

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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FACE
TO
FACE

WITH
OUR
FOUNDER

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This week in-brief

CD News Staff

IFC recruitment increases slightly from last year

The 31 active chapters of the Inter-Fraternity Council held their annual Bid Day ceremony Sunday following a two-week-long recruitment period. Since 2008, the average number of registrants for IFC recruitment has been approximately 885 potential new members. This year there were 913 registrants — about 1 percent higher than last year's 905 registrants. 69.4 percent of those who registered received a bid. "Ultimately, 634 bids were extended, nearly 50 more than last year, which represents continued interest in and strength of the IFC community," Cole Chisom, IFC President and third-year College student, said in an email to The Cavalier Daily. "We will not know the number of accepted bids for a few days." According to the IFC, about 31 percent of the 913 potential new members either dropped from the

recruitment process or did not receive a bid. Last spring, the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity at UVA. was investigated for failing to comply with University and IFC standards regarding alcohol, recruitment and new member education. The fraternity was required to complete an education program on hazing prevention, discontinue physical activities associated with Bid Day, submit a revised list of Bid Day activities and pay a fine. This year the IFC implemented new measures to ensure the safety of both initiated brothers and pledges during the recruitment process, including vigilant patrolling by IFC Governing Board members to ensure that fraternities were following the no-alcohol rule and were taking part in safe practices. During Bid Day, while members of the Housing and Residence Life resident staff were



CALLIE COLLINS | THE CAVALIER DAILY

About 31 percent of potential new members did not receive a bid from a fraternity.

on coverage, the University police were present around Grounds to maintain a safe environment for all UVA. community members.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Ryan said the photo was both "shocking" and racist."

President Ryan addresses Northam photograph

President Jim Ryan sent an email to the University community Sunday morning addressing the photograph on Gov. Ralph Northam's (D-Va.) 1984 medical school yearbook page, depicting one person dressed in blackface and another as a member of the Ku Klux Klan. In his statement, Ryan said the photo was "shocking and racist, no matter who was in it." Ryan also commented on the photograph's effects on the University community. "This community knows all too well the pain and hurt that can come from reopening wounds, many of which remain to be fully healed," Ryan said. "It is clear that this photo has deepened those wounds for many people in our community, the Commonwealth, and beyond, and it is equally clear that the photo is antithetical to the values of our community."

Since its founding, the University has had a slew of racist incidents with legacies still prevalent today. For example, the name-sake of Corks & Curls — UVA's official yearbook — is, according to The Washington Post, "minstrel slang for the burned cork used to blacken faces and the curly Afro wigs that were signature costume pieces." Ryan went on to describe Northam as a "decent and kind man, with an admirable record of service to our Commonwealth and the nation" but also added that leadership is contingent on the "trust and support of the people [a leader] represents." Ryan ended his statement highlighting the "need to continue the conversations" about the Commonwealth's past.

Kappa Sigma fraternity, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority criticized for alleged cultural appropriation

The Kappa Sigma fraternity and the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority are facing criticism over recent photographs that depict members of each chapter engaged in alleged cultural appropriation during chapter-sponsored events. An image surfaced on Instagram and Twitter late Sunday afternoon showing multiple men at the Kappa Sigma fraternity house wearing Native American attire during their bid day events. In addition, several Zeta Tau Alpha women were criticized for wearing sombreros and holding maracas as part of chapter-sponsored big-little reveals in a social media post that has since been deleted. The criticism of the photographs that emerged on social media underscored the racial dynamics of the University's Greek system. Inter-Fraternity Council and Inter-Sorority Council chapters at UVA. are often predominantly white, and the photos symbolize what some people view to be a system unwelcoming to minority students.

The IFC released a statement Sunday evening condemning the actions of Kappa Sigma fraternity members during IFC bid day events Sunday. The statement described the attire as "prejudiced and culturally insensitive," also labeling the actions as a form of cultural appropriation. The IFC also said it would work with the University and Kappa Sigma leadership to further investigate the actions depicted in the photo. "The IFC condemns these actions and any others that appropriate cultures," the statement reads. "The IFC is working with the chapter leadership of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at UVA to investigate this matter and sanction the identified parties." The ISC did not respond to a request for comment, and the UVA. chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha declined to comment.



GRACIE KRETH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

In a statement, the IFC condemned the actions of Kappa Sigma members.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Officers were dispatched Saturday for a report of attempted sexual assault.

Female victim reports attempted sexual assault on 10 1/2 Street NW

According to a community alert sent out to the University community late Saturday evening, a female victim reported that an unknown male had threatened to sexually assault her that afternoon. Charlottesville Police Public Information Officer Tyler Hawn said officers were dispatched to the 300 block of 10 1/2 Street NW at 7:20 p.m. Saturday for the report of an attempted sexual assault. The University alert specified that the reported assault took place at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. According to the University alert, the unknown male

suspect approached the victim's residence and asked to use her phone. The suspect then reportedly forced himself inside the residence and threatened to sexually assault the survivor. Hawn said there is evidence that the victim was assaulted but would not specify if the assault was physical and/or sexual. "The suspect is described as a young male in his teens to early 20s, between 5'2" and 5'3", and between 125 and 130 lbs," Hawn said in an email to The Cavalier Daily. The suspect has not yet been identified.

Woodson Institute to release podcast on Jefferson's legacy

The “Notes on the State” podcast is a self-reflective series that addresses controversial aspects of Jefferson's life and continuing influence at U.Va.

Erica Sprott | Senior Writer

The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies released a promotional video Monday for their podcast series, titled “Notes on the State.” The six-part series produced for the University's Bicentennial is scheduled to release its first episode on President's Day — Monday, Feb. 18.

The 30 to 40 minute episodes will feature Prof. Debra E. McDowell — host and executive producer and director of the Woodson Institute — with narration by senior producer James Perla, managing director of the Citizen Justice Initiative, and curated input from 11 interviews with different University community members.

The name for the series stems from Thomas Jefferson's only book, *Notes on the State of Virginia* — a text which analyzed the 1785 socio-political and economic status of the state, simultaneously professing some of his more controversial opinions.

The book — which expressed Jefferson's beliefs on separation of church and state, constitutional government, checks and balances — also mentioned his views justifying white supremacy, the inability for races to coexist in a free society and the “problem of miscegenation” — interracial marriage or cohabitation.

According to the Woodson Institute's website, “Episodes are designed to query Jefferson's history and to spend time in the contradictions and limitations, the vexing corners and confounding gaps of Jefferson's thought as a way of exploring what Jefferson can still do for us today.”

In particular, “Notes on the State” centers around a few topics with regards to Jefferson, including race, Sally Hemings, who was one of Jefferson's slaves and mother to multiple of his children, the formation of the carceral state, the built environment at the University and the role of the Haitian Revolution in the Louisiana Purchase. France, under pressure from its revolting colony, sold the territory when approached by Jefferson and the cabinet to buy New Orleans in 1803. These vast swathes of new territory expanded the slave-holding capacity of the United States, increasing the potential for the practice's employment.

“This series does not seek to be comprehensive or exhaustive,” Perla said in an email to The Cavalier Daily. “Rather, we want to spend time with the complexities and inconsistencies, using Jefferson's writings, particularly his book *Notes on the State of Virginia*, to explore how he helps to illuminate many of the issues with which we are still struggling today, largely because we have continually avoided confronting them honestly and straightforwardly.”

Perla expressed that the series was inspired in part by political activist



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The name of the series stems from Thomas Jefferson's only published book, *Notes on the State of Virginia* — a text which analyzed the 1785 socio-political and economic status of the state, simultaneously professing some of his more controversial opinions.

Angela Davis' Excellence in Diversity Distinguished Learning Series at the University, which took place in 2017 and 2018. The series was aimed at promoting diversity by having guest speakers of various backgrounds and disciplines come to the University to share their perspectives on current issues and speak about diversity.

“We need to practice the process of straddling contradictions of dwelling within them, even learning how — even in the spirit of Audre Lorde — to identify the spark of creativity that can potentially emanate from these contradictions,” Davis said at her most recent visit to the University.

Perla touched on other motivations for the subject matter of this series. “Notes on the State” has been in the works for close to a year, drawing motivation from his Citizen Justice Initiative, a digital storytelling and community engagement project focused on creating digital resources for Charlottesville community members.

“We did some very preliminary community engagement ... work, and many of those conversations resulted in the response that UVA should consider doing a bit of turning the

mirror — as much as possible — on itself, and its own history,” Perla said. “We thought the opportunity of the Bicentennial would be a good time to think slightly more critically and in more nuanced ways about Jefferson's history.”

Perla also added that he hopes this series can help address issues at the University beyond those regularly addressed in University conversations — statues and their significance, Jefferson's story in general and the way the University presents itself through social media.

“Hopefully a project like this can start talking about more structural issues, beyond the realm of narrative and symbols that I think many of our conversations touch on,” Perla said.

In addition to faculty and expert influence in these conversations, “Notes on the State” will draw conversation from students, such as Woodson Institute intern and fourth-year College student Hahna Cho.

Cho described her work on the podcast and expressed disapproval for still holding Jefferson in such high esteem at the University.

“We shouldn't be quoting him

on every single one of our emails, we shouldn't be celebrating him year after year, but I think the whole point of the project and something I've come to accept to is that Jefferson was a human being just like each and every one of us,” Cho said.

When Cho initially became involved with the project, her view on Jefferson was overwhelmingly negative because of information she learned about him through both her classes and through her involvements at the University but eventually became more nuanced.

“We can't really put him on the spectrum of good and bad ... but rather process him as a very complicated, complex human being that did have very, very bad ideas but at the same time had very good ones that have benefited all of us,” Cho added.

Cho also commented on the University's past reluctance to critique Jefferson both as a historical figure and as a human being. This reluctance has caused conflict in recent years — in Nov. 2016, controversy emerged over former President Teresa Sullivan's use of Jefferson quotes in her emails. When Sullivan received a letter from

469 students, faculty and staff requesting that she stop using Jefferson quotes, Sullivan responded that she agreed with the particular message of the quotes she was using.

“For so long he has been this huge historical figure that people have refused to critique at all,” Cho said. “So I think the whole point of the podcast, the point of the project, is to critique him in a very intellectual way and also in a very personal way.”

In addition to the inherent flexibility provided by the podcast format in storytelling and discussion, the medium will provide the Woodson Institute with material to publish on its website, reaching a larger audience.

“Ideally, alongside the audio, viewers will be able to read a full interactive transcript, indexed with key moments,” Perla said.

For more information on “Notes on the State” as well as content updates, visit their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

City establishes Unity Days to commemorate Aug. 11 and 12

The project aims to promote unity while memorializing the violent 'Unite the Right' rally

Jennifer Brice | Senior Writer

Charlottesville City Council met Monday evening and passed a resolution that designates the recognition of Unity Days — an annual community event to be held in remembrance of the deadly Aug. 11 and 12 'Unite the Right' rally, in which members of white supremacist groups marched on the Lawn and downtown Charlottesville.

The resolution to establish Unity Days carried unanimously. The Council had created an ad-hoc committee with the goal of establishing appropriate recognition of the City's past.

Unity Days are to be held every second weekend of August. In the event that Aug. 12 does not fall on the designated second weekend of the month, that day — even as a weekday — will still be observed. For example, since Aug. 12 falls on a Monday in 2019, it will be recognized individually, in addition to the weekend events. The City will schedule public events in venues such as the Downtown Mall, McGuffey Street Park, Market Street Park, Court Square Park and Fourth Street. The specifics of events will be determined based on community input.

The City's Director of Communications Brian Wheeler spoke to Council members as a member of the ad-hoc committee tasked with planning the new tradition. Wheeler said feedback from the community is central to the project, describing it as "city-spon-

sored but community-driven."

"We started by inviting 30 community members to focus groups to start talking about this key goal of transitioning from first-anniversary planning — which emphasized public safety — to a community-driven annual event that educates, inspires and honors people in our community to create movement towards healing and unity on a path for economic and racial justice," Wheeler said.

To initiate the tradition, the entire summer of 2019 will feature events along the theme Summer of Unity, with each month building upon the theme with involvement from community members. The month of May examines the history of racial injustice, June involves discussions breaking down institutions that perpetuate oppression and July honors community leaders who have made a commitment to effecting change. The month of August will focus on remembering those fatally affected by the rally, then initiating a call for action opportunity for engagement.

Charlene Green, manager of Charlottesville's Human Rights Commission and member of the ad-hoc committee, spoke to council members about the focus group's vision for the Summer of Unity initiative and how it shapes reflection on the community's past.

"We need to regain that narrative back, in making sure that

Charlottesville is not just about white supremacy, not just about Thomas Jefferson or the University of Virginia," Green said. "This history and all that the city is about is very robust and very inclusive, and we do our best to engage the community in any way possible."

According to the City Council agenda, the movement for an anniversary event garnered unanimous support. The City consulted representatives from the University in planning the event, as well as local faith leaders, activists and business owners. The City also met with families of individuals harmed by the rally, including Susan Bro — the mother of Heather Heyer, the 32-year-old woman killed by the car that was intentionally driven into a crowd peaceful counter-protestors on the Downtown Mall.

The agenda describes Unity Days as "a new course for how our community marks this anniversary." Last August on the one-year anniversary of the events, hundreds of demonstrators anti-fascist activists gathered at a memorial to Heyer and marched on the Downtown Mall, at a rally against white supremacy organized by U.Va. Students United.

As noted by Wheeler, the City prioritized public safety — rather than specific community events such as Unity Days — in anticipation of the first anniversary, out of uncertainty about violence

returning to Charlottesville. Law enforcement members were present at the rally, and multiple Charlottesville community members expressed concerns about their handling of the situation.

At the rally, police officers stood in line formation with shields. Bellamy mediated the situation between law enforcement and demonstrators. Bellamy said he wanted the officers to understand why they might appear threatening to the demonstrators given their line formation and possession of shields. After he spoke with a lieutenant on the scene, Bellamy said the law enforcement personnel lowered their shields and tensions de-escalated.

During the rally, a Virginia

State Police officer had "declared" unlawful assembly but was not ever officially declared an unlawful assembly by the unified command center — which includes officials from the University, City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Virginia State Police and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

The City spent an unplanned \$900,000 on the one-year anniversary, having enlisted heightened security and police presence. The Council has already approved the allocation of \$1 million towards costs of the one-year anniversary and any potential unexpected costs of the 2019 anniversary. The budget for Unity Days has not yet been established.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Heather Heyer was killed when a car plowed through a crowd near the Charlottesville Downtown Mall Aug. 12, 2017 during the 'Unite the Right' rally.

City moves to rename Preston Avenue

The avenue will be renamed after African-American educator and activist Asalie Minor Preston who taught in Albemarle County

Elizabeth Robinson | Senior Writer

At the City Council meeting Monday night, members of the Council unanimously moved to rename Preston Avenue after Asalie Minor Preston — an African-American woman who taught in Albemarle County Public Schools during the era of segregation and namesake of the Minor-Preston Educational Fund — instead of its previous namesake Thomas L. Preston.

Thomas L. Preston was an alumnus, a former rector of the University during the 1864-1865 school year, a slave owner, a segregationist and a prominent Confederate leader.

The Rives C. Minor and Asalie

M. Preston Educational Fund was established over three decades ago to honor the legacy of the father-daughter duo who both taught in segregated black public schools in Albemarle County. Both Minor and Preston taught in Albemarle County for over a combined eight decades.

The Minor-Preston Educational Fund offers scholarships to students from the Albemarle County Public Schools and was started with much of Minor Preston's estate. The Fund has so far supported over 1,000 Charlottesville and Albemarle County public school graduates with the cost of their college educa-

tion. The approximate amount of scholarship awarded by the fund since 1983 is \$3 million.

City Council member Wes Bellamy had previously expressed misgivings about the namesake of one of Charlottesville's prominent roads at a City Council meeting Dec. 17 last year.

"We've discussed, as I brought up a couple of Council Meetings ago, the desire to change the name of Preston Avenue as it's currently constructed..." Bellamy said. "[Thomas L. Preston] enslaved 29 individuals on his plantation. They were all located at the intersection of Preston Place and Grady Avenue."

As both Minor Preston and Preston share the same last name, the green street sign on Preston Avenue will not need to be modified. The brown honorary designation sign underneath the street sign is all that will be changed. The project will cost approximately \$3,265. Additionally, Bellamy and City Council member Mike Signer brought up the possibility of naming currently unnamed entities in Charlottesville, such as the City Hall, after other historical local activists. This issue will be discussed at future City Council meetings.

"Can we name those structures

after those who have fought for equity, for social justice, who have put in the work and are local members from our community?" said Bellamy.

The motion — created by Bellamy and seconded by City Council member Kathy Galvin — received support from all members of the Council.

"I think as a community as we're looking to move past honoring those that were Confederate heroes and the like," Bellamy said. "Honoring someone like Ms. Asalea Minor Preston will bode well for us."

Mark Herring admits he wore blackface as a U.Va. student

Virginia Attorney General dressed in blackface for a party in 1980

Nik Popli | News Editor

Attorney General Mark Herring (D-Va.) announced Wednesday that he dressed in blackface for a party while a student at the University in 1980. In the past week, he is the second elected official from Virginia to admit to imitating an African-American person.

"In 1980, when I was a 19-year-old undergraduate in college, some friends suggested we attend a party dressed like rappers we listened to at the time, like Kurtis Blow, and perform a song," Herring said in a statement. "It sounds ridiculous even now writing it. But because of our ignorance and glib attitudes — and because we did not have an appreciation for the experiences and perspectives of others — we dressed up and put on wigs and brown makeup."

Herring's statement comes as Gov. Ralph Northam (D-Va.) is facing pressure to resign after a photo emerged on his 1984 medical school yearbook page featuring one person in blackface and another person in a Ku Klux Klan robe. Northam said he was not in this photo but admitted to wearing blackface to imitate Michael Jackson at a dance contest while a student at Eastern Virginia Medical School in 1984.

"That I have contributed to the pain Virginians have felt this week is the greatest shame I have ever felt," Herring said in the statement. He apologized for his actions but did not indicate whether he would remain in office.

"That conduct clearly shows that, as a young man, I had a callous and inexcusable lack of awareness and insensitivity to the pain my behavior could inflict on others," Herring said. "It was really a minimization of both people of color, and a minimization of a horrific history I knew well even then."

The University issued a statement Wednesday night in response to Herring's use of blackface while a student, calling it "racist and offensive."

"This latest revelation underscores how important it is to continue honest conversations about our past, whether distant or not-so-distant, and how that past continues to influence our present," the University's statement said. "Those conversations have been occurring at UVA for a number of years, and they will continue."

Larry Sabato, director of the University's Center for Politics, said on Twitter that everyone connected to the University should be "embarrassed" that Herring used blackface while a student.

"My guess is this wasn't an isolated incident," Sabato wrote. "A certain element here has long thought blackface was amusing and acceptable. I favor automatic expulsion for any student engaging in this disgraceful conduct."

Sabato added that current University students should learn from these scandals. "What you do in high school and college isn't off limits later in life," he wrote.

Corks & Curls — the University's official yearbook — contains several images of students wearing blackface and yellowface throughout the University's history. An image in the 1983 edition shows an unnamed student dressed as a lynching victim for Halloween. According to The Washington Post, the yearbook's name is a reference to the burned cork used to blacken faces in minstrelsy and the curly Afro wigs used in costumes.

"Universities are places dedicated to discovering and disseminating the truth, and it is in that [spirit] that we should examine our own past — including the past documented in University publications — and our present," the University said in its statement.

According to Sabato's Crystal Ball — a nonpartisan political analysis newsletter run by the Center for Politics — Herring would become governor in the event that both Northam and Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax (D-Va.) resign. Fairfax currently faces an allegation of sexual assault, which he denied. His accuser went public Wednesday afternoon with claims stating Fairfax assaulted her at the 2004 Democratic convention in Boston.

Kyle Kondik, managing editor for Sabato's Crystal Ball and director of communications for the Center for Politics, told The Cavalier Daily that if all three officials decided to resign, it is likely they would do so in a way that allows Democrats to maintain control of the governorship. However, he added that it's not clear any of them will resign.

"Northam seemed close to being pushed out, but the problems with Fairfax and Herring have relieved some of the pressure on him," Kondik said in an email.

"I cannot think of a comparable situation to this in Virginia or, frankly, in any state," Kondik said. "For the governor and the first and second in line to the governorship to all be rocked by scandal simultaneously is an extraordinarily odd occurrence."

The University Democrats — who organized events and helped campaign for Northam, Fairfax



MARSHALL BRONFIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Attorney General Mark Herring (D-Va.) is the second elected official from Virginia to admit to wearing blackface this week, along with Gov. Ralph Northam (D-Va.). Herring graduated from the University in 1983.

and Herring — released a statement Wednesday night denouncing their actions and calling on them to resign.

"These three individuals have lost their credibility, respect, and moral standing among Virginians," the University Democrats' statement said. "This demand does not mean we support Republicans taking over Virginia's statewide offices. We urge the individuals involved to craft a solution that respects the will of the Virginians who elected them."

Jackson Samples, third-year College student and president of University Democrats, told The Cavalier Daily the Democrats need to condemn racism and sexual assault, but also need to propose pol-

icy to tackle systemic issues.

"If Democrats are up to the difficult challenge of fulfilling these actions, and in doing so working to regain the trust and support that has been lost in recent days, I do not anticipate the Commonwealth turning red anytime soon," Samples said in an email.

Herring — who was raised in Leesburg, Va. — attended the University from 1979 to 1983, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in foreign affairs and economics. He also obtained a Master of Arts in foreign affairs from the University in 1986. Herring was first elected Attorney General in 2013 and won reelection in 2017 over Republican opponent John Donley Adams.

The University — which has

examined its earliest days through the President's Commission on Slavery and the University — recently launched the President's Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation, which is focused on the time period after the Civil War and through the Civil Rights era.

"We do not need a commission or a study to make the basic point that dressing in blackface is wrong," the University's statement said. "Nor should we shy away from the responsibility of ensuring that our current students understand the painful history of blackface and other forms of cultural appropriation or disrespect."



After a long night in the library studying for finals at the end of last semester, I was making my way home via a shortcut near my house when I heard a noise in the bushes behind me. Before I had time to think “lions and tigers and bears — oh my,” a skinny, orange cat crawled out of the shrubbery and stared me straight in the face.

Letting my sense of college pet withdrawal override the fact that a random animal emerging from the bushes could carry multiple diseases, I knelt down to pet it. As it purred and licked my hand, I checked its heart-shaped name tag — Mango.

“Goodnight, Mango,” I said as I stood up and started to walk away — but Mango wasn’t done with our interaction. The cat trailed behind me for the dura-

tion of my three-minute walk, and when I opened the front door to my sorority house, she bolted straight inside. Uh oh.

I tried everything — feeding her, giving her water, encouraging her to follow me back out the door — but Mango wouldn’t budge. It was freezing outside, and nobody else in my house was awake, so I made a game-time decision to carry Mango up to my room in the attic. As soon as I set her on the floor, she ran and jumped up on the bed of my sleeping roommate, cozying-up into a ball at her feet.

“I’ll explain that one in the morning,” I thought as I closed the bedroom door.

When I woke up early the next day, I sat up, put on my glasses and looked around the space that appeared to be completely normal — no animals. I giggled to

myself, recalling a funny dream I must have had about a cat spending the night in the attic.

I was settling back down into my covers when I saw it — the bedroom door ... cracked open.

Springing out of bed faster than you could say “animal control,” I frantically tiptoed around the house, searching each and every room for an orange, furry addition.

“Mango! Here, Mango,” I whispered, hoping none of 20 girls were allergic to cats.

Losing hope as I checked the last bedroom, I headed down to the kitchen, trying to figure out an explanation for how I both found and lost a cat in a 12-hour window — that may or may not be somewhere in the establishment.

To my surprise, when I made it to the kitchen, I discovered

five of my friends playing with Mango.

“Mango!” I exclaimed, startling the group.

“I’ve always wanted to meet Mango,” one said.

“Wait, you know Mango?” my friend asked.

“You don’t? Everyone knows Mango,” another said.

As it turns out, Mango is a famous Charlottesville cat. As far as I know, she has no home, but she somehow finds a place to sleep each night with students who adopt her. It’s common knowledge apparently, and undergraduates look forward to their turn hosting her. Surely enough, after we said goodbye to Mango, she appeared on a friend’s Snapchat story the next evening, settling in for a good night’s sleep in the 14th Street apartments.

I’ve been back in Charlottes-

ville for about a month now, and I have yet to see Mango. I take the same shortcut by the same bushes every day, keeping my eyes peeled for my furry friend. I’m not sure if I’ll see her at all in 2019, but I’m confident she’s out there somewhere in Charlottesville, following new people and making new friends.

Mango’s life is one I find positively fascinating — with different caretakers and homes each night, her journey is unique and colorfully spontaneous. Though the students who host her may be strangers to one another and never cross paths, she connects us all in a way by giving us a each a special story in common — “The Night Mango Chose Me.”

Whoops, I peaked in high school

Four years of college later, I can see my Golden Years came early

John Patterson, Life Columnist

You know, I’ve been reserving judgement until my last semester of college. But now, after adequately taste-testing the collegiate experience, I can definitely say I peaked in high school.

You should have seen me then. During my zenith, I ran the game in those halls. Every morning my mom would drop me off at the front door — she worked at my school so we carpooled like champions — and every morning I would walk in with my confidence unscathed as the rest of the senior class hung out in the parking lot.

To be specific, I peaked during our homecoming football game. But it wasn’t even a big deal — I don’t even reminisce about Oct. 4, 2014, at approximately 2:45 p.m. that often. Our football team was tied 7-7 going into halftime. Many people were excited about this, especially our quarterback. I could tell because we stood next to each other on the field during halftime. His hair was slick and his muscles glimmered with sweat. He had mud on his uniform and a determined gaze in his eyes. I stood next to him, looking like my perennially oily self.

“The homecoming king is ...” the announcer said.

The numbers on our quarterback’s chest rose and fell with his deep breaths. I fidgeted with my

clip-on bowtie. I waited for the announcer to say his name so I could leave and take it off.

“John Patterson!”

The tepid applause roared in my ears. Our principal walked up and put the plastic crown on my head. That instant serves as the defining moment of my life — the line splitting the flow of time in two. To the left laid my past as a plebeian nobody. To my right I saw my future. I saw the ceaseless strife of how to incorporate my homecoming royalty into conversations. It’s never easy.

That was back when I won things. Do you remember when we won awards? Sure, the University gives out awards too, but you have to be one of those meta-humans who does all their readings or looks suspiciously happy all the time to win one of those. Back in high school, you could also steroid-up your GPA beyond a 4.0 with AP classes. Now whenever I take “college level courses” I feel like my GPA gets smacked.

Actually, maybe I reached the pinnacle of my existence later in senior year on May 1, 2015, at around 9 p.m. That’s when one of the coolest girls at our school took me — me! — to our Sadie Hawkins dance. Sure, I barely talked to her during the dance because I had to go coordinate the placement of the

flower petals or something, but still. M.C. if you’re out there, I’m out here too, you feel?

Actually, now that I think about it, I peaked second year — definitely second year. I had stopped carpooling with my mom by then and had my license and my car. Also, unlike high school, I got invited to a few parties. I went through my final fit of teenage angst. I also went to my ECON 2010 TA’s office hours every week, and he convinced me to major in economics. Thanks, Ian!

Plot twist — I peaked last semester. It was one big reboot of a semester. I pulled a lot of different parts of my life together. I started

acting like my own best friend, you know? I’m willing to say it rivaled my literal crowning achievement back on that football field.

O.K., I know this is getting old. But I peaked this past weekend, guys. I just had a really solid Saturday.

Actually, I don’t know anymore. Maybe life isn’t a mountain but a mountain range, with multiple summits and valleys to scale, and from the peak of one, you can see the next one peering out of the clouds in the distance. I don’t think it’s fair to myself to compare different phases of my life on some universal scale. Maybe I should be dedicating my energy to making

memories instead of replaying the ones I already have.

From here, if I squint, I can see big things farther down my timeline. I could get, like, married, bro. I could have kids — hopefully cool kids. I’ll definitely host wine and cheese parties. I can’t wait to slap some Cabernet Sauvignon and Aged Gouda together and throw a rager for the age-30-and-up crowd.

“So,” I’ll begin, placing the cheese and wine pairs on the glass platter, “did any of your high schools do homecoming kings and queens?”



A hot take: Not all frozen meals should be microwaved

When “conventional” heating instructions take precedence and when they can be thrown to the wayside

Lindsay Smith | Food Columnist

Most people keep one or two frozen meals on hand for those busy days when a leftover potato and a wrinkled green bell pepper comprise the entirety of their fridge. But a persistent question frequently haunts my mind as a pre-made dinner consumer — are the optional oven or stove-top directions worth the extra time or will my meal taste just as good in the microwave?

Based on personal experience and some vaguely scientific research, I have concluded that different meals respond differently to the microwave. Thus, for three classically delicious freezer dinner-time snacks — personal pizza, potstickers and chicken pot pie — I have varying advice to offer.

Personal Pizzas

Larger frozen pizzas, due to their size, must be cooked in a conventional oven. But for personal frozen pizzas — like the Red Baron Singles I buy from Harris Teeter — customers are presented with several options when it comes to heating.

Heating them in the oven for 20 minutes may be worth it — although in a crunch, the three minutes in the microwave are technically a feasible choice. My only issue

with microwaving is that it tends to lead to an unevenly cooked pizza. A lot of the time, half the pizza turns out so burned it’s impossible to cut through and the other half turns out ice cold.

Another point of consideration is that while the 20 minute oven option may seem like a waste of time for such a small dish, it provides the possibility of heating two pizzas at once. Each single size box comes with two pizzas, but the microwave instructions are explicit in their denial that you can cook two at the same time.

Personally, one small pizza is unlikely to fill my stomach, so being able to heat two pizzas at a time in the oven cuts down on the time disparity between the microwave and the classic oven. Adding this to the overall tastier results for the pizza from the oven means in this situation, microwaving is the wrong choice.

Potstickers

I like to buy the Pork Gyoza Potstickers from Trader Joe’s, and through much trial and error, I have determined that they are another microwave no-go. Their overall cook time in the microwave is three

minutes — when pan-fried, they take closer to 10 minutes.

The difference here is by far the most extreme. When microwaved, the dumplings often turn out stiff — they fail to steam properly, and the seam on the top of the stickers ends up rock hard. They are heated thoroughly, and the flavor is the same, but the dough is not as supple and delicious as it should be.

Pan fried, the dough shows its true colors. Literally — it turns a delicious pale, slightly see-through tan, which is far from the solid white of the microwaved control group. The potstickers are way easier to bite, and the bottoms are a delicious golden brown.

When paired with soy sauce, the pan fried potstickers taste like they could have been made in a restaurant. The extra seven minutes spent prepping is by far worth the payout.

Chicken Pot Pie

The one pot pie that has caught my attention out of the many that have vied for it — and there truly have been many — is the Marie Callender’s Chicken Pot Pie. With an obscenely flaky top crust and an elusively present bottom crust, this is a pot pie that beats all others.



LINDSAY SMITH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Pan fried potstickers often turn out better than those that are microwaved.

But while cooking it in the oven reveals the full prowess of its superbity, is the 60 plus minute “conventional” cook time worth it when compared to the 10 minute microwave option? For me, the answer is no.

There is no way I can smell a pot pie heating for a full hour without getting a taste. It’s almost unfair of Marie to even ask that of me. And in addition, the microwaved ver-

sion often ends up being a relatively close replica of its oven-heated sibling.

The crust may not brown as nicely, but the contents get just as warm and taste just as good. In this case, I have to argue that the microwave option has a better return ratio for your time and is thus the better choice.

Delicious Chinese stir-fry recipe that will last for days

Healthy, delicious and simple — this stir-fry recipe will make your day

Mark Feinberg | Food Columnist

Stir fry has always been one of my favorite meals. I particularly like it in the winter time because it warms you up. I really wanted to dabble in Chinese cuisine, and this is a product of much trial and error.

Chicken Stir-Fry

Ingredients:

- 1 onion
- 1 green bell pepper
- 1 bag of frozen stir-fry vegetables
- 1 medium-sized container of spinach
- 1 package of thinly-sliced chicken breast
- 3 cups of rice
- 2 tablespoons of canola oil
- 2 tablespoons of garlic
- 3 tablespoons of chopped ginger
- 2 pinches of salt
- 10 pinches of black pepper
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup sesame oil
- Prep time:** 30 minutes
- Cook time:** 30 minutes
- Servings:** 6

Directions:

1. Dice the onion and the green pepper.
2. If you have a rice cooker, start the rice now, as rice can take a while to cook. If you do not have one, follow the instructions on the box or bag that the rice comes in.
3. Slice the chicken breast into pieces that are around one square inch each.
4. Microwave the bag of stir-fry vegetables for about half of the recommended time. This will ensure that the vegetables will both have texture and be soft. My favorite kind can be purchased at Harris Teeter.

Make sure that all of these ingredients are prepared before cooking begins. This is because each ingredient cooks for different lengths of time and skipping steps can cause certain ingredients to be overcooked.

5. Heat a cast iron skillet or wok with the canola oil on medium-high. Test the pan by putting water droplets into the pan. If they pop, the pan is hot enough.

6. Add the garlic, onion and green peppers. Stir until the onions become clear.
7. Add the chicken, black pepper, red pepper, salt, ginger, soy sauce and sesame oil. Continue to stir until the chicken becomes a beige color. Adjust spice levels to your personal preference with the red pepper flakes.
8. Add the stir-fry vegetables. Continue stirring for a couple of minutes.
9. Add in the last ingredient — spinach.
10. Turn the heat down to low and cover for about 15 minutes. Make sure to stir occasionally. This will intensify the flavors.
11. Serve over rice and enjoy.

Alternatively, you can easily make fried rice with this same recipe. Repeat steps one through 10. Next, add three eggs to the mixture and scramble them. Mix in the rice and serve.

As with my other recipes, this one is very versatile. You can easily substitute chicken with steak,



MARK FEINBERG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

This stir-fry recipe is affordable, nutritious and long-lasting.

pork, seafood or tofu. You can also add other ingredients to fit the dish to your particular tastes. Bok choy, for example, is a good ingredient to add in. Shiitake mushrooms also work well.

When you make this, you will notice that it makes a gargantuan quantity of food. You can feed all of your friends with this if you want — maybe even an army.

You could also portion it out

and have healthy, home-cooked and affordable food for many days. Whenever I make this, I am able to feed myself for two to three days. Think about all of the time and money you spend every week buying meals. Both of these would ultimately be reduced if you made this recipe.

Give this a try, and stay warm!

A Galentine's Day feast: How to grub with your girls

If your heart can't be full, then at least allow your stomach to be

Maddie McNamee | Food Columnist



MADDIE MCNAMEE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Bluegrass Grill & Bakery has red velvet pancakes topped with cherry cream cheese and chocolate syrup for their February specials — perfect for your Galentine's Day.

For anyone unfortunate enough to be unfamiliar with the holiday, Galentine's Day is on Feb. 13, the day before the well-known, overly mushy day of love. Rather than partaking in the commercialization of Valentine's Day, Galentine's Day is an opportunity for "ladies celebrating ladies," as the "Parks and Recreation" character Leslie Knope puts it. It's a day to show appreciation for your girlfriends, so you may as well indulge a bit — you know, to express your love.

If you're in the mood to go full-on Leslie Knope, then there's no better way to honor her than with waffles. Knope's character is famous for her extreme love of waffles and all things breakfast-related.

If you don't have the luxury of owning a waffle iron, do not fret because each dining hall is equipped with one. Out of all

the sub-par items the dining halls provide, waffles are luckily not one of them. Whenever I was stumped over what to eat my first year, an easy solution was to head to the waffle irons. I would top my creation with an assortment of sugary foods from the ice-cream bar toppings or go classic with some maple syrup. If you're feeling adventurous, try topping your waffle with peanut butter and chopped banana.

If you don't have a dining plan, head to any local Charlottesville diner for your fixing. I highly recommend the February special pancakes at Bluegrass Grill & Bakery — which are red velvet pancakes topped with cherry cream cheese and drowned in chocolate sauce. They may not be waffles, but I can assure you they would get the Knope stamp of approval.

While the traditional way to

celebrate Galentine's Day according to Knope is to "kick it breakfast style," I personally believe any food can be used to commemorate your girls. I am the biggest pasta advocate — my stomach is endless when it comes to carbs. Not only is it delectable but also affordable. A box of pasta can be bought for a dollar. Sauce can vary in price based on how much you want to treat yourself, but most fall in the \$2 to \$9 range.

Pasta is also incredibly versatile — you can switch up the type of sauce and noodle based on your crowd's preferences. You can use red sauce, pesto or alfredo sauce, and for noodles, you could go full on Lady and the Tramp and make spaghetti or go with a classic penne or any other tube shaped pasta. My personal favorite, though, are bow ties — known as farfalle to the more

sophisticated pasta connoisseurs.

Last year, my friends and I celebrated at Chick-fil-A, and I can wholeheartedly say I recommend this plan. If you have a dining plan, the meal exchange at the Pavilion in Newcomb is the way to go. Your Galentine's Day feast will practically feel free, and I am sure Knope would approve of Chick-fil-A waffle fries. If you don't have a meal plan or are not satisfied with a chicken sandwich, order yourself some Chick-fil-A nuggets instead. I also heard participating locations are selling heart shaped trays of nuggets or chicken minis to fill your heart and stomach with joy.

Lastly, you might as well take advantage of the over-hyped holiday that is Valentine's Day and at least buy some of the legendary chocolates in stores now. CVS is constantly having a "buy one get one half off" deal on their

candy, so you can buy extra to share with your girls.

My personal favorite specialty-themed chocolates this time of the year are Red Velvet Kit Kats and Strawberry or Cherry Cordial Hershey's Kisses. You also can't go wrong with buying yourself one of the heart shaped boxes of chocolate. If you buy your own, no one can yell at you for eating half of a bite and then putting the chocolate back because you didn't realize it was orange-filled.

I'm not sure if it's the excessive non-stop viewing of "Parks and Recreation" my friends and I have been doing or the confidence and empowerment I somehow still manage to embody from my "new year, new me" persona, but I am ready to welcome Galentine's Day with open arms. What better way to celebrate than with a celebratory feast?

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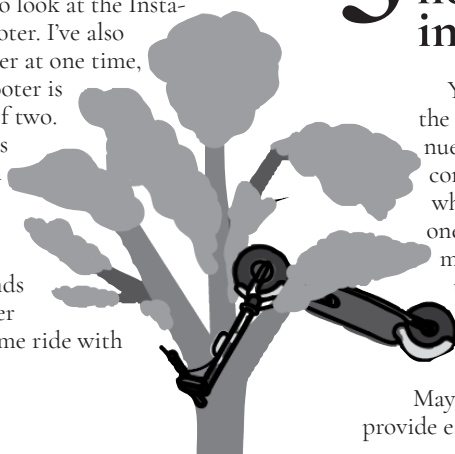
Top 10 Predictions for 2019

These are bound to happen eventually

Ashley Botkin | Top 10 writer

1 Electric scooter shenanigans will rise

Electric scooter companies haven't even been at the University for a semester and there are already people misusing them. I've seen photos of scooters in dumpsters, hanging from trees and even in a shower — literally go look at the Instagram account @wheresmyscooter. I've also seen two people using a scooter at one time, and you can tell that poor scooter is struggling under the weight of two. As funny as I find the scooters being misused, I think we can go much further. I'm talking Indy 500: E-Scooter Edition. We could set up an entire course that goes across Grounds and through buildings. Winner gets to go on a one-on-one Lime ride with President Jim Ryan.



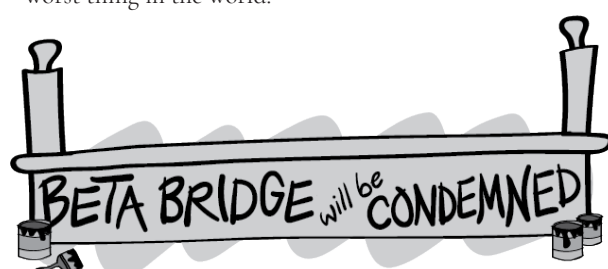
PAIGE HILLMAN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

2 The BOV will raise tuition

The Board of Visitors gives me quite a lot of grief, especially when they raise tuition every freaking year. I'm not exactly sure how they think money works or how they sleep at night knowing they keep charging us more every year, but they need to reevaluate. But no matter how hard we protest, they keep raising it each year — sometimes each semester. Please give my wallet a break.

3 Beta Bridge will be condemned

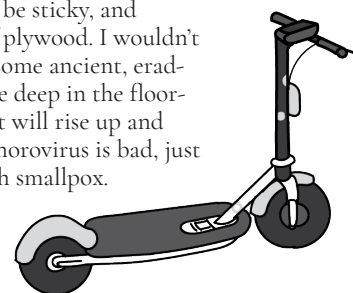
There will come a point when there is so much paint that it blocks a significant part of the sidewalk or an entire chunk of the bridge will completely fall off. I also think it's extremely likely that there's lead paint somewhere underneath all of those layers. It's one big safety hazard waiting to happen. And if it's closed, it will be a lot harder to get down Rugby Road, but maybe that won't be the worst thing in the world.



LAUREN MOHAN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

4 Everyone will get sick from one frat house

Fraternity houses are not necessarily the cleanest places on earth — and that's coming from someone who really hates cleaning. The floors always seem to be sticky, and everything is made out of plywood. I wouldn't be surprised if there was some ancient, eradicated bacteria somewhere deep in the floorboards of a frat house that will rise up and infect us all. If you think norovirus is bad, just wait till we're dealing with smallpox.



ANGELA CHEN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

5 Brandon Avenue housing won't be ready in time

You probably haven't noticed what exactly the University is building on Brandon Avenue because they are literally always doing construction. I would like to have just one day where I didn't have to see a sign telling me one lane is blocked for construction. At the moment, construction is behind schedule for the new upperclassman housing, so I am predicting that this project is going to end up like Fyre Festival. Second-years will be living in tents and surviving off the land. Maybe President Ryan will be nice enough to provide each person with a sleeping bag.

6 A bunker is found under the Lawn

Have you ever wondered where all of the steam tunnels lead to? You can walk from one building to another, but they all have to have one final destination, right? Enter my favorite University conspiracy theory — the bunker. It could be a presidential bunker or maybe a Virginia governor's bunker, but there is definitely one somewhere on Central Grounds. Or maybe it was built to hold the cryogenically frozen bodies of Thomas Jefferson and all of the past University presidents. One of these days we will unearth the University's deepest secret, and I will look back on this article as evidence that I knew all along.

7 Tony Bennett will respond to my articles

Coach Tony Bennett is a wonderful man. He's humble, hardworking and a total cutiepie. I've written articles that have mentioned him a couple times — check out "Top 10 things I would do if Tony Bennett called me" and "Top 10 emotions we all experience during March Madness" — but he has never shot me an email or wrote me a quick letter to thank me. I've even offered myself up as a member of the team or even the next assistant manager! What else do I need to do, Tony? I just want to be buds. So maybe this will be the year that we finally become best friends.

8 Virginia football will plunge into obscurity

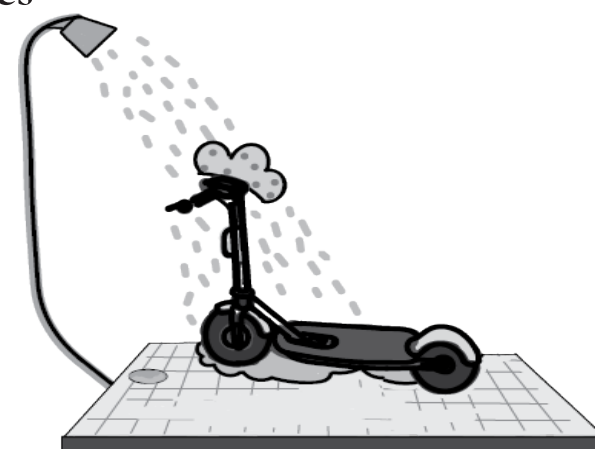
The fact that we were kind of good at football in 2018 makes me very nervous because I'm not used to it. I'm also the kind of person that believes in jinxes, so all of this good luck is bound to come back around and strike us. Despite Coach Bronco Mendenhall's apparent success, I'm predicting that it all goes downhill this year. The only way to avoid this is to make a sacrifice at the foot of Thomas Jefferson's statue. I've heard he likes mac and cheese.

9 Something horrible will happen to me — but it will be funny

A lot of generally unlucky things happen to me. So many, in fact, that I wrote an entire article about them — "Top 10 terrible yet hilarious things that will happen to me." In the time since I wrote that article, there have probably been 10 more terrible things — like getting on the wrong bus and almost missing an exam last semester or getting scammed, contracting bronchitis and tripping over every slightly raised surface on my nine-day trip to Rome. Luckily, I know how to tell a story, so all of these mishaps have just helped make me funnier — hopefully.

10 My cat will get even cuter

If you haven't met my cat, then you are really missing out. His name is Ancho, he's very large and gray and he loves to give me sassy looks. Somehow, I love him more and more every day, and I am not afraid to tell every single person I know. And somehow, he also manages to get handsomer every day. I don't know how he does it, but by the end of the year his cuteness will probably melt my eyeballs right out of my noggin.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

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SPORTS

No. 3 Virginia vs. No. 2 Duke — a breakdown

The Cavaliers and Blue Devils meet Saturday night in a highly anticipated ACC rematch

Zach Zamoff | Sports Editor

A Breakdown:

No. 3 Virginia (20-1, 8-1 ACC) is set for a rematch against No. 2 Duke (20-2, 8-1 ACC) under the lights of John Paul Jones Arena Saturday night.

ESPN's College GameDay is making the trip to Charlottesville after going to Durham just three weeks earlier for the first installment of what has been college basketball's most heated rivalry this year. The Blue Devils emerged victorious, 72-70, behind 57 points from the duo of freshman forwards Zion Williamson and R.J. Barrett. The two freshmen proved to be the difference in the game at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Besides having no answer for Williamson and Barrett's penetration in the lane, Virginia struggled offensively. Virginia, a team that shoots 39.4 percent from three-point range this season, shot just 17.6 percent from three against Duke. It was the Cavaliers' first and only loss of the season and ended their undefeated run.

Critically, Duke was without starting freshman point guard Tre Jones in that game. Jones leads the Blue Devils in assists with 5.6 assists per game and provides a crucial edge in perimeter defending. He has played in the last four games and will be active against Virginia Saturday. Jones' presence will make things even more difficult for Virginia, who struggled even without the Blue Devils' perimeter leader.

Virginia, however, has the home court advantage this time. The last time the Cavaliers lost at John Paul Jones arena was the last time College GameDay came to Charlottesville — almost a year ago when Virginia lost by one point against Virginia Tech. After that loss, however, the Cavaliers have won 13 consecutive home games. Playing at JPJ should give the Cavaliers

a boost.

At the end of the day, this matchup comes down to two different playing styles. Duke — with its athletic duo of Williamson and Barrett and freshman forward Cam Reddish — likes to push the pace of play and get to the basket, and Virginia prefers to slow the game down and shoot more three-pointers. It remains to be seen which style will come out on top Saturday night.

Key Matchup: Virginia junior transfer guard Braxton Key vs. Duke freshman forward Zion Williamson

The Cavaliers, like many other teams across the country, struggled to solve the Williamson conundrum. Williamson is seen by many as the frontrunner to win the Wooden Award, given to the best player in college basketball. Virginia tried a number of players against Williamson — from redshirt sophomore guard De'Andre Hunter to redshirt senior center Jack Salt — in the first matchup against Duke, but the freshman still managed 27 points on 10-16 shooting. He would have had even more if he converted his free throws. Williamson made just seven free throws on 14 attempts. He was especially adept at penetrating Virginia's packline defense, which Duke's offense loosened with great ball movement.

Junior transfer guard Braxton Key has been a standout defensively for the Cavaliers all year and will be one of the primary players tasked with guarding Williamson. Along with Hunter, Key has the length and agility to force Williamson to shoot mid-range jumpers and three-pointers — both of which he struggles to make. He has, in the words of Tony Bennett, been a "Swiss-army knife" for Virginia, getting it done on defense, offense and in other intangible ways.



ANDREW WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Redshirt sophomore forward Jay Huff could be the difference against the Blue Devils.



CHRISTINA ANTON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Junior transfer guard Braxton Key's versatility will be crucial against Duke on Saturday.

Key leads the Cavaliers in rebounding with 5.9 rebounds per game and will play a crucial role in keeping Duke off the offensive glass. He will also be key on offense and is one of the better players on Virginia at getting to the basket. He can take advantage of mismatches as Duke switches on screens to take smaller players to the rim.

The X-Factor: Virginia redshirt sophomore forward Jay Huff

Redshirt sophomore forward Jay Huff has taken his game to the next level in recent weeks and has provided a real spark off the bench for Virginia. He continues to shoot the three-pointer well, currently shooting 50 percent from three, in addition to coming up with thunderous dunks and alley-oops.

Huff's potential to stretch Duke's defense and provide interior defending will make him crucial come Saturday. His field goal percentage is a whopping 65.4 percent, and he has the highest player efficiency rating on Virginia. The measure places him in the top 20 in all of college basketball with players like Williamson and Wisconsin's Ethan Happ.

Against Duke, Huff can punish the Blue Devils if they choose to switch on screens by rolling to the basket or isolating himself in the post on a mismatch. In addition, his length can help stop the finishing of the likes of Williamson and Barrett at the rim. The key for Huff is to stay out of foul trouble — getting two fouls early limited him to just seven minutes of playing time in the first matchup between Duke and Virginia.

The Pathway to Victory: Good ball

movement and patience on offense, limit Duke's second chance points

While Virginia, on the surface, did not struggle too much on offense against Duke, there was much room for improvement. Although the Cavaliers shot over 50 percent from the field, their execution down the stretch was poor. On Saturday, unlike many games for this Virginia team, offense will be the key in getting the Cavaliers over the hump. In a close game, a few solid offensive possessions can lift Virginia to victory. While executing the packline better is certainly important, a smoother offense will help the Cavaliers keep pace with the Blue Devils' flying freshmen.

Virginia panicked too much down the stretch against Duke, falling into one-on-one matchups that led to ill-advised shot selection or shots taken too early in the clock. It is key that they don't let the Blue Devils' length and switching take them out of their rhythm offensively. Virginia's mover-blocker offense can tire out Duke — the Blue Devils are not a deep team — and it's important that the Cavaliers have patience early in the clock to keep moving the ball for a better shot. If they do this — play patient, Tony Bennett-style basketball — the Cavaliers will come out on top.

On the defensive end, in addition to executing better and being willing to double on Williamson and Barrett, the Cavaliers need to rebound the ball better. Particularly in the first half, the Blue Devils took advantage of second-chance points to maintain their slim lead, out-rebounding Virginia

nine to two on the offensive glass.

"It wasn't about effort, we just weren't sound. Sometimes, it was just not boxing out or they make an amazing or athletic play, but that's what we can't let be acceptable," Bennett said in the postgame press conference. "That hurt us and those were points that if we did our job wouldn't happen."

If the Cavaliers can execute patiently on offense and limit Duke's second chance points, they should be in good position to win.

The Bottom Line: Virginia is a complete basketball team

Duke has a few great players. Virginia is a great team. It is this quality that the Cavaliers must take advantage of on Saturday. They play team basketball and have players on the bench that contribute — like Key, Huff and freshman guard Kihei Clark. If Virginia plays the packline well and executes patiently on offense, they should wear down Duke and emerge victorious.

Either way, the basketball played will be worth watching. Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski broke down how great the first matchup was.

"That's a big-time game," Krzyzewski said. "They don't get much better than that. The kids on both teams, every possession, was good. If you scored, you beat good defense. If you didn't score, good defense beat you. Every possession was high-level."

Tune in Saturday night to witness a big-time college basketball rivalry with NBA talent on both teams. Tipoff is at 6 p.m. from John Paul Jones Arena. The game will be televised on ESPN.

For freshman guard Kihei Clark, hustle always trumps size

Clark has been an integral piece of a well-oiled Virginia basketball machine

Akhil Rekulapelli | Senior Associate

With 5:35 left in the game, then-No. 4 Virginia was tied with unranked in-state rival VCU, 43-43 — a game they were supposed to win big. But things were beginning to turn in the Cavaliers' favor. Junior guard Ty Jerome hit a three-pointer, helping the Cavaliers come back from a five-point deficit against the Rams.

But it was not over. VCU still had a chance to stop Virginia's momentum.

An impressive defensive stop, however, spoiled the Rams' opportunity. VCU freshman guard P.J. Byrd encountered a defensive wall as he brought the ball up the court. The wall was 5-foot-9 freshman guard Kihei Clark.

As Byrd tried to pass half court, Clark's stellar, pesky defense refused to let him pass, leading to a 10-second violation and momentum that carried Virginia to a 57-49 victory — all while playing with a fractured wrist.

Clark's offensive vision and defensive relentlessness have caught the eyes of many, as he has helped the Cavaliers to a 20-1 record.

Unlike stars junior guard Kyle Guy and redshirt sophomore guard DeAndre Hunter,

Clark wasn't heavily touted coming out of high school. At the end of his junior year, Clark was rated a three-star recruit and committed to in-state UC Davis early in the process. An encounter with Virginia scouts at a Nike Elite Youth Basketball League event finally gave Clark his big chance.

Initially, Cavalier scouts had their eyes on recruits playing against Clark's EYBL team, the Oakland Soldiers. At the time, Clark was still committed to UC Davis, but Assoc. Coach Jason Williford and the rest of the Virginia coaching staff couldn't help but think, "Man, this little guard is pretty good."

Given Clark's outstanding performances in later EYBL events — most notably the 2017 Nike Peach Jam — Clark's family decided to open up his recruitment and decommit from UC Davis. Williford and the rest of the coaching staff saw this as a golden opportunity and began speaking to Clark and his family.

One of Virginia's biggest concerns was the 2,500 miles that separated Woodland Hills, Calif. from Charlottesville. Clark, however, was unfazed.

"Just being in the ACC, the best conference in the country, and Coach Tony Bennett playing at the highest level," Clark said. "Just both those things, and the coaching staff and the players, and just the whole family, it's really big."

Clark immediately made his presence known not only to the coaching staff but to his fellow teammates in summer workouts. Most notably, in one summer practice, Clark's pesky defense got into Jerome's head, ending in Jerome hurling the ball at Clark in a moment of frustration.

"I was

nothing," Clark said about the incident. "I'm just gonna get back ... and play defense, after that, it's not going to change what I do."

This intense dedication to defense — which Clark attributes to his dad — and being a "workaholic and [having] a high basketball IQ," according to Williford, is what has helped Clark average 25.8 minutes per game and even start five games this season for the Cavaliers. Not only that, but veterans Jerome and Guy "recognized his talent and what he would bring to the team pretty early," Williford said.

Therefore, in the first game of the season against Towson, Clark's teammates were not surprised when he put in 25 quality minutes — recording four points, six assists and a steal.

Moreover, it certainly didn't surprise Clark. Coming into the season, Clark was emphatic about his determination.

"I didn't want to take a backseat to anybody," Clark said. "I was just going to be ready when my number was called and produce on the floor."

Clark followed up his solid start to his Virginia career with starts and wins against then-No. 25 Wisconsin in the Battle 4 Atlantis Finals and then-No. 24 Maryland in the Big Ten ACC Challenge, playing 72 out of 80 possible minutes.

His first year, however, hasn't been without obstacles.

Clark's first semester on Grounds came to a screeching halt against Morgan State on Dec. 3, where he suffered a wrist injury and had to wear a cast through the start of ACC play. Many were concerned that the cast would affect Clark's quick development and lead to fewer minutes and lower offensive output.

Again, Clark silenced the doubters. Just like in his high school basketball and summer workouts, Clark applied his grind mentality to work through adversity.

"I was going to do anything for my team to win, whether that was playing defense, handling the ball a little bit, just doing whatever my team needed me to do," Clark said.

Once the cast was exchanged for tape, Clark played perhaps one of his most complete games to date against rival Virginia Tech at home. Right from the start, Clark got into Hokie guard Justin Robinson's head — with his ability to, in Bennett's words, "be a pest" on the ball — limiting the second-team All-ACC senior to nine points and under 30 percent shooting.

"[I just tried] to play as good defense on him as I could, and he got

a little frustrated, and he did push me with the ball," Clark said. "But it is what it is, and if I can do that, that's disrupting their offense and stopping them from doing what they want to do."

What was probably the highlight of the game, however, was Clark's buzzer-beater three-pointer to put the Cavaliers up 44-22 to end the first-half. The humble freshman, however, was quick to downplay his success, lauding Jerome's no-look pass to set up the shot.

Despite all of these accomplishments, Clark is just getting started. He is determined to learn even more and take his game to the next level.

Clark knows his game can improve. He has become an active listener, taking the time to learn from veterans like Hunter, Guy and Jerome both on and off the court.

Williford emphasizes the need for Clark to "consistently knock down shots and finish over size." Clark has already shown significant improvement in his finishing ability this year, even against imposing big men like Duke freshman forward Zion Williamson and Virginia Tech junior forward Kerry Blackshear Jr.

With Clark's heart and hustle, however, it shouldn't be a surprise to Cavaliers fans if the little guard out of Woodland Hills, Calif. makes even bigger waves in Charlottesville in the coming months.



DOROTHY WANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY



DOROTHY WANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY



LEAD EDITORIAL

Virginia must change its negligence laws

Considering the rising trend of scooter accidents, individuals need a fair way to recoup compensatory damages

Electric vehicle safety has become particularly relevant to the University in recent months, especially after Lime and Bird — two dockless scooter companies — were launched in the City of Charlottesville. Although pedestrians and bicyclists constitute a significant percentage of accidents, vehicles such as segways, electric scooters and skateboards are also clearly part of the equation. This reality is exemplified by the recent increase in emergency room visits by users of these dockless scooter companies in several cities across the United States. Given that these accidents are occurring at an alarming rate, individuals need to be able to receive damages based on their level of fault. Unfortunately, in Virginia, this process is far too stringent.

In the aftermath of an automobile accident, the injured party — pedestrian, bicyclist or operator of a non-motorized vehicle — will generally seek compensatory damages from the defendant. However, Virginia's pure contributory negligence laws for automobile accidents state that if a plaintiff is even just one per-

cent at fault in an accident, he or she cannot recover any damages from the other party. Contributory negligence is excessively harsh because even if the plaintiff is even slightly at fault, he or she is completely barred from receiving compensatory damages from the defendant to pay for hospital bills, property damages or days of work missed resulting from the accident.

Although Alabama, North Carolina, Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia continue to employ contributory negligence standards of fault in some form for automobile accidents, all other states have abandoned this standard in favor of comparative negligence instead. Comparative negligence assigns compensatory damages to individuals according to their proportionate levels of fault in automobile accidents. For example, if a pedestrian is 15 percent at fault in an automobile accident, he or she will be awarded 85 percent compensatory damages. Seeing as comparative negligence still considers a plaintiff's own role in an automobile accident, this standard apportions damages according

to a much fairer standard than does contributory negligence. Considering the importance of pedestrian safety both on- and off-Grounds, the University should petition the Commonwealth to adopt comparative negligence laws for automobile accidents to ensure safety and equitable compensation.

Some legislators have recently made the transition away from contributory negligence by adopting "modified" standards of comparative negligence. For example, Washington, D.C. passed the Motor Vehicle Collision Recovery Act in 2016, which holds that pedestrians, bicyclists and non-motorized vehicle users may recover damages after an automobile accident so long as they are below 50 percent at fault — though contributory negligence still applies for accidents involving only cars. Even though this "modified comparative negligence" law prohibits plaintiffs from receiving damages if they are above the 51 percent threshold, this standard at least provides the opportunity for plaintiffs to recover some damages so long as their fault level was not egregious.

The law also "expressly preserves the doctrine of 'last clear chance,' allowing a contributory negligent plaintiff to still recover if the defendant was in a position to observe the peril of the plaintiff and had the opportunity to avoid the harm." Furthermore, the D.C. City Council is again attempting to reform its negligence laws by considering the Vulnerable User Collision Recovery Amendment Act of 2019 to allow riders of vehicles with electric-assist motors, such as electric scooters and bikes, to seek damages under the standard set in the 2016 law.

Making these legislative changes is particularly important for the University community, especially considering college students' propensity to act recklessly. Although Lime and Bird recommend that users wear helmets, few students — if any — comply with this suggestion. Some students also fail to acknowledge the safety hazards that arise when more than one person rides on a single scooter. Moreover, individuals are prohibited by law from riding on sidewalks both on- and off-Grounds and riding these scooters while un-

der the influence of drugs or alcohol. Although all of these scenarios involve varying levels of negligence on the part of scooter users, they should not be barred from receiving any damages as a result, especially if the other individual involved in the accident was also negligent.

The Virginia state legislature has the responsibility to pass and uphold laws that are fair and principled. As it stands, Virginia's contributory negligence laws are unfair because they prevent plaintiffs from receiving damages even if they are at all at fault in an accident. In order to uphold student and community safety — especially with the rise of scooters in Charlottesville — the University should petition the Commonwealth to adopt comparative negligence laws as a means of ensuring a reasonable standard for allocating compensatory damages.

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THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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JIM RYAN IS NOT OUR SAVIOR

Good intentions and promising announcements do little to change the fact that Jim Ryan, as the President of U.Va., has different interests than us

University President Jim Ryan got a lot of good press from his inauguration speech. The main takeaway was that the University would be tuition-free for students with household incomes below \$80,000, and tuition- and room and board-free for students from a household income of \$30,000 or less. The Washington Post presented the news as “UVA president vows free tuition for those making under \$80k.” The Cavalier Daily’s headline reads “In-state students from families earning less than \$80K will be able to attend U.Va. tuition-free, Ryan announces.” Following the speech, more and more articles lauded the move as a beacon of a progressive, equality-seeking rookie president cutting his teeth as a trailblazer. The announcement of tuition-free college for some and expanded aid for others is ultimately good news because it relieves some of the financial burden for students. However, those praising Ryan shouldn’t conflate him as champion of the students and community member interest groups seeking a more equitable institution.

Currently, the University is run from a top-down perspective with a Board of Visitors that makes key decisions and approves the budget, as well as a president, respective

staff and various bodies that represent staff and students. There’s no denying that if the Board of Visitors and the president want to implement massive changes to the University, they can. When discussing these changes, it cannot be overlooked that the budget runs through 17 people who do not attend the University, often do not live in the community and are not elected. This is where much of the power of the University lies.

Understanding Ryan’s role in

University’s resources in different ways.

Tuition is a good policy to evaluate when looking at Ryan’s role in the University because it’s an issue that in one way or another impacts nearly every student. It’s possible to look at his tuition announcement in multiple ways. One is that it’s an example of Ryan’s commitment to improving the University’s accessibility. Another, more cynical view, is that it’s a move meant to reshape public perception of the

Why is it that Ryan has put together a working group to look into being a good neighbor, but is lukewarm in response to the University’s role in Charlottesville’s housing crisis and soaring health-care costs? How about the fight for a living wage that’s been going on for years at the University? If we look through the latter lens, where his role is to protect the financial interests of the University, then it should come as no surprise that he sidestepped the question of raising

Put simply, there is almost certainly no conversation, no matter how thoughtful, that would lead to Ryan announcing that some of the University’s \$10 billion endowment will be used to pay reparations to the Charlottesville community for the University’s role in soaring housing costs and gentrification.

This should not be construed to mean that nothing will ever change, or that change will only ever come through the sheer luck of occasionally benevolent elites and changing times. Rather, it should lead those who want a better University to analyze where and when broad coalitions can form and exert pressure on institutions to extract concessions. The University existing as an inequitable institution now doesn’t guarantee it must remain that way in the future. When pushing for a better University, it’s best to keep in mind that even if President Ryan doesn’t need to be treated as adversarial, he’s on a different side than the community that the University should be serving.

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“Understanding Ryan’s role in the University should involve skepticism precisely because he has immense power.”

the University should involve skepticism precisely because he has immense power. Although his control of the University is not singular, his role is to set the agenda for the University and implement the agreed upon vision — he therefore has both formal power and considerable influence. While Ryan may personally be an incredibly pleasant, progressive person, the product of him representing an institution that increasingly engulfs a city and hoards a nearly ten billion dollar endowment places him at odds with those who would wield the

University following a few tumultuous years and to keep pace with other “elite” institutions. Reading Ryan through the former lens can mislead students and community members into thinking that appealing to his moral sensibilities is all it will take to enact much needed reforms. However, even if Ryan has a genuine desire for positive change, understanding him through the latter, more critical lens, as a representative meant to propagate the University’s greatness, gives insight into past and future campaigns as they relate to the University.

wages in an interview with the Cavalier Daily.

Like the recent tuition announcement, the demands that aimed at the University require little to no material sacrifice. The recent aid announcement turned out to not be that different from the University’s current aid programs. To enact real reforms that question the power of the University — composition of students, staff, role in community and financial control — is directly at odds with the preservation of the University as either elite, profitable or both.

MOVE THE TITLE IX OFFICE OFF OF RUGBY ROAD

The current location of the Title IX Office in O’Neil Hall on Rugby Road presents physical and emotional barriers to reporting sexual assault for survivors

The Title IX Office at the University offers a lot of support for survivors of sexual assault, however, the location of the Title IX Office poses obstacles of accessibility for survivors. The Title IX Office is located in O’Neil Hall, which is situated away from Central Grounds, past Beta Bridge on Rugby Road. The Title IX Office is a subsection of the University’s Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights. While the main office location for the EOCR is in Hotel B on the East Range, survivors often make the walk down Rugby Road to the Title IX Office in O’Neil Hall to meet with their caseworker, attend hearings and submit testimony. Not only are the offices geographically distant from Central Grounds, it is also surrounded by fraternity houses and off-Grounds housing. The location of the Title IX Office on Rugby Road presents physical and emotional barriers to reporting sexual assault for survivors.

Considering the majority of sexual assaults go unreported, the University should factor in the possibility that the Title IX Office’s geographical location on Rugby Road may significantly contribute to this reality. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, sexual assault is the

most under-reported crime with 63 percent of sexual assaults not reported to law enforcement. If a survivor at the University chooses to report his or her assault, the barriers to physically arrive at the Title IX Office are numerous. Students, especially those in first-year dorms, may have to walk a great distance or rely on the sometimes unpredictable transit schedule to get to O’Neil Hall. While students can uti-

“The location of the Title IX Office on Rugby Road presents physical and emotional barriers to reporting sexual assault for survivors.”

lize the online Just Report It system to initially submit their incident of sexual assault, most meetings and elements of the reporting process take place in O’Neil Hall. Unfortunately, the location of the Title IX Office is just the beginning of the barriers survivors face in the reporting process.

The NSVRC estimates “20-25 percent of college women and 15 percent of college men are victims of forced sex during their time in college.” After reporting their assault, survivors face numerous barriers within the legal

system that deter victims from reporting their assaults — many survivors fear retaliation, while others worry about doubt from law enforcement. With the proposed changes to Title IX by Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, the reporting process at colleges and universities may become even more difficult for survivors. Under the new policies, colleges and universities could select to raise the standard

of proof for sexual assault cases from “preponderance of evidence” to “clear and convincing evidence.” These proposed changes will create additional barriers for survivors to report sexual assaults, putting even more of an onus on the University to make the reporting process more accessible and manageable for students.

The distant location of the Title IX Office adjacent to the fraternity houses on Rugby Road presents potential emotional obstacles for survivors of sexual assault. To report

their case in-person, meet with advisors from the Title IX Office and attend hearings for their case, survivors are forced to walk down Rugby Road, passing fraternity houses and off-grounds residences. While not all assaults take place in these areas, the Greek system is no stranger to large parties with obscene amounts of alcohol. Many studies cite alcohol use, the Greek system and off-campus parties

as factors which increase the chance of sexual assault. At the University, these elements are often found in the Rugby Road corridor. Furthermore, the 2017 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct found that 12.7 percent of assaults by force and 25.5 percent of assaults by incapacitation at the University take place in fraternity or sorority houses. And 55.9 percent of assaults by force and 34.9 percent of assaults by incapacitation occur in off-Grounds housing. It is unreasonable to ask survivors to make

the trek off-Grounds, down Rugby Road — past where their assault likely took place — to O’Neil Hall to complete aspects of the Title IX process.

The Title IX Office is designed to provide services and support to individuals during difficult times. Seeing as there are already multiple barriers to reporting sexual assaults, the University should recognize that the location of the Title IX Office does nothing to aid survivors. By moving the Title IX Office to a central location on Grounds, then one of the many burdens of reporting sexual assaults will be removed from survivors. Survivors will not have to move outside of their daily routines to make the trip down Rugby Road to O’Neil Hall. And perhaps, a central location may even encourage more survivors to report their assaults. Moving the Title IX Office away from Rugby Road and onto Central Grounds will empower survivors and remove obstacles to the reporting process of sexual assaults at the University.

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H

HUMOR

Students compete for elite norovirus

WEDNESDAY - On Tuesday, Jan. 29th, an email from Dr. Christopher Holstege, the executive director of the Department of Student Health and Wellness, was sent to all University students announcing that "cases of norovirus have been confirmed in the U. Va. student population." Though no definitive number was provided in the email, it is assumed that only a few cases of norovirus have been reported, making the chance of contracting the painful disease a contentious honor. Despite assurance that the virus is "highly contagious," students across Grounds are still competing passionately for the coveted distinction of "vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and/or stomach pain."

It's not every day that a chance like this comes around. Only the elite of Mr. Jefferson's university understand that contraction of the rare and heinous norovirus takes its place with some of the greatest honors awarded at U.Va. and throughout academia — the Rhodes Scholarship, the MacArthur Genius Grant, membership in the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society — all practically pale in comparison with the "potential for fever, headache and body aches" offered by the prestigious norovirus.

As with any selective honor, competition for norovirus is stiff. Fortunately for the student candidates, Tuesday's email also provided a helpful list of tips for contracting the disease. According to the email, "The virus can spread by:

-Eating foods or drinking liquids that are contaminated with norovirus,

-Touching surfaces or objects contaminated with norovirus then putting your fingers in your mouth, or

-Having direct contact with someone who is infected with norovirus, such as by caring for them or sharing food or utensils with them."

Of course, these recommendations are easier said than done. In light of Holstege's suggestions, some students have cited favoritism, attacking the entire application process for the clear advantage or rather the apparent necessity, which pre-existing connections afford to applicants.

"It just seems like it's only about who you know," said one hopeful. "It's like you have to know someone who already has the norovirus to get it. It doesn't seem fair to perfectly healthy candidates who should have just as much of a chance of contracting norovirus as

anyone else."

Another student called the process and particularly the potential influence of favoritism "ridiculous," but "typical of U.Va. awards."

"It's all politics. Just a popularity contest," the student said. "It's just the same group of NOVA people who all know each other, and all have connections. I bet their daddies probably pulled strings just to get them sick. What if I want to get norovirus? I'm just a regular out-of-state kid. It just doesn't feel right."

Aside from this potentially-problematic list of DO's, Dr. Holstege also provided some important DON'T's — habits which prevent contracting the virus for all would-be sick students to avoid. These include "wash your hands ... with soap and water," and "get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals." That many students already consistently avoid these practices

could spell success or failure for several candidates in the struggle to stand out and appear unique.

The email recommends that any students exhibiting symptoms of norovirus stay home, lest they provide an unfair advantage to their fellow candidates. It is currently unclear how many cases will be seen. In any event, based on current numbers, the applicant pool promises to be one of the largest in U.Va. history.

Diagnoses of norovirus are being awarded by the Department of Student Health & Wellness, and the application is currently open.

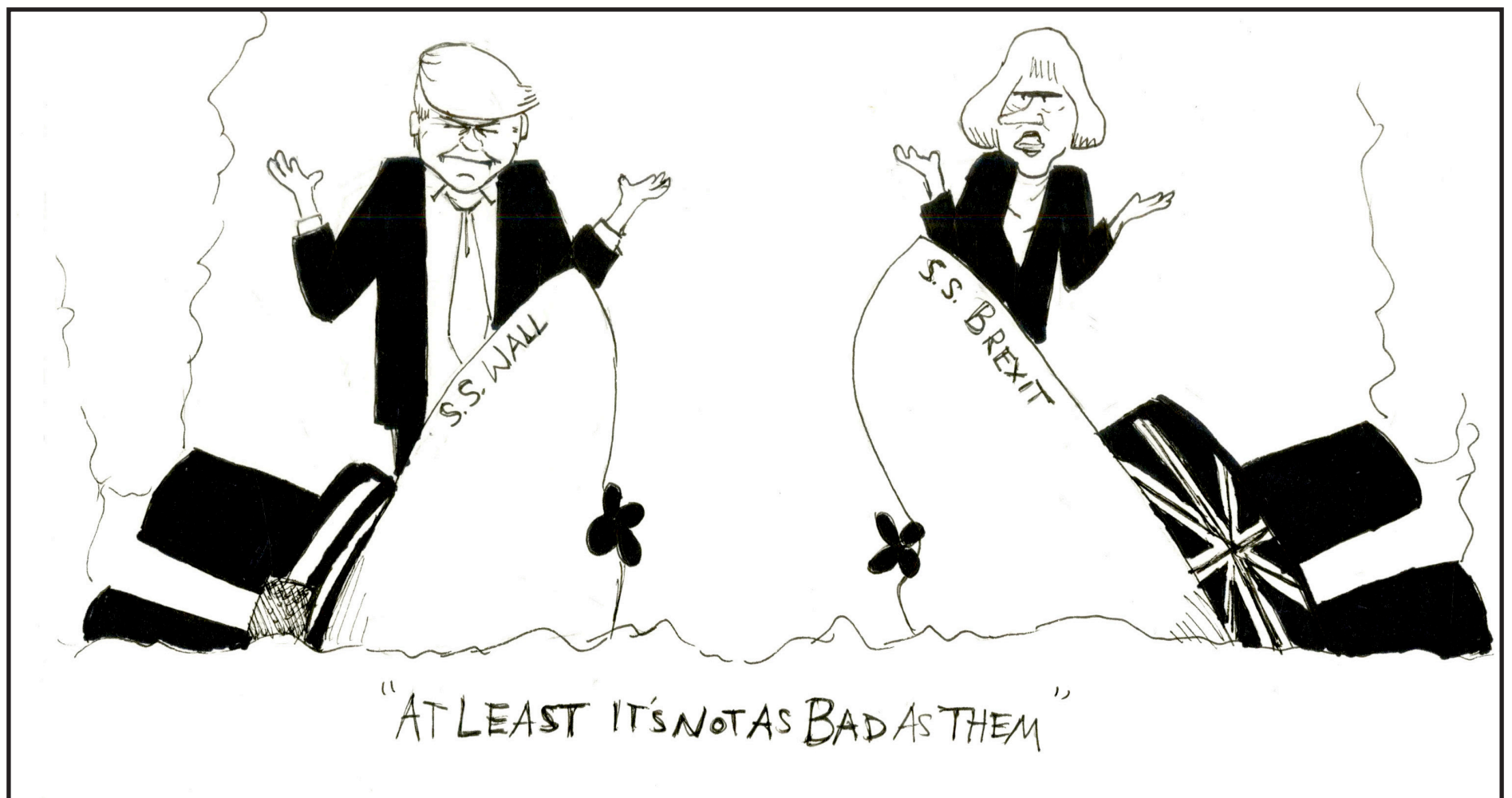
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C

CARTOON

Dueling Titanics

Walter Sharon | Cartoonist





WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Dan Goff | Puzzle Master

*THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Across
- 1

Fix two things together — sometimes a medical term
- 5

Perennial genus
- 9

Animated Disney hero "Wreck-It ___"
- 10

Three-word title for the musician behind "Thriller" and "Rock with You"
- 11

Edge of an article of clothing
- 12

Oxford equivalent of a PhD — abbreviated
- 13

Derogatory term for German soldier used in WWII
- 14

Type of musical sound associated with mountaineers
- 16

Having a forceful, confident personality
- 19

Term for what a glacier sheds when it gets too hot
- 20

Audibly
- 22

Zany, weird
- 24

According to a popular palindrome, a dog is a ___ in a pagoda
- 26

Great Depression and Cold War are examples of this
- 27

Illuminate something by shining light on it
- 29

Horse controls
- 30

Tim Dodson is a ___ of the Cavalier Daily
- 31

Veil worn by some Muslim women

Down

1

Burgess saga "___ Powers"

2

A first-place Olympian would get one of these — two words

3

Tiny, crop-destroying bug

4

Two-word expression meaning "buck up"

5

Last, ultimate

6

According to Freud, there's a "super" version

7

Reddish-brown tint popular with mothers on Instagram

8

Jared Leto's character in "Requiem for a Dream" qualifies as this, as does Gary Sinise's character in "Forrest Gump"

13

Since 1948, it's been divided into two distinct states

15

Not mighty

17

Unusually

18

In chemistry, there are structural and optical versions of this

19

Sentimental in a feeble way

21

Popular Indian dish made with mutton or goat

23

Among other things, they can be used to stop wine bottles

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* SOLUTION FROM LAST ISSUE

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CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 31 issue of The Cavalier Daily, the article titled Implications of the New School of Data Science incorrectly stated that the Data Science Institute only offers an online master's degree program in data science, when in actuality there is currently a master's degree program on grounds in addition to the introduction of a new online program this summer. Also, the article misnamed Phil Bourne as the interim dean of the School of Data Science, instead of the acting dean.

The article titled "Listen Loud to the Voices for Change" misstated that the Voices for Change event was hosted by the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, when the event was hosted dually by UVa. Sustainability and Nine Pillars Hip Hop Cultural Festival. This error has been corrected.



Student playwrights take center stage

Original works by U.Va. Department of Drama students include relatable, heart-wrenching coming-of-age tales

Jackie Leary | Senior Writer

Revisiting the summer-before-college frame of mind is a mixed bag. The New Works Festival ruminates on this cringeworthy, nostalgic and often painful time of life in three student-devised works, each immensely different in content and style. Produced by Dave Dalton and Doug Grissom, both playwrights and professors in the U.Va. Department of Drama, the 2019 New Works Festival — which ran from Jan. 31 through Feb. 2 — presents well-performed and relatable dialogue in three different flavors.

With lighting design by second-year Julie Briski, sound design by fourth-year Kylan Luna and scenic design by first-year Jackson Key, the pieces were arranged in a tactfully simple manner, fitting for the intimate nature of the Helms Theatre.

To be sure, the outlier in dramatic performance and playwriting rested in fourth-year drama major Savannah Hard's piece, "They're Still Friends," which delved deep into the complexities of sexual assault through two characters, Rebecca and Jordan, who are home after their first semester of college. It is notable that Grissom was also the creator of an educational thea-

tre piece on acquaintance rape, "But I Said No." Although the premise — the play is centered around sexual assault — is sadly nothing new, Hard's skillful envisionment of flashbacks between the characters sews together a thought-provoking take on the nature of rape and relationships.

Directed by third-year drama major Savannah Maive, "They're Still Friends" shows Rebecca (fourth-year Jane Purnell) and Jordan (second-year Cameron Veach) re-telling the story of their relationship via younger, surreal-seeming figments of themselves, expertly played by fourth-year Elizabeth Steimel and third-year Jess Miller. The portrayal of Rebecca and Jordan's younger selves by two different actors cleverly allows the older and younger versions to interact with each other onstage. Older versions argue about what really happened as younger versions become exasperated while attempting to reenact their story. In effect, the audience sees the importance of growth and perspective, especially when sympathy for Rebecca's best friend uncomfortably veers toward disdain, and vice versa.

Despite clues of an unspoken trauma between Rebecca and Jor-

dan, Purnell's heart-wrenching performance ambushes audiences with the eventual fact that Rebecca was raped by her best friend. A build-up of funny flashbacks about recess, awkward romantic encounters and fish funerals somehow manages to hauntingly reflect the bittersweetness of first relationships and the pain of betrayal and misunderstanding. "They're Still Friends" is heartbreaking.

Similarly poignant, but more reminiscent of the 1985 John Hughes classic "The Breakfast Club," third-year Jessica Harris's piece "I'm Game" tells the story of six friends struggling with difficult life decisions after they've just graduated high school. Instead of detention, these six friends are in a Game-of-Life-purgatory in one friend's basement — and they're already good friends, despite the stark but necessary differences in character. What initially is a fishbowl of mysteriously mismatched characters and impressively realistic scenes of friendly chatter around a couch soon becomes an impromptu audience-interactive game.

Audience members lucky enough to sit in an aisle seat are invited by the characters Will (fourth-year Joseph French), Ethan

(fourth-year Robby Hoffman), K.C. (second-year Fiona O'Reilly-Sanchez), Lily (first-year Avery Erskine), Max (first-year Kyara Mahlen) or Monica (first-year May Gong) to spin for their piece in the Game of Life. The ensemble comfortably improvises responses to spins from audience members. Although it is unclear how a Harvard-bound try-hard, a gay Jewish-Latino would-be actress and a cavalcade of other characters who can be described with dashed phrases become friends, the cast masterfully commits to its realities and as a result builds eye-catching momentum.

On a completely different note, "Play it Cool," third-year Ibrahim Muhammad's first play, directed by fourth-year Tori Meyer, is a short comedy about Dan (first-year Associate of Arts Music student Isaac Tolliver), a high-schooler trying to impress a girl named Marissa (fourth-year Tiara Sparrow), whose defining characteristic is that she is hot but somehow cool enough to be in band and enjoy playing the video game Fortnite. The comedic timing between Dan and his offbeat parents (first-year Hannah Maupin and second-year Ryder Sadler) is enjoyable in spite of its corniness.

The main conflict of "Play it Cool" is that a known criminal named Two Shot (Timothy Read) unexpectedly enters Dan's suburban house after being shot — twice, probably. Following this, Dan's friends Taylor (third-year Casey Breneman) and Mike (second-year Charles Hurt), along with the Pizza Guy (fourth-year Nathan Berelovich), playfully commit to the ridiculousness of a situation that could easily be the plot for an episode of "Drake and Josh."

2019's New Works Festival is a diverse showing, but the pieces all maintain a theme of youth and present dialogue which feels modern. Harris asks audiences to fill out a survey before the performances, allowing audience members to reflect on the decisions her characters must make in "I'm Game." Would you move away from your family if it meant having access to better opportunities? Would you drop out of high school to take care of someone you love? Should you take a gap year?

These questions hit close to home for many students — a reminder that student playwriting can be as relatable as it is fresh.



COURTESY MICHAEL BAILEY

Public solitude and ‘The Elephant in the Room’

Priyanka Shetty challenges societal stereotypes in her new one-woman show

Ashley Clark | Senior Writer

Priyanka Shetty is no stranger to adversity, whether that comes in the form of working against the tide of the patriarchal society in her hometown of Bangalore, India or the racial injustice she has faced during her transition to life in the United States. On Sunday night, Shetty gave an in-depth look into her journey from her blossoming theater work in India to her study here at the University. The play, “The Elephant in the Room,” which is part of a triptych with “#Charlottesville” and “The Wall,” will be on the road soon, but you can catch it at Live Arts, on the Downtown Mall April 23.

Shetty is in her final year of her MFA in Acting at the University, and “The Elephant in the Room” is one of her culminating projects. It picks out the particular moments that pushed her to seek not only a different career — moving from software engineering to acting — but a different home to pursue that path. Shetty commented on the fact that coming from India, where she ran her own theater company and was the director of a program called “What’s the Scene”— a music review project aimed at shedding more light on independent artists — she has always been very comfortable wearing different hats and advocating for herself.

“I noticed that whenever there’s a need for something, I feel the urge to fill it . . . I like to take on the entire weight of the world onto my shoulders a little bit,” Shetty said.

Like Shetty, “The Elephant in the Room” is not to be limited to one way of doing things, taking the form of a play-within-a-play. It’s set in a dressing room an hour before the “play” starts, and Shetty calls on random scene numbers labeled by tarot card titles in order to decide which momentous scenes from her life arrive first for the crowd. The interactions could be anything from an emotional conversation about childhood with the protagonist, Priyanka’s brother, or moments of honesty about being an international student at the University. At one point, Shetty’s character describes attending the University as being a “small drop, but a drop that carries the might of the ocean,” among a sea of students and white faces, desiring to see the “bones of this university.” As for where the show can go next, Shetty is excited to see a future on the road, as well as the day when she can pass the character version of herself on to another actor and open opportu-

nities for women of color in the theater world.

“I certainly wanted to see change, but I had to come to terms with the fact that it’s not going to happen at the pace that I want it to happen,” said Shetty. “And it’s been going on for so long and at some point I was like, okay, change is slow and maybe instead of just sitting around waiting for things to change, maybe I should be the one who brings about that change — for myself and for others . . . Beyond a point, the playwright or whoever the person is playing the character gives up . . . someone else takes over. So in a way, I have also created a role for someone else.”

The show is full of candid and sarcastic remarks about “first world problems,” the true definition of “vulnerability,” the nature of stereotyping Indian characters in media and whether or not you have to sound breathy when discussing yoga practices.

On the concept of true vulnerability, Shetty considers the theater the “best medium to share your own story” because for “one or two hours people are really receptive, and they can leave with some questions . . . rather than just having a conversation where people can cut you off.” The deeply personal levels that Shetty reaches in “The Elephant in the Room” never feel disingenuous. It is clear that she is displaying some of the darkest moments of her past as well as some of the most hopeful — without having it be unrelatable. The play opens interacting with everyone in the audience and progressively gets more compact and darker, playing with the idea of public solitude in order to be within oneself and still participating with the audience.

“The Elephant in the Room” is meant to make you laugh, cry and leave having learned something important. When asked about what the most important takeaway from the show could be to an audience member, Shetty said, “to be able to view America through the lens of an Indian woman or an international student . . . learning on both sides . . . People will learn to probably look at their perspective of what they consider normal every day and maybe question that.”

As for her experience transitioning from India to the United States, there were certainly some letdowns. “I feel like I am not able to explore my roots at all here,” Shetty said. “One of the things I thought people here would really make use of . . . a per-



COURTESY STALEY JOPHIEL MONROE

MFA in Acting student Priyanka Shetty explores culture, stereotypes and intersectional identities in “The Elephant in the Room.”

son with access to a completely different culture . . . I know an Indian classical dance called Kathak, and . . . Hindustani music and all those things which didn’t really make their way — like I speak four different languages and that was never really channeled.”

So, if people in the industry are not going to take advantage

of what she has to offer, “I have to do that for myself,” said Shetty.

And her advice for other writers and artists? “If you think you have a story to share, that makes you a writer.” Surely, Priyanka Shetty will share many more incredible stories in the future.

Shetty will be returning to perform her triptych, including “The Elephant in the Room” at Live Arts April 23.

A vertical collage of business and technology icons. At the top is a database cylinder. Below it is a line graph with an upward-pointing arrow and a gear. Next is a pie chart. Then a paperclip holding a document with a magnifying glass over it. A calculator is shown. Below that is a gear. A bar chart with a network diagram overlay is next. A laptop with a bar chart on its screen is in the middle. Below the laptop is a pie chart with a magnifying glass over it. A paperclip is shown. A gear is next. A calculator is at the bottom.

Cecily Wolfe | Staff Writer

Data science largely entails collecting, analyzing and interpreting data in the context of different domains, from the worlds of investing or marketing and advertising to that of health care. As such, Bourne and

Conversations with students after the event demonstrated

However, according to Leonard, there is a data science and machine learning culture in Charlottesville, and with the new School of Data Science, the presence of these fields in Charlottesville will only continue to

"The dream is that [the exchange] helps drive the economy in the Commonwealth, and also that it brings the private sector closer to our students so that there is a direct relationship there," Bourne said. "Our mantra is really in effect not to own anything but to be a part of everything."

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U.Va. Dining launches new Plant-Forward program

U.Va. Dining responds to students' desires for healthier and more sustainable dining options with new programming

Ashley Ewing | Staff Writer



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Every Friday will be a “Plant-Forward Friday” at all three residential dining halls.

This spring, U.Va. Dining is launching a new Plant-Forward program focused on providing plant-based menu items that are both healthy and environmentally friendly.

Every Friday will be a “Plant-Forward Friday” at all three residential dining halls. New recipes that put vegetables, legumes, nuts, seeds and grains “at the center of the plate” with little to no portions of meat will be served at lunch on these days, according to Brooke Kinsey, the sustainability coordinator of Aramark at U.Va. Dining.

Responses collected from students, staff and faculty through Voice of the Consumer surveys indicate that health and quality are two factors important to those who eat at on-Grounds dining locations.

“If students want to be healthier at U.Va., we’ve got plenty of

options,” said Ellie Gale, a second-year student in the College.

However, at times, eating healthy on-Grounds “takes some creativity,” Gale said. She said that while options such as the salad bars at dining halls are healthy, it can be difficult to find vegan options that do not contain a lot of sugar or vegetables that are not cooked in lots of oil.

In affiliation with the American Heart Association, one of U.Va. Dining’s goals is to “develop and offer menu items that by 2020 will be reduced by 20 percent in saturated fat, sodium and excessive calories,” said U.Va. Dining nutritionist Paula Caravati in an email to The Cavalier Daily. As part of this Health for Life 20 by 20 campaign, fruits, vegetables and whole grains will be introduced to menus.

Heart health programming is another component of U.Va.

Dining’s effort to promote eating well and will be launched in February. “Heart healthy,” or plant-forward recipe sampling will be offered in the dining halls three times throughout the month. Information on eating well will also be available to show how important a healthy diet is to preventing chronic disease, said Caravati in an email.

Plant-based meals will continue to be a focus during National Nutrition Month in March. During the month, the dining halls will host three dinners with plant-based meals at all food stations. At these dinners, the U.Va. Health and Wellness team, as well as Green Dining, will be tabling to educate students about the healthy plant-forward options available Kinsey said.

To Gale, being healthy is not only based on foods that are good for the body and mind.

“I think if you’re going to be a healthy eater, you should take into consideration the health of the planet,” she said.

Likewise, while Savannah Gold, a second-year in the College, values eating healthy meals, the environmental impact of the food she consumes is most important to her.

“[Health] is fairly important to me, but more so it’s taking care of and treating the world that I live in with the kind of respect that I feel it deserves,” Gold said.

Gold explained that she finds doing so to be easy on-Grounds, and that she appreciates the increased conversation about food-related sustainability both on-Grounds and in the Charlottesville community.

Both the health and environmental benefits of the plant-based meal options on Fridays

will be posted on signage, and a new logo will indicate which menu items are plant-forward.

“We want to empower students to make healthy choices and to eat in a way that has a positive impact on the environment,” Kinsey said.

Gold said that an important aspect of eating environmentally friendly food is eating food that is locally sourced. Although fruits and vegetables are healthy for the body, shipping the food long distances has negative impacts on the environment.

“I wonder to what extent that our plant-forward focus will be based on what the surrounding farms can provide U.Va.,” Gold said. “I’d be interested in how they communicate and advertise that.”

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