusiastic about meeting new people, even though you probably didn't wake up this morning in a very outgoing mood. You'll quickly feel just as friendly and warm as you pretend to feel.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will be tempted to stretch the truth in order to fill a role or give someone confidence that you can do a job. Instead of exaggerating the facts, try shedding more light on what's real -- that you know you'll shine if given the chance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Think bigger. You could be a power player just as easily as the next guy. The top contenders use mentors every day and so should you. Seek the advice of someone in the role you want to have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Phone calls and written correspondence bring good fortune. Make reservations for your upcoming special events. You'll be lucky now and will land the best seats in the house.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The old thing that doesn't work anymore needs to go before you'll see new progress. Maybe it's clothes that don't fit, sheets that no longer stay on the bed or a broken relationship. Get it out so you can welcome the new.

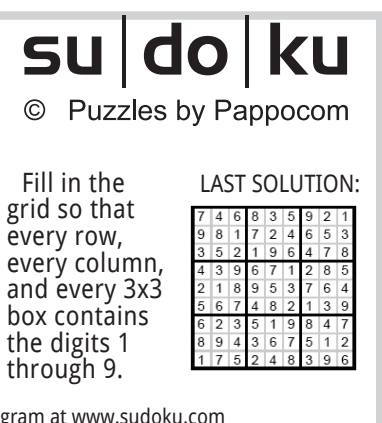
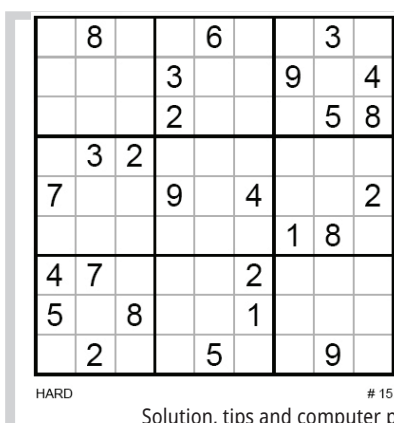
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It feels like someone is checking you every move. You don't deserve to be second-guessed or babysat. Confront the one who is suddenly so interested in your business.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're becoming increasingly aware that everyone else just doesn't think the way you do. Make allowances. Be more tolerant. Replace toxic anger and frustration with compassion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Give credit where it's due, especially if it's due to you. Privately stand back and admire your own work. Pour on the praise. When you start noticing what makes your work special, others follow suit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You get wrapped up in the spirit of things and will have wonderful experiences because of this. You could love something because someone else loves it, and that turns out to be not a bad reason at all.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 26). Your instincts grow stronger this year and when you follow them, you'll find and claim treasure upon treasure. Your personal life unclutters through September as you redefine yourself. What? Your lucky number is 21. Duh. A bold career move in October will require you to invest. You'll reap the reward in March. December and May are highly romantic. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 42, 5, 17 and 40.

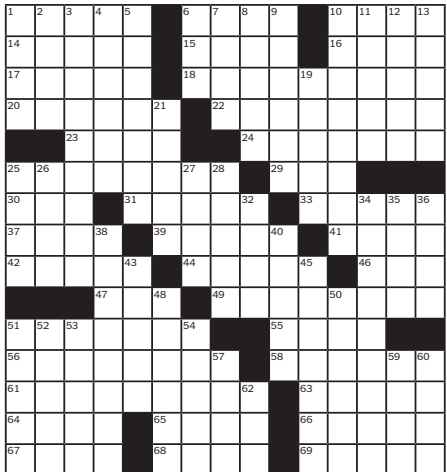


Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1213

- ACROSS**
- Lament after a loss, maybe
 - Like un + quatre vis-à-vis deux + trois
 - Reduce
 - Put to paper
 - Partly
 - Accumulation
 - Historical record
 - Feature of many a rec room
 - Discontinued brand of antidandruff shampoo
 - Something generally known
 - Andrea Bocelli's "per lei"
 - Hearing problems?
 - Like a buzz, say
 - Mahal
 - Bird: Prefix
 - Quickly accumulated
 - Chair
- DOWN**
- Kind of team
 - Department where Camembert cheese is made
 - Insincere-sounding speaking style
 - Classic consoles
 - Stand's partner
 - Special sign?
 - Proceed, say
 - Cry preceding "Are too!"
 - Walks
 - 1996 live-action/animated comedy
 - Only astrological sign with an inanimate symbol
 - "No One's" (Eminem rap)
 - Sports events
 - Late breakfast time, maybe
 - For dieters
 - Establishment that may display a chalkboard
 - Ukrainian city, once
 - Some: Sp.
 - 2006 Winter Olympics city
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**
- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------|
| EQUI | STEAMS | LOT |
| SULK | HOBBIT | AVA |
| PETER | TOOLE | WAX |
| OUR | HEEL | EAR |
| SEALY | DAVID | LEAN |
| ASSUME | ASSANTE | |
| VESSELS | SCAR | |
| SLO | SCAREUP | END |
| HIFI | HUNTERS | |
| ALATEEN | DOUBLE | |
| WORLDWARI | ZELIG | |
| ALI | ENNA | OTB |
| JOB | BESTPICTURE | |
| ANI | LETOUIT | USER |
| MEA | ERUPTS | TEST |



- 32** When doubled, a Pacific capital
- 43** Toaster's output?
- 53** Sounding good, say
- 34** Kids' doorbell-ringing prank
- 45** Dollars and cents, e.g.
- 54** One of the Staple Singers
- 35** Razor brand
- 48** Attempt to get a mass audience
- 57** Aches (for)
- 36** Grace period?
- 50** All together
- 59** Antifreeze?
- 38** It's hard to get a reaction out of it
- 51** Want from
- 60** Novelist who was a childhood friend of Cézanne
- 40** Park, Calif.
- 52** Major European river
- 62** Canals

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2013 OSCAR NOMINATIONS

Courtesy 20th Century/Fox

Courtesy 20th Century Fox

CourtesyMGM

Talented nominees face steep competition at 85th Academy Awards

by conor sheehey

Much to the delight of cinephiles and fashion freaks across the country, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has released its official list of nominees for the 85th Annual Academy Awards, a ceremony that's sure to stir up enough gossip about backroom deals and bad dresses to get us through the rest of the bleak winter season. For movie lovers who have any sort of emotional stake in who comes out on top on awards night, the most exciting part of the Oscar process is the admittedly useless back-and-forth of speculation and conjecture that makes us feel like experts and hot-shots for a little more than a month, only to be crushed and confused by the announcement of the actual winners and losers.

Regardless of which movies, performers, and technical gods ultimately emerge victorious on the evening of Feb. 24, we can rest assured that 2012 will go down in history as a superbly strong year for film, both in terms of general quality and box office bang. From the searing journalistic prowess of *Zero Dark Thirty* to the big-budget bombast of *Skyfall* and the sublime grandeur of *Life of Pi*, the year's top critical and monetary performers indicate that the cinematic epic is alive and well, even in a world supposedly dominated by unfocused minds and short attention spans. Unfortunately, rather than honor one of these entertaining masterworks, the Academy

will likely turn to Steven Spielberg's over-long *Lincoln* for the top prize, in spite of the film's static structure and its ham-fisted political plodding.

Much more deserving of his promised statue is Daniel Day-Lewis, who breathes vitality into an otherwise lifeless project with his towering turn as the titular hero of Spielberg's picture. I, for one, will never look at a five-dollar bill the same way again. The veteran actor's only competition worth mentioning is *Flight*'s Denzel Washington, whose twisted take on the classic 'morally ambiguous hero' archetype transcends his film's simplistic framework. In a different year, the 58-year-old powerhouse would easily have added a third golden man to his mantelpiece with his work here.

The same could be said of virtually every 'also-ran' in the Best Actress competition, which has evolved into a two-woman horserace between *Silver Linings Playbook*'s Jennifer Lawrence and *Zero Dark Thirty*'s Jessica Chastain, both of whom have earned numerous critical honors and glowing reviews for their grade-A performances. Although Lawrence's quirky, scene-stealing role imbues a stale script with emotional honesty and humor, Chastain's ferocious combination of tense restraint and raw commitment make *ZDT*'s Maya the year's most memorable character. At this point, my money says Lawrence will win out, but my heart has Chastain

taking the gold.

In contrast to the anxious anticipation surrounding this nailbiter, the Best Supporting Actress race has been a one-woman show from the start. In addition to providing audiences with one of the year's most miserable movie-going experiences, Tom Hooper's opulent adaptation of the ambitious *Les Miserables* has given us one of the gutsiest — and hammiest — star turns in recent memory in the form of Anne Hathaway's Fantine. Her performance would look laughably over-the-top and excessively cloying in any other project, but it suits this film perfectly, and the actress's wrenching rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream" deserves a miniature statue of its own. If Sally Field had wanted to pose a threat to the *Princess Diaries* and *Ella Enchanted* alum, she should have shaved her head and starved herself for a few days, it seems.

As it stands, however, *Lincoln* seems more likely to grab its second acting prize in the Best Supporting Actor category, which has never been weaker. The majority of the gentlemen on the shortlist have won this particular award in the past, but only Tommy Lee Jones' stoic turn as a congressman offers the spark necessary to win over the Oscar voters, who tend to operate with a "bigger is better" attitude.

As is customary, a sense of predestination will dominate the Academy Awards ceremony, which holds little potential for serious surprises by this point in the season. Ben Affleck's *Argo* or Kathryn Bigelow's *Zero Dark Thirty* could regain steam and take down Spielberg's presidential biopic, but these Middle East-set political thrillers will likely steal votes from one another, and Bigelow's recent big win with *The Hurt Locker* may dissuade Academy voters from calling her up to the podium this year. As for the acting 'races,' potential surprises and spoilers seem even more infrequent. At this point, we may as well just brace ourselves for bad jokes, long speeches, and more champagne than anyone can or should drink.



Courtesy The Weinstein Company



'Zero Dark Thirty'
PAGE A8



'Downton Abbey'
PAGE A9



by monica mohapatra

'Unchained' Genius: Tarantino triumphs

Let's begin this with the obvious: *Django Unchained* is a movie written and directed by the indomitable Quentin Tarantino. If you are somehow unfamiliar with his work, then understand that QT goes big — big explosions, big beheadings, and big actors. The bloodshed is generous and the gore is bountiful. And yet, Tarantino's latest venture is a study in revision, renovating a genre that cannot be defined by anything apart from simply 'Tarantino.'

The film, now coming off its recent Golden Globe win for Best Original Screenplay, tells the story of Django (Jamie Foxx), a freed slave, who travels through the South with a bounty hunter (Christoph Waltz), learning the trade as well. In the latter part of the film, the pair search for Django's wife (Kerry Washington), sold previously to a plantation owner (Leonardo DiCaprio). Django is unabashed American

Western pulp, delighting in its own indifference towards convention. Nor is the film shy in its appraisal of slave-owning America, throwing around slang and guns as though political correctness is a waste of time. And it works, as it always has for Tarantino. In a similar vein, however, is that Django's novelty lies in the brutally straightforward nature of its approach. There are no chronological jumps or confusing bits of extended dialogue — the film is raw, propelled action.

"The D is silent," so goes one of the best lines in the film, as Django introduces himself. Unsurprisingly, our protagonist relies on the strength of its witty script to carry the scenes, although the cast and excessive stylization are notably responsible in connecting a somewhat meandering plot. Jamie Foxx is utterly convincing in his role, doing commendable service to

an intricate script, and granting further weight to his surprising Hollywood credentials. Samuel Jackson plays a grimy antagonist — in his own words "the most hateful black man in all cinema!" — and is, essentially, delicious. Leonardo DiCaprio is all drawing Southern accent and sinister enunciation in a scene that may mark one of the most powerful performances of his career. They are all essentially in service of Tarantino's engaging script, which dithers between superbly scandalous and guilelessly appropriate.

The film is funny and defiantly crude. It is the adverse companion to the somber storytelling of *Lincoln*, another popular slavery narrative to come out of 2012. Tarantino's camera spends inordinate amounts of time focused on hands, flowers, and blood, and you are often left wondering what went over your head. In this, it is typical Taran-

tino absurdity. But, Jamie Foxx walks out in a blue suit from the late 1800s and rap music shows up on the score and an assortment of strings are tied together. These are only some of the things that set this film apart from Tarantino's oeuvre, because *Django* is essentially pure storytelling. Its writer does not sacrifice that for anything, not even his own stylistic preferences. Yes, there are several political resonances, and yes, Tarantino only slightly deviates from his own conventions, but after a year of films that seemed to put art over story, *Django* at least remembers that it is a film. And so, we celebrate the director, not for simply his style or his aesthetic, but for his ability to reinvent stories, even his own stories.

★★★★

★ poor ★★ average ★★★ good ★★★★ excellent ★★★★★ classic

arts & entertainment

INSIDE

ONLINE

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NEXT WEEK

Film:
'Promiseland'
'Gangster Squad'

TV:
'Girls'
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Music:
Solange

2013

OSCAR NOMINATIONS

★★★★★

ZERO SCORES
PERFECT TEN

Expert cast, stellar script propel bin Laden manhunt procedural to star-studded success

by conor sheehey



Courtesy Columbia Pictures

From Michael Moore documentaries to Dan Brown adaptations, controversial movies are a dime a dozen these days. But it's rare to find one that raises a fuss largely on account of its refusal to take a stand. Kathryn Bigelow's *Zero Dark Thirty* is one such anomaly, a film that takes the country's most talked-about manhunt not as fuel for a grand political statement, but rather as a gripping human story of obsession, risk and moral ambivalence.

As *Zero Dark Thirty* begins, audio recordings of phone calls and newscasts from the 9/11 attacks play against a black screen. A sense of bleak hopelessness emerges, only to shatter when the camera transports us to a holding cell in Pakistan, where two CIA operatives — a seasoned pro named Dan (Jason Clarke) and a fresh young upstart called Maya (Jessica Chastain) — are trying to determine the location of Osama bin Laden. From here, we jump from research lab to lunchroom to embassy to helipad and so on for most of the film's duration, tracking Maya on her single-minded and increasingly lonely quest for justice and closure.

Historical signposts such as authentic TV interviews and real-life bombings allow us to graph this journey in our collective cultural consciousness, but the film seems less interested in the politics of the search for bin Laden than it is in Maya's personal ups and downs.

Screenwriter Mark Boal manages to add intrigue, tension and narrative focus to a tale of which we already know the ending. It's fitting that even after presenting the audience with a harrowing recreation of bin Laden's ultimate downfall, which would serve as the story's climax in a lesser or simpler movie, the script's attention turns toward Maya, whose rush to look upon the downed terrorist leader forms the true focus of the action.

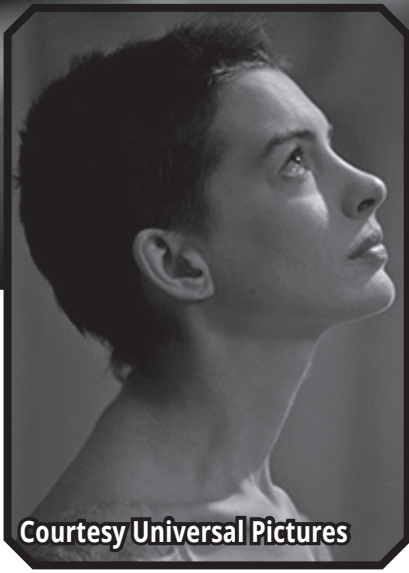
It is Maya's ferocity and wit that make her such an incomparably fascinating character. Bigelow and Boal have taken a major risk in placing so much focus on a woman who may not even exist, especially given the general public's fascination with the moral and ethical implications of the manhunt, and their risk has more than paid off in the end.

Maya also embodies the enigmatic CIA operative, simultaneously showing signs of disgust and determination when forced to observe some of her agency's nastier processes. Rather than offer up a scathing condemnation or a ringing endorsement of torture as employed by the operatives, for instance, the filmmakers simply present it as a brutal method Maya may or may not view as necessary. Black-and-white declarations and stances have no place in this film.

Throughout the film, Bigelow and Boal operate with frankness and honesty. Maya may arouse our sympathies when a barrage of misogyny and pessimism threatens her efforts, but Chastain's unflinching portrayal never panders or attempts to conceal the agent's flaws.

Sometimes Americans come across as unduly harsh, sloppy and irresponsible, while at other times, these same folks emerge as intelligent, thoughtful, and grounded characters — and such is life. Audiences from both sides of the political aisle will be sure to make a fuss about various scenes, elements and characters that allegedly portray particular aspects of the CIA operation in an unfairly unflattering light, but such is the mark of a great film.

Nothing 'Miserable' about it



Courtesy Universal Pictures

Tom Hooper's adaptation of smash musical soars

★★★★

by jamie shalvey

As a huge fan of the 28-year-running musical, I can't say I didn't enjoy Tom Hooper's film adaptation of *Les Misérables*. It was most of what a good adapted musical should be: dramatic, visually stunning and true to the original.

The famous story focuses on an escaped convict, Jean Valjean (Hugh Jackman), and his journey to separate himself from his tainted past and start anew. Along the way he agrees to care for the child of the dying Fantine (Anne Hathaway), continually escapes the grasp of persistent police officer Javert (Russell Crowe), finds himself among revolutionaries in the center of Paris, and ultimately realizes that "to love another person is to see the face of God."

Between rare moments of comedy involving the ludicrous innkeepers (Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter) who first care for Fantine's daughter Cosette (Amanda Seyfried), the film is really about the miserable Parisians in the 1800s, including underpaid factory-worker-turned-prostitute Fantine. No one could play the raw sadness of a desperate mother better than Hathaway. Her stunning rendition of one of the most well-known ballads in the musical, "I Dreamed a Dream," was heartbreaking enough to snag her an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress.

Real vocal talent should have been a factor in casting, but it appears some roles were given to actors who could sing, not singers who could act. You would expect Jackman, with his background in Broadway, to be a more talented singer, but his mediocre and forced vocal performance casts a shadow on his excellent acting. Even worse, Crowe was obviously not prepared to have as much of a vocal role as he did. His timid musical numbers brought a weakness to Javert, a menacing and unforgiving character the audience is supposed to fear. Luckily, the supporting cast offered exceptional performances, including Samantha Barks' downtrodden Eponine singing about her unreturned love for Marius in "On My Own" and Aaron Tveit's brilliance as the rebellious leader Enjolras.

Aside from Crowe's unfortunate presence, the first portion of the film was enchanting. Fantine's sheer pain as she was forced to become a "lovely lady" is tear-jerking, and Valjean's connection to her was emotional. The first half's darkness stands in stark opposition to the Parisian brightness of the second.

The second half, which starts off exciting with Enjolras and Marius (Eddie Redmayne) leading a group of "angry men" to create an uprising in the city, slows quickly as Marius falls for the now-teenage Cosette. The love affair, opposed by Marius' companion Eponine, provides for mediocre duets that contain less than half of the emotion needed to sustain an audience. The uprising that follows is a bit over-the-top but still provides for a rousing scene. A third crowd favorite, Valjean's prayer for Marius' "Bring Him Home," was upsettingly lackluster, as Jackman stayed stagnant through the whole performance and never reached the "goosebumps" point many are used to experiencing in the musical.

Valjean's death and the reprise of "Do You Hear the People Sing" in the last scene ties the two halves together, as all the characters who had died welcome Valjean into salvation. Although *Les Mis* could have been better-crafted, it served its purpose as a grandiose big-screen adaptation of one of the most popular musicals of the late-20th century.

Tolstoy's epic novel loses steam in big-screen translation

Stunning sets, strong cast barely salvage skimpy script

by emily benedict



Courtesy Focus Features

Taking 800-plus dense pages of reading and condensing it into 2.2 hours of screen time is no easy task. The latest film version of *Anna Karenina*, directed by hotshot moviemaker Joe Wright (*Pride and Prejudice*, *Atonement*), does just that. Shifting quickly from scene to scene in an elaborate theatrical complex that quite literally brings the major events of Tolstoy's epic to the stage, Wright's adaptation moves the viewer between storylines. This artistic move works successfully on the whole, but unexplained epiphanies and plot points ultimately hinder the project.

After reading *Anna K* this summer, I was more than a little excited for the release of this latest lush take on the classic story of Russian socialite Anna's doomed affair with the dashing Count Vronsky. I had thoroughly enjoyed every page of the Russian semi-soap opera, even if every character had about eight names — thankfully, the movie stuck to one per person. Needless to say, I was curious as to how this massive — and massively complex — novel could possibly be given a just treatment on the silver screen.

After hearing that most of the film's action took place on a stage, I was hesitant. I wanted to see the rolling Russian landscape, not the inside of some dingy theater. But this device proved to be one of the more successful elements of the film, since the swift scenic transitions and curtain shifts kept the story rolling.

Some parts remain as complicated as Tolstoy's novel — most of all, the absurdly intricate dancing. How could Kitty (Alicia Vikander) search the room for her then-flame Vronsky (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) while trying to keep up with all the swan-like arm movements? I certainly couldn't.

Some of the characters do not receive as much attention as the dancing. Given the necessary shift in scope and length for the adaptation, even some of the novel's major players have been pushed to the sidelines or transformed into caricatures and types. Some characters even take a different shape than they did in the book. Stiva Oblonsky (Matthew Macfadyen) who was easy to despise in the novel for his womanizing ways, is instead depicted in such a buffoonish way that it's hard not to find him at least endearing to some degree.

Others, such as Anna (Keira Knightley), remain the same. But luckily for viewers, her somewhat obnoxious ending is less drawn-out than it is in the source material. Knightley captures her perfectly as a woman torn between two worlds and unable to decide where she belongs.

Some parts of the film may have been



Courtesy Focus Features

television

Courtesy PBS



‘Downton’ kicks it up a notch in season three

by amelia penniman

Last Sunday’s U.S. premiere of Masterpiece Theater’s *Downton Abbey* garnered a very respectable 7.9 million viewers, making it one of the most viewed programs of all time on PBS and surpassing the audience of fellow cult favorite *Mad Men*. The season three premiere of the program, which was originally imported from the UK in 2010, was anything but disappointing. Dame Maggie Smith (aka the Dowager Countess of Grantham) sums it up best: “Nothing succeeds like excess.”

The Brit export details the lives of the wealthy Crawley family, living in post-Edwardian-era England. As the episode opened, I couldn’t help but notice the parallels between contemporary events and those in the 1920s England. Just as the United States approached the dreaded fiscal cliff, the Crawley family was forced to confront an unforeseen financial difficulty. Unresolved even at the end of the 66-minute premiere, Lord Grantham found himself and his family almost completely desolate because of a bad play in the stock market. It was a mark of a changing world: the inability of the aristocracy to retain social and financial superiority.

A revolutionary spirit hung in the air as the episode unwound. The eloped couple Lady Sybil (Jessica Brown-Findlay) and Branson (Allen Leech) returned from paradise (or Ireland) to a family divided on the subject of their union. We watched as Branson resisted his new position at the family table rather than downstairs with the rest of the staff. Ever the defiant outsider, the former chauffeur caused a ruckus at dinner, first refusing to buy a

set of tails for dinner (the horror!) and then daring to stand up for Irish independence.

Another family member in town was Lady Cora Grantham’s American mother, played by Shirley MacLaine. Small yet imposing and much more brash than her British counterparts, MacLaine kept the Americanisms and insults coming, resulting in a brilliant and rapid-fire repartee between herself and Smith.

And then there was the Victorian romance that has made *Downton* a hit with everyone from my sorority sisters to my grandmother. Lady Edith (Lauren Carmichael), who just can’t seem to catch a break in the romance department, was discouraged from pursuing Sir Anthony, a balding neighbor deemed too old by Lord Grantham. In one of the more tense moments of the episode, the middle daughter said to her father “almost all the men we grew up with are dead,” bringing to the fore the scale of destruction wreaked by World War I.

On a happier note, the main event of the episode was the long-anticipated wedding of Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) and Matthew Crawley (Dan Stevens). Any hopeless romantics sitting rapt with expectation of the vows were disappointed: The scene ended abruptly with Mary at the altar whispering to Matthew, “I wouldn’t want to be predictable.” In the same way, it’s hard to tell what might happen as season three of *Downton Abbey* progresses: With a modernizing world, a devalued aristocracy and constant, twisting love stories, life at Downton is not likely to be predictable any time soon.

★★★★

music



Old ‘Dogs,’ new tricks

★★★★

by james cassar

This Christmas, as I was thrust into the past by an assortment of old-school gifts, I found myself in the good company of blink-182. After tumultuous years of side projects and split-ups, this trio of late 30-somethings has attempted to breathe new life into the fragments of their lost youth. Unchained from the restraints of a major label, blink-182 wrestled with their inner Django and tried to revamp the conventions that their music helped create, albeit with less blood than the Tarantino film.

Dogs Eating Dogs serves as a testament to the group’s career and a taste of what future full-length efforts could sound like. When blink-182’s comeback record *Neighborhoo*ds was released to lukewarm praise two years ago, fans and critics alike questioned if these aging pop-punk pioneers could retain the footholds their previous efforts kept on the alternative music scene, as the boys’ side projects seemed to pull them in various disjointed directions. The finished product was wrought with darkness; themes of isolation and confusion defined a track list more akin to Joy Division than joviality.

Fortunately, *Dogs Eating Dogs* is exactly what 2003’s untitled album would have birthed if not for the band’s unsettling hiatus. It retains the unbridled energy but borrows from the progress gained from the members’ contrasting backgrounds and the uneven yet ambitious textures of their last release.

The EP kicks off its brief 19 minutes with “When I Was Young.” The rollicking starter’s synth rhythms gain strength from Travis Barker’s ethereal drumming and the trade-off harmonies that populate the track’s chorus.

The title track sounds like an outtake from Mark Hoppus’ single-album side-

project (+44), with hyperpoliticized lyrics and an odd refrain of “dogs eating dogs / dogs eating dogs” branding it as overwrought and uninteresting. “Disaster” ushers in the return of a stadium-rock flavor, with radio frequency samples washing over delayed guitars and Hoppus’ smooth tenor. Luckily for listeners, it echoes boisterous selections from blink’s back catalog (2003’s “Asthenia” and 2011’s “Wishing Well”). DeLonge’s wordplay delivers some of the cheesiest lines in recent memory (“What do you fear, my love? / Your soul, it will float like a dove”) and he coyly sings of “French braids and demonic hearts.” Strange-ways, here we come.

“Boxing Day” fits nicely as a holiday song and it’s a drastic departure from blink’s past yuletide efforts. It’s as chilling as Charlottesville weather and does away with the immature tone of early Christmastime releases. It’s the first acoustic number from the guys since 2003’s “I Miss You” and wows, even if its vocal melody reeks of Smash Mouth’s “All Star.”

The closer “Pretty Little Girl” is the most adventurous on *Dogs*, as it owes itself to a unexpected appearance from Yelawolf, who skates and spits game more ferociously than Lil’ Wayne. His verse boasts of a broken home, which clashes with the uplifting love song. It’s a noble effort from Barker to get a word in edgewise, but its inclusion has alienated the blink fanbase, even sparking alternate versions of the song with the rap removed. It’s a mixed bag, but for fans of the Alabamian’s solo work it’s a warm welcome.

Unwary travelers of *Neighborhoo*ds have a lot to appreciate with *Dogs Eating Dogs*. It’s undeniably blink material, with a lighter tone than the aforementioned album. One thing’s clear: The trio is back,

television

by monika fallon

LOSE YOURSELF IN FX’S ‘ASYLUM’

Courtesy FX



American Horror Story: Asylum is not a show for the faint of heart. The FX anthology series’ first season, *American Horror Story: Murder House*, was horrifying, deftly capitalizing on suspense, supernatural content and a shadowy set to scare the pants off its viewers. But for horror buffs such as myself, it wasn’t scary enough to be unwatchable.

This season, Ryan Murphy, writer/creator/production genius, took the meaning of terror to a whole new level. The show is set in a cliché, 1960s haunted manor-turned-psych-ward, but somehow nothing about it seems campy or overdone. The content is disturbing, to say the least, depicting some of the worst “treatments” for the mentally unstable at the time with relative historical accuracy.

As if that weren’t enough nightmare fuel to power the Eastern Seaboard, the asylum receives regular visits from supernatural or extraterrestrial beings, all of which have less-than-friendly motives.

The best part about *American Horror Story: Asylum* for me was the return of many of last season’s actors as different characters. The beauty of the first season was how neatly everything was wrapped up at the end, while also leaving the possibility of a continuing plot if necessary. The content of *Asylum*, however, has no ties to the plot of the first season, making it possible to reuse actors from season one. Jessica Lange — season one’s antagonist Constance Langdon — returns as a recovering alcoholic-turned sadistic nun who helps run the asylum. Evan Peters — Tate Langdon from last season — is Kit Walker this season, a young man committed to the asylum for being “Bloody Face,” a serial killer who wears a mask made of the skin of his victims. Other returners are Lily Rabe, Zachary Quinto, Sarah Paulson and Dylan McDermott. The actor recycling caused a bit of commotion in the television review world, but the execution of it was so smooth that most of the talk about it these days is general praise.

I can’t wait to see how the rest of this season turns out, and if the transition from one to two is any indication, season three will be unmissable. Even if you didn’t manage to catch season one, with its bleak and twisted plot, spot-on acting and on-point writing, *American Horror Story: Asylum* is well worth the watch.

★★★★★

film



by katie cole

Before I crawl out of my hobbit hole, I should preface this tale by telling you I have a special connection to *The Hobbit* that no movie could diminish — no matter how long it was.

I read *The Hobbit* at age 10, and it was the first book I ever truly enjoyed. I am now an English major. I have spent countless hours watching *The Lord of the Rings* series and even playing the video games — don’t judge me. When I found out *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* was coming to a theater near me, I was ecstatic.

But I was extremely disappointed that Peter Jackson decided to split this amazing tale into three separate segments. This resulted in a three-hour movie of incredible landscapes and interesting plot set-up but little action. This first movie essentially set up the subsequent two movies by sending Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) on his first epic journey.

The quest surrounds a clan of dwarves’ attempt to regain the mountain home they lost to a dragon, Smaug, in a violent raid that forced them into a nomadic existence. The leaders of this lost race are determined to retrieve their treasure and their home by defeating the dragon. But they need someone small and brave to kill such a forceful creature, which is why the wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellen) sends them to the hobbit Bilbo. It is on this fateful journey that Bilbo finds the ring of power that is the basis of the *Lord of the Rings* series.

Having already tackled the beloved *LOTR* films, director Peter Jackson once again impresses with stunning cinematography and awesome action scenes — when there was action, that is. The beloved characters, including Gandalf, Frodo (Elijah Wood), and Elrond (Hugo Weaving), made appearances in *The Hobbit* that had me geeking out. Perhaps best of all, *LOTR* fans finally

got to see those dwarfs that Gimli had gone on and on about.

Though it was fun to discover these small references, the filmmakers did not do a particularly good job creating the dwarves themselves. Their makeup was overdone, and I was not impressed by the wardrobe choices, which made them look like they had come out of Snow White — not the look I was hoping for. This sounds picky, but when I am staring at these dwarfs for three hours I expect them to look spectacular. I was disappointed.

This sounds like a lot of negatives, but there were some high points to which I would like to call attention. Bilbo Baggins was well cast: Martin Freeman embodied the innocence of a hobbit who grew up in the mystically perfect Shire but also displayed the bravery and hidden strength required of such a quiet hero. Freeman particularly shone in a scene in which the dwarves took over Bilbo’s once-silent home and threw china and furniture everywhere to conduct a boisterous meeting about the dragon and lost treasure. This was a particularly fun scene to watch in 3-D, as was a scene where the motley crew have to fight a group of trolls — one of the film’s few action sequences. The trolls were as large and dumb as the book described.

I will very likely see the later movies in the trilogy, but I wish *The Hobbit* had been made as one out-of-this-world movie rather than a trilogy. I see this as Peter Jackson looking to make more money and it disturbs me that a book I hold so dear could be sold out and made to look boring to those who can’t geek out alongside me.

★★★

★ poor

★★ average

★★★ good

★★★★ excellent

★★★★★ classic

TOP REASONS

Why Spring Semester is **TEN** Times Better

- compiled by Annie Mester

1

Boys' bid night: The first time I heard about this infamous U.Va. holiday, I was confused. Does every single fraternity actually have a party? There are 32 fraternities? Can I get to all of them in one night? As my friends and I discussed the event, we soon realized we were about to experience something arguably better than Christmas, only one step behind Foxfield. And what would a U.Va. party be without neon T-shirts and cups? This spring staple is the perfect time to look ridiculous and act ridiculous and spend all of Sunday trying not to remember what happened the night before.

2

Foxfield: Ah, the act of getting dressed up and (not) watching horses. Our own Kentucky Derby: Students don their best pearls and flattiest button-downs and make the pilgrimage to the racetrack a couple miles away from Grounds. This all-day event may be the classiest party at U.Va. Spend all day at your tent with your friends or wander endlessly.

3

Better weather: What would the spring semester be without sunshine and warm weather? One of the many reasons northerners head south is to get away from the biting cold and snow. Having more excuses to implement my "sun's out, guns out" mentality is an added plus. It gets warmer quickly on Grounds, and I think everyone is ready for the frisbees and Lawn-lounging to return. There are also the perks of not having to hide your jacket in a fraternity when you go out and being able to drink cold Starbucks drinks without anyone judging you.

4

Summer clothing: We're all excited to put our Bean Boots back in the closet and hang up our winter jackets for good. Warm weather means shorts, T-shirts, flip-flops and sundresses. It means letting us finally give our worn-out leggings a rest. It also allows me to again don my uniform of Nike shorts and sneakers, looking extremely ready to work out but never actually doing it. There is no way to look as motivated and athletic with so little effort.

5

Colbert at valediction: Remember that day when we all got free ice cream in front of the Rotunda? Well, that had more of a purpose than to add to our first semester food babies — Stephen Colbert, political pundit and host of *The Colbert Report* on Comedy Central is speaking at this year's valediction ceremony. On the heels of an election year, Colbert is sure to give a hilarious speech.

6

New Newcomb Dining Hall: Coming back from break, you probably did a double take when you realized that the massive greenhouse that was N2 is no more. Then you may have face-planted attempting to navigate the massive mud pit that sits in its place. Gone is the temporary dining hall that probably should have went down in Sandy, and here are the new Newcomb dining facilities. In addition to a massive dining hall, the Newcomb renovations also brought a small restaurant hilariously named In the Nood as well as N2Go, a deli-like venue designed to give you food when you're in a hurry. The new Newcomb is more of a party than Club Clem and definitely offers better food than O-Hill. Judging by the lines that snake around the entrance each day, it might be harder to get in here than Trinity on a Friday night.

7

Farmer's market reopens in April: One of Charlottesville's staples is its extensive city market on the Downtown Mall. Worth the trip from Grounds, the farmer's market offers fresh fruit and vegetables and other homemade food and goods. Because the cold has made us resort to ordering in Domino's or Basil on a rotating basis since the end of November, we could probably all stand for some healthy food in our lives. Plus, it's unquestionably fresh — unlike O-Hill bananas, which were my only sources of fruit last semester.

8

Fridays After Five: Another cool feature of the Downtown Mall is Fridays After Five. Beginning April 20, the nfelos Wireless Pavillion hosts free live music every Friday. Concession sales from the events go toward local nonprofit organizations. Bands such as Love Canon and Skip Castro are booked for the coming season, as well as many other big names. Local artists are also featured.


9

Running: It is no secret that most U.Va. students love to keep in shape — or pretend to, see number four. Warmer weather means a chance to leave the gym and get your run on outside. Though I find running extremely intimidating, as I have yet to figure out what to do with my arms, I know many are excited to get off the treadmill and do some real moving. Charlottesville's many events, like the annual Ten Miler held in the middle of March, help support this healthy habit.

10

Summer: It's like winter break, only better. Though it means a tearful goodbye to the fourth years and a terrifying escape from the Charlottesville bubble and into real life, there is nothing better for a student than summer vacation. Four months of minimal responsibility gives us a chance to get tan again and remind everyone when we return in the fall that our pasty winter look is not seriously what we look like.

Photos courtesy (in numerical order) Sylvia Oe; <http://www.foxfieldraces.com>; Sylvia Oe; Sylvia Oe; xbox360.files.wordpress.com; uvatoday.org; cynthiahow-erter.com; wvir.images.worldnow.com; Sylvia Oe; Sylvia Oe



ASK EDGAR:

Rush and Classes

By Edgar Allan Poe

CAVALIER DAILY STAFF WRITER

Dearest Edgar,
I'm a first-year girl going through sorority recruitment. I went shopping for all new outfits, got recommendations for sororities, etc. Basically, I brought my A game. But it's just the first round, and I didn't get asked back to the sororities I want. What should I be doing differently?
Thank you,
Rusty Rushie

Yo Poe,
I'm a second-year guy, who didn't do real well in rush last year. I feel like being Greek is a key part of the U.Va. experience, and I really want to be a part of it. I'm also just looking for a tight group of friends. Any advice on what I should do differently this year?
Thanks brah,
Pledging to Pledge

DEAR MR. POE,
I'M REALLY OVERWHELMED BY ALL THE COURSE OFFERINGS THIS SEMESTER. I'VE BEEN TO ALL THE CLASSES I REGISTERED FOR ON SIS, BUT I'M NOT REALLY KEEN ON THEM. I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIND GOOD ONES. DO YOU HAVE ANY HELPFUL HINTS?
THANK YOU,
SEARCHING ON SIS

Dear Rusty Rushie,
Sorority rush is much like dating. Sometimes the reason it doesn't work out has nothing to do with anything you did; it just wasn't the right fit. It's easy to forget that rush isn't about perfectly coordinated outfits, an artistic masterpiece of a name tag and perfectly straightened hair. Instead, it's about finding a sorority that likes you for who you actually are, not anything you do or say that you think will impress people during rush. Rush can be a stressful time for everyone, but if you trust in the process and remain genuine throughout the whole thing you should be just fine. And if nothing else, it's a great way to improve your small-talk skills and stamina after spending hours and hours having the same conversation about your winter break. Just remember to dress warmly and keep your Uggs away from the uncreative frat boys who think they're just hilarious in their attack on winter footwear during sorority rush.
Don't stress,
Poe

Dear Pledging to Pledge,
Fraternity rush is much different from the exhausting, tedious process of forced conversations in crowded rooms that dominates sorority rush. If joining a fraternity is something you want to do, you certainly won't suffer much during the straight week and a half of parties, date functions, events and sports games — although your grades might. If you go into the process with an open mind and just enjoy the experience, you might find all the bromances you've been looking for. So enjoy the constant drunkenness, bond over talking about your favorite sports teams, and run wild around Grounds terrorizing sorority rush.
Party on,
Edgar

Dear Searching,
I'm going to let you in on a couple not-so-secret secrets to make your quest for the perfect schedule a piece of cake. Start your search at ratemyprofessor.com, where you'll find just about every American university listed along with a pretty extensive compendium of the professors at each school. Each professor is rated based on difficulty, workload and, yes, hotness. Some of the ratings, however, are a little out-of-date, and newer teachers tend not to have been added. That brings us to what will surely be your go-to: The Course Forum. This website was created by a U.Va. student some years back and has the advantage of evaluations of individual courses, sorted by professor, rather than just overall professor ratings. You'll also find accurate grade distributions for many courses, allowing you to pick classes that won't hurt your stellar GPA. With these tools at your disposal, I guarantee you won't be regretting your choices in a few months.
Good luck,
Edgar

Disclaimer: Edgar is not a medical professional nor a psychiatrist. Edgar listens to your problems and offers what he hopes are constructive comments. By taking his advice, however, you accept full responsibility for your own actions.

C M Y K

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black