

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

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Does our
current
system even
come close to
giving a person the kind of
justice they really need?

“BETRAYED BY THE PROCESS”

A survivor calls for increased transparency
within Title IX

page 4

NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff

U.Va.'s employee minimum wage increased to \$15 with start of new year

The University officially increased its employee minimum wage to \$15 per hour Jan. 1, affecting roughly 96 percent of the University's workforce and marking the largest salary raise in University history. The new living wage plan, announced last March and updated in October, covers 1,323 full-time employees eligible for benefits as well as more than 800 full-time contracted employees.

With the rise to a \$15 per hour minimum wage, the University estimates that employees previously earning \$12.75 will see an increased annual gross pay by more than \$4,500. It will cost the University around \$3.5 million this year to implement, including the cost of fringe benefits and compression adjustments for the 762 workers who currently earn between \$15 and \$16.25 an hour, according to deputy University spokesperson Wes Hester.

In October, University president Jim Ryan announced that U.Va. has partnered with its major contractors to raise the wages of their full-time employees to at least \$15 an hour. According to the University's Human Resources department, 259 full-time employees of Aramark are benefitting from the base wage adjustment. Aramark has also increased its minimum hourly wage to \$13 per hour for 208 part-time employees, starting Jan. 1.



RILEY WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The University's new living wage plan covers 2,085 full-time, benefits-eligible employees and 800 full-time contracted employees.

CPD issues warning about recent incidents in University, Corner areas

The City of Charlottesville issued a press release Jan. 9 requesting information about recent incidents that have occurred in the University and Corner areas involving reports of a man attempting to enter private residences and loitering in the area.

CPD officers responded to a breaking and entering Jan. 9 on 14th Street NW, in which the victim said a man knocked on their door and asked to come into the apartment. When the suspect tried to step inside, the resident shut the door and the suspect attempted to enter through another door after looking inside through the window.

Charlottesville police responded to several complaints the previous week of a man loitering in the area of the 17th Street NW, Chancellor Street and Madison Avenue in a gold minivan during the morning, day and evening hours. Witnesses say he knocked on the door of a sorority house but was not permitted to enter.

According to the release, a man entered an apartment through an unlocked window in the area of Preston Avenue at night last month.

"At this time, it is not known if these incidents are related," the press release said. "The Charlottesville Police Department asks that citizens remain vigilant. If you need immediate assistance, please dial 911."



ANDREW WALSH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Local police responded to several instances of a man attempting to enter residences since December.

I.1

I.8

I.9

I.13

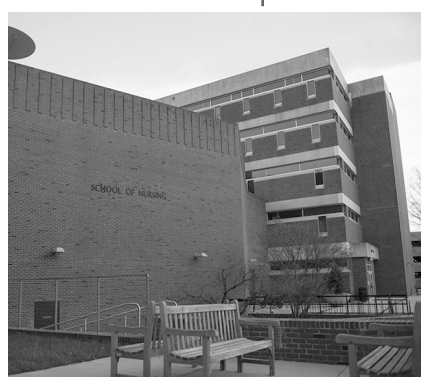
School of Nursing receives \$20 million gift to fund scholarships

The University's School of Nursing announced Jan. 8 a \$20 million donation from Joanne and Bill Conway that will provide scholarship support to more than 1,000 students in the school's undergraduate pathway for the B.S. in Nursing program. This is the Conways' third donation to the School of Nursing, and is the largest single gift in the school's history.

The Conways' gift will provide scholarship funding for students who transfer into the University's B.S.N. program along with registered nurses seeking an accelerated B.S.N. degree. The donation will allow for increased enrollment in these programs, allowing students to complete a two-year bachelor's degree at a lower cost.

The school further plans to use the donation to expand its R.N.-to-B.S.N. program to satellite locations — like Richmond and Northern Virginia — in order to allow more nurses access to an affordable B.S.N. program across the Commonwealth.

The gift will also contribute to the development of the School of Nursing's Mary Morton Parsons Clinical Simulation Learning Center by providing enough funds to almost double the practice space. The center serves as a training resource for students and health professionals, allowing them to simulate and respond to clinical situations.



MARSHALL BRONFIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The donation will support undergraduate students and expand the Mary Morton Parsons Clinical Simulation Learning Center.

U.Va. to discontinue U Bike in May amidst growing e-scooter competition

The University is preparing to end its bike share service in May as usage has declined about 50 percent since the introduction of electric scooters to Charlottesville last year. U Bike was launched in 2015 to allow students, faculty and community members to rent bicycles for transportation on and around Grounds without having to own a bike.

Rebecca White, director of University Parking and Transportation — which operates the U Bike system — said the decision to cease operations was driven in part by the city's dockless mobility program, which "proved to be highly utilized and available regionally to include Grounds."

Under this program, e-scooter vendors Lime, Bird and VeoRide were allowed to operate in the city and on Grounds for over a year. Since the scooters' debut, the city estimates that 30,000 users have made more than 200,000 scooter rides for a total of 200,000 miles.

"Utilization of the U Bike system peaked in 2018 — the year before the city's e-scooter pilot — with about 50 trips taken on the system per day," White said. "Since the e-scooter pilot program started in December 2018, U Bike utilization has declined about 50 percent while the e-scooter program has generated about 10 times more rides per day than U Bike."

In addition to growing competition from e-scooters, the University's provider of the U Bike lock mechanism and software was not interested in renewing the procurement beyond May — further leading the University to cease operation of its bike sharing program.



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

U Bike usage has declined about 50 percent since the City launched e-scooters.

General Assembly to discuss in-state tuition for DREAMers

Other policies to be addressed within the 60-day legislative session include raising the minimum wage and advancing gun control measures

Jacquelyn Kim | Staff Writer



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Last November, Virginia Democrats took control of the state legislature for the first time in 26 years.

Following the end of 20 years of Republican control in the General Assembly, the newly empowered Democratic leadership aims to address a wide range of high-profile legislative priorities, including raising the minimum wage, advancing gun control measures, reforming the criminal justice system and requiring in-state tuition for DREAMers.

Governor Ralph Northam, D-Va., and legislative leaders released their “Virginia 2020 Plan” Jan. 7 that highlights eleven points to be addressed within the 60-day legislative session. The budget presented by Northam in December 2019 proposed a \$135 billion operating budget for 2020-2022.

Other policy goals outlined in the Virginia 2020 Plan include passing the Equal Rights Amendment, restoring women’s reproductive rights, and expanding affordable housing, in part by investing in the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. Legislators also plan to address banning discrimination — specifically against LGBTQ people — making voting easier, fighting climate change, increasing education funding and ex-

panding transit and broadband.

November saw Democrats flip and gain control of both chambers of the General Assembly, enabling them to determine the state’s legislative agenda for at least the next two years. The election came five months after a period of intense litigation and lawsuits surrounding racial gerrymandering that ultimately ended with the redrawing of boundaries on the Virginia district map.

Efforts to encourage and enable voter registration were bipartisan, with many student organizations hosting events around Grounds in the weeks leading up to the election. University precincts saw a 469 percent increase in turnout in comparison to 2015, the most recent off-year election for the House of Delegates and State Senate.

According to Jackson Postal, first-year College student and communications chair of the University Democrats, UDems registered 1,023 people during the fall semester.

“While [UDems] have not taken specific action to mobilize or lobby in support of any of the specific pillars in the Virginia

2020 plan, the plan represents a progressive ideal for an improved Virginia that UDems is strongly in favor of,” Postal said.

Student activists on Grounds have a long history of mobilization related to the legislative priorities enumerated in Northam’s plan.

The University’s employee minimum wage, including that of contracted workers, officially increased to \$15 Jan. 1, following advocacy from community members, employees and students — many of whom are involved with the Living Wage Campaign, an organization active at the University since 1998.

Early next week, UVa. student activists involved with the Virginia Student Power Network and DREAMers on Grounds will travel to Richmond in coalition with other students from across the state to lobby for and demand action on various issues, including in-state tuition and driver’s licenses for undocumented community members and criminal justice reform.

The Virginia 2020 Plan only explicitly lists “in-state tuition for DREAMers,” excluding undocu-

mented students without DACA status.

Currently, DACA students at the University may qualify for in-state tuition, and the University also recently expanded financial aid to include in-state students with DACA status in the fall of 2019. However, undocumented students without DACA status and out-of-state DACA students remain ineligible for financial aid.

“We want to see UVa. and President Jim Ryan on the frontlines in support for the in-state tuition bills by signing a letter we are drafting for [presidents of educational institutions in Virginia] and student organizations to sign,” DREAMers on Grounds said.

According to DREAMers on Grounds, most institutions, including the University, do not matriculate undocumented students. Thus, their main goals include mobilizing for not only the requirement of in-state tuition for all undocumented students, regardless of status, but also the matriculation of undocumented students without DACA status.

On the first day of the leg-

islative session, more than 200 supporters from across the state rallied in support of SB 183, a bill co-sponsored by University professor and newly elected Del. Sally Hudson, D-Charlottesville, that would enable a locality to “remove, relocate, or alter any monument or memorial for war veterans located in its public space, regardless of when erected.”

Currently, a Virginia statute prevents cities and towns from removing war memorials. Hudson’s proposed bill would enable the Charlottesville City Council to remove the statue of Confederate general Robert E. Lee, around which violence erupted during the white supremacist rallies of August 2017.

Although not included among the legislative priorities of the Virginia 2020 Plan, Northam announced his support on Thursday for the bill.

“We are presenting an agenda that is different from every previous General Assembly session,” Northam said. “It’s more forward looking than ever before, and it reflects what Virginians sent us here to do.”

Title IX found the student responsible. He still received his degree.

Abby Clukey | Managing Editor

Editor's note: This article tells the story of a sexual assault.

When Annaliese Estes began her sexual assault investigation through the University's Title IX Office, she received an outline of the formal resolution process which said the investigation period typically does not exceed 60 days.

For Estes, this process took almost nine months.

These nine months preceded a painfully long summer during which a lawsuit contesting the Title IX case's responsible finding resulted in the student who assaulted Estes receiving his degree from the University. Estes, in turn, received a three-sentence email from the Office of the University Counsel in September that read "the University's Title IX process has concluded."

Reading that email didn't give Estes closure. Instead, it made her think about the course of events that led to it. The probing questions, the explaining of her story to different faces — some more sympathetic than others. The constant waiting and the helplessness that came with it. The relief at hearing the findings and believing it was over. The frustration of having that taken away.

Reporting a sexual assault through any avenue can be an isolating and traumatic experience. Title IX especially can seem like an inscrutable institution, and Estes felt thrown into a world where she couldn't anticipate what would happen next. She wished that she had been able to read a story about what the reporting process was actually like before she started it.

That's why she's telling hers now.

In April of 2017, Estes was 18-years-old and a few weeks from graduating high school. A Charlottesville resident, she thought it would be fun if she and her friends visited the Corner bars for a night out, a fairly common practice for local kids her age. She said that she wanted to be more careful than usual, knowing that she would be out with strangers instead of safe in a friend's house, and she made a mental note to stick to her drinking limits.

Her group headed to the Corner, where they immediately started mingling with University students. They met two male students, in particular, who stuck with them, even as they changed locations. As the night wore on, Estes could tell she was starting to get a little too

drunk and decided to stop drinking. But shortly after, she said her friends abruptly left the bar, and she was suddenly alone — with one of the guys they'd met.

He told Estes that he would help her find her friends, but not before he picked up her drink where she had left it and encouraged her to take some more sips. And she did.

"I just wasn't really thinking about it at the time," Estes said. "I was like, 'Oh, well, whatever, I'll just find my friends soon, and then we can go home.'"

Neither of them had operable phones with them, so the student told her they could go back to his apartment where he could charge his and call his friend, who was still with Estes' group. By this point, however, Estes was starting to feel sick — far beyond what she says she should have felt for how much she drank.

She threw up on the walk to his apartment, and she said that was the moment where her memory fades to black. The next thing she knew, she was in his bedroom, disoriented but acutely aware that she was being raped.

"It was totally dark, all the lights were off," Estes said. "I couldn't tell how many of my clothes I was wearing, and he was having sex with me and I was saying no."

Estes doesn't remember exactly how she left his apartment, but the next thing she remembers is sitting on the curb on his street, surrounded by her friends. They drove her home and put her to bed. She said she couldn't stop vomiting.

The next morning, she went to the hospital to have a rape kit done.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, a survivor has two options for completing a rape kit. First, they can opt to do a blind rape kit,

which is anonymous. The evidence collected is then sent to the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services for storage, where it can be released if the survivor chooses later to report their assault to law enforcement. However, if the survivor wants to open a police investigation at the time the rape kit is collected, the hospital is required to immediately notify local law enforcement.

Hours after her assault, Estes hadn't even told her parents what had happened, and she was unsure she wanted to get the police involved right away. She decided to do the blind rape kit. According to the Virginia Healthcare Guidelines for sexual assault response, this meant that "evidence that would normally be collected by law enforcement may be permanently lost," including blood or urine samples. Because she chose this option, Estes will never know if she had been drugged before her assault.

After a couple of weeks, Estes told her parents everything. She then felt like there was nothing holding her back from going to the police, so she brought her case to the Charlottesville Police Department early that summer. She talked to someone at the Victim Witness Unit, was assigned an investigator and started the emotionally grueling process of recounting every possible detail of her assault, multiple times.

When she started the police investigation, Estes didn't even know the student's name. The police were able to track him down through his friend who had been with her friends that night, whom the student had texted to get Estes' friends to pick her up after the assault.

The results from the rape kit came back, and the DNA matched with his. He said that the sex they



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had was consensual.

It took several months for Estes to hear from the police about the next step in her case. She was busy trying to adjust to college life at The College of William & Mary, and every time she reached out, her investigator would say that they were still working on writing everything up to send to the Commonwealth's Attorney.

When Estes got home for summer break after her first year, her investigator told her that her case would be better suited through a Title IX investigation, where the evidentiary standard is different. Title IX cases abide by "preponderance of the evidence" instead of "beyond a reasonable doubt." Because the consequences — expulsion rather than a prison sentence, for example — are lower in Title IX cases, so is the threshold for evidence.

Estes had never considered Title IX as an option because she wasn't a student at the University, only her assaulter was. She didn't know that it was only necessary that the defendant in the case be a student at the University whose Title IX office investigates the assault. She said the officer investigating her case never told her. Upon learning this information, albeit a year late, she decided to bring her case to the University's Title IX office.

In the memorandum opinion for the student's lawsuit, written this past summer, it's stated that the CPD officer who had been investigating Estes' case for over a year had "failed to notify the University." According to the opinion, it wasn't until August 2018, when a CPD officer contacted Emily Babb, assistant vice president for Title IX compliance, and notified her of the case that the Title IX office was able to move forward with an investigation. "The University had

no prior knowledge of the alleged incident," the opinion reads.

CPD Public Information Officer Tyler Hawn declined to comment on the specific details of this case.

"It is the policy of the Charlottesville Police Department to assist sexual assault victims in a supportive manner, using appropriate victims services agencies to aid in facilitating the victim's needs, and to process crimes scenes in the most professional and proven manner to assist in the effective prosecution of said cases," Hawn said.

A Title IX investigation into Estes' assault was officially opened that August. The investigators talked to everyone they could who was involved in her story. The student's friend, her friend who took her to hospital — almost everyone besides the student himself, who decided not to participate.

The 60-day rule would have given the Title IX investigators until the end of October to compile their report. They are allowed extensions, however, to accurately and comprehensively complete their investigations. Two months turned into three. Then four.

The Title IX Office finally issued the draft investigation report that December, and Estes and the defendant then had a period where they could submit their responses. By mid-February 2019, the responses were completed and all there was left to do was wait for the final investigation report to come out.

She didn't expect that to take an additional three months.

"I just wanted an answer," Estes said. "I just wanted it to be over."

That winter, Estes came home from school. The stress of not knowing was too much to handle and balance alongside her schoolwork, and she felt like she couldn't



TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

focus on anything else, much less move on, until the investigation was officially closed.

"I don't think I ever anticipated it to come with me through almost 60 percent of my college career, maybe more," Estes said. "So, I just went home because it was incredibly hard."

Every day, Estes would check her email to see if the Title IX office had contacted her. And every day, her empty inbox would make her feel frustrated and alone.

"I just couldn't understand what was taking so long," Estes said. "They weren't very transparent about what was happening. Every week that went by, I was like it has to be this week. There's no way that it could be any other week. It was all I could think about."

University spokesperson Brian Coy said that some reasons for an extended Title IX investigation can include "the availability of parties or witnesses for interviews; the availability of a party's advisor or support person for interviews, hearings and other critical junctures; additional investigative steps requested by the parties or identified by the investigator; the opportunity for the parties to review additional information gathered during an investigation after the issuance of the Draft Investigation Report; voluminous evidence gathered during the investigation, and law enforcement requested pauses."

Coy added that due to federal privacy laws, the University is not permitted to comment on individual Title IX cases.

Claire Kaplan, program director of Gender Violence and Social Change at the Maxine Platzer Lynn Women's Center, said that even if the survivor completes every step in a timely manner, sometimes resistance or hesitance from the defendant can slow the investigation process.

"The University only has so much authority to make someone come in, right?" Kaplan said. "It's things like that. It's almost like a death by a thousand cuts. It's the little things that keep adding up, so that things drag out."

In May 2019, the Title IX office released their final investigation report. Estes got the answer she had been waiting to hear for over

two years — that the person who raped her was found responsible of sexual assault.

Estes and the student were then allowed to accept or contest the report's findings. The student contested them. A Review Panel Hearing was set for July 1, when both parties would be able to deliver personal statements to a panel of trained University community members chosen by the Title IX coordinator and the final sanction would be given. Depending on the outcome of the hearing, the student's degree could be revoked or withheld temporarily.

The release of the report happened to coincide with the student's graduation. He was allowed to walk the Lawn but was told his degree would be pending until after the hearing.

Estes began preparing for the hearing, drafting her impact statement and looking forward to this painful period in her life finally coming to an end. Then, the student's lawyers called her team and said that they were planning to sue the University, on the basis that the student's right to due process had been violated during the investigation.

His lawyers said that if Estes settled with them and chose not to participate in the Review Panel Hearing, she would receive a settlement, he would never move back to Charlottesville, and if he returned briefly for an alumni event, she would be notified that he was in town. She and her family debated taking the settlement but decided to reject the offer just a few days before the scheduled hearing.

"It could have almost paid for the two years of college that were such a struggle for me, which almost felt wasted because I wasn't able to devote myself as much to my classes as I wanted to," Estes said. "So it totally has value, but I just think for me, and for my healing process, I felt like if I do this, and if I don't go and don't advocate for myself at this hearing, and I never know what might have happened — I just couldn't do it."

The night before the hearing, however, Estes found out that it was being postponed indefinitely. The lawsuit, which was against the

University, the Board of Visitors, the Title IX investigators and University President Jim Ryan, was opened and went to Judge Glen Conrad, senior U.S. District judge for the Western District of Virginia. The student's lawyers had filed an emergency injunctive relief to halt the Review Panel Hearing's proceedings pending order of the court, which Judge Conrad granted.

The lawsuit continued through July and August. Then, the University's general counsel asked to meet with Estes. She says he told her that Judge Conrad had made it clear he was going to rule in favor of the student and have the University confer his degree. Beyond that, Estes said the general counsel told her Judge Conrad would rewrite elements of the University's Title IX policy in his ruling.

"The lawyer from U.Va. said that, being someone who understands U.Va.'s Title IX policy, that seeing how it works daily, the idea he got from what Judge Conrad wanted to rewrite it to would make it totally unworkable for the scenarios that it's used for," Estes said. "It would just totally take U.Va. multiple steps back. So, it was really worrisome to him and because of that, he felt that he had a greater obligation to protect U.Va.'s Title IX policy, whereas they usually would have just prioritized my specific case."

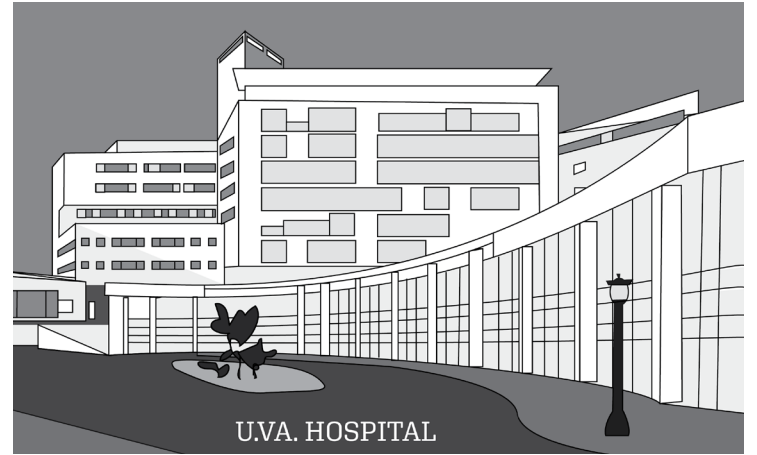
Judge Conrad's office did not comment on this particular claim, and declined to comment separately from what he had written in his opinion. The University's Office of the General Counsel also declined a request for comment.

In his opinion, Judge Conrad wrote that the student, who had a job lined up for the fall that was contingent upon him receiving his degree, could face "irreparable harm" should the University expel him or suspend his degree.

"Based on the terms of the Title IX Policy and Procedures, Doe has a colorable argument that the University does not have authority to discipline him for the alleged incident involving Roe," the opinion reads. "The incident occurred off campus on private property, and the investigation confirmed that Roe is not a student or employee of the University and that she is not 'otherwise seeking access to any University program or activity that was interfered with by [Doe's] alleged conduct.'"

He wrote that while Estes "may have a legitimate interest in the finality of the Title IX process, the timeframe for completion of the investigation has already lasted far longer than the typical 60-day period set forth in the Title IX Procedures, and the University has not offered any explanation for the delay."

"Any prejudice or inconvenience" to Estes, he added, would be outweighed by the potential



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consequences for the student if the Review Panel Hearing proceeded.

The University ended up settling in court, so there was no need for Judge Conrad to make a further ruling in the case. The student received his degree, the investigation was closed and on September 11, Estes received that three-sentence email from the University Counsel. She never received the investigation's final outcome letter, which would have detailed all of the findings and sanctions. In fact, she never heard from the Title IX Office again.

Looking back at everything that unfolded over the past two and a half years, Estes is tired.

"I've gone through almost every route of reporting that's available, and here I am at the end and nothing really happened," Estes said. "The fact that they said this reaches our evidentiary standard, we think there's enough evidence to say that it's likely he committed sexual assault, that he violated our Title IX policy, and then still, after all that, just give him his degree anyways and just not say a word about it."

Kaplan said that she has never been involved in a case where the defendant was found responsible and ended up facing no consequences. She is, however, all too familiar with cases where survivors feel that the consequences their assaulters end up facing are inadequate. She said it can be difficult to find a sense of justice when that happens. It comes down to the question, she says, if there even is a sanction that can address a crime as personal and emotionally debilitating as sexual assault.

"Does our current system even come close to giving a person the kind of justice they really need?" Kaplan asked. "And, dealing with the person who committed that crime, who is still among us — even if they're not at U.Va., they're still in the world — how do we deal with those people so they don't do it again? I don't see our system as being very effective in that way."

It's hard for Estes not to feel discouraged, especially as she still feels a severe lack of closure over how her investigation ended.

"I just felt very betrayed by the

process," she said. "Especially because I was promised that there would be a final letter detailing the findings and the sanction, and that's not even what I got, it wasn't even that."

She and her lawyers think that some kind of confidentiality agreement was included in the University's settlement with the student's team, which is why she never received that final summary. Maybe reading it wouldn't be able to change anything, but Estes wonders if it would make it easier to move on.

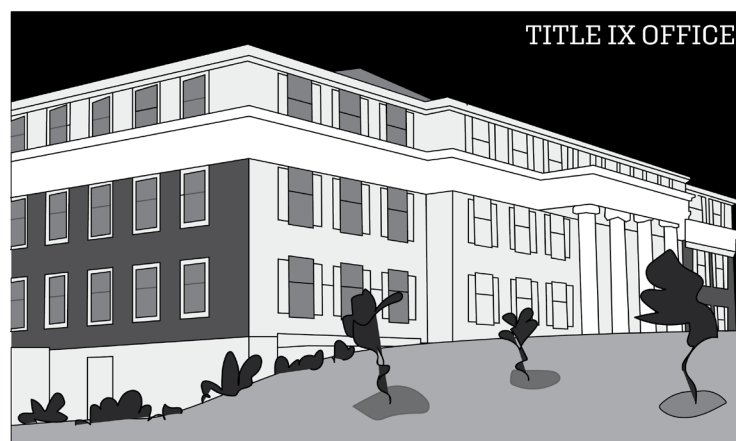
Universities should treat sexual assault cases with more gravity, Estes says. She thinks that the culture is slowly improving — she still has hope after all of this. But she thinks the outcome of her case doesn't reflect the values or ideals of this institution that emphasizes its commitment to honor above everything else.

"Especially because this is such a prestigious university, holding a degree from here is such an honor," Estes said. "Allowing predators or rapists to walk free or go with little to no sanctions devalues that degree. It really does. More than that, it just kind of tells survivors, 'We believe you, but it's not really that bad.'"

Estes thinks that increased transparency within the institutions dealing with sexual assault cases is necessary to improve the reporting process. For example, if she knew more about her initial options, she might not have felt so overwhelmed at the hospital that first day after her assault.

"I had no idea when I went to the hospital that there were different levels of reporting that I could do there, and it would affect down the line what could be proven and what was just speculation," Estes said.

Having her story available for other survivors to read and learn from, Estes believes is one step toward that transparency. Nothing can change, she thinks, until people commit themselves to bringing this issue out into the open, little by little, and finally start talking about it.



TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

U.Va. ranked in bottom 15 percent for social mobility

The University was listed at 1,343 out of 1,458 institutions by CollegeNet's Social Mobility Index

Zach Rosenthal | Senior Writer

According to separate rankings by U.S. News and World Report and the CollegeNet Social Mobility Index, the University falls in the bottom 15 percent of institutions in terms of social mobility for its students. Social mobility can be a difficult term to define, but broadly speaking, social mobility is the ability of an individual to move from one class to another, whether that is upwards or downwards.

In the fall, for the first time ever, U.S. News and World Reports began ranking colleges on their "social mobility," and the University was listed as 324th out of 381. U.S. News and World reports ranks colleges and universities in the United States annually in various categories, including but not limited to cost, undergraduate research and value.

Another organization, CollegeNet, has devised a separate formula for ranking social mobility. The Social Mobility Index, according to their website, ranks 1,458 schools and is calculated based on five variables — "published tuition, percent of student body whose families whose incomes are below \$48K (slightly below the US median), graduation rate, median salary approximately 5 years after graduation and endowment."

Individually, the University of Virginia ranks 1,343rd out of 1,458 schools, and CollegeNet ranks the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole at 19 out of 50 states. George Mason University was the highest-ranked Virginia institution at 107th, while Washington and Lee University and Liberty University are the only two Vir-

ginia universities ranked below U.Va., at the 1,413th and 1,418th spots, respectively.

Fourth-year Curry student Kalea Obermeyer is the founder of FLIP at U.Va., an organization that works to advocate for the University to expand its resources to benefit and empower first-generation and low-income students.

According to deputy University spokesman Wes Hester, "first-generation students make up nearly 13 percent of the Class of 2023, an increase of about 19 percent over last year."

Hester also stated that making sure the University is attracting and helping first-generation students succeed is a priority for University President Jim Ryan, who was a first-generation student himself.

Obermeyer says that she thinks

about social mobility and her status as a low-income student every day.

"I worry about how I'll afford my next meal, how I'll pay for housing next year, if I'll ever be able to move out of my low-income status after graduation," Obermeyer said.

Obermeyer also said that while efforts to help first-generation and low-income students have improved over her time at the University, there is still a significant amount of work to be done.

Obermeyer brought up controversies like the admissions "watch list," where prospective students — many of whom were related to large donors — were flagged by University officials for additional review.

To address challenges that particularly disadvantage students

who identify as low-income or first-generation, Obermeyer suggested initiatives that the University could implement, such as hiring more support staff and resourcing in the Office of the Dean of Students, creating a centralized space for the students to congregate and connect with one another and extending this support to members of the broader Charlottesville community.

Sean Martin, an associate professor at the Darden School of Business, has conducted research on the area of social mobility and what he calls "social class transitioners," or people moving from one social class to the next.

Martin's research has revealed that students who shift amongst social classes gain a perspective akin to multiculturalism, as they learn the different priorities, values and behaviors amongst individuals across social classes.

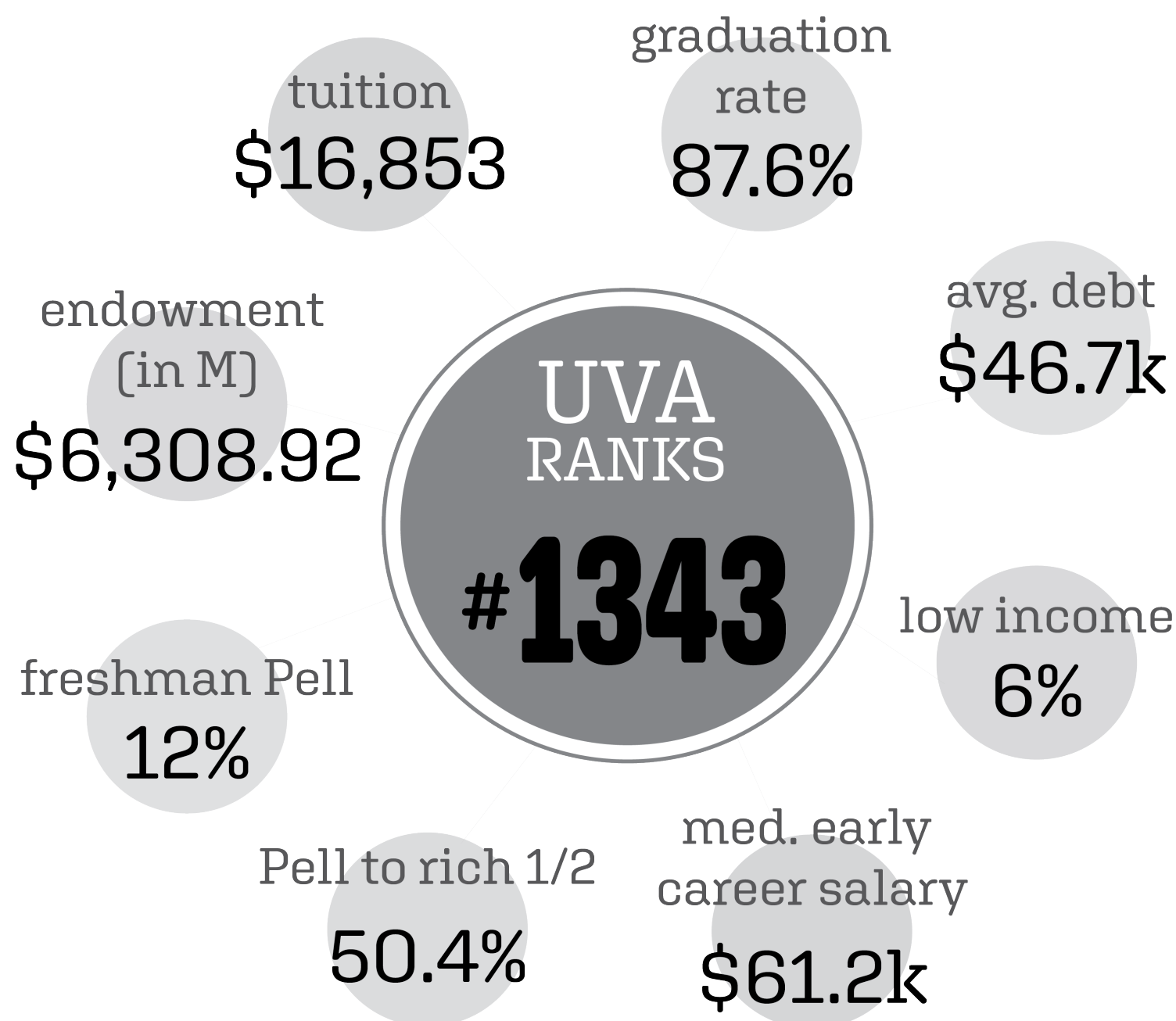
"People who have these experiences in different social class positions can essentially reach out and be the 'glue people' in organizations and groups," Martin said. "They can help bridge misunderstandings or understand why some groups aren't participating in some activities or help people gain insight into one another."

While Martin did not have any specific recommendations for improving the University's rankings on social mobility, he stated that adjustment programs would be beneficial.

"I think there's a lot that can be done to direct people to the resources that are there," Martin said. "Basically just let [low-income and first-generation students] know you're not in this alone, there's a lot of people that want to help because your skills are more than good enough to be excellent here."

Hester described a series of programs the University currently has to assist first-generation and low-income students, including Hoos First and the Rainey Academic Program, the latter of which works to help low-income or first-generation students acclimate by inviting them to take summer classes and meet with University faculty before the semester begins.

"A testament to the University's work in helping low-income and first-generation students succeed is UVA's 94 percent six-year graduation rate, which is the best in the nation among public universities," Hester said.

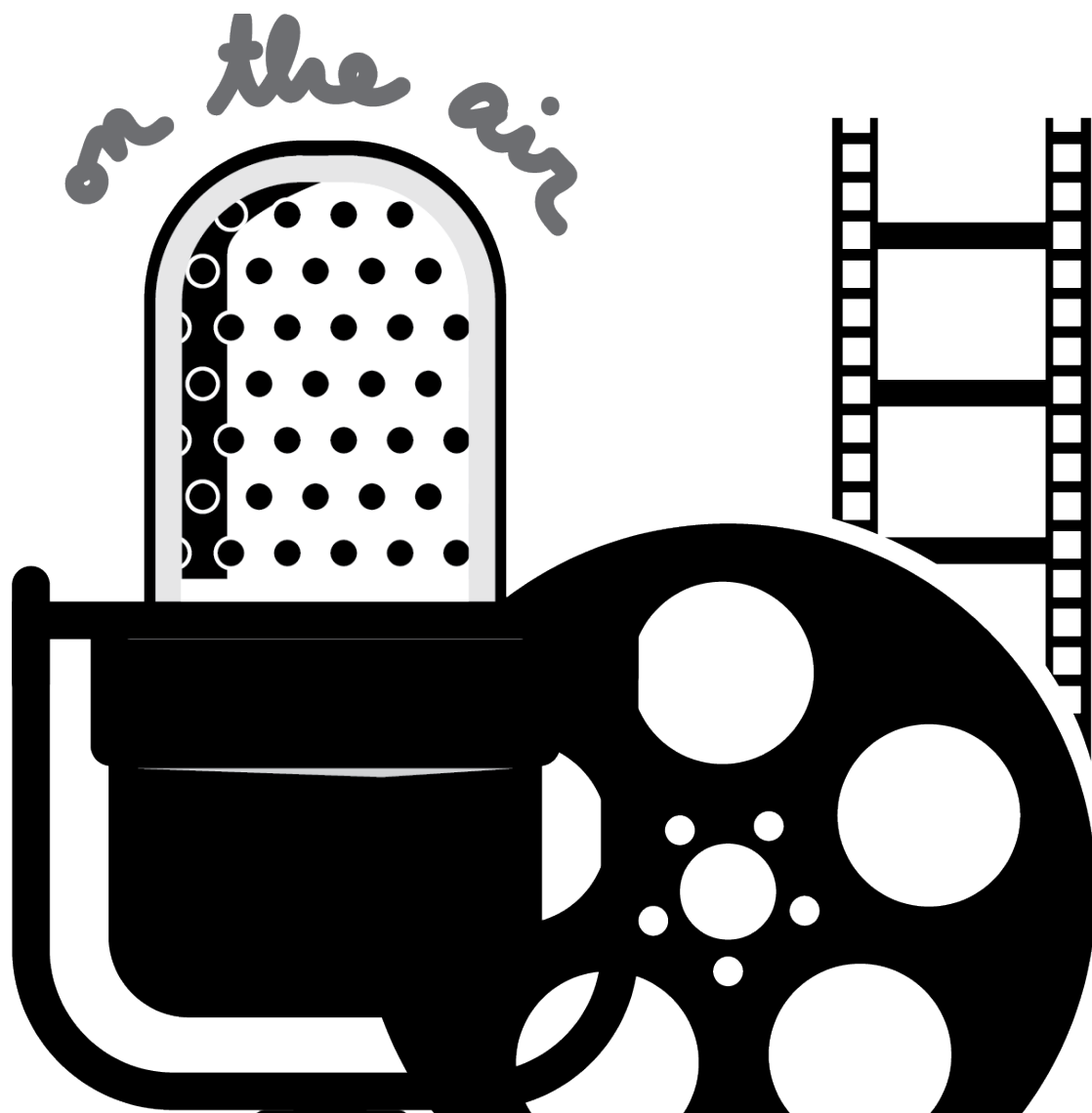


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Movies? That's so last decade

I don't like any of the Oscar contenders, so I've added music videos to the mix

Kate Granruth | Arts & Entertainment Editor



ANGELA CHEN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

I can't do this anymore. I'm starting to think it's no coincidence that Oscars season and flu season have so much overlap — a kick 'em while they're already down situation. From the outright racism and sexism in the Academy, to the blatant disregard and literal rewarding of the behavior of predators like Woody Allen, to the fact that the only 2019 releases I enjoyed were "Motherless Brooklyn" and "Little Women," I'm just done with the Academy Awards. What I did like watching this year were music videos — so I'm hosting an Oscars just for that, right now in

this article.

Best Picture: "I'm Gay - Eugene Lee Yang" (music by ODESZA)

Eugene Lee Yang is best known for his status as one of the Try Guys, a comedy group of four men that got their start as a BuzzFeed series, then went independent and became its own production company and YouTube channel in 2018. Their videos are typically lighthearted, but in June 2019, "I'm Gay - Eugene Lee Yang" was released on the official Try Guys YouTube channel. Yang wrote, directed, choreographed and starred in the music video,

which depicts his journey as a gay Asian man through complex cinematography and dance. The video deviates from the standard coming out video, which typically features the content creator talking directly to camera, but the result is no less intimate.

Everything about the video trembles with emotion, and although the music by ODESZA is largely instrumental with no narrative lyrics, the story is clear and painful. Viewers are taken through Yang's interpretation of the LGBTQ+ experience in stages that align with the colors of the rainbow, the colors of pride.

Visually, the dance scenes transition as though in one take, which makes for a dizzying, disorienting experience that gets at the heart of the video's theme. Perhaps the most beautiful shot comes with the scene before the credits, the Purple scene. Yang stands in an elaborate purple two-piece that resembles a frilled gown, styled with a matching cape and heavy makeup. He walks through a crowd of people fighting with each other, hitting him and grabbing at him until he finally stares down the camera, first shaking as though he is about to cry, then gradually calming and coming to a standstill.

Best Original Screenplay: "Motivation" by Normani

The narrative arc of this music video is exciting and nostalgic. The opening scene is set in the 2000s and depicts a young girl, identified as Normani, sitting in front of the TV and watching the best video of the year countdown on BET's "106 & Park." The number one video is announced as belonging to ... Normani! The girl gets up and starts dancing, and soon, the former Fifth Harmony member is all grown up, dancing all around the city. After the introductory scene, the music video includes a bit of text on the screen with the music video's information, paying homage to the days when music videos were commercials between shows and had all production details in the corner of the screen. The choreography and outfits both pay homage to pop culture icons like Ciara and Beyonce, and the video ends with a return to the young girl watching TV. It's a take on the "it was all a dream" trope that's actually fun to watch.

Best Costume Design: "Sucker" by the Jonas Brothers

This video brought back the epochal Jonas Brothers after six years of radio silence and inter-familial tensions, so yeah, it's getting an Oscar. Also, fun fact, it was filmed in the same venue as "The Favourite," which Olivia Colman earned an Academy Award for. They're not on the

same level, but still. The video doesn't have a plot outside of rich couples eating and dancing — hey, the Oscars have rewarded less! — but the costumes are very fun to look at. The dresses that Danielle Jonas, Sophie Turner and Priyanka Chopra Jonas are wearing are a modern take on the elegant Victorian styles — big dresses and full skirts are paired with messy hair and gaudy accessories — and it's just fun to look at! Who doesn't want to run through the halls of a mansion while layers of sheer tulle billow out behind you?

Best Actor: Harry Styles, portraying a sad fisherman in "Adore You"

I've decided Harry Styles should get this award because he pretended to develop a bromance with a fish that was in all likelihood just a human holding a tennis ball. It's overacted, it's goofy, and, truly, it's what "The Shape of Water" could have been. Find yourself developing feelings for a fish? Do the logical thing — don't! The video is still heartwarming, and Harry's acting is funny, so there. Best Actor.

Best Actress: Halsey, playing lots of women in "Nightmare"

Halsey portrays a lot of different women in her video for "Nightmare." The rageful, feminist single released in May 2019 harkens back to Halsey's earlier reputation for being a punk-emo-scene kid, back when she had bright blue hair, wore only leather and sang Blink-182 a cappella in a mall. The "Nightmare" video is of a much higher caliber than that early era, however, with pointed lyrics like "I've been polite, but won't be caught dead / Lettin' a man tell me what I should do in my bed," and Halsey delivers them while playing caricatures of women, like a pin-up, a dominatrix and what codes as a butch lesbian. The performances reclaim the stereotypes while showcasing a multitude of female identities, so Halsey wins out in this category.

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Why can't it be her?

The Oscars seem primed to snub the best films of the year. Here's why that matters.

Robin Schwartzkopf | Arts & Entertainment Editor

The first way to start this article would have been to bury the lede. “The five best movies of 2019” would be the head, or something even punchier — “Hey Oscars, here are our picks” — followed by a defense of several films, filled with genuine admiration and wonder and a bit of humor in a relatable, nonchalant 20-something sort of way. I’d give a brief rundown of each movie, why the direction moved me or how I can still hear lines playing in my head after months of separation. Only when readers reached the third or fourth pick would they realize that all of the selected films are directed by women.

That would be a catty little swat at the idiotic laser pointer that is the proper way to give women filmmakers their due. It’s easy to be dissatisfied, frustrated and angry at the lack of credit women are given for their work, especially when the Golden Globes haven’t managed to nominate a single female director since 2015 — let alone give her the top prize — and the Oscars seem to follow suit, with some exceptions.

But why put stock in insti-

tutions? As a person who enjoys watching movies, it should not make a difference who is nominated, what wins or who pays who to convince the world that “Argo” was the best movie made in 2012. As a millennial-Gen Z cusp, why bother with rich people giving other rich people awards when an early aughts political awakening and the crush of incoming climatic doom has rendered any hope or trust in the future lost?

So Céline Sciamma doesn’t get nominated for making “Portrait of a Lady on Fire,” the most entrancing, sensuous and poignant film of the past year. Greta Gerwig wrapped literary tradition into a warm and judicious narrative about sisterhood in “Little Women” — maybe she’ll get a nod for adapted screenplay. Lulu Wang brought a masterclass in emotion to “The Farewell,” Olivia Wilde used “Booksmart” to tell a particular kind of coming-of-age story with enthusiasm and cheek. Lorene Scafaria literally made me gasp out loud with how she shot Jennifer Lopez in “Hustlers,” for the whole movie and forever. Women made excellent films this year and not

as a monolith. They largely won’t be recognized for them. Why does that matter?

A nomination — and an actual award — represent a statement of both endorsement and intent. When a film is heralded above others, whatever body has chosen to highlight it has adopted the implicit or explicit stance that it holds value because of what it is — whether that includes who wrote it, produced it, shot it or acted in it — and should be regarded as such. It is an endorsement in that it has passed some test of what a movie should be in a particular year, representative or escapist or otherwise, and it is intentional — meaning it was rewarded for a reason.

This reason is seldom explained and is often vaulted with language like “the film moved us” and shadowed by money and studios and free Elton John concerts. But it’s still there, and its presence makes me think about the phrasing of the question “why does it matter?” in a different way.

Why shouldn’t it matter? If the film world has agreed to put any stock in this entity called the



COURTESY DIANA RINGO

Greta Gerwig, director of “Little Women,” was one of several female directors whose films were largely snubbed by the 2020 Oscar nominations.

Oscars, why shouldn’t women demand representation? It isn’t just that women haven’t been making “Oscar-caliber” movies in the past, and now they are. “Oscar-caliber” is whatever the Academy wants it to be, and these and similar excuses have been used to sideline the

enterprising work of women directors who should be given their due. The Oscars don’t need to lower their standards — they need to reevaluate what their standards are in the first place.

LIFE

The U.Va. bubble and why I felt the need to escape

Struggling to stay in touch with life beyond Grounds

Samantha Cynn | Life Columnist

It took me about two months to come to the abrupt realization that I — during what was supposed to be the most liberating time of my life — wasn’t exactly happy at the University.

It was a strange thing to process, and I found it difficult to fully understand the extent of my own feelings. I wasn’t unhappy, but there was something decidedly off about my time spent on Grounds, as though my world had become slightly askew. To make matters worse, I couldn’t quite pinpoint the root cause of my unease. I thoroughly enjoyed my classes, had no qualms with dorm life and was busy enough in my day-to-day life that I never felt bored. It wasn’t an issue of loneliness, either. I was allotting plenty of time to spend with friends and family both on and off Grounds. Things were good, and everything seemed to be fine — and yet I couldn’t rid myself of

the little seed of discontent that lingered in my chest, telling me that I was missing something.

It was as though a cloud was misting over my thoughts. Life at the University was beginning to feel unreal, like a dream. Reality seemed distant and unreachable, and I worried that this was a symptom of a larger issue.

So I did what most people do when they have a problem — or at least that’s what I told myself at the time — and I vented to a group of friends. Extensively. You could argue that it was less of a vent and more of an incoherent rambling session. To my surprise, though, everyone I spoke with responded with similar sentiments. In a twisted way, it was reassuring to hear that I wasn’t the only one who was in a funk. The same cloud fogging up my brain was afflicting them. After a long, candid discussion, we came to the conclusion that there was

one factor to blame — the U.Va. bubble.

The U.Va. bubble is perhaps best described as the barrier that divides life within the University and the outside world. Living on Grounds, it can feel as though the entirety of the University community is separated from society. The element of self-containment is what makes this especially prominent. Events held in Charlottesville — specifically those concerning the student body — tend to take priority over everything else happening in the world simply because it’s what everyone in the area talks about. Because of this, staying tethered to outside communities while still being active and staying involved on Grounds is more difficult than one would expect.

I had heard about the U.Va. bubble before, but I had always assumed that it could be easily shrugged off. Not once did I ever

stop to think that it could be the source of my discomfort. Sure enough, though, the instant I left Grounds, news pertaining to the world at large hit me like a truck. Everything snapped into startling clarity. It was overwhelming, almost akin to a sensory overload. When the awe had subsided, I was left truly stunned at how much I had missed. Through no fault but my own, I had lost touch with life outside the University.

While on Grounds, it had been all too easy to forget that there even was a world beyond the University. I stopped reading the news. All the events I talked about with my friends and family related to the University in some way. I had allowed myself to get trapped in a cycle of University life without stopping to think about anything in a larger context — and this eventually evolved from feeling like an

everyday part of attending college to feeling downright suffocating.

The U.Va. bubble isn’t inherently a bad thing, of course. It allows individuals to become immersed in a vibrant community and can help newcomers grow accustomed to life on a college campus. Delving too deep, however, can be harmful — as all things in excess are. Now that I’ve had time to reset over winter break, I’m fairly confident that I can return to Grounds feeling refreshed and ready to conquer the new semester. Maintaining the balance between University life and “real” life will be a priority for me now, and because of that, I’m hopeful that the U.Va. bubble will prove to be something that once again feels novel and exciting.

Valverde on poetry: Reviving wonder, fighting conformity

Distinguished Visiting Professor Fernando Valverde brings another dimension to Spanish poetry at UVA.

Maya Das & Maryann Xue | Feature Writers

In the Nahuatl language, “flower and song” is nearly synonymous to poetry — “in xochitl in cuicatl.” Fernando Valverde, a native Spanish speaker, literary icon and distinguished visiting professor, believes the value of life comes not from wealth, but from these two simple components. From reading poetry written by others to writing his own poetry, Valverde has found remarkable success in his journey to become exactly what he thinks a poet is — a nightingale singing in the darkness.

Valverde’s love for reading emerged when he was a child in the library of his grandmother’s house in Granada, Spain. He describes the room as a place of mystery and full of secrets. This magical place was influential in shaping his love for writing, and later, poetry.

Before turning to poetry, Valverde worked as a journalist for the Spanish newspaper “El País” for 10 years. As a journalist, Valverde travelled all over the world and reported in places where simply surviving was a struggle. On a few occasions, he was sent to countries either still engaged in war or that had just gotten out of a war, such as Palestine, Kosovo and Bosnia.

Although Valverde admires journalists for their dedication and commitment to their work, he felt it was personally too strenuous and wanted a change.

“You’re constantly fighting,” Valverde said. “You’re even fighting against yourself to maintain your independence.”

Poetry then became the outlet for Valverde to truly express his love for writing. It was a source of wonder and an instrument for him to convey his ideas, constructing a link between the unknown, the mysterious and the great questions of humanity.

After establishing himself as a successful poet in Spain, Valverde came to the U.S., where he was influenced by the sound of American poetry. He explained that Spanish poetry contains a different number of syllables, but by being in touch with American poets, he was able to learn a new type of rhythm that he could incorporate into his own poems.

Valverde’s latest book, “The Insistence of Harm,” was the best-selling poetry book in Spain for months, and it received the 2019 Book of the Year award from the Latino American Writers Institute of the City University of New York. His work discusses harm in a broad sense, explaining

how human lives are often shaped and defined by pain and suffering.

One of the greatest moments in Valverde’s life came when he received a nomination for the Latin Grammy Award for Best Flamenco Album after writing the album lyrics of famous flamenco singer, Juan Pinilla. Both Valverde and Pinilla signed the album as if they were both singers. To Valverde’s surprise, he received a call that they had been nominated for a Latin Grammy.

“It was really crazy, really fun,” Valverde said. “I was just there in this little town in north Georgia. I became the most famous person in the whole town.”

The award show took place at the MGM in Las Vegas, and Valverde was able to attend the same dinners and meetings as artists like Enrique Iglesias and Shakira. The president of the Academy initially thought that Valverde was a flamenco singer, and it was only after some clarification that they realized he was a lyricist. Nevertheless, Valverde was able to keep his nomination, and he became the first lyricist nominee in the Latin Grammys.

Although he didn’t win, Valverde has received numerous other accolades for his work, including prestigious Spanish poetry awards such as Federico García Lorca, the Emilio Alarcos del Principado de Asturias and the Antonio Machado prizes. Nearly 200 researchers and critics from over 100 international universities — including Harvard, Oxford, Columbia, Princeton, Bologna and Salamanca — voted Valverde as the most relevant Spanish-language poet born since 1970.

“The world needs song, especially when nowadays so much of our lives occur on the screens of computers and phones,” Valverde said. “The world has turned into something completely narrative... We need to get together and sing and celebrate life.”

University students have the privilege of learning about contemporary poetry from an expert in the field. As a distinguished visiting professor in the University’s Spanish department, Valverde currently teaches two 4000-level courses — Spanish Contemporary Poetry and a special topics semi-

nar on Hispanic Transatlantic Poetry. While these discussion-based classes are geared towards University students pursuing a Spanish major, Valverde both encourages and welcomes students with a diverse range of interests.

Classes consist of an in-depth analysis of Spanish poetry through both a historical and cultural lens. In addition, Valverde incorporates guest lectures into his curriculum. This semester, students heard from visiting poets and musicians from all over the world and learned about the poetic writing process.

“Being in Professor Valverde’s class is definitely my favorite class experience I’ve ever had at UVA,” fourth-year College student Ben Borenstein said. “You’re just having fun. I can’t remember [another] class that I’ve gone to where ... every time before I walk out I’ve smiled.”

Next semester, Borenstein plans to take another class taught by Valverde, Spanish Culture and Civilization.

“Although taking a class with a professor two times is not the craziest thing in the world, the

crazy part is I’m a fourth-year, and I haven’t had a Friday class since second-year,” Borenstein said. “But this next class is Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and I’m making an exception just to take a class with him.”

For fourth-year College student Katie Cantone, the University doesn’t do enough to emphasize the importance of their distinguished visiting professors. Valverde soon became one of her favorite professors, but this extended much further than just his accolades and expertise.

“[Valverde] really tries to emphasize you are all poets if you want to be,” Cantone said. “He is just the most compassionate, caring person and the type of person that education needs.”

Valverde occasionally holds bilingual poetry readings with his literary peers. His next event will be with University Spanish Professor Samuel Amago at the New Dominion Bookstore Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.

The interview with Valverde was conducted in Spanish with the help of a translator.



COURTESY JOAQUIN PUGA

For Valverde, poetry became the source of wonder he shares with University students enrolled in his two 4000-level courses.

Top 10 reasons spring semester is better than fall

Look on the sunnier side

Ben Rosenthal | Top 10 Writer

1. You're working towards sand beaches, not snow banks

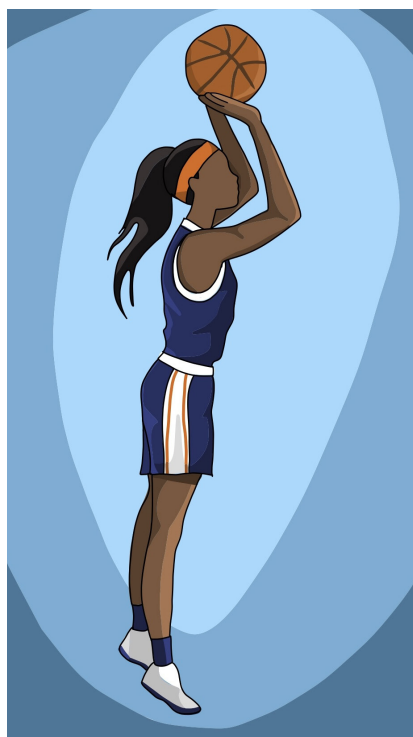
Let me be clear, I love winter break. I love the snow, Christmas and, most importantly, spending 22 hours per day either physically or mentally asleep. But summer break is winter break's better half. It's three times as long, filled with trips to the beach or the pool, and you aren't battling a cold during its runtime. While it is filled with slightly more responsibility — internships, summer jobs — this is usually compensated by significantly more income than you'd get from shivering near a fireplace all day.

2. Each day is longer and brighter

My least favorite day of the year is the summer solstice because it means that, for six months, each successive day gets shorter and shorter. I don't know why that bothers me so much, but it does. One day it will still be light at 9 p.m., but the next thing you know, you're walking back from lecture at 4:15 p.m., and you see an owl. However, by the time spring semester rolls around, each day is getting longer. Eventually, you'll begin to remember what it looks like to see the sun for more than eight minutes per day.

3. It's basketball season

I, for one, enjoyed our abnormally-successful football season. We ended a 15-year Virginia Tech beatdown, held our own in the Orange Bowl and had our most wins since 2007. Somewhat ironically, this will probably be a worse basketball season than last year — we're rebuilding, it's a fact of life. But still, nothing beats the energy of a good basketball game at JPJ — if only the Sabre points overlords would allow me entry.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

4. Spring break is the ultimate half-time show

Sure, fall semester has more breaks. But they are shorter, and one of them is overshadowed by the impending pressure of midterms. Spring semester understands that quality is better than quantity — thus, spring break was born. While you may still have a mid-term on its heels, you'll feel less guilty about blowing it off when you're lounging on a hammock in Cancun.

5. Your short-sleeve shirts will see the light of day

Remember that other half of your wardrobe? Those shirts that cut off at the elbow — I think they were called T-shirts? The ones you haven't seen since Halloween, with the exception of that one blissfully warm day in December that reminded you that global warming is a thing? Get ready. They're coming back.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

6. The common cold is gone...

...and replaced with allergies. This is kind of a pyrrhic victory, but at least it's something. For me, common colds are never-ending. I catch one in early October — the first time it falls below 46 degrees — and it sticks around until mid-March. Allergies, on the other hand, are kind enough to let you suffer for the first couple weeks of spring bloom before easing up a bit.

7. You have New Year's resolutions to keep you honest and hold you accountable

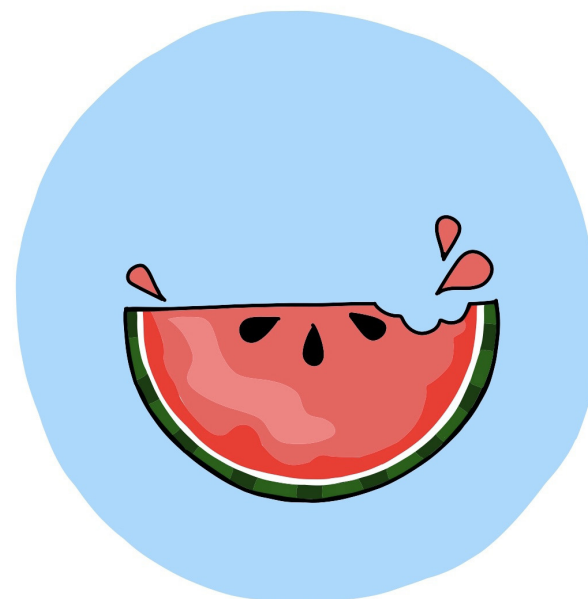
Just kidding. Every year, I tell myself I am going to read for fun. Then I read my textbooks and decide that reading isn't fun. I swear, one day I am going to get around to reading "The Da Vinci Code." One day. Maybe once I'm out of school, but not over winter break — that's break. Not over summer break, either — that's for relaxing. So maybe when I'm 26.

8. The secondary holidays are better

You have your big-ticket items — Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza — and then the rest. You know, the second-tier holidays that add pops of flavor to the year. Fall semester, you have Columbus Day, which is losing its luster in light of ... the fact that Christopher Columbus probably shouldn't have a day. In spring semester, however, you get Saint Patrick's, April Fools and Memorial Day, just to name a few. Sure, you have to get through Valentine's Day — which, if you're like me, you spend alone in your room, eating Chef Boyardee ravioli and binge-watching "Top Chef All-Stars" — but overall, it's a better haul.

9. You're older and wiser

For you first-years, all of the mistakes you made fall semester will serve you well in the spring. You'll have learned the valuable lessons — don't take 19 credits of STEM classes, the chicken tenders in Croads taste vaguely like cigarettes — and you'll come back stronger and better than ever.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

10. Watermelon is back in season

I know you all expected this to be the first thing I listed, but I decided to play with you all and wait until the article was almost over. You were probably thinking, "Did he forget that watermelon is back in season come May?" I did not. Yes, I understand May is the tail-end of spring semester, but it is the perfect treat for finals season. It's a refreshing contrast from fall semester finals, where you probably had to sustain yourself on canned fruits and beans.

Hunt Country Market & Deli is a local sandwich favorite

Local shop and gas station on Garth Road serving homemade food has all you could want

Maggie Trundle | Food Columnist



COURTESY CARRIE SMITH

Hunt Country Market's sandwiches on their menu are \$6.99 each, an affordable price for a sandwich that beats many other more pricey alternatives around Charlottesville.

On the corner of Garth Road and Free Union Road sits Hunt Country Market & Deli — a store that combines gourmet food options with a sandwich shop and gas station. Owned by Charlottesville local Nancy Kallander and often staffed by her children — Ben Smith and Carrie Smith — Hunt Country Market has been a favorite of Charlottesville residents since its opening in 2003. Whether you are craving a home cooked meal, or a fresh deli sandwich, Hunt Country Market is a fantastic option for local grub.

Accessibility

Growing up just minutes from Hunt Country Market, it was the easiest place to grab a bite or a cold drink whenever I was leaving my house. For University students, it is a short 10 minute drive to the store. Hunt Country Market has ample parking options, and it is wheelchair accessible. Hunt Country Market is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays and closed all day Sundays.

While the store is located slightly further from Grounds than LittleJohn's or Take It Away, it is well worth the drive. Leaving the University, stay on Garth Road until you pass Foxfield, and you will see the quaint white store with a green

roof on your right. The drive from the University to the store is easy and beautiful, and it is a perfect way to get some distance from Grounds on a warm spring day. One of my favorite things to do is to get sandwiches to-go from Hunt Country on my way to hikes or swims at Sugar Hollow, a natural swimming hole further up Garth Road.

Atmosphere

Walking into Hunt Country Market, I am always greeted with the aroma of fresh bread, baked goods or home-cooked meals. The store has an incredibly cozy, local and colorful atmosphere in the inside. The sandwiches and homemade dinner options are made-to-order right in front of you in their small kitchen. While many customers order their food to take out, there is a small table in the inside of the store if you prefer to sit inside, but there is also seating just outside the store if the weather is nice. The store's walls are lined with their various arrays of chips, snacks, sodas and brews. The staff is always incredibly friendly and hardworking. With a relatively small staff, upon walking in the store I often see the same faces, making the store feel all the more family-run and local. Hunt Country Market has plenty of Charlottesville regular customers who are known on a first-

name basis. I love walking in there, knowing I am ordering food made by a real person right in front of me. Today, amidst hundreds of chain restaurants, getting lunch at Hunt Country Market feels much more intimate and local.

Appeal

Hunt Country Market not only has a fantastic menu of specialty sandwiches, but also sells homemade breakfast sandwiches in the mornings and homemade dinners available for pickup every evening Monday through Friday. Often using the classic "Joy of Cooking" cookbook for their dinner recipes, according to Carrie Smith, they provide meals that are always simplistic, comforting and home-cooked. Hunt Country's most popular sandwich, the "After the Hunt," is served on two slices of a baguette from a local bakery, Albemarle Baking Company, filled with turkey, bacon, avocado, cucumber, lettuce, tomato, sprouts and boursin spread. This sandwich has always been my favorite and tastes incredibly fresh, light and flavorful. The cucumber, sprouts and lettuce make for a green and healthy crunch, which pairs fantastically with the soft avocado and boursin spread. Always packed with a hearty amount of turkey, the "After the Hunt" always fills me up, and is well

worth the price of \$6.99.

As the cold winter months continue, I love to order the "Harvest" sandwich. The "Harvest" is a warm baguette sandwich with hot turkey, brie and apple butter. Stripped of all the extra additions, this sandwich tastes simplistic yet bursts with flavor and a hint of warm spice from the apple butter. It is the perfect cold-weather sandwich when I am craving something warm and comforting — there's nothing quite like oozing melted brie on a high-quality baguette, and any brie-lover will adore this sandwich.

If you prefer to stick to the traditional deli sub, Hunt Country's "Italian Stallion" is their authentic take on a traditional Italian sub. Served on a baguette, this sandwich has ham, salami, pepperoni, provolone, lettuce, tomato, onion and vinaigrette — all the ingredients necessary for a proper Italian sub.

Beyond their sandwiches, Hunt Country is the best place to buy your favorite locally-made food and drinks. They sell various local items that are difficult to find elsewhere such as Potter's Craft Ciders, Starr Hill Craft Beers, muffins from Orange Dot Baking Company, Nightingale Ice Cream Sandwiches, Homestead Creamery ice cream and more.

Affordability

Hunt Country Market's sandwiches on their menu are \$6.99 each, an affordable price for a sandwich that beats many other more pricey alternatives around Charlottesville. For \$6.99, you are getting fresh ingredients such as Albemarle Baking Company breads and Boar's Head meats. While some other sandwich restaurants sell sandwiches for \$10 or more, Hunt Country Market does an amazing job of keeping their prices down, but not letting the quality suffer for it. Their other snack and drink items range in price — however, there is an option for every budget. Overall, I always feel like my dollar is well-spent at Hunt Country Market, supporting a local family-owned business.

For 17 years, the Hunt Country Market has provided Charlottesville residents and students with quality sandwiches and an impressive selection of local snacks. I highly recommend taking a short drive out to the Hunt Country Market & Deli the next time you want high quality supplies for a picnic or are just craving a quality sandwich. The market has great food, great people, great service and great prices. Whatever you decide to order, you can't go wrong with Hunt Country.

SPORTS

Tomas Woldetensae: Artist, chef and Instagram enthusiast

The Bologna, Italy native shares his special pasta recipe

Hannah Young | Feature Writer

Lately, junior transfer guard Tomas Woldetensae has been on fire. Recruited to join a depleted guard corps after Ty Jerome and Kyle Guy declared for the NBA Draft and Marco Anthony transferred, Woldetensae had a disappointing start to the season. He shot 20.6 percent from the field and 14.3 percent from three-point range through Virginia's first seven games. In the last four games, however, Woldetensae shot 47.6 percent from the field and 53.3 percent from three, including a season-high 11 points in the Cavaliers' 56-47 win over North Carolina.

He is beginning to display his many talents on the court. Yet this is not where his talents end. Hailing all the way from Bologna, Italy, Woldetensae has a rich background that involves much more than just basketball.

Although Woldetensae's extended family is from Eritrea, Woldetensae is native to Bologna. The city is renowned for bologna sausage, bolognese sauce and being the birthplace of the Lamborghini.

However, it is also known for its sports culture, especially in basketball and soccer. Woldetensae began playing basketball at just six years old but was initially a stellar swimmer.

"I was above average for the kids in my age group," Woldetensae said of his swimming abilities.

Much to Woldetensae's coaches' disappointment, however, his swimming days were short-lived. According to Woldetensae, he quit because he found the water at swim meets too cold.

Woldetensae turned to basketball and soccer shortly after but was forced to choose between the less dangerous of the two sports. His mother Zaid Woldetensae said the safer option was basketball, and that's what he chose. After a broken nose and thumb three years into the sport, Woldetensae recalls his mother's regret.

Despite early injuries, Woldetensae was a bright talent. Like many international players, he targeted high schools in the U.S. to pursue his dreams of playing basketball at a higher level.

Woldetensae ended up at Victory Rock Prep in Bradenton, Fla. because it was "the only school who responded to emails."

After two seasons at Victory



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Woldetensae, with a rich cultural background and diverse interests, is as fascinating off the court as he is on it.

Rock Prep, Woldetensae dominated at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa. Woldetensae shot 47 percent from the field, 47.6 percent from 3-point range and 88.5 percent from the free throw line while playing there.

Woldetensae understands he has a lower profile background and owns up to it. His two seasons at Indian Hills were key to gaining the opportunity to play at Virginia.

"I know I am an underdog," Woldetensae said. "People don't know me or see me coming, but that's the way I like it."

When big college teams began the recruitment process with Woldetensae, his Indian Hills coaches advised him to be patient and wait for the right school.

"Other college coaches called my Indian Hills coaches but Virginia called me," Woldetensae said, remembering the call from Coach Tony Bennett that helped Woldetensae make his final decision.

Woldetensae has had big shoes to fill as a scoring guard for the 2019 national champions and is just recently coming into his own. He continues to regain

his smooth shooting stroke after a wrist injury he sustained last spring.

Yet while basketball has been a skill he has had to work to develop, talents such as art and cooking have come naturally to Woldetensae.

"I can't remember ever learning how to draw or how to cook," Woldetensae said. "They were just things I did."

Growing up, Woldetensae dreamed of being a cartoonist. Before playing basketball at Victory Prep, Woldetensae attended Scuola Superiore Giuseppe Arcangeli, an upper secondary school for art students in Bologna. Currently, Woldetensae is an art major with a concentration in photography.

Before committing to photography, Woldetensae considered a concentration in sculpture. He is also interested in architecture and is looking forward to the art major's drawing concentration that will become available next year.

Social media is another art form Woldetensae uses to express and differentiate himself.

"I love Instagram," Woldetensae said. "You'll notice most play-

ers only post pictures of them playing basketball — it's their life. For me, basketball is only one part of my life."

Because of a rigorous practice schedule and full course load, Woldetensae has not had much time to devote to art outside of classes. However, cooking has been a task in which Woldetensae has found comfort.

"I never eat at JPJ because I am so picky," Woldetensae said.

During most meals, Woldetensae can be found preparing authentic Italian cuisine in his off-Grounds apartment. Woldetensae's roommate — senior student manager Grant Kersey — appreciates his roommate's culinary abilities.

"It's really nice having a roommate that can cook," Kersey said. "I try to eat his meals as much as I can."

Woldetensae prides himself in his cooking, although according to Woldetensae, third-year former forward Francesco "Franky" Badocchi is the real chef of the apartment.

Woldetensae shared his pasta recipe with The Cavalier Daily.

Before starting, remember — "the magic isn't in the pasta but

in the sauce," Woldetensae said. "The important thing is that nothing is measured. Nothing is timed. Nothing is premeditated."

Ingredients:

Bucatini pasta
Penne pasta
Peas
Cherry tomatoes
Tomato sauce
Prosciutto
Pancetta
Olive oil
Butter
Milk
Salt/pepper

Directions:

1. Boil and salt the water.
2. Immerse pasta until it reaches desired texture.
3. Cut cherry tomatoes and place in a pan with garlic and hot pepper flavored oil.
4. Salt the tomatoes — this will help get the juice out.
5. Add in peas.
6. Add in a little water and milk to thicken the sauce.
7. Once the sauce is creamy, add pancetta.
8. Let it cook for 3-4 minutes.
9. Take the mixture off the heat and mix with the strained pasta and add prosciutto.

However, the simple recipe instructions don't do it justice.

"Explaining the way I cook it is much more interesting than a recipe," Woldetensae said. "This is where the difference between a great and mediocre chef comes out."

Woldetensae's love for cooking Italian food is just one way he copes with being over 4,000 miles from home. Woldetensae is able to return to friends and family every summer, but the future is unpredictable. He may return home to Bologna, Italy or stay in the U.S. It all depends on basketball.

Basketball roundtable: The most pressing questions

A look at both the women's and men's teams as they move into conference play

CD Sports Staff

Both the Virginia women's basketball team and the Virginia men's basketball team have had mixed starts to the season.

The women's team, hoping to return to the NCAA Tournament after a disappointing season last year, had a tough start. Despite solid moments in games against high-level competition in non-conference play, the Virginia women started off the season inconsistent. The Cavaliers were winless in conference play but have recently won consecutive conference games against Duke and Boston College. They are surging at the right time.

After getting off to an undefeated 7-0 start, the men's team has suffered double-digit losses to unranked Purdue and South Carolina and recently fell to an undermanned Boston College team and Syracuse at home. With some outstanding, complete performances like that over Virginia Tech juxtaposed with unexpected defeats, the men's team has also been inconsistent.

The CD sports staff is here to answer the most pressing questions facing both teams at the midseason mark.

Who has been the MVP for the women's and men's teams so far?

Luke Strievater, Sports Columnist: For the men's team, it is senior forward Mamadi Diakite. Diakite leads the Cavaliers in scoring, averaging 12.9 points per game. However, what makes him the MVP thus far is the energy he brings to the court, especially on the defensive side, where he averages 1.1 blocks per game. He is the heart and soul of this squad that relies on defensive intensity to win basketball games.

Alex Maniatis, Associate Writer: From the beginning of the season, senior guard Jocelyn Willoughby has established herself as the primary scoring option for this Cavalier team. Willoughby is currently averaging 19.8 points per game, which leads the ACC and places her No. 22 in the NCAA. Willoughby leads the team in almost every category — minutes, field goals made, three pointers made, free throws attempted and made, scoring and total rebounds. She is an irreplaceable asset with her presence felt in every aspect of Virginia's gameplan.

Chad Whyhch, Associate Writer: Senior guard Braxton Key is the MVP for the men's team so far this season. A multi-dimensional player, Key is a guard yet leads the team with 7.7 rebounds per game. He is also second in scoring with an average of 10.5 points per game. Key's ability to score, play stellar defense and provide intangibles — especially

work ethic and veteran leadership — is what makes him an easy choice for team MVP. His absence was felt in Virginia's whopping loss to Purdue earlier this season, and Virginia needs him at full strength to make a run this year.

How can the women's basketball team get back to the NCAA Tournament?

AM: Unfortunately, Virginia has been given the toughest schedule in the NCAA — the toughest in all of women's college basketball. Having played five top 25 teams thus far, the Cavaliers have struggled to find any sort of consistent play. The team is currently 7-9 and 2-3 in conference play. To make a tournament run this season, Virginia would need a complete turnaround and another scorer to complement Willoughby. The team is young, with five true freshmen, one redshirt freshman and one sophomore. The three seniors — Willoughby, forward Lisa Jablonowski and guard Dominique Toussaint — are carrying the load. Coach Tina Thompson is also only in her second year at Virginia. With young, bright talent in players like freshman guard Kylie Kornegay-Lucas, the Cavaliers will make significant progress over the coming years, but are unlikely to see the results this season.

Zach Zamoff, Sports Columnist: Similarly to the men's team, the women's team will need to ride consistent defensive intensity to get back to the NCAA Tournament. The Cavaliers' ability to create havoc on defense allowed them to pick up their first conference win against Duke and stay in games against talented teams in non-conference play. Consistent defensive intensity is the first step. Combine that with more spread out offensive production — especially more interior scoring to complement production from Willoughby, Touissant and other guards — and Virginia should have a shot at the postseason. Limited interior defense, however, has been and will continue to be a liability for the Cavaliers.

Is there a fix for the men's basketball team's offensive woes?

LS: Based on the eye test and the fact that this offense has yet to score 70 points or more this season, the realistic answer to this question could very well be no. It was expected that the offense would take a big step back after losing current pro players Kyle Guy, De'Andre Hunter and Ty Jerome, but the performance so far has been worse than expected. The team currently averages 55.7 points per game — No. 348 in the coun-

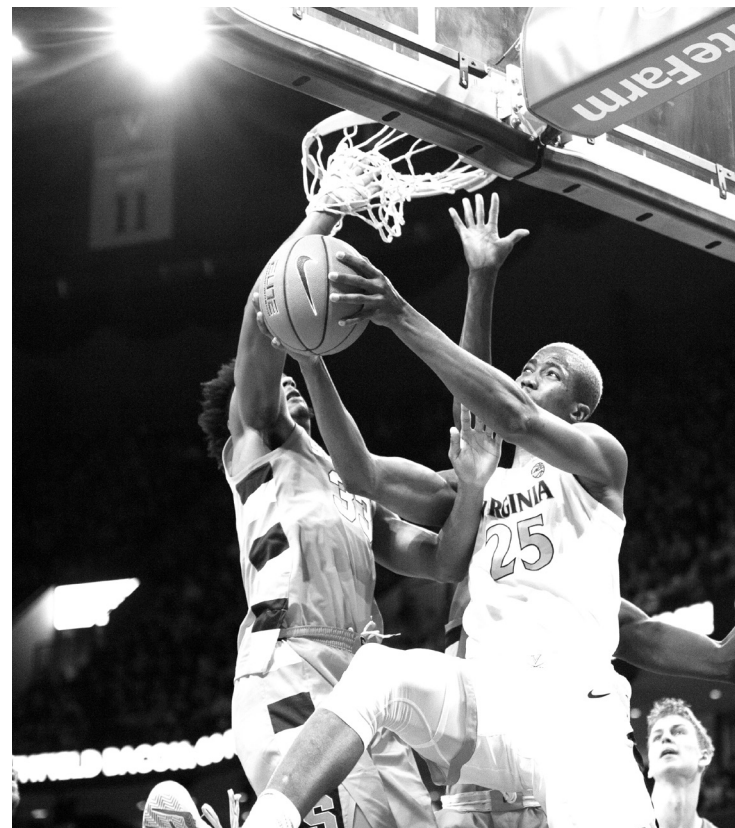
try. With Diakite and Key currently shouldering the load, guards like freshman Casey Morsell, sophomore Kody Statmann and junior Tomas Woldetensae need to step up soon.

ZZ: There's no easy fix. The staple for this team has to be excellent defense without the same excellent guard scorers that Virginia's offensive scheme tends to rely on. That said, Virginia still has a talented roster with plenty of capable scorers, both guards and forwards. What's important is a balanced attack with multiple creators and more off-ball movement. This team cannot become dependent on sophomore guard Kihei Clark creating all offense like the 2016-17 Cavaliers became dependent on London Perantes. Clark is a great facilitator, but Morsell, Statman and Woldetensae can also create offense from the perimeter, and they should all be more assertive in getting to the rim. Their penetration can create space for Key, Diakite and junior forward Jay Huff inside. When the mover-blocker isn't generating consistent offense and Virginia opts for more of a five-out look, off-ball movement still needs to happen. The Cavaliers can't afford to get stagnant and rely on three-point shooting like they did at times last year and in the past.

Who do you expect to step up for the men's basketball team in the second half of the season?

CW: Huff has both the experience and the tools needed to boost the struggling Cavaliers back to the top. Throughout his career, despite limited playing time, Huff has been a household name for Virginia basketball fans. His talent is easy to see. Now it's time for Huff to utilize his wide skill set and provide the interior scoring that can aid Virginia's current dependence on guard scoring — which has been lacking. Provided he can stay out of foul trouble and remain in games, Huff can be a difference maker for the Cavaliers in the second half of the season.

ZZ: I expect to see more from Diakite. After exploring the NBA Draft, he returned for his final year of eligibility to show why he's a pro player and lead Virginia. So far, Diakite has had brilliant moments and games but has yet to play to his potential. Part of that is staying out of foul trouble, so he can develop some rhythm early in games, and part of it is picking the right moments to attack. But he has a smooth release and the ability to get to the rim and finish through contact. He is already attracting double teams and displaying improved court awareness and passing ability. Diakite is a gamer,



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Diakite will be critical if Virginia hopes to make another deep postseason run in March.

and he will step up in 2020.

At this point, what do you view as a successful season for the women's and men's basketball teams?

LS: The ultimate goal for most college programs is to make the NCAA Tournament. This task, however, will be difficult for a young Virginia women's team. In a tough ACC conference, a successful season for the women would be remaining competitive, developing the future of the program and making a run deep in the ACC Tournament. For the men's team, despite losing key pieces, simply making the tournament will not suffice for success. So far, this season has an eerily similar feeling to the 2016-17 season. That team was coming off an Elite Eight appearance and lost stars like Malcolm Brogdon and Anthony Gill, which led to a tough second round NCAA Tournament exit. Improving from that finish and making it to the second weekend of the NCAA Tournament would therefore be a success for the men's team.

AM: In such a tough conference, the remainder of the women's season will be filled with ups and downs. I believe a positive finish for Virginia will constitute finishing the season .500 or better and continuing to play teams competitively. This is a tall task given that Virginia will be the underdog in the majority of its

remaining matchups. However, the recurring issue for the Cavaliers has been their streaky play. They can match or outscore their opponent in three quarters but lose an entire quarter by 15 points. Thompson is aware of the team's streaky play, and I think with more consistent play and significant offensive improvement this defensive-oriented team can make a real run with the coach and current roster. The Cavaliers, currently averaging over 18 turnovers per game, will also need to limit mistakes. If Virginia can rise to the occasion, the season can be saved.

CW: For this year's men's basketball team, making it into the Sweet 16 round of the tournament would be a success. The Cavaliers need to meet this mark to maintain their status as a national powerhouse program. The women, on the other hand, must qualify for the NCAA Tournament. Willoughby and Touissant definitely deserve a return to the postseason for all the work they have put into the program. It's time for the other players to step up.

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

Tuition will continue to rise if the General Assembly doesn't act

The past decade saw a 33.5 increase for in-state students with little to show for it

The Board of Visitors approved a 3.6 percent tuition hike last month which will affect students entering and continuing studies next fall in the School of Architecture, College of Arts & Sciences, the McIntire School of Commerce and the Curry School of Education and Human Development. Students entering the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the School of Nursing next fall will be charged between \$1,000 and \$2,000 more than students who are already enrolled in these schools following several financial plans approved by the Board in December 2017.

The Board's decision regrettably follows last year's state-wide tuition freeze, when Virginia public colleges agreed not to approve an increase in exchange for a \$52.5 million grant from the Republican General Assembly. Given Democratic campaign promises to expand higher education accessibility leading up to the recent elections, the new Democratic majority needs to follow through with its promises by continuing the tuition freeze in the short term and adopting solutions to address college unaffordability in the long term.

University President Jim Ryan has maintained that the tuition increase is part of his larger plan to keep UVa. a competitive institution. Admittedly, tuition increases are an unsurprising consequence of Ryan's financially ambitious 2030 plan, which among other things has called for the construction of luxury dorms and a new performing arts center, improved transportation in Charlottesville and a \$15 living wage for all full-time, benefits eligible University employees and contracted workers. Even if students will reap the benefits of Ryan's goal to make the University the top public college in the country, it is worrisome that these tuition increases would be a substantial burden for low-income individuals who could benefit substantially from many of the changes Ryan wants to make.

Whereas the University's annual tuition was \$10,628 for in-state residents and \$33,574 for out-of-state residents in 2010, those numbers will increase to an estimated \$14,188 and \$48,036 respectively in the fall. This means tuition has increased by a whopping 33.5 percent for in-state residents and 43.1 percent for out-of-state students in the past decade — and these numbers don't even factor

in room, board and other mandatory fees. Considering Ryan and the Board will only continue to increase tuition to finance their bold measures in the coming years, it's up to Democratic legislators to take a stand for accessibility at our Commonwealth's flagship university.

Virginia Democrats have put forward a host of higher education proposals that they claim will help improve college affordability. In his "Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back" initiative, Gov. Ralph Northam has proposed free community college for low- and middle-income state residents, a plan that would cost the state \$145 million. Northam has also advocated for another \$45 million to be allocated to financial aid programs at public schools in Virginia. But the plan hasn't come without criticism. "Not only does the governor's budget fail to continue the freeze, it has a slush fund for House and Senate Democrats nearly four times that size," former Republican Majority Leader Del. Todd Gilbert said. "I doubt this is what voters were expecting when they voted for Democrats."

Though Democratic legislators have yet to propose another state-wide tuition freeze for Virginia's public uni-

versities, they have sought to increase the transparency of private donations to public schools and their foundations. Following a Virginia Supreme Court decision maintaining that public school foundations are not subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Del. David Bulova has proposed two pieces of legislation to make public any conditions that private donors place on their contributions to state schools.

Though the policies proposed by the Democrats will likely have a substantial impact on higher education accessibility in the Commonwealth, they must address the key reason why college remains out of reach for so many students — sky-high tuition.

Not all college affordability proposals have come from Democratic lawmakers, however. Republican Sen. Richard Stuart introduced a bill last year that would require two-thirds of each Virginia public school's student body to approve a tuition increase before administrative adoption. Although this particular bill is rather bold, it is similar in spirit to our recent suggestion that the Board should be democratized so that students can at least somewhat participate in the financial decisions that dramatically

affect their university experiences. Though Republicans are out of power and have limited ability to pass their initiatives, Democrats should follow their lead in addressing high tuition head on.

Unfortunately no party has put forward a coherent plan to increase state appropriations and compel colleges to control costs. Trimming administrative bloat and spending less on constructing luxury dorms seem like prime areas for focus.

In the meantime, Democrats need to adopt a tuition freeze and invest substantial effort toward the creation of a concrete plan to expand college accessibility. Failing to address these issues adequately is a startling omission from a political party that claims to be a proponent of greater college affordability.

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Wine caves are a symptom of Citizens United

Citizens United should be overturned to reduce the power of corporate interests in our political system

If you watched December's Democratic debate, there is no way that you missed the phrase "wine cave". The "cave" that was mentioned is alluding to an alleged closed-door meeting held by presidential candidate and former South Bend, Mayor Pete Buttigieg with billionaire donors. Fellow candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., took aim at Buttigieg, pointing out that his campaign financing structure is exactly what is wrong with politics in America — billionaires and corporations funding campaigns. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., later continued the discussion by comparing former Vice President Joe Biden's campaign structure to that of Buttigieg's. This discussion illuminated the issue of the wine cave, and billionaire donors more specifically, as perhaps the biggest threat to our democracy. As Americans, we must resist the wine cave by halting the control big corporations and billionaire donors have over our government.

This big money that is being handed out in wine caves is not hushed and quiet — it is loud and overpowering politics on every level, from the presidency to city council. In the 2018 election cycle, the finance industry

alone donated over \$500 million to campaigns and super PACs. While the donations slightly favored Republicans, both parties received millions of dollars from the sector. All corporate interests and lobbying groups together easily spent over one billion dollars throughout the election cycle.

If any candidate truly believes in supporting most Americans, then they must recognize that giant corpo-

tions, which often makes the considerations of the majority of Americans less important.

Unfortunately, there are several roadblocks in overcoming corporate control on our government and the first is Citizens United, the 2010 Supreme Court decision that allowed corporations to spend an unlimited amount of money to advocate for or against candidates and gave rise to

— the same politicians that are already wrapped up in corporate interests. The public has already decided that it is time for change, but if the corrupt system is fighting for corporate interests, then it would be very difficult for an amendment such as this one to pass.

Difficulty fortunately does not equate to hopelessness. While our political system is wrapped up in corporate interests, not every politician has

But overturning a corrupt system is no easy task and no politician alone will be able to solve this issue. In order to overturn this disastrous ruling, Americans across the country must speak up. Simple things, like calling your legislator and supporting candidates who want to overturn Citizens United is a great start. We need marches and displays — we need a movement. This is a fight for our democracy, for our integrity, and for our future. We must overturn Citizens United in order to fight against billionaires in wine caves affecting our election cycles and government. It is not right for the top 0.1 percent to be in control of our political system. Going into 2020, we all should be fighting for this change and supporting candidates that can help enact it. It is time to end the power and financial structures that start with billionaires in a wine cave. Let's take back our democracy and resist corporate control to establish fair and equitable democracy in the United States.

HUNTER HESS is an Opinion Columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

We must overturn Citizens United in order to fight against billionaires in wine caves affecting our election cycles and government.

rations and billionaires funding our elections is wrong. It ties a candidate directly to big money, which then allows the origin of the cash flow to have control over the candidate once they are in office. This endless cycle of campaign financing supports a system that is looking out for billionaires and corporations instead of the people that it is intended to protect. The gun lobby, the pharmaceutical industry and the big banks all influence our elected officials with their millions in dona-

super PACs. This case cemented big money into American politics and activists since then have been successful in exposing the downfalls of this decision to the public — 85 percent of Democrats and 66 percent of Republicans support a constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United. The American people want to see money's influence on politics disappear, but in order to amend the Constitution, the elected politicians must vote on this hypothetical amendment

submitted to the ultra-rich's control over our democracy. Presidential candidates like Sanders, with his "political revolution", and Warren, advocating for "big structural change", are leading the fight against big money's power in our elections. The Senate and the House have already introduced amendments that would overturn Citizens United and 19 states have already passed resolutions in support of a constitutional amendment overturning the ruling.

On-Grounds housing is getting worse

The increase in on-Grounds housing rates reflects an inability of the University to understand what students want from their housing options

In early December 2019, the University announced that it approved an increase in student housing rates by 3.5 percent for the coming academic year. This affects first-year residence halls as well as upperclassmen who live on Grounds, with increases between \$250 and \$270 per academic year. This increase is meant to fund many housing projects to improve the quality of life on Grounds, such as facility repairs and new housing complexes like Bond House. Although these projects may improve on-Grounds housing in many ways, the increase in rates will likely decrease student interest specifically in upperclassmen University housing, which would put more pressure on the housing market in Charlottesville. On-Grounds housing is becoming increasingly inaccessible and undesirable, contributing to the housing issues students already face in Charlottesville.

Despite renovations and new housing initiatives, students still don't seem to be signing contracts to live on-Grounds after their first year. For example, while the Bond House apartments have "elegant decor," many residents have encountered mice, faulty utilities and inconveniences from construction that has still not been

completed, despite claims that the complex would be finished before fall 2019. Likely because of these issues and Bond House being one of the most expensive on-Grounds housing options, only 239 students have requested to live in the complex, leaving almost 70 spots unfilled. Perhaps if facilities focused their funds on the utilities

Clearly, there is a disconnect between what students want from their housing options and what the University is providing.

and pest problems associated with Bond House rather than the decor and quality of the appliances, the apartment complex's issues could have been remedied without ongoing construction and debts.

The example of the Bond House residence brings into question the priorities that the University puts forward when designing on-Grounds housing complexes. Instead of trying to replicate the updated, modern features associated with local luxury housing such as the Flats and the Standard, the University should shift focus to providing housing that is close to Grounds, practical and affordable. University officials ac-

knowledge that the most important factor affecting where students choose to live in proximity to Grounds, which makes the location of Bond House attractive. Nevertheless, Bond House and the ongoing Brandon Avenue housing projects are still meant to fulfill specific aesthetic purposes which likely increased its construction

costs, instead of simply providing students with affordable housing close to Grounds.

The prices and features associated with on-Grounds housing are especially questionable when considering University President Jim Ryan's goal of requiring second-year students to continue to live on Grounds. After the increase, the University has not addressed how SFS will cover these new costs in financial aid plans. The University's financial aid program AccessUVA currently does not adequately cover all on-Grounds housing options, and this increase in rates could make it even more difficult for low-in-

come students to live on Grounds. Furthermore, if these low-income students are required to live in these expensive on-Grounds residences for their second year, the University would be preventing these students from choosing housing that suits their financial needs, since off-Grounds housing is often more affordable than Uni-

versity housing.

Because of this, a larger number of upperclassmen may search for off-Grounds housing. With a lack of revenue due to fewer on-Grounds residents, the University may be forced to further increase on-Grounds housing rates to adequately fund the projects meant to make the residences more desirable. While this specific issue may be remedied once second-years are required to live on Grounds, the requirement still hinders second-years from choosing the most affordable housing option. Clearly, there is a disconnect between what students want from their housing options and what the

University is providing.

Although the University hopes to make on-Grounds rates competitive with their off-Grounds counterparts, this increase in rates may severely jeopardize that goal. Many have called on the University to create affordable housing to alleviate some of the pressure on the Charlottesville housing market, caused in part by student housing and luxury housing near Grounds. However, focusing on decor, appliances and leaving many construction and facilities issues unaddressed, such as in Bond House, is not attracting students to on-Grounds housing. In fact, it seemingly only contributes to the issue of oversaturating the student housing market with these luxury complexes. It's time for the University to listen to what students want in their housing and shift residence designs to fit those needs.

VICTORIA MCKELVEY is the Senior Associate Opinion Editor for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at v.mckelvey@cavalierdaily.com.

HUMOR

Five things to do instead of binge-watching 'Friends'

As the ball dropped and brought in the new decade, the year of 2020, our nation suffered a great loss. The saying goes, "out with the old and in with the new," which generally brings about positive change and gives us a chance to reflect on our lives and adjust our habits.

However, Netflix took it too far with the removal of the beloved hit TV sitcom "Friends." Now, I sit here at the beginning of 2020, looking at all the year has to offer, and I feel empty. To cope with my pain, I have compiled a list of things that may be used to distract ourselves until "Friends" returns to streaming on HBO Max in May.

1. Clean your room

It's important to start off the new decade with a fresh start. What better way to do that than with a clean dorm, apartment, house, etc.? While many of us may be tempted to simply dust, vacuum, and use some light Windex, I encourage you to instead choose to be inspired by your inner Monica and let your freak out! Really go to town with all the cleaning products your mom bought for you first year that you say you use all the time, but don't.

2. Go shopping

What better way to distract yourself than with some classic retail therapy? We all love a good

sale, but why hunt for sales when you could instead hunt for some chic Jill Green inspired outfits, such as a classic "please hire me sweater" in a deep red. Maybe take it a step further and complete the look with "apartment pants." Tie it all together with a fitting attitude of seasonal depression and you're good to go.

3. Watch a new show

Why sit at home and click through all the channels when you could take a hint from our favorite paleontologist and watch the Nature Channel. Is there a better way to

bore your real life friends than with useless facts you learned on a daytime channel?

4. Play a game with your friends

Gather your five closest friends and force them to play a board game with you. You may be tempted to revert to classics such as poker or gin rummy, but I offer you the alternate and much more interesting "Strip Happy Days" game. While your friends may be hesitant at first, with time and lots of margaritas, we know that if Joey was successful, you can be too!

5. Get a haircut

New year, new you, right? Show the world that this year your resolutions will outlast your will to live by starting the year off with a fresh new cut. While

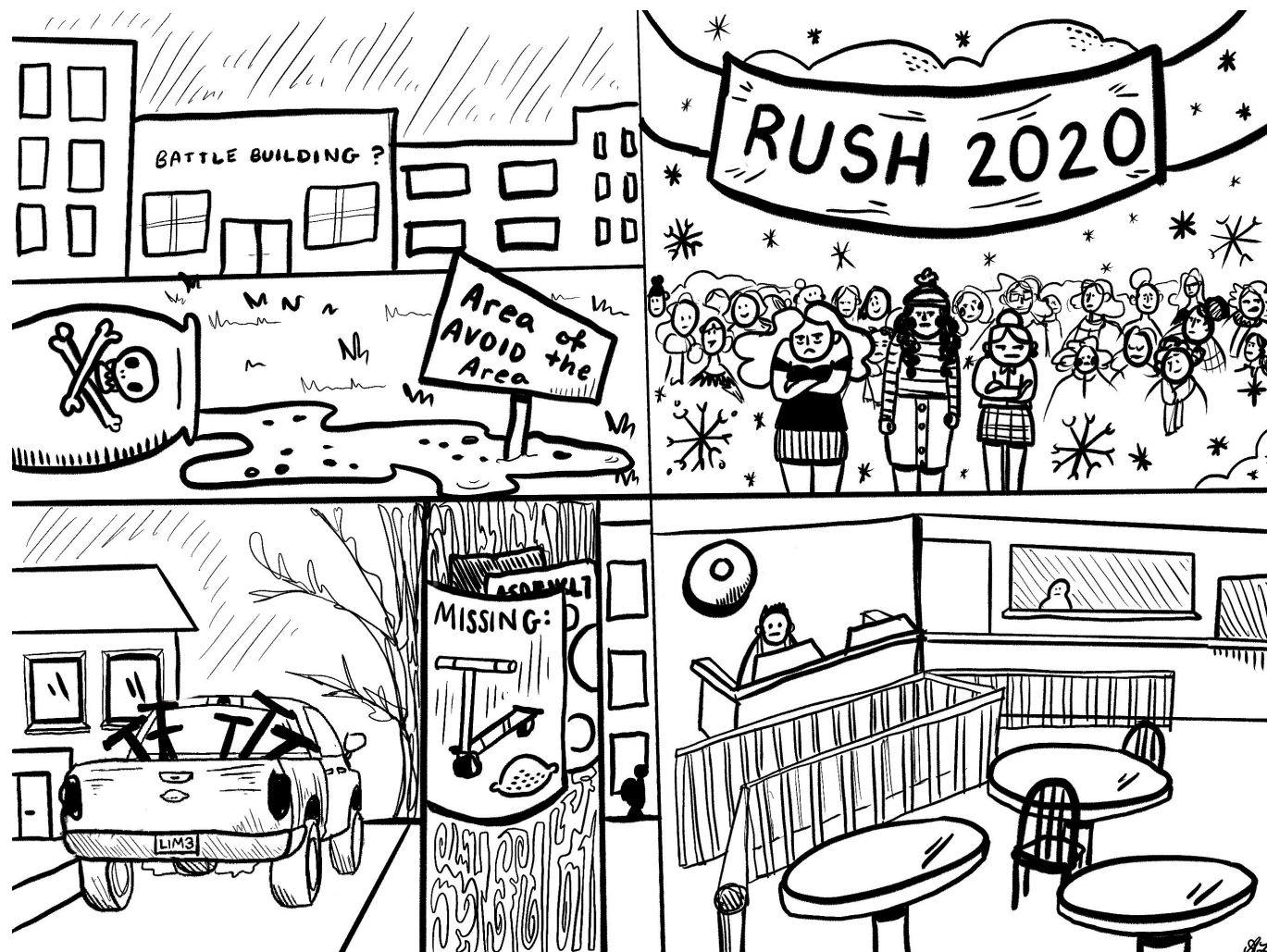
scrolling through Pinterest and exploring the hottest haircuts for 2020, just tap that search bar and enter "The Rachel." You'll fall in love today as most Americans did in the 90s, guaranteed!

RILEY POWER is a Humor Columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com.

CARTOON

What you missed over winter break

Audrey Lewis | Cartoon Editor



PUZZLES

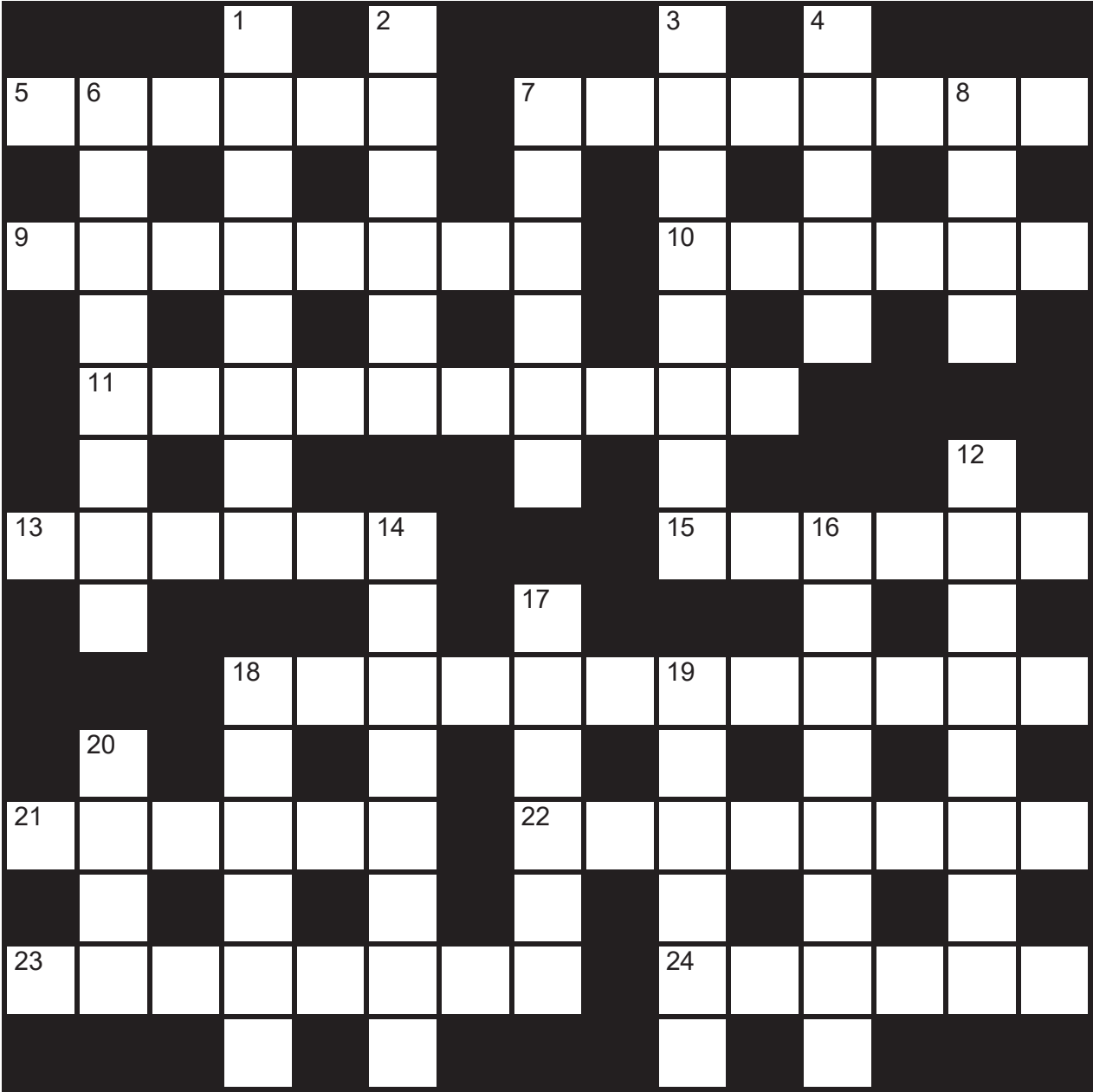
WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Dan Goff | Puzzle Master

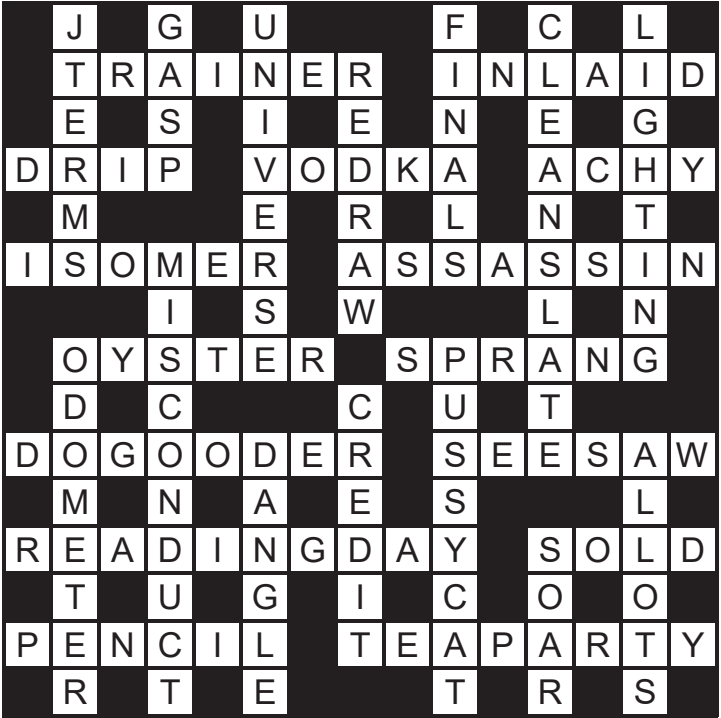
* THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Across**
- 5 Type of deodorant
 - 7 Two-word Latin phrase meaning "from the beginning"
 - 9 If you haven't gotten in a class yet but are still trying to, you're on the ___
 - 10 Most doors
 - 11 Some classes have a mandatory ___ component, often led by a TA
 - 13 One-third of Migos
 - 15 Aveeno and Jergens are popular brands of this
 - 18 Two-word principle by which greater number exercises greater power
 - 21 Don Cheadle stars in a movie about a "Hotel" here
 - 22 Depending on the context, this could refer to office work or to religious work
 - 23 Type of telescope
 - 24 Archaic adjective meaning "truly" or "certainly"

- Down**
- 1 High-society snobs
 - 2 With "of," this two-word Latin phrase suggests something has been replaced
 - 3 "Are you an early bird or a ___ ___?"
 - 4 Sound coming from poor speakers, maybe
 - 6 Three-word phrase that might describe an irregular relationship
 - 7 Declare that something is true
 - 8 This "of March" day is celebrated on the 15th of the month in question
 - 12 "Shabooya" chant popular on the school bus — two words
 - 14 Two-word iconic mausoleum in Agra
 - 16 Third
 - 17 Funny word for fight
 - 18 What a boss has to do — it's often in the job title
 - 19 You must be enrolled in this many credits to be full-time
 - 20 To change one class on SIS for another



* SOLUTION FROM LAST ISSUE



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HEALTH & SCIENCE

Climate change conversation, actions to shift next decade

U.Va. faculty, students anticipate how the conversation will change and what humanity's next steps should be

Lucie Rutherford | Senior Associate Editor

In the final year of the decade, Oxford Dictionary has announced the word of the year — climate emergency. According to NASA, the world has seen a global rise in temperature, sinking ice sheets, sea level rise and extreme weather events. As people become more aware of the effects of climate change, Willis Jenkins, the convener of Environmental Humanities at the University and co-director of Coastal Futures Conservatory, anticipates an increased urgency in the climate crisis conversation over the next decade.

“No longer focused on future scenarios, climate conversations are connecting the rapid impacts unfolding now across multiple systems with a sense that we are watching a disaster unfold around us,” Jenkins said. “It is clearer now that the delayed response of the past 30 years have been costly.”

Local reactions to the climate change topic were seen at the beginning of the 2019 fall semester, as hundreds of U.Va. students and community members marched from the Rotunda to the Downtown Mall in order to bring awareness to the issue. In addition, the University has recently announced a goal, alongside William & Mary, to be carbon neutral by 2030 and fossil fuel-free by 2050.

Looking towards the next 10 years, Deborah Lawrence, professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and leader of the environmental practice program at the University, stresses the importance of a positive and attainable path forward. This path includes three parts — electrifying everything, greening the grid and securing a safety net. The first and second parts of this plan, electrifying everything and greening the grid, go hand-in-hand. A future of electric means replacing wired single-power plants with solar and wind farms.

“Greening the grid requires a lot of work to improve what the power sources are that feed our electric grid,” Lawrence said. “There’s a huge amount of work that needs to be done on understanding and thinking about how the new grid will work, how a system of distributed power sources works.”

The final piece of this vision, securing a safety net, requires the use of negative emissions technologies, or NET. Lawrence says that if we want to stay below two degrees Celsius of warming, carbon dioxide output cannot just be stopped, but it needs to be taken out of the atmosphere.

According to Lawrence, humanity’s carbon dioxide emissions need to peak by 2030 then rapidly decline. After zero

is sucked into a machine, which sorts CO₂ from all other air molecules. Collected CO₂ is then made into cement, or another liquified, pressurized stream and buried.

“It doesn’t exist yet,” Lawrence said. “The challenge with Direct Air Capture is

of an effect. In the past year, the area has seen record hot August and October months, as well as an unusual tornado warning on Halloween. Third-year College student Jasmyn Noel is a part of the University’s Sustainability department’s Energy and Water Committee and anticipates that more people will become involved in the climate change topic as greater effects are experienced.

“I believe that when climate

Jenkins said. “Add to that investments by climate denialists in confusion and conflict, and the resulting sense of political paralysis, and we all have a strong incentive to look away.”

When it comes to action among her generation, Noel encourages young adults to not only reduce their carbon footprint but also stresses the importance of political action.

“Talk with others about climate change and its effects, let your political leaders hear you and vote for those who listen,” Noel said. “Even better, become the leaders in your field of interest, where you have the power to make change for our communities.”

With constant headlines of natural disasters and melting ice sheets, Jenkins claims that the greatest challenge over the next decade will be to avoid naturalizing the changes unfolding around us.

“If we accommodate ourselves to such weirdness — as if big fire seasons, disappearing species, melting glaciers, bleaching coral, submerging coasts were unchangeable processes of the planet — then we won’t see the impacts as political, as matters of responsibility,” Jenkins said.

As we look toward the next decade, Lawrence says it is important to look back at the passing decade to see all of the change that has been made to improve the climate and make people aware.

“Countries are taking this seriously, and the renewable energy revolution is happening,” Lawrence said. “This is the decade ... I urge all of you to think about what you’re going to do for this decade, and how you’re going to make a better climate future for all of us.”

emissions is achieved, we must then go below zero. As of now, forests are taking up carbon dioxide via photosynthesis, though new technologies are being created to eat up additional carbon. One of those technologies is Bio-Energy with Carbon Capture and Storage, where plants are grown and burned to create a concentrated stream of CO₂, which is then collected and stored underground for thousands of years. The second, which Lawrence claims is much farther out from being used, is Direct Air Capture. In DAC, air

that CO₂ is 410 parts per million, so 410 things you’re trying to get out of a million molecules. It’s a bad math problem.”

Though parts of the country have been dramatically affected by climate change, whether that be via hurricanes, fires or drought, areas such as Charlottesville have seen much less

change causes a bigger disturbance to people’s daily lives, the topic will finally be discussed and taken seriously among the metaphorical ‘bigger tables,’ where our politicians sit,” Noel said.

In order to combat the current environmental changes, Jenkins believes that the most important thing for people to do is pay attention.

“Climate change is already a challenge to human minds because of the scales of time and space involved, and the indirect lines of causation and impact,”



TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Researchers predict severity of influenza season

U.Va. researchers at the Biocomplexity Institute and Initiative are developing models to estimate and manage the multifaceted impacts of influenza

Brightney Varghese | Staff Writer

The winter months are often associated with an increase in influenza cases, and U.Va. researchers are working to track the spread and control of the infectious disease. The new initiative and similar projects at the Biocomplexity Institute and Initiative take a holistic approach to solve complex societal issues. They integrate the social, economic and biological aspects of these problems into computational methods that aid in management and planning.

“Our overall goal is to develop the mathematical and computational foundations to study the epidemic process and develop associated technologies to plan, respond, detect and intervene before and during seasonal and epidemic outbreaks of infectious diseases,” said Madhav Marathe, division director of the network systems science and advanced computing division of the BII.

The project is associated with a CDC challenge to predict and forecast influenza. Marathe cited nascent collaborations with U.Va. Health and the Data Science Institute. Additionally, the Institute has general ties with the School of Medicine and faculty from other departments at the University.

Furthermore, collaboration is an essential piece for this project at the Biocomplexity Institute and Initiative. Infectious diseases can be classified as a societal problem and, in turn, require attention from all scientific disciplines. Their teams encompass a variety of backgrounds rather than depending on one singular department.

“Our institute is a transdisciplinary team science-oriented organization, [as] we all work on a variety of different projects,” said Bryan Lewis, computational epidemiologist and co-principal investigator of the influenza project. “For this influenza initiative, for example, we have several different teams tackling differ-

ent aspects of the work.”

Influenza, or the flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus. It spreads through droplets, and a healthy individual can acquire the virus by touching an infected surface and then touching their mouth, eyes or nose. Symptoms include fever, cough, muscle or body aches, vomiting and headaches. In order to prevent illness, the CDC recommends that individuals get vaccinated, avoid contact with those who are sick and frequently wash their hands.

Flu season is common during the fall and winter months. Although the virus occurs year-round, there is usually a peak in activity around December and February. According to the CDC, 3 percent to 11 percent of the population are reported to have the flu, depending on the season.

Researchers at the Biocomplexity Institute and Initiative are developing methods to analyze the patterns associated with flu season. In particular, they are creating computational models to forecast and control outbreaks. According to Marathe, the models integrate the influence of social networks on the spread of influenza by creating representations of cities.

“Our group was one of the first groups that even articulated the role of social networks in understanding diseases such as influenza,” Marathe said. “[They] spread because of social contacts.... These networks capture how in a city might be moving around, meeting others and doing their day to day task.”

Srini Venkatramanan, computer scientist and co-principal investigator of the influenza project, detailed the process of creating the models. First, researchers break down their research question into multiple hypotheses. The first phase of the project includes data collection, and then researchers create computational models in which they



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Spread by the influenza virus, the flu is a contagious respiratory illness associated with symptoms such as fever, headaches and vomiting.

build synthetic representations of society. Finally, they run the model to validate it.

There are many applications for the developed computational models. For example, Venkatramanan detailed work with AccuWeather in influenza forecasting. This feature would allow short term, realistic predictions about impacted populations. Marathe added that the application would inform individuals of the prevalence of flu in the region.

“These are projects on influenza forecasting,” Venkatramanan said. “This one is a short-term realistic way of how seasonal influenza is going on here and what would happen in the next four weeks ... We look at the spread of it and short term forecasts, and we make these forecasts on a weekly basis.”

Additionally, the models can be accurate measures for public health measures. They can be used to manage vaccine allocation and distribution. Also, pre-

dictions can be used for hospital management.

“If you were managing the hospital system and anticipate a surge in flu in the next work, you can manage the use of face masks, ventilators or beds,” said Marathe.

Furthermore, researchers have applied their findings to identify patterns regarding the 2019-20 flu season. In fact, based on their project associated with AccuWeather, the current season has been more active than normal. Influenza B has been the leading strand of the virus nationwide.

Influenza consists of different strands of the virus and strands A and B result in seasonal epidemics. Influenza A can cause pandemics and exhibits rapid genetic changes. Influenza B’s genetic and antigenic properties change more slowly.

“Flu is raging strong at this point,” Marathe said. “This season saw unusually high activity in December.”

While conducting different phases of the projects, researchers faced many challenges related to computational models. In particular, they have had difficulty acquiring accurate data sets that are not noisy. Venkatramanan noted challenges with effectively translating anecdotes and field studies into computational quotes. Also, there are complications when developing representative social networks that maintain anonymity and protect individual privacy.

In addition to improving forecasts impacted by these challenges, Marathe noted future plans for the project. He hopes to focus on additional epidemics around the globe. Additionally, he plans to improve the resolution of forecasts and incorporate artificial intelligence and machine learning computational techniques into the process.



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