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Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear readers,

I'm writing this letter from the Lawn, where most of our staff is gathered to watch Rotunda Sing. Our chatter about which photo works best and how many more words we need to cut from a certain article is punctuated by the a cappella performances that make Rotunda Sing one of my favorite events of the year — I hope you get a sense of the joy this evening brings in this edition's cover story.

You'll also find a summary of what's been going on around Grounds since the semester started just a few short days ago — first-years moved in, attended Convocation, started classes. Our Arts & Entertainment desk has rounded up a handful of events for students and community members alike to attend, and our Sports desk brings previews and analyses of spring sports.

We've been busy over the summer, too, constantly working towards our mission of meeting readers where they're at. Whether this means a more robust online presence or an increasingly engaging newsletter, our staffers, Junior Board and Managing Board have been planning and organizing to make this semester our most successful yet.


If it's not already obvious, The Cavalier Daily is a dynamic and dedicated group of people who work tirelessly to produce engaging content that impacts the University and Charlottesville community, and we're always looking for diverse, creative and driven students to join our team. Our applications open Sept. 1 and close Sept. 8, and we encourage you to attend an informational session Aug. 29 and Aug. 30. All recruitment information can also be found online at recruit-cavalierdaily.com.

Our work is also impossible without the support of our readers — whether you open our newsletter every morning, follow us on Instagram or pick up the newest copy of our print edition, we can't do it without you. I hope you consider making a tax-deductible donation to The Cavalier Daily so we can continue in our mission to provide relevant, insightful information at the University and beyond.

I can't wait to see what the final semester of the 134th term brings, and I hope you'll remain on this journey with us. I can always be reached at editor@cavalierdaily.com with questions, concerns or feedback.

Warmly,

Ava MacBlane
134th Editor-in-Chief
of The Cavalier Daily



NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff

New students welcomed through activities fair and convocation

First-year and transfer students filed into seats on the lawn Sunday to hear advice and guiding words from faculty and student speakers at convocation. The next day, thousands of students from all years flocked to Peabody Hall, South Lawn and the Amphitheater to find more than 500 organizations eager to recruit new members to their ranks.

Convocation is a longstanding tradition at the University, throughout which students sit facing the Rotunda. During Final Exercises, students progress down the Lawn away from the Rotunda, coming full circle four years later.

Ian Baucom, executive vice president and University provost, said the ceremony focuses on three touchstones of the University's foundation — Honor, student self-governance and the community of trust.

"We want you to know about those traditions, and we want you to pledge yourself to them because of our unshakeable commitment to the unfettered freedom of thought and inquiry across all our differences of perspective," Baucom said.

The activities fair is an bi-annual event organized and hosted by Student Council and often serves as an introduction to the University's community outside the classroom for first-years, transfer students or even upperclassmen looking to get involved in something new.

After working to organize the event, Violette Cadet, vice president of organizations and fourth-year College student, said Student Council worked to make an event that showcases diversity.

"[The fair] has a role of connecting people, but also showing people and not just students, but administrators and [everyone else] all that UVa. has to offer," Cadet said. "We have so many clubs with so many different niches, from the SpongeBob club to a capella groups to theater to political organizations."

Darren D. Kelly named next dean of OAAA

Class of 2004 alumna Darren D. Kelly will join the Office of African American Affairs Oct. 2 as the associate vice president and dean. Kelly brings extensive teaching and mentoring experience to implement a student-focused approach, according to an announcement from Student Affairs.

Kelly will replace Michael Gerald Mason, who currently serves as the interim OAAA dean, taking on the responsibilities of providing academic advising and support to students.

Currently serving as associate vice president in the division of Diversity and Community Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, Kelly also led the Academic Diversity Initiatives and Student Engagement team in fundraising and community outreach efforts.

Malo Hutson, Dean and Edward E. Elson Professor of the School of Architecture, who chaired the search committee, told Student Affairs that Kelly is a "dynamic leader."

"The search committee was impressed by Dr. Kelly's vast experience working with faculty, staff, and students to develop high-impact programs and initiatives," Hutson said.

While a student at UVa., Kelly served as an OAAA Peer Advisor for three years and a member of the Black Student Alliance, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and Class of 2004 Fourth-Year Trustees.

Kelly will move to Charlottesville with his wife and two sons. In the Student Affairs announcement, he said his time at UVa. inspired his approach as a leader.

"I'm excited to be returning to UVA and Charlottesville," Kelly said. "I cherish the opportunity to continue the outstanding work of OAAA, a unit that meant so much to me as a student. My family and I are grateful for this opportunity."

Student veterans reclaim Veteran Student Center conference room

When leaders of the Student Veterans of America walked into Newcomb this summer, they found the conference room in the Veteran Student Center, once a home to SVA meetings and study groups, unexpectedly emptied of its military decorations.

Student leaders say the University reallocated the space as a dean's office without consulting SVA members. A change.org petition to reclaim the center garnered over 1,850 signatures and the group received news Sunday that the room would be vacated and returned to SVA.

SVA, a group of student veterans at the University, typically holds its bi-weekly meetings in the VSC in the Newcomb basement. A safe space for the military community created in 2021, the attached conference room previously featured flags from the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, along with a television and conference table.

The conference room was set to serve as an office for David Saurwein, assistant dean of students and liaison for Posse scholars. Romeo Sarmiento, SVA co-founder and treasurer and third-year McIntire student, said that while Saurwein has acted as an ally for veterans in the past, students felt blindsided since the University never communicated with student veterans about the change — before or after the transition.

"It didn't quite make sense to us, losing that sanctuary of a room, losing that ability to disconnect and maybe find some tranquility within that room," Sarmiento said.

SVA announced via its petition Sunday that Saurwein will be vacating the conference room in the VSC. The group has kept the petition live in hopes of achieving their second demand — hiring a director of veteran services.

8.20

8.21

Rotunda Sing brings excitement to fall semester

Students filled the Lawn to experience a time-honored University tradition

Caroline Hagood | Senior Writer



ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

As night fell, hundreds of students filled the Lawn with picnic blankets and snacks to listen to performances at this year's Rotunda Sing.

A pink and blue sunset lit up the Academical Village as the University's vocal groups trilled and chirped behind the Rotunda Wednesday evening. As night fell, hundreds of students filled the Lawn with picnic blankets and snacks to listen to performances at this year's Rotunda Sing.

The event has been a beloved tradition for over 30 years, hosted by the University Programs Council in the first week to welcome students to Grounds. From first-years to fourth-years, the concert attracts a wide range of students at the University.

For new students, the concert is one of their first opportunities to gather with other students and celebrate the University community. First-year College student Keren Kabundi said she was interested in attending after learning about the event at the activities fair on Monday.

"You don't get these opportunities in high school," Kabundi said. "To have good times with friends and watching people perform is really nice."

The concert included a range of performances from 18 groups, each delivering songs in their own

genre and vocal style. The University Singers opened with "Virginia, Hail, All Hail."

The all-gender choral group was founded in 1957 and now performs at several University events, including convocation for first-years. Greta Marle, University Singers president and fourth-year College student, said the large size of the group helps them stand out.

"Having that many voices on different parts when we're doing complicated pieces helps give us a distinct sound," Marle said.

Many of the a cappella groups use the performance to showcase their abilities and styles to students in their audience who might consider auditioning. Most auditions are held in Lawn rooms this upcoming week and are open to any students who prepare a song.

Marle said that though they recruit in several ways, such as on social media and at the activities fair, their live performances are a chance for students to hear what they could be a part of.

"It's another great way to get our name out there and the sound that we make," Marle said. "It's kind of like our version of a commercial in a sense to try and lure

people in."

Isabel O'Connor, UPC director of arts and enrichment and third-year College student, said the event celebrates the differences between all the singing groups.

"It's so special to me to get to see all of these different creative students coming together and sharing something they worked so hard on," O'Connor said.

Entertaining the crowd, emcees Ben Nilson, UPC vice chair of membership and fourth-year College student, and Austen Day, UPC vice chair of programming and third-year College student, provided commentary and background information between performances.

"We've already blown away my expectations," Day said. "It's amazing to see all the people that have been able to come out."

Academical Village People, an all-male vocal group, sang "Electric Love" by Borns and "Clarity" by Zedd. The group is known for incorporating comedy bits into their performances — even stripping their shirts off at the end of songs.

Wells Woolcott, AVP publicity chair and fourth-year Architecture student, said he hopes their

performance made the audience laugh and broke up the rhythm of the event.

"AVP is really about embracing the absurd and not taking yourself too seriously," Woolcott said.

Other performances included the Harmonious Hoos singing a cover of "Finesse" by Bruno Mars and the Hullubahoos singing "Troublemaker" by Olly Murs.

Many groups met in person over the summer to rehearse, including the New Dominions group who held a retreat in Wintergreen the week before school to prepare.

Emily Pitts, New Dominions president and third-year Batten student, said preparations for Rotunda Sing are more intense than other performances during the year due to the shorter amount of time to practice.

"Rehearsals are the time to get prepared to really make sure we're putting our best foot forward to learn completely new songs and perform them to the best of our ability, especially for right before audition week," Pitts said.

For many fourth-years, the event is a bittersweet symbol of the beginning of their final year.

Rotunda Sing was virtual

fall 2020 due to COVID-19 precautions, making the in-person concert even more special for fourth-year students like Kristen O'Donoghue, fourth-year College student and Lawn resident.

"To go from a video recording to being in complete community with the people here on this Lawn and meeting so many different people on this night of tradition has been a really special experience," O'Donoghue said.

The Virginia Glee Club rounded out the night with a University classic — "The Good 'Ole Song." Students linked arms and swayed to the beat in harmony to end an electric night of music.

Dairy Market developer pauses expansion plans

Local residents express concerns as the Dairy Market Developer plans to expand into nearby lots

Julianne Saunders | News Writer

Following backlash from Charlottesville residents — including during City Council and local community meetings — the developers responsible for a possible expansion to the Dairy Market have paused the formal application process for the project. The proposal, referred to as Dairy Central and informally introduced at a community meeting, will involve an expansion into over four acres of nearby lots for multi-use buildings of apartment and retail space.

Charlottesville residents are concerned that the proposed developments will force out local businesses and make the area unaffordable for residents of the 10th and Page neighborhood. Stony Point Development Group, the company behind the proposed development, is facing heavy criticism about the project's potential impact on the community.

When the new expansion proposal was first unveiled at a July 25 community meeting held for local residents and the firms involved in the proposed project, many residents were concerned that the expansion would push the primarily Black and low-income residents out

of the area.

At a City Council meeting Aug. 7, residents spoke out against the proposed expansion, despite the issue not being on the agenda. Charlottesville residents took to the meeting's public comment section, arguing that the Dairy Central project will drive out long-term residents.

Gloria Beard, a Charlottesville local who has lived in the area for over 25 years, said at a Council meeting in March that taxes increased for residents after the initial development of Dairy Central. Residents spoke negatively about a "hidden" tax increase largely due to an increase in assessed property values. Assessors often examine the local real estate market, including new developments, when making these decisions.

"Now I want to know why all these contractors are allowed to come into Charlottesville to build these high-rise apartments and houses that cost an arm and a leg," Beard said. "The one I am most concerned about is the Dairy Market and the lies that were told to our neighborhood."

Beard said the developer had

promised to include affordable housing options in the development but only planned for four units.

In a related concern, many community members have expressed worries that the planned apartments will not be affordable for most current residents. Affordable housing has long been an important concern for many in Charlottesville — including locals and students in need of affordable off-Grounds housing — especially as the cost of living rises dramatically in Charlottesville.

Despite public comments at the Council meeting, Chris Henry, President of Stony Point Development Group, said that no formal applications for the expansion projects have been submitted to the City. He said the project is not moving forward with formal application processes until the company receives more community feedback.

"We are working with the neighborhood and gathering more feedback and having conversations before moving anything forward related to a future expansion of the Dairy Central project," Henry said.

Developers broke ground in 2018 for the original Dairy Market pro-

ject — which now contains office spaces, restaurants and apartments. The project included renovating the Monticello Dairy into a food-court style restaurant. The 1937 building was originally used as a milk processing plant and gathering spot for the local community.

Some Charlottesville residents who spoke at the Council meeting noted that they are unable to afford to eat in the Dairy Market and expressed concern that the proposed development would cater to wealthy new residents of the area, leaving current residents behind.

The planned expansion has also been compared to the 1964 razing of Vinegar Hill — a historically Black neighborhood that was destroyed and redeveloped as part of an urban renewal project. The Black residents of Vinegar Hill were forced out and many Black-owned businesses closed.

Richard Hunt, a resident of the 10th and Page neighborhood where the development would be centered, spoke out at the Aug. 7 Council meeting, where he said the City should focus more on improving the area's tree canopy instead of building high-rise apartments.

"I love my neighborhood," Hunt said to Council. "When I got the flyer that was sent to some of us regarding the Dairy Market I said, 'Oh no, not again.' We've been through this, my uncle's lost a business in Vinegar Hill."

The existing business in the area that could be impacted by an expansion to Dairy Central include the Twice is Nice thrift shop and Preston Suds — a local laundromat particularly important to many local residents who don't have washing machines in their homes.

No applications related to this proposal are currently set to be addressed in upcoming Council meetings.

Class of 2027 welcomed during move-in

Residential advisors, football players and student volunteers helped during one of the busiest days on Grounds

Allison Metcalf | News Writer

Dorms bustled with students pushing carts, parents carrying twin XL bedding sets and even football players volunteering to lift heavy mini fridges as the Class of 2027 entered Grounds this fall. Close to 4,000 first-year students found new homes across 27 buildings during a hectic yet exhilarating process.

Ahead of the busy few days, Housing and Residential Life facilitated move-in with months of organizing alongside 240 residential advisor staff — upperclassmen students who live within dorm communities and serve as mentors to students living on Grounds.

The first-year students arrived on Grounds a week after Lawn residents, who moved in last Friday. Incoming transfer students and returning second-year students who will be living on Grounds moved in Saturday, while returning third and fourth-year students began moving in Sunday.

Throughout the day, students may have spotted some familiar faces among first-year dorms — University President Jim Ryan,

football coach Tony Elliott, Director of Athletics Carla Williams and the football team all volunteered as moving helpers, sporting blue Ikea bags and towering stacks of cardboard boxes.

First-year College student Henry Addison said move-in was a quick, smooth process because of all of the move-in help.

"It was like one trip into the dorm," Addison said. "And then my family helped me unpack everything."

All first-year students were randomly assigned either a Thursday or Friday move-in date in various time slots throughout the day. If the provided move-in dates conflicted with student's schedules, HRL offered early and late move-in by request. First-year College students Clara Falkenheim and Erin Feldman, for example, moved in the Tuesday before regular move in to attend a Jewish retreat program during the week.

"We had an early move-in, and it was a lot less hectic than it would have been today," Falkenheim said.

"But [move-in] was really fun. The RA was nice ... it feels a little like summer camp."

For students who didn't have their heavy lifting done by football players, volunteer student greeters and Residential Advisors were also posted around dorms to help with move-in. Third-year Engineering student Shrinidi Nadgouda worked as a volunteer greeter Thursday and tended to her Residential Advisor duties Friday.

"The greeters are definitely so beneficial to the parents, moving and things," Nadgouda said. "We're sort of just there to be like, 'Hi, I'm your RA for the year.' The greeters are really helping everybody moving their stuff in."

Greeters who volunteered to welcome families and transport belongings received 50 flex dollars and a t-shirt.

Nadgouda and third-year College student Joe Washington were working a booth to advertise a pilot program that they will streamline as RAs. The program is through Metcalf-Lefevre, Tuttle-Dunnington

and Dillard dorms and is designed to bring academically-focused initiatives, such as a book club featuring books written by University professors, into the dorms.

To create a welcoming environment, Grace Allen, RA and second-year College student, propped her door open for her residents and gave out popsicles on move-in day. Allen chose to decorate with boats made in the University's classic orange and blue colors.

"I wanted to be able to help make the move-in process and going away from home for the first time — I wanted to help make that smoother," Allen said. "My ultimate goal, why I decided to be an RA, [is because] I wanted to facilitate community."

Following move-in, first-year and transfer students have the opportunity to attend Wahoo Welcome events put on by University Programs Council including an annual concert with bands Social House and Between Friends, Virginia Recreation and a pep rally for the football team at Scott Stadium.

Some students said they planned to attend the welcome events, while others anticipated utilizing the University gyms — especially the Aquatic and Fitness Center — in the upcoming days. During the first week of classes, Virginia Recreation offers free group fitness classes for all students.

First-years attended mandatory meetings that weekend, such as the "Hoos Got Your Back" presentation — a bystander intervention program — and the opening convocation ceremony and Honor Induction on the Lawn Sunday. Ryan welcomed students at Convocation while student speakers gave advice to incoming first-years and introduced important traditions including the legacy of the Honor code.

First-years got their first taste of college classes Tuesday, when the academic year began.

LIFE

Top 10 things I learned from a summer abroad

Revelations from studying abroad in London this July

Elizabeth Parsons | Life Senior Associate

This summer I spent a month in London, and I learned a lot about the city, literature and theater. The most valuable takeaway was a newfound confidence in myself to be adaptable and have fun in new — and sometimes stressful — situations.

1. Regent's Park closes at 9 p.m.!

After being locked inside of the Regent's Park on my first night in London — a long and slightly convoluted story — I cannot emphasize enough the importance of checking the closing hours for public parks. It is humiliating to be rescued from inside the park surrounding the university you are staying at on your first night there. Picture it — jet-lagged and a bit homesick stranded in a dark park because its closing hours were unbeknownst to me. This is a situation I do not wish upon anyone.



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2. Air conditioning is a precious commodity

While my revelation about the value of air conditioning is not a unique one, it feels necessary to mention as someone who loves to sleep with both a fan and my AC on an ice-cold temperature. Most places in London — my dorm room included — were not air conditioned. Thankfully, the July temperatures in London were very mild, but I still missed cranking the AC when I got back after a long day of walking and sightseeing. I did learn, however, that I can sleep for a whole month with the window open instead of using a fan, and it was not nearly as bad as I had anticipated.

3. A healthier work-life balance is possible

Sometimes I struggle with cultivating a healthy work-life balance during the academic year. There are often instances where I prefer to say no to something with my friends in favor of getting ahead on my assignments and readings. Granted, I was only taking one class during my month abroad, but I was still able to have a remarkably healthier relationship with my school work. I found ways to utilize spare moments during our lunch break or while on a train ride to get work done, allowing me to be fully present in exploring and enjoying London with my classmates. It was refreshing to not leave the fun for the weekends only.

4. I would like to eat an almond croissant for breakfast every morning for the rest of my life

I found myself gravitating towards almond croissants in every cafe and bakery in London — my favorite was at Fabrique in Notting Hill. Perhaps they are generally more abundant in the U.K., but I know for sure that I love them. The creamy inside coupled with the powdered sugar on top with the sliced almonds is my definition of perfection — especially when an oat milk latte is involved. Now back in Charlottesville, I am on a journey to find an almond croissant similar to my favorite one in London.

5. Give the over-packers a break

I get it, packing light makes travel much easier. Nevertheless, I am tired of the light packers of the world consistently being praised while the overpackers are made to believe that they are the ones who need to change. As a chronic overpacker myself — my checked bag was certainly over the weight-limit — I am here to say that I learned that it is okay to “overpack.” Having easy access to things like my umbrella and my favorite face moisturizer without having to make a stop at a store was phenomenal. When did preparedness become such a bad thing?

6. I want to be buried in London's endless bookstores

Daunt Books, Hatchard's and Waterstones are just a few of the magnificent bookstores I enjoyed perusing in London. The multi-level bookstores filled with endless shelves filled my bibliophile heart with so much joy. I especially enjoyed looking at the different UK covers of some of my favorite books like “On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous,” which added to the fun. After spending a month in London, Barnes & Noble simply cannot compare.

7. Spontaneity does not need to be chaotic

Similarly to my takeaway about improving my work-life balance, I learned that spontaneity does not need to be a stressful experience. As someone who likes a schedule and is hesitant to change my plan unexpectedly, I worked on stepping outside of my comfort zone while studying abroad, which yielded the most amazing results. Adopting a more go-with-the-flow attitude allowed me to enjoy the surprises of spontaneity — like a fabulous weekend trip to Capri with my roommate that we booked only a few days in advance.

8. I love going to the theatre

Discovering my newfound love for the theatre is the personal discovery that I value most from my month in London. Not only was going to the theatre something that was central to my course, but it became something that I did for fun with classmates. The accessibility and affordability of going to the theatre was mind-blowing for me. “Phantom of the Opera” at His Majesty's Theatre and “A Midsummer Night's Dream” at The Globe Theatre were two of the highlights of my theatre-going experience. I hope to continue engaging with the performing arts back here in Charlottesville.



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9. Google Maps is confusing and far from user-friendly

I have always relied on Google Maps for navigation, especially in a new place. Deciding on what was the best navigation tool became a big topic of conversation — specifically a debate between Google Maps users and Apple Maps devotees. My conclusion is that neither one is good — an app called Citymapper is the way to go instead. With detailed information, like which is the best exit to use at a particular tube stop, I am forever indebted to whoever introduced me to this app.

10. There are so many lovely people — from the University and beyond — that I have yet to meet

After two years at the University, it can feel easy to think that everyone has already found their friends. The friendships I made while studying abroad attest to the fact that there are so many amazing people out there that you have not crossed paths with yet. Speaking from experience, I decided to go on this program without really knowing anybody, and I emerged on the other side of it with over 20 new friends that I cannot wait to see around Grounds this semester. Thanks to the Culture of London program, I have lots of love for all of my fellow college students-turned-Londoners.

On finding harmony with my passions and obligations

How a weekend at a Broadway show in New York City helped me reevaluate my priorities.

Sam Saks | Top 10 Writer

Work hard, play hard is a great motto, and it's one that I should follow more — especially, it seems, on the “play” side of things. I've always prioritized hard work, placing self-created expectations on myself which has led to a work-play imbalance. However, a recent weekend away watching some Broadway shows in New York City challenged what I view as most important in life. The joy I experienced in the theater reminded me that indulging in fun needs to be a constant choice in life, not just an occasional treat.

Workaholicism has always been my double-edged sword. Assignments, projects and studying — paired with juggling extracurricular activities and a pretty type-A personality — don't make for too many moments for me to be completely relaxed. My job right now is to be a student, so these priorities have always been my focus, often coming before attending social events and going out on weekends. Even though I can afford to indulge more in some fun and play, my mindset hadn't changed until I was sitting in the first

row of the Walter Kerr Theatre mezzanine four weeks ago, completely immersed in the world of HadesTown.

From the booming vocals to the quiet whispers, the joy to the helplessness and the shadows to the blaring lights of the “electric city”, the show made me realize just how much I missed — and needed — the theater experience. I've enjoyed Broadway's opening numbers and ballads for most of my life, starting with both of my grandmothers taking me to children's theater series since I was three years old.

In recent years, my main source of musical exposure has taken place through my AirPods. However, listening to polished cast recordings has nothing on actually being captivated in the darkness of a theater with the actors, where I can truly feel the power and rawness of their voices. These kinds of songs are meant to be experienced, not just listened to.

Show tunes and theater have always brought me immense joy. As someone who loves stories, musicals

have given me a way to experience the intricacies of storytelling through my favorite medium — music. But because I devote so much time to work and school, I haven't incorporated this joy as a constant in my life. An experience like the one I had in New York does not have to be — and should not be — a rarity. My commitment to going out of my way to do something for myself that makes me happy must equal the commitment I have to schoolwork and studying.

It's so easy for me to get caught up in the pressure of the academic year and to get stuck in the workflow. However, I realize that breaking my work routine is probably the best thing I can do to care for myself. I'm human — I can't always be “on”, an efficient machine chugging along non-stop. Little breaks aren't enough. I have to fully embrace opportunities that bring me happiness and make that a regular habit.

I recognized that my perception of being a student was wrong. Sure, being a student is our job, but clearly

I've been missing some of the responsibilities of that job. Just as studying for exams is important, so is treating yourself to fun. This is the real test of college. The work and challenge of class content is certainly difficult, but that isn't the hardest part of our four years as students. The real test is figuring out how to balance it all, the work and the play. That might mean a little more work some weeks and a little more play others. But to me, real success has to have components of both, always.

We also must be willing to adapt our joys to our environments. I can't see Broadway shows all the time, but the arts are very much alive on Grounds and in the greater Charlottesville community. This past year, I saw the University's Drama Department's production of “Sense and Sensibility”, First Year Players' “Hello, Dolly!” and the Hoos In the Stairwell's spring concert. There are so many other avenues through which I can indulge my love for theater, and do so more often. A little effort put into

exploring ways to embrace your joy regularly is well worth it.

That weekend in New York reinvigorated my love of the theater. The jolt that I felt when the first note of “Road to Hell” reverberated in my ear transported me to another world. Whatever it is that brings you happiness, there are ways to weave it into your life — we just have to look a little harder and in places we may not have considered before.

There will always be work left to finish, and that's not just in college — that's all throughout life. But while work is constant, opportunities are not. I have to make the time to pursue my passions, no matter how busy life gets. The trepidation I sometimes have about putting the piles of work aside pales in comparison to the absolute thrill I enjoy while getting lost in my bliss. Life is meant to be lived, and there's no better way to live than by reveling in experiences that make me feel whole.

Affirmative action ruling sparks dissent and concern

Students must reckon with the changes made in the undergraduate admissions process

Neha Vazarkar and Miriella Jiffar | Features Writer and Life Editor

As students return to the University for another year, many are grappling with the recent Supreme Court ruling which has changed the landscape of college admissions for the foreseeable future. In light of the decision, students hope the University will continue to actively reaffirm their dedication to building a supportive and inclusive community on Grounds for individuals of all identities.

Over the past 20 years, race-based admissions have been upheld by the Supreme Court, most notably in a 2016 case, *Fisher v. University of Texas*. Now, the Supreme Court's landmark ruling on affirmative action June 29 outlaws using race as a factor in college admissions and sent ripples of debate across the nation. Setting precedents stretching far beyond the legal realm, this ruling has reignited discussions about equal opportunity, fairness and the ongoing struggle on how to address historic injustices in higher education.

For many students, such as second-year Engineering student Crystal Sanchez, college is a time to meet people from different backgrounds and with different identities and experiences from themselves.

“I grew up in a small town in Texas [where] I went to a predominantly white high school,” Sanchez said. “Af-

ter finishing my first year, it definitely was a change of environment and perspective. I have been around so many different cultures, religions [and] backgrounds that I have never experienced before and I think that's helped me grow as a person.”

Some students agree that affirmative action has historically helped to create this space for students to engage with and learn from a diverse student body on Grounds, dismantling the myth of Thomas Jefferson's “Gentleman's University.” Second-year College student Tarini Pankanti said she believes that affirmative action is an imperfect yet essential system for ensuring educational equity at the University — and an imperative effort on the University's part to facilitate that diverse community, especially when considering its enrollment was not fully desegregated until the 1960s and women weren't officially admitted in the College until 1970.

“Affirmative action has been incredibly important in promoting diversity at colleges, especially at UVa,” Pankanti said. “Given our horrific history of utilizing slave labor for the construction of our University, it is crucial that we do everything possible now to foster a student body that not only includes marginalized individuals but amplifies their voices.”

The consideration of race is a positive and needed piece of information to consider during the college application process, according to Pankanti, who debunks a common but untrue myth that affirmative action allows students admission solely on the basis that they are minorities.

“What [race-based affirmative action] has truly done is encourage college admissions to consider students holistically, rather than attempt to isolate a student's racial identification from their sense of self,” Pankanti said.

The University announced Aug. 1 that it will follow the law set by the Supreme Court while ensuring students are given the space to discuss the impact their race and background has had on their experiences in a prompt on the University's Common Application.

Many universities across the nation were quick to respond to the ruling, including University President Jim Ryan. In a statement issued June 29, Ryan wrote that the University continues to remain committed in determining ways to incorporate diversity in the student body.

“Our goal is to prepare students to lead in a complex and dynamic world, and one of the ways we achieve that goal is to offer them as many opportunities as possible to exchange ideas

and perspectives with people with different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives,” Ryan said.

Prior to the Supreme Court ruling, some states had already abolished the practice of affirmative action. In California, where affirmative action was outlawed by voters in 1998, the University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, Los Angeles saw a 40 percent decrease in Black and Hispanic enrollment. These cases have suggested that a ban of affirmative action in the United States could lead to similar results across other higher education institutions.

Fourth-year College student Cheyenne Butler said that she is curious about how the response from other universities in light of the decision will affect the levels of diversity on college campuses. She also noted that other universities could help historically marginalized applicants gain admission if they follow the University's example of placing a question about race in the application.

“I think depending on how institutions respond, it will determine if it's a step back or step forwards, because if you do something like UVa, [who said] we have a question where we're able to talk about race so [they're] taking it to an account to some extent,” Butler said.

Some students are still confident that the University will continue to uphold its commitment to cultivating a diverse, engaging and inclusive academic community. For example, Sanchez said that the University strives to support a diverse community on Grounds through various organizations and programs that offer support for minority students, such as the Office of African American Affairs, the Multicultural Student Center and Hoos First.

“Maybe the University could promote them more,” Sanchez said. “It is also important to educate the people who don't identify as that group or subsection to educate them on why we have these places.”

While the affirmative action ruling stopped the consideration of race during the college application cycle, recognizing the impact of diverse communities remains important, according to Butler, who says diversity fosters valuable communication among students, and should be advocated for in higher education settings.

“I do think [diversity] definitely improves University life for all people who are involved within the University, especially the students,” Butler said. “It enriches the campus space, and there is a value in diversity.”

SPORTS

Previewing the 2023 Virginia Cavaliers football roster

In year two of the Tony Elliott era, there is hope — despite a daunting schedule

Xander Tilock | Staff Writer

Ahead of the 2023-24 football season, significant change is on the docket in Scott Stadium's home locker room, as several familiar faces have departed for the pros or other schools. Representing Virginia will be a couple of pro-ready standouts, veterans who have recently earned starting spots and intriguing transfers. In year two of the Coach Tony Elliott era, his impact is more fully felt on the roster's construction, warranting a closer look.

Quarterbacks

With junior Jay Woolfolk officially focusing on baseball, senior Tony Muskett was named starting quarterback Monday. Muskett, a traditional pocket passing quarterback, is perhaps a better fit for Elliott's system than Brennan Armstrong was in 2022. His outstanding 157.3 passer rating last season is a significant upgrade over Armstrong's 109.4 mark. The incoming Monmouth transfer has an underrated strong arm with elite accuracy — his career completion percentage is 64.1, while also never throwing more than eight interceptions in a single season. Behind him, the presumed No. 2 is true freshman Anthony Colandrea. Colandrea performed admirably at the Spring Game and will hopeful-

ly thrive as Muskett's successor in 2024.

Running Backs

The running back room is one of the deepest position groups, though it is unknown who the top rushers will be. Mike Hollins and Perris Jones return experience, while Cody Brown, Xavier Brown and Clemson transfer Kobe Pace elevate the talent. Pace may end up towards the top of the depth chart despite several promising incumbents. Jones should also find himself in the top two on the depth chart, as he led Virginia in yards per carry in 2022 while also toting the most carries. Xavier Brown offers exciting potential, but was recently sidelined with an elbow injury and may arrive as a reinforcement later this season. A sloppy offensive line unit prevented the running game from dominating in 2022, but added help could have this offense become fully committed to the run. Expect the Cavaliers to hold a balanced offense featuring roughly 60 percent run plays.

Wide Receivers

The receiving corps does not boast a lot of established leaders, but is full of budding talent that will likely be a pleasant surprise in 2023. Northwestern graduate stu-

dent transfer Malik Washington, junior Malachi Fields and sophomore JR Wilson are the biggest breakout candidates. There may be some growing pains early on, with multiple veteran leaders moving on to the NFL, but expanded reps will likely pay dividends for this athletic Virginia offense towards the end of the season. Patience will be key. Washington is the only Cavalier receiver with more than 20 career receptions, and returning wideouts combined for only 17 catches in 2022.

Tight Ends

The tight end group left a lot to be desired last season, as Cavalier tight ends did not score a touchdown in 2022. They will have a long way to go towards contributing this season, but the experience of graduate student Grant Misch and senior Sackett Wood return atop the depth chart along with sophomore Karson Gay to hopefully break out this year after another offseason in Elliott's system.

Offensive Line

The offensive line has undergone a massive transformation over the offseason and will aim to become a strength this year. Sophomore McKale Boley has boundless potential at left tackle alongside a plethora of transfers and valuable

recruits. Many will be competing for the starting spots, and the expectation of improvement will be greater after a porous campaign in 2022. A full group of several lineman over 6'3" and roughly 300 pounds should provide the stability a growing Cavalier offense needs. Alongside Boley at left tackle and incumbent junior Ty Furnish at center, senior transfers Ugonna Nnanna and Jimmy Christ could slot in at left guard and right tackle respectively. Junior Noah Josey will likely take the right guard spot. Improvement is both an expectation and a requirement in order for Virginia to be more dangerous offensively.

Defensive Line

The defensive line is certainly the most experienced and arguably the best position group the Cavaliers have. Led by All-ACC candidate Chico Bennett Jr., this will be the strength of a Virginia defense that made unprecedented progress in 2022. Aaron Faumui, Kam Butler and Jahmeer Carter will also make a major impact stifling the run. If the defensive line can grow as a pass rushing crew, the Virginia defense has top 25 potential nationally. The addition of freshmen Jason Hammond and Miles Greene will also pay dividends in 2024 post

departure of the current talented crop of seniors.

Linebackers

The linebacker room will be a key storyline after the departure of captain Nick Jackson, but it could transform into a conference leader since the Cavaliers boast a variety of talented options. Graduate student Josh Ahern returns as the elder statesman of the group alongside likely starters James Jackson and Stevie Bracey. A few wildcards in sophomore Trey McDonald and true freshman Kamren Robinson could emerge as stars, as both play with a high motor and grit. Robinson was the biggest prize of Virginia's 2023 recruiting class with a four star rating — it would not be a surprise to see him on the field early and often making game changing plays.

Defensive Backs

The defensive backs also have more questions than answers as to who will get the reps, but there is significant reason for optimism. Antonio Clary and Coen King are back as the likely starters at safety. Transfers Tayvonn Kyle, Malcolm Greene and Sam Westfall bring experience as vetted Power 5 starters. The additions should hopefully counterbalance the loss of multiple elite starters. A point of concern however is that career interceptions are not abundant within this crew, but continuing to build on an opponent third down percentage of 36.69 percent will more than offset the lack of generated turnovers. That mark was roughly an excellent 7 percent upgrade from 2021.

Special Teams

The special teams unit also figures to be one of the better groups in the ACC in terms of specialists, led by the promising kicker-punter duo of sophomore Will Bettridge and senior Daniel Sparks. Five star true freshman Elijah Slibeck and Darden graduate student Matt Ganyard could also factor into a strong showing. The return game is a work in progress however, illustrated by a poor showing at the spring game with a dropped kick return and minimal yardage gained. True freshman wide receiver Jaden Gibson could be the answer as a returner should Virginia elect to try other options. Coordinator Keith Gaither's special teams squad will need to do whatever possible to put the Cavalier offense in a good position to score.



AVA PROEHL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Virginia's roster experienced a slew of change over the offseason, though running back stands out as a strong position group.

No. 15 men's soccer poised for more success in 2023

The Cavaliers find themselves with a favorable schedule as a new journey begins

Ben Istvan | Senior Associate

In the aftermath of Virginia men's soccer's overachieving 2022 season — evidenced by its surge from unranked in the preseason to as high as No. 11 in the country by November — Coach George Gelnovatch and the Cavaliers look primed to reach even bigger heights in 2023.

Virginia enters this campaign off the back of its first winning season and NCAA Tournament berth since 2019. While Gelnovatch's team should view 2022 as a step in the right direction, their path to another “successful” season will look a little different this time around as projections for the squad are much higher than they were just a year prior.

The Cavaliers — ranked No. 15 in the United Soccer Coaches Pre-season Poll — will have to readjust to meet the lofty expectations the program was synonymous with for decades. For many players on Virginia's roster, and certainly its nine freshmen and 10 sophomores, playing under the weight of a championship forecast will be uncharted territory.

Luckily for the Cavaliers, their 2023 schedule does not pose as much of a challenge on paper as the previous one. This time last year, Virginia was preparing for a season in which eight of its 16 games would be played against opponents who were ranked in the preseason poll. For the 2023 Cavalier squad,

only three of 16 opponents are inside the top 25.

Virginia kicks off the season with four consecutive non-conference games, all of which will be played at Klöckner Stadium in Charlottesville. The Cavaliers will open against Iona Aug. 24 before hosting Loyola Marymount and George Mason to finish out their August fixtures. Each contest in the trio will pose its own challenges, but Virginia is expected to charge into a Sept. 4 date with No. 14 Maryland relatively unscathed.

When the Terrapins roll into town that Monday night, Virginia fans can expect their team to be ready for battle. None of Virginia's returning players will forget the 6-1 thrashing Maryland put on them just less than a year ago. With the added motivation of playing in front of their home support this time around, Gelnovatch and company will have much more in the tank to try and stop their DMV counterparts.

No matter what happens in that fixture, the Cavaliers will need to put it in their rearview mirror almost immediately. Conference play begins just four days later, and Virginia's Atlantic Coastal Conference opener — a trip to Durham, N.C. for a matchup with No. 4 Duke — may be their toughest test of the campaign.

The Blue Devils and the Cavaliers were separated by just one



KERRY WARD | THE CAVALIER DAILY

A softer schedule and strong roster composition bode well for the Cavaliers.

point in the ACC last season, finishing first and second, respectively. Duke's slim margin to claim the conference came by way of Virginia losing one more game and tying one less than the Blue Devils. Having played to a 0-0 draw with

its divisional foe in 2022 — a game that could've placed Virginia at the top of the conference had they won — the Cavaliers know how important all three points are when they step inside Koskinen Stadium on Sep. 8.

The remainder of Virginia's ACC sledding is smooth, at least in comparison to their opener. Of the Cavaliers' final seven conference opponents, just one enters the season ranked in the top 25. That team is No. 5 Pittsburgh, who Virginia will host in Charlottesville on Oct. 13. The Cavaliers upset the top-10 Panthers 3-1 on the road last season, setting up a juicy rematch that will bring Pittsburgh into Klöckner looking to enact revenge.

Elsewhere in the ACC, Virginia must also prepare for a trip to Blacksburg, Va. to take on Virginia Tech. The Cavaliers handled the Hokies 4-2 at home last season, but a change of scenery can make all the difference in the Commonwealth Clash. When Virginia steps onto the pitch on Oct. 20, it will be looking to earn its first victory in Blacksburg since 2019.

The Cavaliers have three other road trips to look forward to in the coming months, including conference visits to Notre Dame and Boston College as well as a non-conference affair with James Madison. Virginia lost in the final seconds of its match against the Fighting Irish in 2022, so they won't be shy about

trying to hold off Notre Dame when Sep. 22 rolls around.

Although the Cavaliers will have traveled far and wide by the time their 2023 campaign is closed, 11 of their 16 fixtures are scheduled to be played at home. In addition to its four-game homestand to begin the season, Virginia is set to host seven of their final 10 matches to conclude the regular season.

Those games include battles with Louisville and NC State in September, as well as a season-fixture against North Carolina Oct. 27. In between those ties, the Cavaliers will welcome both Hofstra and High Point to town for a pair of non-conference matchups in October.

All in all, the load is noticeably lighter for Virginia than it was last season. The Cavaliers won't be seeing any of the top three teams in the Atlantic Division — Clemson, Syracuse and Wake Forest — and are competing in an ACC that has dropped off in quality since last year.

Those elements combine to provide plenty of hope that Gelnovatch's team will deliver a season to remember, even if the pressure of conference and national titles surrounds them. From Iona in August to the Tar Heels in October, expect fireworks inside Klöckner Stadium.

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Virginia volleyball seeks another step forward in 2023-24

The Cavaliers aim for continued progress under Coach Shannon Wells in her third year at Virginia

Katie Costin | Staff Writer

After an improved 2022-2023 season, the Virginia volleyball team is pushing closer towards a winning record while continuing to build a unified program under Coach Shannon Wells. Last year's 12-17 (4-14 ACC) record in Wells' second campaign with the Cavaliers points towards progress in comparison to the 8-20 (1-17 ACC) record from her first season as head coach. Now, a slew of returners could help catapult the Cavaliers into the middle of the Atlantic Coastal Conference standings.

2022 season recap

The beginning of the fall 2022 season showed signs of promise for Virginia as it won eight of its 11 non-conference games. During conference play, the Cavaliers won one game each against Notre Dame and Florida State and swept their games against rival Virginia Tech. While Virginia did not have much success in the conference beyond these victories, it is important to note that the ACC was a strong league last

season, featuring four teams in the NCAA tournament including national runner-up Louisville.

Returning talent and new contenders in 2023-24

Virginia returns several high performing players this season, including junior middle blocker Abby Tadder — who led the team in blocks last season — junior setter Ashley Le and senior defensive specialist Madison Morey, who led the team in digs. Graduate student middle blocker Veresia Yon led the team in hitting percentage and will look to continue leading alongside Tadder, giving the Cavaliers a potent, experienced duo at the position.

The Cavaliers also bring in some new talent in the form of transfers. Graduate student outside hitter Ciera Hecht from Texas A&M and graduate student setter Regan Trueblood from Illinois Springfield should make an immediate impact at their respective positions. Trueblood ranks at number five on the Prairie Stars all-time assists list with

a career total of 1186. Junior defensive specialist Milan Gomillion, who transferred in from Maryland, led her former squad in total digs and ranked sixth in the Big Ten.

Notable incoming freshmen include Lauryl Bowie, a pin hitter who was the 2022 Under-Armour All American Camp MVP. Defensive specialist Meredith Reeg comes to the Virginia squad with a 2021 state championship under her belt, and middle blocker Nala Cornegy was ranked the number 19 prospect in Virginia by Prep Dig in 2023. Finishing out the 2023 signing class is Lily Gervase, a middle blocker from North Carolina and 2023 PrepVolleyball.com Watch List honoree.

The Cavaliers appear to be strong in the middle blocker, defensive specialist, and setter positions, but there is a need for depth at the outside and right side hitter positions. Junior outside hitter Brooklyn Borum was fifth in kills in the season, and Virginia will be looking to her for offensive production. Just

behind her at sixth was senior pin hitter Chloe Wilson who will also be called upon in the coming season. Senior outside hitter GG Carvacho, who posted a season high in kills and career best .476 hitting percentage against Charlotte last September, will be looking to contribute on the pins as well.

Schedule outlook

Going into the non-conference slate, the Cavaliers hope to have similar success from last year. None of the first 10 opponents on the Virginia schedule are currently ranked, giving the Cavaliers the perfect opportunity to find their groove before heading into conference play Sept. 22 against North Carolina. Unfortunately for Virginia, games against ranked Georgia Tech, Louisville, and Pittsburgh are scheduled within a 10-day span in October, with two of the three being on the road. Notable games of the 2023-2024 season include the Cavalier Classic on opening weekend and the Big Apple Tournament in September. The con-

ference opener against the Tar Heels will be the first big opportunity for the Cavaliers to prove themselves as ACC contenders. Virginia will also be looking to repeat a season sweep of the Virginia Tech Hokies towards the end of the season.

Predictions

Even though the Cavaliers were picked 13th in the ACC preseason coaches poll, the upcoming season looks to be promising for Virginia. In order to progress beyond last year's record, the Cavaliers must win a high number of non-conference games to propel them into the conference slate on a high note. Winning more than four conference games should be possible for Virginia with a bolstered roster and increased chemistry and production from returners. Going into Wells' third year as head coach, there should be a more cohesive team and staff. While championship contention may remain out of reach for now, things are beginning to look up for Virginia volleyball.



AVA PROEHL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

While championship contention may remain out of reach for now, things are beginning to look up for Virginia volleyball.

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

Scapegoating TikTok will not ensure data security

We should acknowledge the futility of enforcing a TikTok ban while taking practical steps to address the larger issue of data privacy

In compliance with an executive order by Governor Glenn Youngkin, University employees — including student workers and representatives of special status and agency organizations — may no longer access several Chinese-owned apps, including TikTok and WeChat, on their University-issued devices or University networks. The University policy does not prohibit other student use of the apps. This state ban mirrors moves made by several other states — all of which have cited concerns about data privacy or national security. If these apps do pose a threat to national security, then this ban is not the solution — policymakers must acknowledge the ineffectiveness of this new law and take practical steps to tackle the larger issue of American data security.

Let us be upfront — the University policy will have little influence on student behavior. Take TikTok, the popular social media platform largely owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. Students have already pointed out that TikTok's user-friendly

interface is leveraged for educational and professional purposes. Several student organizations and even University faculty members use TikTok to create engaging content that makes critical information easily accessible. Some students use WeChat as their primary means of communication with family members both locally and internationally. These platforms have become deeply embedded in University life — simply banning people from accessing these apps on work phones and eduroam will not stop them from logging on from their personal devices using cellular service or students' from using their own wireless networks at home.

This reality highlights the futility of policies like the one Youngkin is forcing on Virginians. It is true that TikTok, like other social media apps, collects data from its users — everything from a user's phone number to their browser history. However, banning the use of TikTok on government-issued devices and government networks does little to actually promote

data security. Sensitive information, like personal health records, exists on University-issued devices — but this information also exists on personal devices unaffected by this government mandate. The new policy simply fails in any effort to protect Virginians from Youngkin's fear of foreign data collection.

It isn't bad enough that Youngkin is crafting meaningless mandates — he is also forcing the University to act as the enforcer of his efforts to ensure his own simplistic conceptualization of national security. It is completely unclear what this will look like in practice. Will the University increase efforts to monitor students, faculty and staff? In what ways? How will this monitoring impact the amount of personal information our own government has access to? What penalties will the University impose on people who are found to have violated this new policy? Leadership at the University doesn't even seem to have the answers to this question, and we deserve more detailed guidance on what this

policy will look like in action. The TikTok ban may not be the University's fault, but it is certainly their problem.

We must also acknowledge the trend of using national security rhetoric to justify excluding and targeting certain nations' businesses and people. During the pandemic, policy aimed at protecting the American people contributed to a rise in hostility and violence against Asian Americans. We worry that this ban has a similar potential. The University must take care to ensure that this policy does not snowball into a vehicle promoting discrimination amongst Asian-American communities.

Simply put, Youngkin's mandate is anything but helpful. It will not do what it's meant to do, especially at the University. Legislators can steer this conversation in a more productive direction by considering what educators can do to help students keep up with the pace that technology has infiltrated our lives. Perhaps the state government could require enhanced data safety training for students, which

could provide more information on how to manage or minimize the information companies are able to collect from users. It is also past time for policymakers to pass legislation that regulates the amount and kind of data that all companies are able to collect. Not only would this promote national security by limiting the amount of data that companies are able to collect, but it would also underscore the notion that effective policy is crafted to protect people. Virginians deserve policy that genuinely promotes data security — not half-baked solutions that are more political than they are practical.

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PANG: Indoor air quality is a priority — let's act like it

Updated HVAC systems in first-year dorms are necessary to protect student health

Virginia's declining outside air quality due to climate change has long been a prominent issue in Charlottesville, and its consequences are already reflected in high energy costs and floods that are felt by all members of our community. The Canadian wildfires have already exacerbated poor air quality, resulting in foggy skies and increased levels of pollution — giving us a glimpse into what might be the norm if poor air quality is not taken seriously. It is time the University takes institutional action to prevent negative health consequences and update its HVAC systems to protect students' health and living conditions.

Despite the obvious risks associated with poor air quality and the increasingly hazardous outdoor air quality in Charlottesville, improving said quality for the long term is seemingly not a priority. Students returning to Grounds in the fall could be subject to constant exposure to harmful health risks inside and outside if the University continues to stall on updating HVAC systems. Students currently on Grounds could already be facing this invisible reality. The University has

already recognized that high quality, filtered air can protect students from feeling the hazards of poor outside air quality inside their dorms. Updating HVAC systems is the strongest step the University can take to secure such quality for the many students living in on-Grounds facilities, especially after the wildfires.

Even before the Canadian wildfires, air quality was already an un-

solved concern in Charlottesville. Last semester, mold invaded first-year dorms. Students and resident advisors developed alarming symptoms such as an itchy throat and sinus congestion — one student was even hospitalized. The concentrated mold cases in older dorms such as Fitzhugh and Woody show that this is largely out of students' hands. The current filtration systems in dorms are clearly inadequate to keep our air quality safe, and

thus invite mold to grow without notice. Though I agree with Housing and Residence Life's statement that mold cannot be entirely eliminated from first-year dorms, it is not an excuse for the University to remain complacent regarding an issue that has been associated with their facilities' inadequacy. Even more importantly, the mold-incurred illnesses seen last semester should not

years remember the musty smell of mold and its dust-like appearance, and even if we could not name it as mold at first, we clearly knew that something was wrong. Yet, while we may be able to distinguish poor air like this on the extreme end, our senses are not finely tuned enough otherwise. In the wake of COVID-19, when the world realized that even poor air undetected by the human nose could transmit

more incentive for accountability. Though Charlottesville may be facing poor outdoor air quality due to larger than life climate change — a topic for a different discussion — the University can do its part to ensure the health and safety of those living and working on Grounds. Updating HVAC systems and conducting reasonably frequent maintenance checks should have already been on the books. With the wildfire pollution, the need is even more dire. The University should learn from last school year and take action, knowing that doing so will not ensure compliance with updated regulatory standards, but ultimately ensure that the students who attend the University have a basic necessity that is crucial to their ability to thrive.

“Even before the Canadian wildfires, air quality was already an unsolved concern in Charlottesville.”

be accepted as the norm of resident life at the University. Students deserve a living space that at bare minimum, will not result in sickness or hospitalization. A stronger, updated HVAC system would be students' best long-term protection against mold.

The primary purpose of updating indoor HVAC systems this upcoming academic year should be preventing poor indoor air quality from becoming a problem. Many of us former first

this airborne virus, attention towards indoor air quality rose. Organizations now have updated guidelines for what constitutes healthy indoor air quality, including minimum ventilation rates for HVAC systems. Understanding that the University has numerous on-Grounds living spaces, a systematic update of HVAC systems in dorms can ensure a more fail-safe minimum quality, resulting in fewer severe cases of illnesses from poor air quality and

SONGHAN PANG is an Opinion Columnist who writes on Health, Technology and Environment for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

UPADHYAYA: Ranked-choice voting can still work in Virginia

Improvements are needed to ensure the longevity of ranked-choice voting in the state of Virginia

As politicians have continued to amplify claims of fraudulent elections, faith in our election system has steadily declined in the past few years. Now more than ever, we need a voting system that incentivizes candidates to build bridges as opposed to planting seeds of doubt and confusion. Earlier this summer, voters in Arlington County were faced with ranked-choice voting for the first time — despite its challenges, ranked-choice voting could be the perfect step toward restoring voters' confidence in our election system. While ranked-choice voting can combat political polarization by limiting negative campaigning and forcing candidates to appeal to the majority of the electorate, failure to appropriately implement this system can — and has — caused unnecessary confusion for voters. There must be better outreach methods taken in both Arlington County and across the state to better educate voters before a ranked-choice election. Otherwise, this method of voting will just add more confusion and uncertainty to an electoral system that is already fraught with distrust.

Arlington County was the first locality in Virginia to use ranked-choice voting since the General

Assembly in 2020 passed HB1103, which allows cities and counties to use ranked-choice voting for local elections, like the one for Arlington's County Board. When voting in the primary, Arlington voters were asked to rank the candidates in order of preference

County Board members originally said they were committed and prepared to spend \$50,000 of the county's funds for education materials on ranked-choice voting. Ultimately, this never happened. The Virginia Department of Elections took on the task of creating

confusion in Arlington highlights that successful implementation of ranked-choice voting requires an all-hands-on-deck education effort — local lawmakers must leverage their familiarity with their constituents to craft outreach efforts that meet voters exactly where

ry. Further, it can also encourage the emergence of third-party candidates, which in turn prevents political polarization and extremism. All of this makes ranked-choice voting more democratic than traditional voting by allowing minority voices to be heard at the polls by ensuring their ballots live past just one checked box.

Arlington County's primary was the first venture into Virginian ranked-choice voting, but more has to be done to better educate voters about the benefits of the system as well as how the system works. The lack of such resources, as demonstrated by Arlington County, has the capacity to prevent the implementation of ranked-choice voting in Virginia for the foreseeable future. Now, more than ever before, counties and states must work to ease people's minds about the validity of elections and the electoral process.

“Ranked-choice voting is a way for voters to still have a say in who gets elected, even if their first choice pick does not win a majority of votes.”

from first choice to third choice. In this ranked-choice system, all first-choice votes are counted. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, then the candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated and the votes given to the eliminated candidate are passed to the voter's next choice. This process continues until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.

One of the major obstacles surrounding the implementation of ranked-choice voting is the fact that few people know how it works. Prior to the election, many people in Arlington County were confused about the system. In the county's resolution announcing the new procedure, the Arlington

educational materials — saving Arlington County from having to use its own funds. Still, politicians and organizations like the local NAACP were disappointed by the lack of follow through by leaders in Arlington County, and rightfully so, because the state's education efforts were insufficient in its attempts to adequately prepare the electorate for the ranked-choice election.

Due to general confusion and lackluster outreach, Arlington county will not be using ranked-choice voting for November's general election. These worries could have been easily dispelled had voters been appropriately educated prior to election day. The

they are. The county and the state's failure to recognize that they both shared the burden of ensuring the success of this new voting method has undermined public confidence in ranked-choice voting, likely decreasing the chance that other localities will try and implement this system any time soon.

Ranked-choice voting is a way for voters to still have a say in who gets elected, even if their first pick does not win a majority of votes. This voting method also encourages candidates to appeal to the entire electorate rather than their already existing supporters, causing candidates to be more civil when campaigning since being a voter's second pick can also lead to victo-

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HUMOR

UPC to make events less appealing so less people show up

The University Programs Council announced Friday that they intend to make their future programs less appealing to the student body. This announcement follows a series of complaints from various students accusing the organization of incorrect estimations of the number of attendees who show up, resulting in most free merchandise or food running out minutes after programs begin.

"I showed up thirty minutes after they started, and they were already out of free merch," tweeted an anonymous second-year student. "Where's my f—ing bucket hat, UPC?"

A variety of other complaints span from rational suggestions made by students on how to "improve" the activities and programs UPC offers to profanity-filled remarks by disgruntled students who either showed up too late to events to claim free merchandise or held grudges due to being rejected by the organization after their group interview.

After what felt like centuries of silence on the subject, UPC released the

following message on social media.

"The University Programs Council is dedicated to serving the students of the University of Virginia by organizing a multitude of events and activities to be enjoyed by our diverse student body."

"However, it has recently come to our attention that this University's population is composed of tantrum-throwing toddlers who complain at the drop of a hat when they do not get what they want. Instead of running your mouths, how about you arrive at events early instead of showing up five minutes to an hour after they begin?"

"In response to suggestions from the student body, we have decided that all activities and events from this time on will be less enticing and less entertaining. This decision was made to reduce the number of attendees so that there are enough materials and merchandise to distribute. Clearly, the student body does not deserve us, nor do they appreciate our services enough."

"For example, Wahoo Welcome will henceforth be named Wahoo Why Are You Here?, a week-long series of

boring events that question why first years even bother enrolling at UVa. In addition, Springfest is set to become Schedulefest, during which students will finalize their class enrollments under the watchful eye of UPC staff and be subjected to various lectures on the organization of their daily routines. Other events to be added to our future schedule include a Tax Brunch — without the brunch, just at brunch hour — so students can actually learn something about the devastating reality of life. We are also adding an event called "No Bears, Just Scars" since you all go absolutely feral over stuffed animals. All future events, furthermore, will be presented by elderly, straight white gentlemen with the aim that a lack of diversity will continue to discourage student attendance at our wildly popular events."

"Regardless of this decision, The University Programs Council will remain devoted to our objectives, which include programming elusive and weirdly entertaining events because anyone will attend them — even if announced only

two days to one month in advance — for free stuff."

The statement was signed "Peace out jabronies, UPC Executive Committee."

A postscript noted that "the only reason we hand out bucket hats is to make you all look ridiculous."

In a separate statement the UPC Chair admitted that "a few" events ran out of food and merchandise early into their start time. However, the UPC Chair defended the organization by illustrating that said programs made up the minority of all the ones they host.

"The only reason people are complaining is 'cause they didn't get free stuff," the UPC Chair tweeted. "Next time, have the decency to camp outside the night before."

The student body has responded to the statement with a spectrum of emotions — the majority ranging between sadness, rage and for some, a realization that UPC exists.

An anonymous third-year student who had previously accused UPC of "psychological warfare" when she showed up half an hour past start time

for an event, only for it to run out of items as she reached the front of the line after waiting over twenty minutes said she was "upset" she didn't get free flowers at their last event.

"I didn't think they would commit self-sabotage," the student said.

Several CIOs and independent clubs have taken advantage of the situation in order to attract the attendees that UPC desires to lose. A select few have also accused the UPC of making the announcement as a marketing ploy. UPC turned down The Cavalier Daily's request for a comment regarding the subject, and it remains unclear whether UPC intends to retract its statement in the future.

For now, it looks like students will have to buy their own bucket hats.

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CARTOON

The Kitchen Sink

Kaileigh Proctor | Cartoon Editor



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The artist behind Three Notch'd's latest beer labels

Recent University graduate and graphic designer Makaela Johansen is making her mark on Charlottesville

Amelia Preble | Staff Writer

Following her time at the University, Class of 2022 alumna Makaela Johansen has made strides in her blossoming graphic design career, creating graphics and murals for various local businesses. Just over a year after her 2022 graduation, Johansen sat down to discuss her passions, goals, and artistic journey with The Cavalier Daily.

Now a full-time graphic designer for Charlottesville's own Three Notch'd Brewing Company, Johansen designs media for product labels, promotional materials and more. Johansen said seeing her work featured on real products has been a "surreal" experience.

"People are actually buying these [cans] and drinking them and it's my artwork on it — they don't even know that," Johansen said. "It's really special."

Johansen has maintained an interest in the visual arts since she was younger, consistently receiving colored pencils or painting kits as gifts. Her

family noticed her affinity for the discipline, but she said that it wasn't until her time at the University that art became more than a hobby.

"Once I got into the School of Architecture, I actually started doing more art again," Johansen said. "I loved my first year... I was having the best time in all my classes doing all the artsy stuff."

In addition to reigniting her interest in art, Johansen's time in the School of Architecture made her realize that her true passion did not lie in technical work, but rather the study of design. Pursuing a Design Thinking concentration, Johansen curated her classes to maintain a design-based, artistic focus within her degree.

In addition to academics, Johansen said her extracurricular involvement sparked her particular interest in graphic design. After taking on a publicity and social media position in her cappella group, Johansen said she re-

alized that she wanted to pursue a career in graphic design and took every step possible to develop her craft.

"I started getting into internships and doing basically anything I could," Johansen said. "Anytime anyone needed a little graphic or something, I always just offered because that's the best way to build up experience and become better technically."

One of Johansen's recent projects involved designing labels for Mountain Culture Kombucha, a local Kombucha company. As a fan of their product, she decided to design a theoretical new label for the drink as a personal project. However, after deciding "on a whim" to send her design to the company, she unexpectedly ended up working with the brand to redesign all of their labels.

Johansen said these opportunities to work with local brands have been rewarding. In working with Three Notch'd and Mountain Culture Kom-

bucha, Johansen said she was given the chance to build connections with the people behind these businesses.

"It's really fun," Johansen said. "Graphic design is my little way to get in, meet new people and give something back to things that I care about."

Johansen finds that the beauty of graphic design in part lies in its anonymity. To Johansen, graphic design is a chance to quietly share her art with the world.

"They don't need to know who I am," Johansen said. "It's just a little piece of joy that I get to bring to people's lives."

In addition to her professional triumphs in graphic design, Johansen is an equally skilled painter. Taking a special opportunity to share her talents with the University community, Johansen recently painted a mural at beloved Corner restaurant and bar, Crozet Pizza and Buddhist Biker Bar. Johansen said that the chance to share

her art publicly was a unique and valuable experience.

"I got to make some really cool art," Johansen said. "And now everybody goes there and they have no idea who I am. I love it."

Outside of her full-time job, Johansen takes every opportunity to pursue independent projects, including the launch of her own apparel brand — Zhuzh Apparel. Just over a year post-graduation, Johansen said she is continuing to learn about the field of graphic design, enjoying what she describes as an "exploratory" stage of her career.

If not found on the shelves of local stores or in the hands of loyal customers, much of Johansen's work, including prints, apparel and various samples, can be found on her website.



ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

To Johansen, graphic design is a chance to quietly share her art with the world.

Paint the town orange and blue with upcoming arts events

As Hoos return to Grounds, the University hosts numerous opportunities to explore Charlottesville's blooming arts community

Emma Herold | Staff Writer

As University students, new and old, return to Charlottesville, the University Programs Council, U.Va. Arts and the Charlottesville community offer numerous opportunities to reconnect with and explore the local arts scene after a summer away.

Charlottesville has a thriving and diverse local music scene, with concerts, house shows and live performances happening weekly. Students have the chance to see three Charlottesville area local bands live at the VMAG and WXTJ Radio Barbie Dream House Show. The show is Aug. 25 at 303 14th ST NW from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m..

Adding Triplets, Indecisive and Looseleaf — all bands based in Charlottesville — will be performing. Attendees are encouraged to wear their best Barbie attire for some fun photo opportunities. Entrance fees are \$10 at the door or \$7 in advance, with more information on VMAG and WXTJ Radio's social media pages. Jacob Hobbs, third-year College student and WXTJ director, said that he thinks the show will exude "Barbie energy" and is the perfect opportunity for new students to

hear local bands.

"WXTJ and VMAG have always given Barbie energy, so this show really came naturally," Hobbs said. "I'm personally excited that the show will be so close to Grounds so new first-year music lovers can jam out to some of Cville's top bands."

Music isn't the only art form showcased in the Charlottesville community. As a part of the Wahoo Welcome series, UPC is offering the Wahoo Welcome comedy show "A Night With Preacher Lawson" Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Newcomb Theatre.

The University boasts a strong comedy and improv community, with shows and comedy expos offered throughout the year, and there is none better than comedian Preacher Lawson to kick off the year's comedy shows. Julia Hersh, fourth-year College student and UPC comedy director, said that she is confident in the comedian's ability to entertain.

"[Preacher Lawson] is a really charismatic entertainer and will have content that will make everybody smile if not crack up," said Hersh.

Lawson first appeared on sea-

son 12 of "America's Got Talent" as an improv comedian in 2017 where he finished as a finalist. He has since found success and is currently on tour. Lawson is known for observational comedy with an exaggerated and dramatic style, leading clips of his shows to go viral on occasion.

"A Night With Preacher Lawson" is open to all students and faculty who have registered on Eventbrite — with a link on UPC socials and website — or who can present a valid University ID. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the show to follow at 7:30 p.m.

For a taste of arts of all kinds, U.Va. Arts is hosting a Welcome Picnic on Aug. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. on the Betsy and John Casteen Arts Grounds. The event is open to all staff and students and is intended to welcome all new and returning Hoos to U.Va. Arts. The picnic will host live performances from Tyler Burkhardt, D'Earth Jazz Trio, U.Va. Bluegrass Band, AKAdMiX Dance Crew, the Cavalier Marching Band and WTJU and WXTJ DJs. Free food from Harvest Moon — a sustainably sourced catering company — will be available.

Not only will there be free swag from local arts groups, organizations and Contracted Independent Organizations, there will also be opportunities to play lawn Jenga, get your own personal haiku from the creative writing table, use the photo booth or get a free t-shirt. With support and participation from so many local arts organizations, the picnic is the perfect opportunity to explore what the University arts community has to offer and get involved.

For those interested in the greater Charlottesville community, arts and fashion, Connect Cville presents the Connect Cville Fashion and Music Festival Sept. 16 from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. at IX Art Park.

Connect Cville was organized by fourth-year Commerce students Tim Brown and Copey "Marquis" Rice, who sought to bridge the gap between the University community and the Charlottesville community through art.

"We believe it's crucial for U.Va. students to recognize the importance of economically supporting the greater Charlottesville community," Brown said.

"By engaging with local artists, vendors, and businesses, students enrich their own experiences and contribute to the vitality and sustainability of the local economy."

The festival will feature local artists with an indoor and outdoor stage. The outdoor stage will feature an open setting where local bands will perform, while indoors will feature local DJs, interactive art displays and avant-garde fashion shows. Tickets can be found on Eventbrite. A shuttle bus will be provided from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the University Chapel.

Further information for the Wahoo Welcome Comedy show with Preacher Lawson can be found on the University Programs Council website or on UPC socials. Details for the U.Va. Arts Welcome Picnic can be found on the U.Va. Arts website.

Three up-and-coming indie artists to keep on your radar

Stuck in a musical rut? Check out these artists to freshen up your playlists

Grace Scott | Staff Writer

With classes starting up again, everyone's in need of new music for their walks through Grounds, late night study sessions or just chilling out on the Lawn. Give these artists a listen as they establish their place in the indie-rock scene.

The Grogans

Between the laid back melodies, traces of psychedelic pop and catchy guitar riffs, The Grogans embody the essence of surf rock. Emitting audible serotonin through every track, this Australian trio provides peak potential for escapism. Vocalist Quin Grunden, guitarist Angus Vasic and drummer Jordan Lewis started as high school friends who loved to jam in their free time between skating and surfing.

The boys quickly turned this hobby into a legit band, putting out their breakout EP "Grogan Grove" at only 19 years old in 2018. The success of "Lemon to my Lime" off this EP has allowed

them to steadily gain popularity ever since, putting out three studio albums, "Just What You Want," "Day / To / Day" and "Which Way Is Out." These records opened new doors for the group, touring with popular indie-rock band Hockey Dad across Australia last year.

With their new album "Find Me A Cloud" releasing this October, now is the perfect time to experience the perfect musical getaway that The Grogans so effortlessly create.

Momma

Mixing the nostalgia of 90s indie rock with 2000s punk pop references and more modern twists, Momma has developed a unique sound defined by the dual female leads' tangible chemistry. Founding members and high school best friends Etta Friedman and Allegra Weingarten immediately bonded over their shared obsession with music. Having both picked up the guitar at 13, they began writing

music together after their first sleepover.

In the early days they split songs between them by verse, patching together two sets of lyrics, each reflecting their unique life experiences. As their music has matured, however, they write every song together, marrying the vocals and guitar to form a "symbiotic" relationship throughout each song.

After graduating college, moving to New York and gaining popularity, Momma released their third studio album — "Household Name" — last year. Drawing on the 90s rock influences that bonded the leads to begin with, namely punk-rock band Pavement, Momma utilizes clean guitar and drums in an attempt to build an intimate sound. Exploring themes of fame, the album touches on the fortunes and tragedies of the rockstar, alluding to, and sometimes directly mentioning, influences like Nirvana and the Smashing Pumpkins.

If you want to mindlessly listen to cool guitar riffs and spacey vocals, or sink your teeth into a complex lyrical experience, Momma won't disappoint.

Dehd

Dehd's origin story may not be the most conventional, but it mirrors the themes around which their music constantly revolves — love and loss. In 2015, singer Emily Kempf and guitarist Jason Balla were merely a musically inclined couple looking to travel. So, they started a band and went on tour. After gaining a small fanbase and attention of local critics, the couple added drummer Eric McGrady, and Dehd was born.

While the romantic relationship has not stood the test of time, Dehd certainly has, releasing four studio albums and embarking on nationwide tours. Mixing surf-rock, post-punk and garage rock, Dehd creates an immediately recognizable sound.

Kempf's uniquely ambiguous

vocals define this sound. Consisting of shouts, whispers, cracks and the occasional screech, a comprehensible thought is rarely formed, yet every syllable is filled with emotion. Balla's reverb-heavy guitar and McGrady's steady drums form simplistic melodies which support the vocals, rather than distract from them.

While "Flower of Devotion" shot Dehd to new levels of popularity in 2020, they have perfected their sound on the latest album "Blue Skies." The album takes the listener on a rollercoaster of heartbreak and hope, pierced by a steady sense of optimism.

Whether you're finally free from "Bad Love," mourning the "Memories" of lost loved ones or feeling "Lucky" to be falling in love, Dehd has a track to match your mood.



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