

The Cavalier Daily

WEEKEND EDITION

Thursday, September 27, 2012



Thomas Bynum | Cavalier Daily

George Huguely's attorneys filed a notice of appeal with Charlottesville Circuit Court Tuesday. They did not state the grounds for the appeal in the notice.

Huguely team files appeal

Attorneys representing former University lacrosse player serve Charlottesville Circuit Court notice

By Grace Hollis and Andrew D'Amato

Cavalier Daily Associate Editor and Staff Writer

Attorneys representing former University lacrosse player George Huguely are appealing his murder conviction, according to a notice filed Tuesday with the Charlottesville Circuit Court. Should the Virginia appellate court agree to hear his case, however, legal professionals say Huguely's chances are slim.

"If the appeal is actually heard by the court of appeals, most convictions are affirmed," Law Prof. Kent Sinclair said. "It depends on what actually happened in any individual case but statistically,

[a] large majority of the appeals are unsuccessful."

About one of five requested appeals is granted a hearing in the appellate court, Sinclair said.

A judge in August officially sentenced Huguely to 23 years in prison for the second-degree murder of his ex-girlfriend Yeadley Love, also a former University student, and grand larceny. The notice filed Tuesday came after a series of motions for appeal issued during the summer. The notice informs the court that the attorneys will submit a transcript of facts,

Please see **Huguely**, Page A3

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Kwon voted FYC president

Students elected first-year College student Andrew Kwon to serve as First Year Council president, the University Board of Elections announced Wednesday evening.

First-year College student Conrad Tindall was chosen as vice president and will be working alongside Kwon this school year.

Online polls opened to first-year students Monday morning at 10 a.m. and closed 4 p.m. Wednesday. The board had not released voter participation rates at press time.

Kwon decided to run for class

president after serving as Westfield High School's class president for four years.

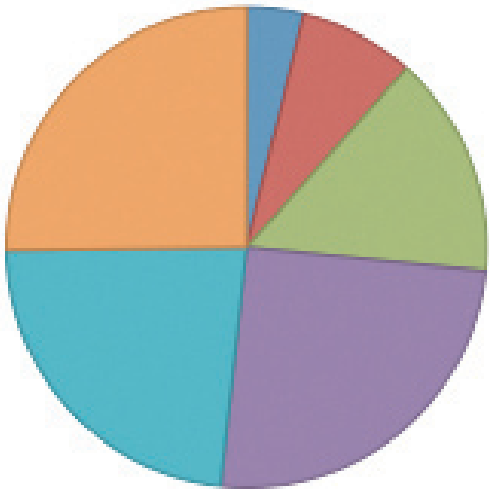
"What I tried to do [in high school] was create a sense of community with a large high school base, and that's kind of what I wanted to do here," Kwon said.

Kwon competed against 10 other candidates in the race for First Year Council president, whereas Tindall faced went toe-to-toe with four other vice-presidential candidates.

"I'm just thankful right now that I've won," Kwon said.

—compiled by Michelle Davis

College Council Proposed Budget



- Council Expenses
- Publicity
- Council Events
- Academic Programs
- Co-Sponsorships
- Department Programs

Meghan Luff | Cavalier Daily

College Council, the student governing body of the College of Arts & Sciences, has approved a \$91,300 budget for this academic year. Council will spend \$23,000 — roughly a quarter of its money — on events for specific majors within the College. Its current budget allots \$250 to \$1,000 per department for the academic year. Academic programs such as Take Your Professor to Lunch and College research grants make up another \$23,000 of the council's budget. The council budgeted another \$21,050 for events including Lighting of the Lawn, Homecomings, Major Meals and the Pavilion Giving Series.

U.S. higher education hiring rates decline

Despite nationwide decreases University sees more tenured, tenure-track instructors hired for 2011-2012 academic year

By Kaelyn Quinn

Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

Hiring rates at U.S. higher-education institutions have decreased in response to the economic downturn, according to a report released Tuesday by the National Center for Education Statistics, a branch of the U.S. Department of Education.

The University's own hiring

rates have also decreased in the last two academic years, said Gertrude Fraser, vice provost for faculty recruitment and retention. The University saw an increase, however, in the number of tenured or tenure-track faculty members hired for the 2011-2012 academic year.

"My sense is that numbers are going up," Fraser said.

Unofficial figures from the

vice provost's office indicate the University hired 79 new faculty members this past year, up from 47 during the 2010-2011 year — a 40.5 percent rate increase in faculty hiring.

Enrollment growth and impending faculty retirement may account for the University's increased faculty hiring, Fraser said.

"At some point if you are going

to enroll more students, you have to have more faculty to teach them," she said.

The report released Tuesday, which surveyed all 7,398 institutions eligible for federal student aid, found that the increase in post-secondary institution employment in the 2010-2011 was the smallest it has ever been since 2003. The number of employees grew by .07 percent

from fall 2010 to fall 2011.

Whereas employment grew by 2.6 percent at private nonprofit institutions, public universities and colleges saw only a small shift in employment figures — from 2,500,796 in fall 2010 to 2,508,820 in fall 2011. For public schools, a decline in execu-

Please see **Faculty**, Page A3



Thomas Bynum | Cavalier Daily

The approaching presidential election means groups such as the College Republicans and the University Democrats are tasked with mobilizing student support.

Political groups feel heat

University Democrats, College Republicans discuss student voter engagement

By Kelly Kaler

Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Politically active University students continue to spearhead efforts to gear up for what will most likely be a close presidential election this November. At a University Democrats meeting Wednesday evening the group discussed its engagement efforts and welcomed State Sen. Mark Herring,

D-Loudoun, to Grounds.

The University Democrats are now tasked with raising support among University students for President Barack Obama. The University Democrats have had more than 100 volunteers and have registered more than 2,500 students to vote in collaboration with Hoos for Obama, said University Democrats President James Schwab, a fourth-year

College student.

"During move-in weekend alone we registered nearly a thousand UVA students," Schwab said.

The University's two prime partisan groups, however, disagree about how best to engage students politically. College Republicans Chair Matt Wert-

Please see **Election**, Page A3

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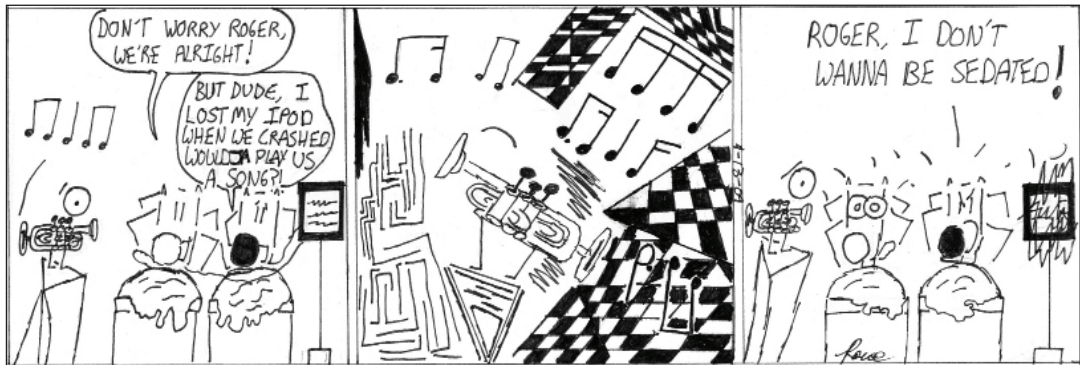
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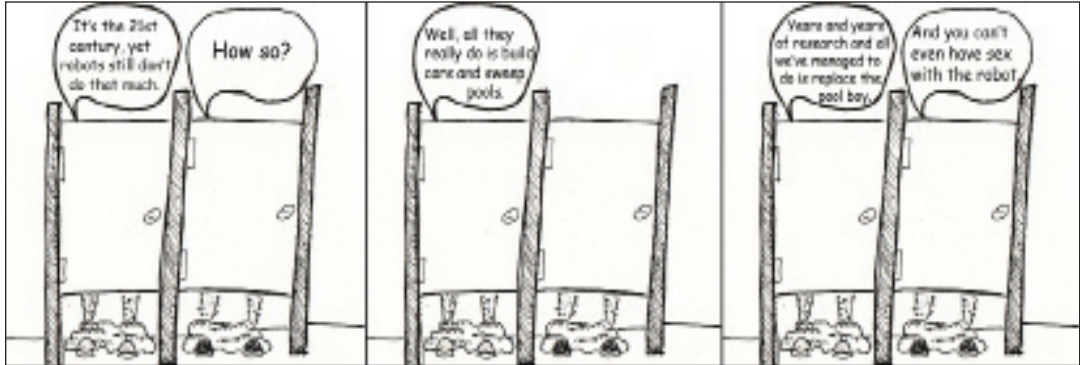
THE ADVENTURES OF THE AMAZING <THE> A-MAN BY EMILIO ESTEBAN



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A BUNCH OF BANANAS BY GARRETT MAIDIC & JACK WINTHROP



(NO SUBJECT) BY JANE MATTIMOE



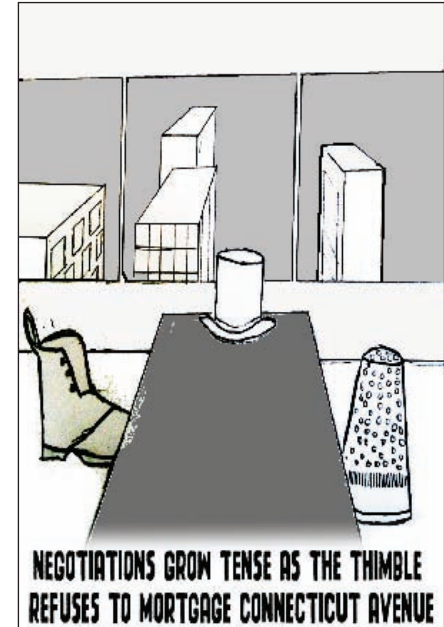
BEAR NECESSITIES BY MAXIMILIAN MEESE & ALEX STOTT



TWO IN THE BUSH BY STEVE BALK & DANA CASTNER



MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The facts that slip from your memory do not really go anywhere. Rather, they embed themselves too deeply to be recalled on command. Your thought process will support your life perfectly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You want to expand yourself and will be extremely choosy as to how to go about this. Your interest in a person will, by extension, make you interested in whatever that person is interested in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Shortcuts are not inherently lazy. Today they will be an efficient use of time. Ask for the abbreviated directions or the short version of a story. Think about how you might get more bang for your buck.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're still trying to get better at a certain task. Your best approach to mastering this will be highly structured and scientific. Focusing smaller is better than mindless repetition of lengthier processes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your day has a kind of formula to it that you will deliberately complicate in order to keep yourself from the old ennui. Your creative complications will bring the intended thrills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You take your work very seriously and strive to perform at the highest level. That doesn't mean you always have to do it with a straight face. Said "highest level" is often marked by humor and ease.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Working with a team will produce better results with less of an energy expenditure. You'll express yourself in conjunction with others, happily compromising at the appropriate times.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Have you noticed how Mars in your sign acts like a drill sergeant intent on making a stronger person of you? You'll soon feel equipped to not only deal with challenges, but to reign supreme over them.


SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As the sign of the archer, you realize that stopping to take aim before you shoot means avoiding wasted motion, not to mention reducing your potential for an accident.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The process of "becoming" can be painful, exciting, joyous, uncomfortable, deeply fulfilling and all of those things at once. However you feel, know that it's not right or wrong.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There is no definite answer for an undefined problem. Name the elements involved. Once you start to realize exactly what's wrong, you can easily set it right.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As the moon resonates with Neptune in your sign, the better you connect with your heart and feelings the more able you are to grasp higher genius. You can bring ethereal worlds of poetic imagination to life.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 27). Something inside shifts, and you gain an altered sense of purpose. You'll notice the influx of financial and travel opportunities immediately. In October, you will free yourself from a stifling arrangement. November brings spiritual union. January's projects open new social circles. You could move in May. Capricorn and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 24, 39 and 18.



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Previous's Answer: Pen

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

LAST SOLUTION:

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

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0823

Across

- Director Roth
- Biblical word on a wall
- Something hidden, perhaps
- Edna Ferber novel
- Multitude
- Effrontery
- A speedster may do it
- About
- Lug
- N.L. East city: Abbr.
- Bat wood
- ADL, for one
- Mères' charges
- Buddyroo
- Gossip
- Sill
- ___ sleep
- Fails to be

Down

- Parrot
- "A ___ should have a good memory": Quintian
- Some World of Warcraft figures
- Villain player in "Rocky III"
- Go off
- Worthless, as an assistant
- Abbr. on a business letter
- Smart ___
- Woman with many fans?
- Item in a spoon race
- Fed. research org.
- Modern address feature
- "___ advice?"
- Kind of dye
- Joel Osteen of "The Sixth Sense"
- Part of A.M.A.: Abbr.
- Like some pitched balls
- Marial arts instructor
- Popular programming language
- Locale of some Mayan ruins
- Caterers' bookings
- Ragged
- Sign up

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ARRAD	DST	MAMET
LOGAN	ETS	AMARE
GOLEM	SOT	BOXIE
MATERATS		
END	GERMANY	IDS
HERBERT	PERATION	
AIARE	ISAACS	THAN
STORM	UND	DRANG
GRUNDSPED		
JOHANN	GOETHE	
OST	ROSTARG	ORN
IMBUE	RTE	ORBIT
NOON	MARGO	HERE
REAN	IDEAL	OVER
DIED	DESTE	MOSES
END	OASIS	BUS

Puzzle by Mark Feldman

32 93% of the earth's atmosphere

42 Ski-___

47 Buzzers

34 Like some pools

36 It may be stuck in a field

38 It spent 5,519 days in orbit

41 Biblical woman who changed her name to Mara

59 Look pregnant

60 Israeli port

61 "Hey you!"

62 Cry made with a raised index finger

63 Fleur-de-___

64 CD predecessors

65 Café alternative

67 Alliance created in '48

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Three-Day Weather Forecast

Provided by the Cavalier Weather Service

 TODAY High of 80°	 TONIGHT Low of 59°	 TOMORROW High of 75°	 TOMORROW NIGHT Low of 60°	 SATURDAY High of 69°
Patchy fog becoming partly sunny. A chance for showers and thunderstorms throughout the day.	A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Otherwise, cloudy with temperatures in the low 60s to upper 50s.	Showers and isolated thunderstorms possible. Otherwise, cloudy skies with temperatures in the low 70s.	A chance of showers and thunderstorms throughout the night.	Showers and thunderstorms likely. Otherwise, cloudy skies with temperatures only reaching the upper 60s.

The cold front that moved in yesterday will stall over our region for the rest of the week. With the lingering cold front comes the increased chance for showers for the next several days. Temperatures will settle back down into the 70

To receive Cavalier Weather Service forecasts via email, contact weather@virginia.edu

Huguely | Attorneys could contest grand larceny charge

Continued from page A1

testimony and other incidents relevant to the case.

Attorneys are not required to identify grounds for appeal in the notice. Charlottesville criminal defense lawyer Lloyd Snook III, however, said the defense may try to knock Huguely's murder charges down to manslaughter, which would carry a lesser prison sentence.

"In the [June] motion for the new trial, they raised a number of issues and my guess is that they will basically parrot all of these issues and put them into the court of appeals," Snook said.

Huguely's attorneys could also appeal the larceny charge if they argued there was insufficient evidence as to whether Huguely's crime was grand larceny or petty larceny, Snook said.

This is Huguely's first court appeal, though last month a Charlottesville Circuit Court judge denied motions for retrial, which were filed in June.

The appeal differs from the motion for retrial because the case will go to a distinct set of judges who are unfamiliar with the case, Snook said. Petitions for appeal allow attorneys to obtain review of a trial by a panel of appellate judges to determine whether fundamental errors were made during the initial trial. The grounds for both the retrial and appeal would not differ, Snook said.

Defense attorneys will be able to take the case to the Virginia Supreme Court if they lose in the appellate court, said Llezelle Agustin Dugger, clerk at the Charlottesville Circuit Court.

Huguely, who beat Love to death in May 2010, was recently transferred to state custody. Snook said the appeal was a long shot but that the notice was the attorneys' attempt to take a chance while they could. "You gotta take your shot," he said. "They don't give you more jail time for asking."

NCES | Fraser predicts increased senior faculty retirement

Continued from page A1

tive and administrative hiring offset the increased number of employees hired for academic instruction.

Only private for-profit schools witnessed a decrease in the total number of faculty hired in 2011 compared to 2010, according to the report.

Center spokesperson Sabrina Ratchford declined to comment on the implications of the report.

The University is currently clamoring for donor investments to support faculty hiring, faculty salaries and a growing student base.

"President Sullivan has made it a priority ... to increase the number of faculty, calling on the community as a whole, especially donors, to think about investing in faculty," Fraser said.

Fraser said hiring rates would increase nationally in the next five to 10 years because of a tenured faculty advancing in age. She predicted an increase in retirements as senior faculty members begin to leave the workforce.

"Because of the economy, people have been waiting on hiring," Fraser said. "But at some point, you can't wait any longer."

Election | College Reps, Univ. Dems tout similar participation numbers

Continued from page A1

man, a third-year Architecture student, said in an email he thought the University Democrats lack support among the student body. He cited a University Democrats press release from Tuesday that recorded low turnout rates at some recent campaign events.

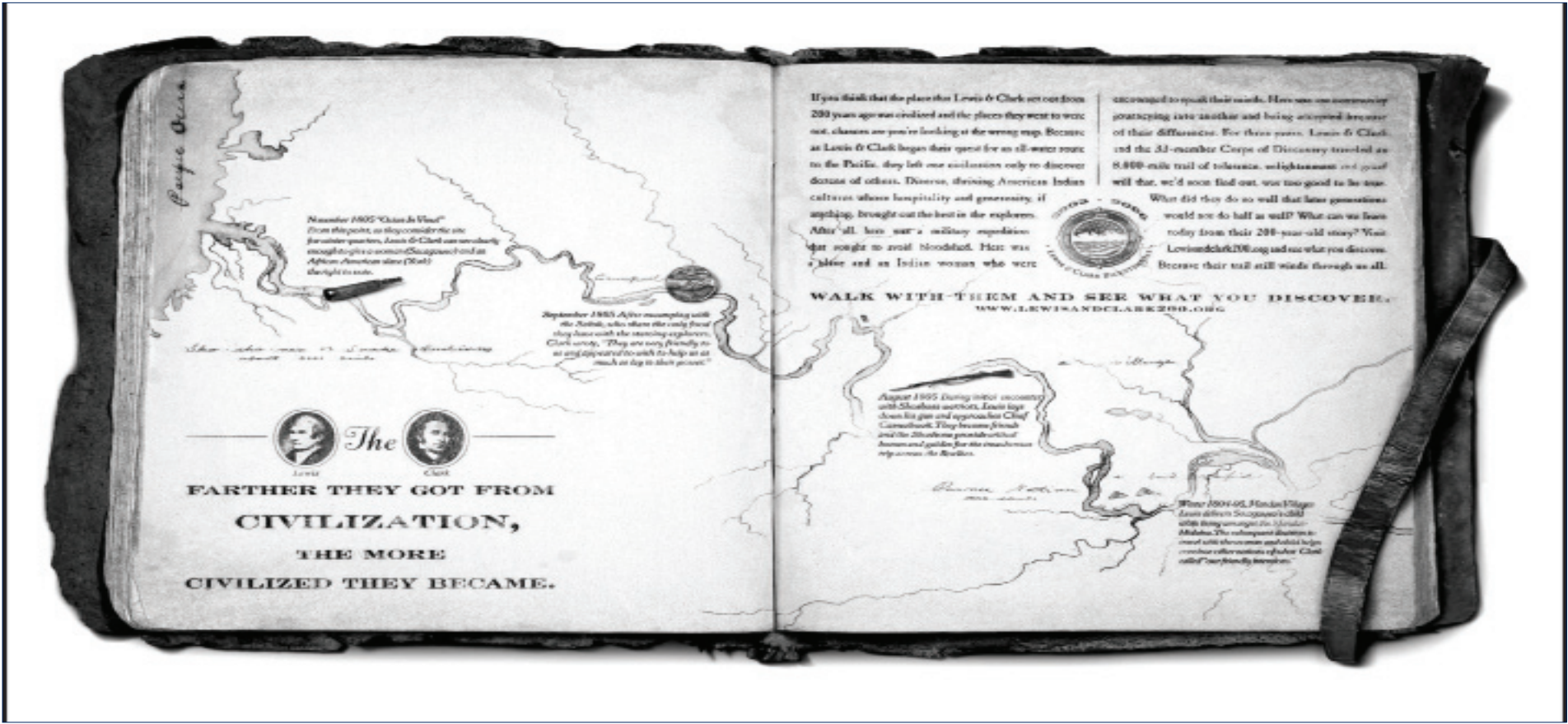
"The College Republicans have had over 100 volunteers," Wertman said. He said his group has reached out to more than 40,000 voters.

"That number is even higher now because in the last two days we've managed to knock on almost every first-year dorm," Wertman added.

About 35 students attended Wednesday's University Democrats event, at which Herring fielded questions and concerns from students. He praised Obama's efforts to expand access to higher education.

"The president has done a very good job understanding challenges students face with college tuition, and he knows how important higher education is for our economy and for 21st-century jobs," he said.

Herring grew up in Loudoun County and attended the University's undergraduate and graduate schools. He first ran for office in 1999 and won. He was elected to the State Senate in 2006. Herring has announced plans to run for Virginia attorney general in 2013.



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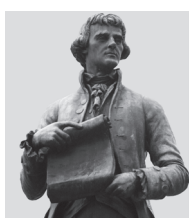
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The Cavalier Daily

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The SAT and ACT would be fairer if offered in languages other than English

It's a two party system where both sides are corrupt — the adolescent realm of standardized testing. Those acronymic behemoths, the SAT and ACT, are familiar considering either were required for our University admission. Though students feel the stress of performance, new data suggests that the fiercest competition is between the two tests. This year broke precedent in that more students took the ACT than the SAT, raising the multiple choice question of which test universities and applicants should prefer. Ultimately, both tests are failing our students and an important fix would be for these tests to be available in non-English languages.

The College Board released Tuesday the aggregate SAT results for last year. From a demographics perspective everything was up: More people took the test than ever before, including 45 percent of exam-takers who were minority students, which is a new high. What went down were the scores: Averages in the reading and writing sections both fell. Inside Higher Ed notes that The College Board has admonished critics not to overanalyze such small decrements that occur year-to-year. The institution does not seem to realize, however, the clear correlation between increased minority test-takers and decreased overall scores.

As an abstract, universal language, mathematics is confusing for everyone. Go figure, then, that the mean SAT math score has been stable since 2006. Not so with reading and writing, which are conducted in English and have consistently fallen since 2006, when the writing section was introduced. Cross-sectional analysis sorting the scores by ethnicity reveals that it is precisely in the writing section where a gap between minority and non-minority

groups is the largest. Instead of creating another dimension to allow self-expression, the addition of a writing section has only aggravated the pre-existing unfairness of making non-English speakers take an English test.

The ACT hasn't fared much better. Since the maximum score on an ACT section is 36 — as opposed to the SAT's 800 — numerical differences appear miniscule, but exist nonetheless. Although the SAT and ACT vary in their background measurements, such as benchmark levels that indicate "college preparedness" and recommended high school curricula, the general trends are identical. More students take the ACT, and discrepancies across ethnicities have widened while overall scores have flatlined. Because the ACT writing section is optional, it is not factored into summaries of composite test scores. But a glance at the numbers shows the chasm in writing for minorities is as marked as other scores on the test.

The SAT and ACT are currently offered only in English. That rationale would make sense if the tests were aiming to gauge our brute, Anglican vocabulary. Instead, according to the test literatures themselves, the SAT and ACT are vetting skills such as rhetoric, grammar, syntax, mechanics, the ability to make inferences and the capacity to write with coherence. Whether students can perform these second-order tasks should not be dependent on what language they happened to grow up with.

As more international students arrive at American universities and, domestically, as a more ethnically diverse class signs up for these exams, the SAT and ACT should accommodate by translating their tests. We don't think graders would mind, especially as more of them become just computers.

Featured online reader comment

"Isn't SACS the same organization that accredits courses and minors in things like 'Creationist Studies' at Liberty University? I find it hard to take such an organization's claims of rigor seriously, or indeed its qualification to evaluate any educational enterprise. Our rankings and the continuing attraction of some of the best and brightest students in the nation should be proof enough. Someone should investigate exactly who these people are."

"faculty," responding to Emily Hutt and Julia Horowitz's Sept. 25 article. "BOV defends actions to accreditor"

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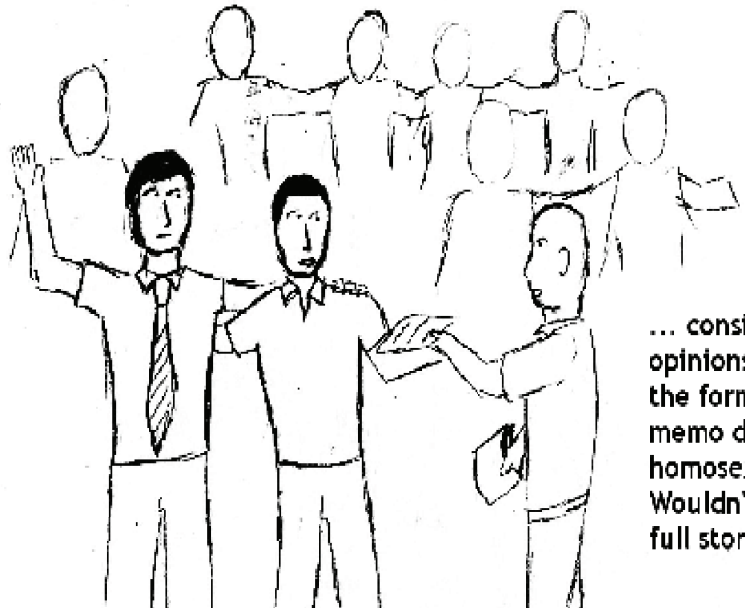
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Editorial Cartoon by Peter Simonsen

If you're still intent on yelling "not gay" at saturday's football game...



The masque of the red cup

College students should reflect on the purpose of their partying and tone it down

FROM THE time when Edgar Allan Poe attended the University to today, it appears that a student's idea of a good time has changed dramatically. Gone are the days when students discreetly sipped ale with a few compatriots in their dorms. Nowadays we are anything but discreet, surrendering the privacy of a small social gathering for the chaos of a large cluster of frenzied teenagers. Students, when looking for a party, have since ditched their dorms for the more intriguing frat houses, seemingly fascinated by the charm of decaying wood, aneurism-inducing music and smell of stale beer and sweat. When and why did this culture of red-cup parading students begin?

Well, it all started with the creation of beer pong and evolved from there, or rather devolved. Today, all teenagers care about on the weekends is getting wasted and doing irrational things that will later make great stories. The inconspicuousness of underage drinking no longer is even a concern as students flash their bright red cups to the world and drunkenly stumble from one party to another.

This culture is tolerable, but it is quite puzzling. Why is any of this enjoyable? Why is it fun to be intoxicated and impaired by a substance that makes us embarrass ourselves, and why does our modern culture do it so publicly? Unfortunately, there is no clear

answer, but perhaps it is because today's teenagers are hungry for attention and acceptance and by joining this Red Cup Society, they receive both. By going to these parties they are able to become part of the weekly ritual and feel included. Imagine being surrounded by your peers, then shouting your name as you shotgun a beer or

your peers, then shouting your name as you shotgun a beer or

take a shot without a chaser. You feel like a champion as you complete your task successfully and then they ask you to "do another." This cycle is all fun and games until you get white-girl-wasted and start throwing up everywhere, leaving behind mementos of the salad you had hours earlier, the only thing you ate all day because you wanted to look "skinny in this dress."

While getting attention sometimes feels nice, teenagers seem to want it for all the wrong reasons. They want to be seen as "cool" for consuming copious amounts of alcohol within a certain time frame, and they do not care if they look stupid as long as they look like they are having fun. This "desire for attention" is my best attempt to explain the excessive

partying, underage drinking and foolish actions students partake in, but it still does not justify it. Attention can be received other ways! Relinquish your Project X life styles and start anew. Limit yourself to only one night a week of partying and maybe even try following the law by not consuming alcohol underage. As much fun as it may seem to dance aimlessly to bad music while some overheated dude pushes past you, leaving behind a trail of sweat on your arm, there are alternatives. The University has a range of clubs and activities that meet and hold events on the weekends. Also, there are many people around Grounds who spend the weekends playing

"This cycle is all fun and games until you get white-girl-wasted and start throwing up everywhere, leaving behind mementos of the salad you had hours earlier, the only thing you ate all day because you wanted to look 'skinny in this dress.'"

music in the quad, watching a movie with friends, holding sober dance parties in their dorms and even some going to the library and studying! If any of that sounds attractive to you, then please, as intelligent students of the University, partake in this Red Cup Cult no longer. Break this seemingly permanent cycle and fight the persuasion of the alluring red Solo Cup.

Refuse to conform, it has been said that conformity is the new thing.

Meredith Berger is a Viewpoint writer for The Cavalier Daily.

THE CD

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The ombudsman is available at ombud@cavalierdaily.com.

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Students on board

The Board of Visitors should consider adding voting student members

WITH ALL of the drama surrounding the attempted ouster of President Teresa Sullivan this summer, renewed attention has been paid to the structure and role of the Board of Visitors. Rector Helen Dragas in particular has faced criticism for masterminding the effort to force Sullivan out. We know that she circumvented any scrutiny prior to the Board's decision by speaking privately to each member of the Board before the decision so none of the meetings would be reported to the public. We also know her conviction that Sullivan needed to be replaced was at least in part fueled by a sense that the University was falling behind in online education. And we also know that at the time of the decision, not one voting member of the Board had a background in education. When I look at all of this information, I cannot help but be convinced that the Board

FORREST BROWN
VIEWPOINT WRITER

must be reformed to include at least one, possibly several, student voting members. While this appears to be a radical change in structure to many donors or past and present Board members, I would argue it makes sense given the events of the summer and is even directly in line with the core principles of the University. If President Sullivan's eventual reinstatement proved one thing, it was this: The administration is not as powerful as the student body. Dragas clearly wanted to avoid the reaction of the students, as she chose to take action while the students were away on summer break. But even with the vast majority of the student body hours away, massive protests changed the complexion of the scandal. Even in its weakest state, the student body overwhelmed the Board with sheer numbers and enthusiasm. What these protests also

showed was that belief in student self-government at the University is still strong. The reason protests were so popular and influential was that those involved truly believed that the school was meant to serve them, and that any attempt to disenfranchise the primary stakeholders or keep them in the dark was counter to the University's very mission. Adding voting student members to the Board would give validity to Jefferson's ideal of student self-government and ensure that no back-room dealings would be able to keep the students uninformed on major decisions. While it could be argued that the Board makes decisions students are unqualified or unable to make, the University is special because it does trust students with more

“Board members should not just be respectful of the student body. They should, as they learned this summer, be afraid of it.”

power and responsibility than any other school. Would trusting students to make up a small fraction of the Board be more radical than handing them the keys to the entire honor system? Finally, student voting members of the Board would have had a chance to completely change the course of the events of the summer. Can you imagine any student confronted by Dragas before the Board met officially would have allowed the decision to be so sudden and mysterious? Do you think a student would have allowed worries over online education to dominate a decision over who would lead a proudly residential University? Do you think a student would have shared the mindsets of executives seeking to run an educational institution like a

business, despite having no experience at any level in education? I think, at the very least, more respect for the values of the University and the community of trust would have been shown. Members of the administration seeking to protect the current structure of the Board will point to the fact that there is a non-voting student member already. I have heard Dean of Students Allen Groves himself say that the student's opinion is respected, and has power, even without a vote to back it up. Well, that is not enough. Board members should not just be respectful of the student body. They should, as they learned this summer, be afraid of it. They are here to serve us, and this mission is furthered not by limiting our voice in the University's administration, but by expanding it.

Forrest Brown is a Viewpoint writer for The Cavalier Daily.

We don't need no education

Although there are problems with the U.S. educational system, we should not emulate the rote memorization techniques of China

ARE U.S. schools failing? In light of a financial crisis, this question looms ever more ominously. With a manufacturing base outsourced to other countries, the United State has to rely more and more on white-collar jobs to preserve competitiveness. White-collar jobs are in turn reliant on an educated populace; hence why the question of our education system's effectiveness is so salient. Some people fear that the answer is “yes.” The results from the Program for International Student Assessment, an aptitude test which was administered in 2010, found that U.S. students are merely average in most subjects, and quite poor in mathematics. U.S. students scored 487 on the math portion of the test, with 500 set as the average. What worries many is not the lackluster scores of the United States, but rather the meteoric rise of another country in such measures: China. On its first

ROLPH RECTO
VIEWPOINT WRITER

year of testing, Chinese students from Shanghai outscored all other countries in virtually every single subject. The test results are being billed as a sort of “Sputnik moment,” a moment in which it has become apparent that U.S. dominance is no longer the case. But before one eulogizes the death of American education, one should take into consideration two points. It goes without saying that China's education system is not perfect. Chinese educators themselves are painfully aware of this fact; in an article from NPR, Liu Jinghai, a principal from Shanghai, was quoted: “Why don't Chinese students dare to think? Because we insist on telling them everything.” While Chinese schools excel in making students regurgitate information mechanically, they fail to foster a sense of independent thinking and creativity. Instead of participating in extracurricular activities and clubs that let them explore their passions, Chinese students are forced to study constantly.

The epitome of this emphasis on rote learning is the *gaokao*, the college entrance exam. Think of it as a souped-up version of the SAT. However, instead of being just a part among a wide variety of metrics in college admissions, the *gaokao* is virtually the sole determinant of a student's range of post-secondary opportunities. There are no essays or extracurricular activities to gauge students' breadth of learning — they are too busy studying, remember? And with their futures largely hanging on a numerical value — which is largely determined by how well they follow directions and memorize facts — is it any surprise that Chinese students are wary of thinking for themselves? Contrast this with the U.S. educational system. Say what you will about the problems of our system; in the end, it still

“Say what you will about the problems of our system; in the end, it still nurtures some of the most brilliant and inventive students to their full potential.”

nurtures some of the most brilliant and inventive students to their full potential. Our colleges and universities are the envy of the world, as evidenced by their routine dominance in world academic rankings. It is hard to imagine a place like Silicon Valley — with its close ties to academia through Stanford, its inveterate drive for innovation, its massive growth in stature in such a short span of time — existing anywhere else in the world. Average we may be in taking tests; in propelling the world forward we are anything but. I am not making a jingoistic case for the supremacy of the U.S. education system, however. It has its merits and its faults. Instead of dismissing China's successes in light of its shortcomings, perhaps we can learn something from their example. The only reason why the Chi-

nese system can be so rigorous and demanding is because the Chinese place a high value on education. Being a teacher is seen as a high-status occupation, not a fallback career. The Chinese nerd has more social capital than the Chinese jock. If we as a society adopt such a serious attitude toward education, perhaps we can alleviate the ills unearthed by the PISA test. We must become intolerant toward anti-intellectualism; it should not be socially acceptable to admit that “I do not really read books.” We must put the scientist on a higher mantle than the athlete. U.S. kids should be dreaming of becoming the next Richard Feynman instead of being the next Michael Vick. No, the PISA test is not a Sputnik moment, but that does not mean we should completely ignore it. It is a mirror that makes us aware of the faults of U.S. education, and we should take it as a wake-up call to take action against such faults.

Rolph Recto is a Viewpoint writer for The Cavalier Daily.

The partisan mirage

Republicans' attacks on President Obama's stimulus are a mere smokescreen — the stimulus worked

IN THE current political climate, candidates are assailing potential voters with all sorts of claims about their opponents, ranging from the absurd — questioning birth credentials — to the fundamental — government budget deficits. Behind some of these claims are kernels of truth or legitimate disagreement; behind others, however, is political nonsense. We are subjected to flimsy argumentation that serves only to lower the level of discourse and blind voters to the most important issues. One issue that has fallen victim to such politicking is President Obama's stimulus package, or the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), passed in February 2009. The Republican Party has chosen the stimulus as a base from which to attack Obama's economic leadership. Their main contention is simply that the stimulus package did not work. Citing the slow recovery, high unemployment rate and general sluggishness of the U.S. economy, Republican presidential candidate Gov. Mitt Romney has essayed, with some success, to paint the stimulus as failed economic policy, ignoring its original purpose — namely, to

RUSSELL BOGUE
VIEWPOINT WRITER

end the recession. But what, in fact, did the stimulus accomplish? A brief look at the facts of Obama's hallmark economic achievement reveals that the ARRA was in fact a policy success, one that should be celebrated on both sides of the aisle rather than subjected to tired partisan politics. The issue is spelled out most clearly in the economic data. First, the immediate effects. After the package was passed in February 2009, real quarterly output jumped by about 6 percent, the second biggest improvement in the past 25 years. The following quarter, the United States experienced positive real GDP growth for the first time since the financial crisis hit in 2008. Job losses similarly relented, with employment seeing its biggest improvement in 30 years. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the stimulus kept 3.3 million Americans at work. In fact, in four months Obama brought about the official end of the recession; ever since, the United States has simply been struggling with a sluggish recovery, which is the natural course for recessions sparked by financial crises. We see then that the primary goal of the stimulus was accomplished; the recession was over.

Fiscal stimulus during recessions is not a partisan issue; in 2008, every presidential candidate proposed a stimulus package. Romney's was the largest. Only once Obama tried to pass his own stimulus did it suddenly become taboo within the ranks of American conservatives. In fact, Romney's words may come back to haunt him. In a December 2008 piece for the National Review, Romney called for a stimulus remarkably similar to what Obama actually passed: “On the spending front, infrastructure projects should be a high priority. But because infrastructure projects involve engineering, environmental studies, permitting and contracting, they can take a long time to actually boost the economy. Spending to refurbish and modernize our military equipment is urgently needed, and it has a more immediate impact on the economy. We should also invest to free us from our dependence on foreign oil, not by playing venture capitalist, but by funding basic research in renewables, material science, combustion, nuclear reprocessing, and the like. During the 2008 campaign,

“Any proclaimed failure of the stimulus to truly reboot the economy on account of inadequate size is due to Republican obstructionism.”

virtually every candidate agreed on the need for an ‘Apollo-like mission’ to achieve energy independence. Now is the time to start.” In essence, Romney called for infrastructure spending, investment in renewable energy and tax cuts. Obama's ARRA was one of the largest infrastructure investments in American history — a second New Deal. Obama chose to spend the money on transportation, including \$8 billion on a new high-speed rail network and \$7 billion to extend high-speed Internet service, instead of spending more on an already bloated military budget. The infrastructure spending also repaired roads, built bridges and restored national landmarks. Moreover, Obama single-handedly rejuvenated the clean energy sector, pouring \$90 billion of government money into a smarter power grid, investments in renewable energy, green infrastructure and green manufacturing. In addition, Obama modernized the health care system by funding a nationwide switch to electronic record keeping, before rounding off this package with

hundreds of billions of dollars of tax cuts to the middle class. Sounds like just what Romney had previously ordered. It seems clear in retrospect that Obama's stimulus should have in fact been bigger; any economic anemia we are currently witnessing would have benefited from an even greater infusion of government funds. But Republican opposition to Obama's stimulus package was fierce. Then Speaker of the House Rep. Nancy Pelosi thought the president would not have been able to pass anything above \$600 billion. In November 2008, 387 economists signed a letter that only called for a stimulus package of \$300-400 billion. Therefore, that Obama managed to wrangle, at the current estimation, close to \$830 billion of stimulus out of such a partisan Congress is quite a feat, by anyone's standards. Any proclaimed failure of the stimulus to truly reboot the economy on account of inadequate size is due to Republican obstructionism. There is a lot Republicans can take issue with concerning President Obama; but when it comes to the ARRA, the verdict is in. It worked. Let us move on to bigger problems.

Russell Bogue is a Viewpoint writer for The Cavalier Daily.





Johnny

Third Year English Major

University involvement: Third Year Council, Madison House, Intramural Sports

Ideal date person: Stunning, duh. I don't know, I mean good-looking young women. Charming, smart, definitely smart, good sense of humor (preferably one that gets my stupid jokes), artsy, yet also athletic.

Ideal date activity: Probably for a first/blind date, a dinner date with good food (gotta have good food), and of course I'll pay.

Celebrity crush: Toss-up. Natalie Portman or Keira Knightley. Keira wins if she shows up in full Pirates of The Caribbean gear for the first date.

Dealbreakers: I know this is petty, but: short hair. I know, I know. I just can't get over that fact. Also, some guys are into the "exotic" women. Yeah, not for me.



Typical weekend: I, along with friends, will go out both Friday and Saturday night. During the day, definitely try to get some exercise — anything from a simple jog to a full-fledged pick-up game. If I can, get some homework done; if not, Sunday is homework day. Also, I like to keep my place clean; the weekend is a great time for cleaning up. This is probably too long of an answer.

Hobbies: Sports, music (I play guitar). I guess as an English major, I do like to write in my spare time.

What makes you a good catch?: I lure women in with my charming idiocy. No, I'm funny, smart, well-to-do, athletic. I feel like I'm a handsome guy, maybe that's just what my mom tells me. Gotta love Mom.

Describe yourself in one sentence: I'm gonna pass on this one.

Larkin

Third Year Political and Social Thought Major

University involvement: I am a co-chair of the Women's Leadership Development Program, which targets female underclassmen through a series of three four-hour seminars. I am also the arts editor of The Declaration.

Ideal date person: I consider the ethnicity of my ideal partner to be insignificant, so long as their jawline is straight as an arrow. I prefer males within an easy hugging range; for a girl of 5-foot-7, that's anywhere from one to six inches taller than myself. An abundance of hair is preferred to skimpy amounts of any color. I seek out earth and water signs (Capricorns and Cancers, specifically) for the practical romance of easygoing personalities. I like a babe eager to share his ideas, hobbies and snack foods. I am particularly receptive to ironic/bookish senses of humor, turned off by bluntness, sarcasm or "that's-what-she-said."

Ideal date activity: I really enjoy mundane adventures — urban spooning a restaurant, road tripping to a swimming hole, cooking something adventurous (like chicken n' waffles or onigiri). Ticketed dates like concerts or movies can be expensive and leave little opportunity for conversation, so I tend to avoid those.

Celebrity crush: Lil' Wayne for the bragging rights.

Dealbreakers: Crocs, timidity, extreme athleticism.

Typical weekend plans: Full of catch-up: schoolwork, housecleaning, sleep, sociability. I'm fairly early to rise, so I can knock out the boring things before the typical bro even wakes up. Then I like to do hoodrat stuff with my friends.

Hobbies: I like making lists, cooking, drawing, singing, Korean television, thrifting, sleeping and Scrabble. I enjoy driving long distances but walk as often as possible around Charlottesville.

What makes you a good catch?: I've got good prospects.

Describe yourself in one sentence: She can move.



THE DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7 P.M. AT THE WHISKEY JAR

Johnny: I filled out the Love Connection survey because a friend encouraged me to. When I found out I was chosen, I thought, "Oh, this is going to be really fun." But then on Saturday morning I was like, "Oh s***. When's the last time I took a girl out to dinner?" I haven't been on a date since high school, when I was more awkward than I am now. I had no good experience to go back on, but now I do.

Larkin: I've always thought Love Connection was a really funny concept and I finally worked out the cajones to apply to it, having recently left a relationship. I was so excited when I found out I was going on the date. I joked around and anticipated worst-case scenarios. I was terrified I was going to get paired with a first year and that we would go to N2.

Johnny: I got to the Rotunda right at 7, she got there only a couple of minutes later. Obviously you don't know what to do, so I was looking around and then she kind of came up to me and was like, "Are you Johnny?" She was a cute girl. I really liked the way she dressed. It was southern hipster, kind of. I thought it was really nice.

Larkin: When I got to the Rotunda, we had that weird moment of kind of looking at each other, kind of not, realizing we were supposed to be on a date. He had short hair and I was like, "Aw man, what the heck?" I knew I mentioned a full head of hair as one of my criteria. I didn't want to say anything, since it seemed rude to be like, "Hey, I asked for someone with a lot of hair!" But then when we were walking home after dinner, we ran into somebody who said to him, "Oh my gosh, you cut off all your hair!" Turns out he had just gone back to short hair.

Johnny: I had a few restaurant suggestions from my friends, but I asked if she had any ideas about where she wanted to go for dinner and she said she knew this place, the Whiskey Jar, so we took the trolley downtown.

Larkin: Going into the date, I really wanted to go to the Whiskey Jar. I was nervous he was going to be like, "I made reservations at Downtown Grill" or something like that, but it ended up working out really well. As soon as we got there, he was so into it that I thought it would be difficult to gauge how much he was into me.

Johnny: The restaurant was absolutely fantastic. It

was southern comfort food, but not like a Cracker Barrel. Hell of a lot better than a Cracker Barrel. It was really kind of a cool atmosphere. I got grilled pork chops, and they were unbelievable. She got pan-seared catfish with tomato and okra soup.

Larkin: Dinner was really nice. The atmosphere is kind of homey, southern comfort food. I figured comfort food and a blind date was a nice combo since we might need a little comfort. The restaurant was crowded when we first got there, and after we squeezed into our seats he apologized for not pulling out my chair. I forgave him. We ended up both wanting the same item, so we ordered that and something else. Then halfway through the meal, we switched dishes grandma and grandpa style. I think the fact that we were able to share our entrees and dessert attested to our level of familiarity.

Johnny: Obviously when you're on a blind date, your biggest fear is awkward conversation, but we hit it off. She's a really intellectual girl, so I was like, "Yes, boom!" We're both one of four kids, we both have sisters a year older than us, and brothers three years younger than us. We were the same.

Larkin: We just kind of talked the whole time; no pauses in the conversation except for chewing since he got a particularly bony piece of pork chop. We talked about general life experiences, internships we've had and things like that. We talked about our families — everything matches up by age. We were produced in very similar family environments, which might be one of the reasons we got along so well.

Johnny: We talked a lot about U.Va. and the importance of our degrees. I'm starting to think that undergrad is completely pointless, and she agreed with that because it's not actually what you learn but that you have a degree from the accredited university. A little theme in our conversation was the transition to adulthood. It was good, it was funny. Laughs were had by all.

Larkin: We joked around a lot. I think there was a nice balance between getting all the résumé type info and general joking. It didn't feel like an interview. He is a Gemini, and I'm a Pisces, so we're not necessarily astrologically compatible, but we're similar in terms of the environment we came out of.

Johnny: Our view of the world seemed very similar.

I think that's why the conversation flowed so easily. I couldn't really pinpoint a specific area where we felt similar but our general demeanors are the same. It was hard to figure out what type of vibe the night had because you're just starting to get to know each other so you're not sure what is flirting and what is friendship.

Larkin: We definitely weren't coquettish at all. I think we were feeling one another out since we didn't know each other at all. I'm not necessarily flirtatious by nature, so we were getting to know one another on a more friendship level. That's probably also impacted by knowing there's going to be an interview after the date.

Johnny: After we finished dinner, we sat and talked and had this apple cobbler for dessert. We were walking back and there was a hockey game going on. I'm obsessed with hockey, so I forced her to watch a little. I walked her back to her apartment and went on my way. She said we should exchange numbers, so we did and she texted me last night.

Larkin: He insisted on paying for dinner — the fact that he footed the bill warrants a second date where I can hopefully return the favor! It was a nice night so we decided to walk back from the Downtown Mall. The conversation was great so we didn't have any need to GTFO or anything. He's less familiar with the area, so I pointed out different places on the way. He dropped me off and we gave each other a hug. He gave me his phone number and I texted him to give him mine.

Johnny: The food was so good, I'd give the date an 8. No, but seriously, I loved the conversation. I thought she was fantastic. I was debating all last night whether to ask her out again. I think I might do it next week.

Larkin: I would rate the date a 9. We got along really, really, really well. Within my dating experience, he was unusually and almost aggressively polite. Hopefully we'll see each other again!

Update: Johnny and Larkin have kept in touch and plan to see each other again this weekend. "We have a second date planned," Johnny said. "Dinner and a concert at the Jefferson on Saturday night," —compiled by Mai Le

Top 10 Ways to Avoid the First-Year 15

1. Run late to every class. Turn poor planning or that totally necessary extra 10 minutes of sleep into a good thing. That uphill sprint plus your backpack will tone you right up.
2. Use a meal swipe at Freshens. Hoo knew you could meal swipe here? Its location in the AFC makes it easy to reward yourself after working out (is it bad that I reward myself with food after exercising?). Get extra protein powder in your smoothie because it helps you gain muscle. See you on the football field!
3. Delete College Inn from your phone. They deliver at all hours of the night and will even give you a five percent discount for ordering online. If you're wondering what sounds wrong with this, the answer is nothing. Take a deep breath and press delete, because we know you've already swiped in twice at O-Hill tonight.
4. Visit your friends in New Dorms. To those in New Dorms, I'm sorry. At least you have air conditioning and the deli station at Runk! Because New Dorms are so far from everything, visit your friends

- there instead of making them come to you. Don't be tempted to take the bus. That isn't real exercise, and it never runs on time anyway.
5. Get lost going to Claude Moore. Where is the South Lawn? If the Rotunda is at the north end of the Lawn and Old Cabell is at the south end, where could it possibly be? Answer: through Cabell and down a lot of stairs, across a few hallways and back out the other side. A guaranteed five-minute walk, usually at a fast pace because you're going to be late.
 6. Drop by happy hour at the AFC. Fridays at 5:45 p.m. the AFC offers free, hour-long drop-in classes. With choices like Spice Girls Strength (do strength exercises to music by the Spice Girls for an hour!) and Christmas Yoga: Peace on Earth and in Your Body (do yoga to Christmas music!), why wouldn't you want to stop by?
 7. Carry all your textbooks to the library. You're going to end up spending all day and all night in a library. Whether it is Alderman, Clemons or Clark, none are very close to first-year housing. Because you're not going to want to go back to your dorm,

- carry all your textbooks — plus notebooks and your laptop — to the library. The seven-minute walk to and from with a 100-pound backpack will equal almost an hour of weight training in the AFC (or at least it feels like it).
8. Cut out late-night trips to the Corner after going out. After a night on Rugby Road, it is custom to make the trek to the Corner. Because realistically, who can resist a Gusburger or Little John's sandwich at 2 a.m.? But be strong. Limit late-night Corner stops.
 9. Complete the Old Dorms triathlon! Run up to the third floor of each Old Dorm. Bonus points if you get to the top of Kellogg, too. You'll undoubtedly make some new friends and maybe it'll get turned into an intramural sport.
 10. Streak the Lawn. Exercise with tradition built in! Everyone is going to do it at least once before he graduates, so why not do it at top speed? The faster you are, the less time you spend without clothes on and the less time the Lawnies have to spotlight you.



Toby Loewenstein | Cavalier Daily
Freshman Maurice Canady secured the first interception of his career in Virginia's 27-7 loss to TCU last Saturday. Canady represents just one member of a secondary that has exclusively featured underclassmen this season.

FOOTBALL

Cavs aim to stifle Bulldogs

Coach London's squad returns to Scott Stadium's friendly confines, eyes potent Louisiana Tech offense

By Jared Pasetky
Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

The Virginia football team returns to Scott Stadium Saturday for a showdown against offensively dominant Louisiana Tech. After losing their last two games on the road by a combined 56 points, the Cavaliers (2-2, 0-1 ACC) will try to get back on track against the Bulldogs (3-0, 0-0 WAC).

After yielding 83 points and 1,032 yards total in losses to Georgia Tech and TCU, the Cavaliers now have to face one of the best offenses in college football, guided by redshirt senior quarterback Colby Cameron. Cameron this season has completed 69.4 percent of his passes for 913 yards and 11 touchdowns to lead the Bulldogs to three consecutive victories in which they have scored 54.7 points per game, good for third in FBS.

"I don't know if you can slow them down," Coach Mike London said of Louisiana Tech's offense. "They have outstanding personnel; their quarterback; they have a receiver, No. 4 [red-]

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

No. 7 women face stiff tests

Currently riding 10-game unbeaten streak, team set to play ACC standouts Maryland, No. 4 Duke

By Matthew Wurzburger
Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

The No. 7 Virginia women's soccer team is preparing for two grueling conference games this weekend. First, the Cavaliers (9-1-1, 2-0-1 ACC) go on the road Thursday night to challenge ACC-leading No. 18 Maryland. Virginia then returns to Klöckner Stadium Sunday to face off against No. 4 Duke.

"Any game in the ACC at this point is pretty big," sophomore midfielder Morgan Brian said. "Maryland is undefeated in the ACC, and Duke is one of our biggest rivals, so we're just excited to play them this week."

Their last time out, the Cavaliers outlasted Clemson on the road to earn a riveting 1-0 win. Senior forward Erica Hollenberg

Please see **W Soccer**, Page B2



Jenna Truong | Cavalier Daily
Sophomore Morgan Brian has injected pace into the Virginia offense since returning from the Women's U-20 World Cup in Japan. In two games since coming back to the team, Brian has tallied an assist and four shots on goal.



Senior setter Rachel Gray provides veteran leadership to a youthful volleyball roster. The Cavaliers are trying to restore prestige to a program that has suffered three consecutive losing seasons since 2009.

Chris MacDonnell
Cavalier Daily

VOLLEYBALL

Virginia visits Eagles

Cavaliers confront young, struggling rivals, look to snap losing streak

By Peter Nance
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The Virginia volleyball team heads to Chestnut Hill Thursday to take on Boston College in the first game of a four-match road trip.

The Cavaliers (5-8, 0-3 ACC) lost twice against formidable conference opponents last weekend, falling to Miami in three games and then-No. 15 Florida State in four. The team nonetheless drew confidence from its ability to hang with the two squads. Given the team's youth, such self-assurance may be vital.

"The freshmen all came together really well against such good competition," freshman Manon Greskovics-Fuller said. "Now we know what to expect against other ACC teams, and we know what we need to work on for next weekend."

But it's hard for a squad striving for a winning record to accept mere moral victories. Adhering to head coach Dennis Hohenschelt's philosophy, the Cavaliers will not be satisfied until they can win every match.

The team has a chance to add one to the win column Thursday night against the Eagles. Boston College (7-8, 1-2 ACC), like Virginia, looks to turn around a streak of bad seasons. The team has the potential to surprise its conference foes.

"Boston College is a lot like us in that they're a little younger with some freshmen and sophomores playing on the outside hitter spot, which is pretty critical for them," Hohenschelt said. "I expect it to be a pretty competitive match, and we're going to have to play well to

Please see **Volleyball**, Page B2

SPORTS

Soccer challenges conference foe Clemson

IN BRIEF

The Virginia men's soccer team will take on ACC foe Clemson at home in Klöckner Stadium this Friday. The Cavaliers (5-3-1, 1-1-0 ACC) are coming off an exciting 1-0 win in double overtime against Virginia Commonwealth Tuesday night and will look to use the energy from that victory to fuel their game against the Tigers (2-5-2, 1-1-1 ACC).

Coach George Gelnovatch's young team has recently hit its stride, dropping only one of its last six games in a 1-0 loss to then-No. 8 North Carolina last Friday. Virginia has managed this surge despite a starting lineup ridden with injuries, which has expedited the development of young stars such as freshman defender Zach Carroll and midfielders Scott Thomsen and Todd Wharton.

Against VCU, with three starters out with injuries, Virginia went deep into its bench and played a total of 16 players during the 100-minute plus game. Junior forward Cameron Chavira scored the overtime winner in just his third appearance of the season.

In the midst of all the adversity, the Cavaliers must find a way to overcome Clemson, who is hoping to rebound from an inauspicious start to its season. Despite a worse overall record, the Tigers sit above Virginia in the conference standings because of a tie in their extra conference game.

But with the Tigers looking for revenge after last year's 2-0 domination by Virginia at Clemson, the Cavaliers cannot rest on their laurels. To duplicate last year's result, Virginia will look to senior forward Will Bates, who holds the team lead with five goals, to guide the offense and to sophomore goalkeeper Spencer LaCivita to anchor the defense.

This will be the 54th meeting between Clemson and Virginia on the soccer field, with the Cavaliers leading the overall series 27-21-5.

Kick-off is set for 7 p.m.

—compiled by Om Evani

What to Watch for this Weekend

Home:

Friday, 6 p.m., Field Hockey vs. Maryland

Friday, 7 p.m., Men's Soccer Clemson

Saturday, 3:30 p.m., Football vs. Louisiana Tech

Sunday, 1 p.m., Field Hockey vs. St. Joseph's

Sunday, 2 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Duke

Away:

Thursday, 7 p.m., Women's Soccer @ Maryland

Thursday, 7 p.m., Volleyball @ Boston College

Saturday-Sunday, all day, Men's Golf @ Patriot Intercollegiate

Sunday, 2 p.m, Volleyball @ Maryland

Football | London: ‘no change’ in starting quarterback

Continued from page B1

shirt senior Quinton Patton] who’s an outstanding dynamic player [who] can locate the ball wherever its thrown.”

The Cavaliers’ task became drastically less daunting this week, though, with the announcement that the Bulldogs’ leading rusher freshman Tevin King will miss the rest of the 2012 season with a torn ACL. King amassed 369 yards in his first three college games. Fellow freshman running back Kenneth Dixon, however, has gained 244 yards himself and should prove an ample replacement in the starting backfield.

London plans to face the same balanced attack that torched the Bulldogs’ earlier opponents — an offensive style more familiar to the Cavaliers.

“I love this type of gameplan,”

freshman cornerback Maurice Canady said. “TCU had a similar one, and I was able to get an interception. So I’m looking forward to it.”

The Cavaliers look to win the matchup by controlling the tempo of the game. They face a Bulldog defense that has ceded 36.7 points per game so far.

“I think it’s going to be important for us to play well defensively, not turn the ball over, and put some points up,” London said. “We are going to have to hang on to the ball and put some drives together.”

If Virginia plans to win with such a strategy, both the passing game and rushing game must exhibit marked improvement. The Cavaliers cannot afford the turnovers and third-down inefficiency that have plagued them in recent weeks.

The turnovers from the quar-

terback position in particular have alarmed the Virginia coaching staff. Junior quarterback Michael Rocco hurled two interceptions last week. Backup junior Phillip Sims fumbled, bringing the team’s turnover total to 10 — tied for eighth-most among FBS schools.

“Michael understands that his throws, his decisions, are very, very important to the success of what happens to the ball,” London said. “Phillip understands the same thing. Both Michael and Phillip are aware that they have to perform at their best regardless of who the quarterback is.”

London plans no change in strategy from the first few weeks with Rocco starting and Sims seeing some late play. Though Sims has played decently during the last two weeks and raised a growing

chorus of supporters hearken-ing for him to start, London said Rocco needs to amend the team’s third-down woes and receive more help from his receivers to regain the sterling form he exhibited at the end of 2011.

“Well, a few dropped passes, you know, a couple completions here and there, and you know, perhaps the conversation is different,” London said. “But when you are 3-of-16 on third down [against TCU], that really hurts.”

Third-down completions take on great importance this week as the Cavaliers try to keep the Bulldog defense on the field as long as possible.

An established run game would help Virginia retain pos-session. After initially strug-gling with running plays in the first three games before rush-

ing for a season-high 177 yards last week, the Cavaliers look to maintain momentum.

Against TCU, sophomore Kevin Parks and senior Perry Jones each had 12 carries. Parks accounted for 86 yards whereas Jones tallied 39. Jones has now rushed for a paltry 113 yards on the season and is averaging 2.9 yards per carry. London stressed the importance of getting the ball to his leading rusher from the 2011 season.

“It’s just we need to hit him — when he’s on the field, we all know that he’s dynamic,” London said.

Kickoff is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Saturday in Scott Stadium. The team will don throwback uniforms from the 1968 season in honor of Frank Quayle, the 1968 ACC Player of the Year, who will be recognized in a halftime ceremony.

W Soccer | Terps, Devils’ matchups bring potent attacks

Continued from page B1

netted the decisive goal from six yards out in the 81st minute of regulation, helping extend Virginia’s unbeaten streak to 10 games.

The Cavaliers struggled early against Clemson’s defensive-orientated strategy of packing as many players as possible behind the ball. But the squad eventually wore down the Tigers by attrition and proved that coach Steve Swanson’s players can cope with multiple styles of play.

“I think Clemson was difficult,” Swanson said. “They put a lot of players behind the ball. It’s not easy when you’ve played two pretty wide open games in

the ACC, then face a team that’s doing something different tactically.”

Thursday’s game against Mary-land (7-2-2, 3-0-1 ACC) should feature a much different feel, as the Cavaliers and the Terrapins average 2.73 and 2.09 goals per game, respectively.

“Hopefully, the defense will open up and there will be more space,” Brian said.

A win Thursday would net Virginia three points and would vault the team ahead of Mary-land in the ACC standings. The Cavaliers expect intense resistance from Maryland and its attacking prowess, however, and will have to play more efficiently on the ball. Redshirt senior midfielder Becky Kaplan

and junior forward Hayley Brock pose particularly potent offensive threats, accounting for 15 of the Terrapins’ 23 goals so far this season. Brock just earned her second consecutive ACC Player of the Week award.

“I think our team is experi-enced enough to know that, in the game against Maryland, we’re going to have to have a great effort,” Swanson said. “We’re going to have to have a lot of energy, and play smart, and try to implement our style on the game to win.”

The Cavaliers will only have a marginal amount of time to recuperate before they play Duke (7-2-1, 1-1-1 ACC) at home three days later.

The Blue Devils’ pedestrian

conference record belies their talent. Duke is one of the elite programs in women’s soccer and an offensive juggernaut that averages 3.40 goals per game. Virginia will need to capital-ize on every scoring chance possible to keep up with such a prolific offense, one paced by the dual scoring threats of junior forward Laura Weinberg and redshirt junior defender Kim DeCesare. Of their 16 shots against Clemson, the Cavaliers only hit the target nine times. Swanson said the team’s per-formance in front of goal last weekend was not indicative of its goal-scoring ability.

“It’s not so much the shots, it’s the quality chances, and I think we had some legitimate quality

chances,” Swanson said.

Virginia’s next two games will showcase the depth and overall talent that have long defined the ACC. The two contests also will have an enormous impact on the conference standings and may play a deciding role in who enters the conference tourna-ment as the top seed.

“We know the challenges are ahead, and I think we’re excited for that,” Swanson said. “[Mary-land and Duke] are doing well in the conference so far, and we’ve always had great games with them, so we’re looking forward to it.”

The Maryland matchup will kick off at 7 p.m. Thursday. The Duke game is slated to begin at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Volleyball | Consistency proves elusive for maturing Cavaliers

Continued from page B1

beat them, but I think the girls are ready for that.”

So far the Cavalier freshman hitters have shown flashes of brilliance. Last week against Miami freshman Natalie Baus-back recorded an excellent .429 hitting percentage, with 12 kills and no errors on 28 total attacks.

The team still requires vast improvement to join the upper echelon of ACC college programs. A big target area has been consistency. Against Florida State, and earlier in the season against No. 23 Western Kentucky, the Cavaliers started out strong and were able to steal the first game against a great opponent. The team stepped back in the follow-ing games, however, losing both

matches 3-1. The coaches would like to see the team start tough and play that way throughout the entire match.

“There were times during the match where we were level with Florida State, which is a top-15 team in the country,” assistant coach Aaron Smith said. “Know-ing we can play at that level, we just need to do it for extended periods of time. If we can do

that, we’re going to beat a couple teams in the ACC.”

Hohenshelt’s experience at Penn State, where he helped the Nittany Lions win four national championships during his tenure as an assistant coach, showed what players can accom-plish when they give their all each time they take the court. The Cavaliers, too, know prog-ress is attainable only through

hard work in practice and in matches.

“I think we can get better at communication and attitude on the court,” Greskovics-Fuller said, “We need to stay com-petitive and not lie down when we’re losing.”

Starting time for the Boston College match is set for 7 p.m. Thursday. The team visits Mary-land for a 2 p.m. Sunday tip-off.

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FALL 2012 MOVIE PREVIEW



by conor sheehey

Apart from a few instant classics such as *21 Jump Street* and *The Dark Knight Rises*, most of 2012's movie crop has been about as successful as Rick Perry's presidential campaign. If such clunkers as *The Avengers*, *Rock of Ages* and *The Lorax* are any indication of what's to come in blockbuster filmmaking, we may as well learn to embrace nonsensical plots, nonexistent character development and soulless special effects as the new norm. That being said, this fall's selection of big-budget powerhouses may be able to turn this terrible tide.

When October kicks off and Halloween stores begin to pop up in every strip mall in town, Tim Burton stands to make massive gains, both at the box office and in our hearts, with *Frankenweenie*, a remake of his 1984 short film of the same name. After striking out with the hollow *Alice in Wonderland* and the lackluster *Dark Shadows*, Burton returns to his roots as the king of dark comedy. This latest film, which hits theaters Oct. 5, blends the stop-motion magic of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

and *The Corpse Bride* with the spooky black-and-white aesthetics of *Ed Wood* as it tells the story of a boy who tries to revive his dog from the dead. Judging from the film's trailer, the eerie visuals and subject matter on display make *Frankenweenie* an ideal project for Burton, who has finally decided to take a break from the overused Johnny Depp and the overwrought CGI effects that have spoiled his recent works. If nothing else, the movie at least promises to provide a trip down memory line for those of us who have long treasured the veteran director's initial short.

Nostalgia appears a common theme among this season's cinematic offerings. Take for instance stuntman-turned-director Dan Bradley's remake of *Red Dawn*. Like the 1984 original, Bradley's film, which arrives in theaters Nov. 21, centers around a group of teenagers who must fight for their lives and their homespun American values when enemy combatants storm their home town and institute a tyrannical military occupation. Whereas the initial film was

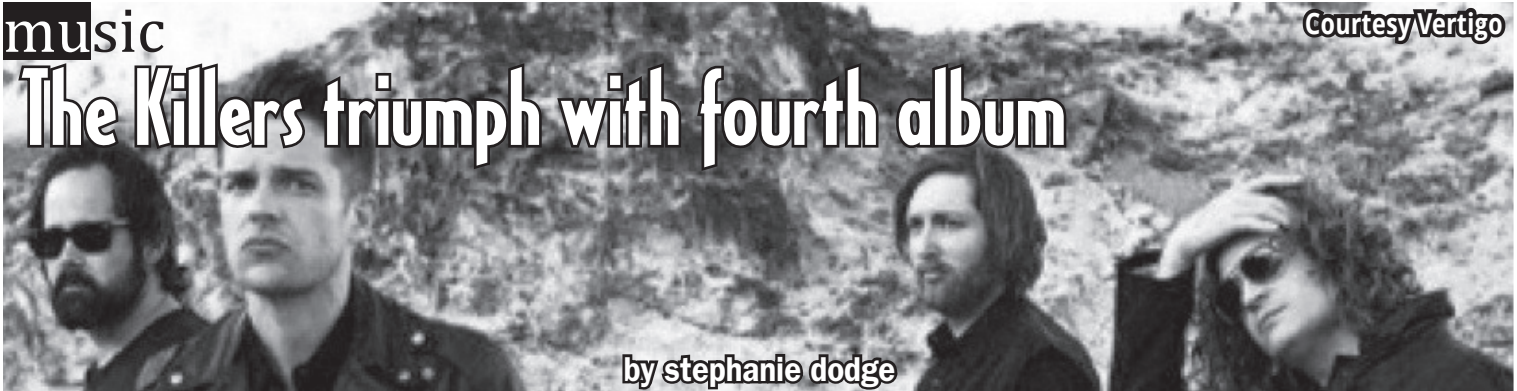
an anti-Soviet battle cry in the midst of the Cold War, the revamped version pits its heroes against a North Korea invasion. Although the film's apparent guns-a-blazin' jingoism may sit poorly with some audiences, its solid cast, which includes Josh Hutcherson, Chris Hemsworth and Drake & Josh's Josh Peck, has the potential to elevate silly material into a powerful patriotic action movie.

Even if *Red Dawn* doesn't rise to the occasion, Agent 007's Nov. 9 return to U.S. theaters in Sam Mendes' *Skyfall* promises to light up the screen with some spectacular set-pieces, special effects and sex appeal. Starring the unrivaled Daniel Craig as Bond and *No Country for Old Men*'s Javier Bardem as the film's primary villain, this tale of intrigue and shifting loyalties looks to be a good, old-fashioned spy movie, with scores of exotic locations thrown in for good measure.

Some of the fall's biggest hits-to-be have a bit less to offer. Millions of teenage girls

will scream with joy as Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner hit the screen Nov. 16 for the last installment of the *Twilight* franchise, but for those of us who see boring vampire epics as better fodder for drinking games than trips to the Cineplex, *Breaking Dawn: Part 2* will earn only eye-rolls and snarky comments.

Along similar lines, *Taken 2*, *Wreck-it Ralph* and *Rise of the Guardians*, all of which plan to vie for top-tier positions at the box office, seem poised to hammer audiences with clichés, stilted characters and cheap thrills. Nevertheless, for a film season that typically functions as a wastepaper basket for ghastly Oscar bait and gaudy horror movies, fall 2012 deserves credit for bringing us bursts of nostalgia amid the garbage.



The Killers triumph with fourth album

by stephanie dodge

Trying to contain my enthusiasm at finally hearing The Killers' latest album, I started listening to *Battle Born* on repeat as soon as the pre-release stream started on iTunes. Put together after the band took a much-needed year-and-a-half hiatus, the group's fourth studio effort is a spectacular rock album imbued with a musical maturity some of the band's earlier records lacked.

The group's first album *Hot Fuss* was full of unbridled passion that swept us all into a Killers craze. After the days of "Mr. Brightside," the band traded much of its rawness and brute-force energy for poignant philosophical statements and tranquil beauty. With *Battle Born*, The Killers have finally struck a balance between these two extremes. It seems as if they've stopped trying to prove themselves and have settled into their own style. Melding their increasingly mature sound with themes ranging from the wonders of the American landscape to the power of true love, The Killers have constructed a classic.

Emblematic of the sturdy style of the album as a whole, the title track is a grand ol' tribute to the U.S. of A. The Killers remind their country that she was born out of the ravages of war and that she "can't stop now." Filled with an intense optimism, it ends with a crooning "welcome home" that brings out the inner patriot in

all of us. The song epitomizes the nostalgic aesthetic of *Battle Born*, which hearkens back to the prime of Bruce Springsteen, with shades of "Thunder Road" and "Born to Run." The album is distinctly American from start to finish, and The Killers make no apologies for it.

In terms of the album's highlights, "Runaways" had already become a huge favorite of mine during the summer, and I heard the group play the grandiose "Flesh and Bone" live back in July. With these two precursors in mind, I expected an epic, stadium-rock style album along the lines of Bon Jovi's *Slippery When Wet* or Queen's *Jazz*. Surprisingly, in spite of its heavy-hitting rock 'n' roll moments, *Battle Born* also offers up a number of intimate moments and soft tunes, in which the Las Vegas natives take it down a notch and get personal.

Although grander tracks such as "The Way It Was" create a wonderfully big sound that recalls the band's earlier and louder days, slower and more soulful songs such as "Be Still" showcase a sense of maturity listeners haven't totally seen from the group before.

In fact, my only criticism of the record concerns the constant use of 80s-style synthetic drums, which become more irritating than entertaining by the time you work your way down to "Deadlines and Commitments" — only the sixth track on

the album. But even the overuse of this aesthetic doesn't do much to undermine lead-singer Brandon Flowers' lyrical meditations on his newly evolving role as both rock star and father. Moreover, this musical technique suits the album's sense of old-school Americana and nostalgia.

I recommend that you go home, purchase *Battle Born*, lie down on your bed and close your eyes. As you listen to the tracks of this poignant musical powerhouse, imagine you're getting into your vintage Thunderbird, put the keys in the ignition, and head west into the sweeping landscape of mountains, forests, open fields and tranquil lakes that define this country. Let The Killers take you on a journey through great highway rock 'n' roll jams and soft, crooning ballads. After all, sometimes, we all just need to "run away."



Album Highlights

“Runaways”
“Heart of a Girl”
“The Way Things Were”
“From Here On Out”

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

64th PRIMETIME EMMYS

Best Drama Series: 'Homeland' (Showtime)
Best Comedy Series: 'Modern Family' (ABC)
Lead Actor in a Drama: Damien Lewis, 'Homeland'
Lead Actress in a Drama: Claire Danes, 'Homeland'
Lead Actor in a Comedy: Jon Cryer, 'Two and a Half Men'
Lead Actress in a Comedy: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 'Veep'
Best Miniseries or TV Movie: 'Game Change' (HBO)



the beat for the week

arts & entertainment

INSIDE



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Wrap-up
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ONLINE

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NEXT WEEK

U.Va. Drama
Presents:
'Rhinoceros'

Film:
'Looper'
'Finding Nemo 3D'

Music:
Lupe Fiasco

television

‘BREAKING’ BAD: AMISH PARADISE



I have harped on TLC for some time about its ridiculous reality shows that exploit the less fortunate and the strange. *Breaking Amish* is different. TLC is exploring a culture that has never been seen on television before. Why? Because the Amish traditionally don't believe in allowing themselves to be photographed, let alone recorded. To convey the serious tone of the show, TLC began the first episode not with corny shots of a little girl with a round tummy holding a teacup pig (cough cough, Honey Boo Boo Child) but rather with simple white text on a black backdrop.

The opening titles read: "Four Amish and one Mennonite are about to take a life changing journey," and they were not kidding. These five young adults are uprooting their entire lives and leaving their support systems to fly out to New York and see what the world has to offer. But before they can do that, however, they have to confront their abnormally conservative families. Not only do the families not want their children — who are all 18 or older — to go out on their own, but they also tell their children that if they do

leave, their community will abandon them. Talk about a harsh reality.

But what are these kids — and I use the word kid loosely since they are all of college age — supposed to do? If they choose the path of their parents, they will continue to wear what the church tells them to wear (down to the width of their hems), eat how they are supposed to eat and work the long hours traditional in a community without electricity, plumbing or modern technology. The community does not even give them the tools to succeed in the outside world, only schooling the majority of children to sophomore year of high school and some only until eighth grade.

How TLC scouted these kids is beyond me, but they presented them with the opportunity to fulfill their dreams in New York City. The four Amish people the show follows are Rebecca, Abe, Kate and Jeremiah. TLC also included a Mennonite named Sabrina. Each of these kids has a specific story: for example, Rebecca wants to leave her submissive role as a woman cooking and cleaning a household day in and day out; Kate

is the bishop's daughter (the bishop is in charge of the community, making rules and enforcing them), but she desperately wants to become a model. Sabrina, however, is a Mennonite who has modern conveniences like radio — only Christian, of course. She feels out of place having been born Italian and Puerto Rican but adopted into the faith as a baby, and she wants to find herself and share her love of singing.

Although this show was respectful and interesting in the first episode, I fear what is to come. The ending clips of the following episode show these kids starting romances, Kate modeling a bikini and Sabrina clothes shopping for the first time. I foresee TLC exploiting the naivety of these kids who just want to find themselves and a new life. That doesn't mean I am not intrigued; it just means that I worry they misnamed the show. Perhaps a more appropriate title would be *From Amish to Gossip Girl*.



Courtesy TLC

television

NOTHING
'REVOLUTION'-ARY

by troy kirwin

NBC's *Revolution* is the next ambitious, post-apocalyptic network drama with hopes of filling the gaping hole left by ABC's groundbreaking *Lost*. Though shows such as *The Event*, *Flash Forward*, *Terra Nova* and *V* all tried and failed to obtain the same cult following *Lost* enjoyed, *Revolution* is produced by *Lost* creator J.J. Abrams and has a step up with the fans right out of the gate.

Twelve million viewers tuned into the Sept. 17 pilot episode that has a distressed Ben Matheson (Tim Guinee) warning his family, "It's gonna turn off ... and it will never ever turn back on!" Suddenly, electricity throughout the country and possibly the world shuts down. We flash forward 15 years and see Ben living with his family, including daughter Charlie (Tracy Spiridakos) and son Danny (Graham Rogers) in a lawless, overgrown world divided into communes where militias vying for power threaten all order. When militiaman Capt. Tom Neville, played by Giancarlo Esposito of *Breaking Bad* fame, disrupts Ben's peaceful community, chaos ensues, leaving Ben dead and Danny kidnapped.

The premise of the show is established as Charlie leaves to find her uncle Miles (Billy Burke) who, along with Ben, knows vital information about the blackout and who can help rescue her brother from the militia.

In a world where survivors have relearned the art of sword fighting and have become adept with bow and arrow, it's clear the producers had HBO's successful *Game of Thrones* in mind for this present-day adventure-quest drama.

Though the imaginative shots such as a decrepit Wrigley Field are well-executed, it remains to be seen if the writers can maintain the believability of this high-concept plot. Serialized dramas hit their stream when they develop engaging and complex characters viewers become attached to. So far, *Revolution*'s characters seem to fit the mold of what we have come to expect from a network drama: a good-looking cast who manages to look pretty despite the post-apocalyptic setting, an inevitable romance between two young characters, and a geeky klutz for comic relief (à la *Lost*'s Hurley). The characters seem shallow and lack the internal conflicts and struggles that might arise in such a ruthless and bleak society.

The pilot presents some interesting revelations about the origin of the blackout, and the episode really takes off during a fight scene involving samurai swords and unconventional battle tactics between the militia and our rag-tag team of rebels. Believability aside, such exhilarating fight scenes can't hurt the show's chances of keeping viewers.

The size and scope of the plot established in *Revolution* should open the door for ample twists and turns later in the series. But viewers will only stick around and buy into the mythology if the upcoming episodes do a better job of developing the characters. If NBC wants *Revolution* to be the next successful serialized drama in a field now dominated by cable, it must start by transcending network television's predictability and monotony. Otherwise it will be lights out for this show as well.



music

Courtesy ATO Records

Seeing 'Stars' at the Jefferson Theater

by monika fallon

Canadian indie pop band Stars brought its month-and-a-half-long North American tour to the Jefferson Theater Tuesday. The tour is celebrating the band's newest offering *The North*, its sixth full-length album since its 2001 debut.

Stars is well-known in their native Canada: *The North* hit number five on Canadian charts. But the band is still relatively obscure in the States, despite past tours with artists such as Broken Social Scene and having music featured on shows such as *The O.C.*, *Gossip Girl* and *Chuck*. Stars is heavily influenced by *The Smiths*, *New Order* and *Momus*.

The North, released Sept. 4, is the band's best album to date. The group has found its niche and with it a verifiable "sound," so to speak — in their case, layers of carefully constructed, almost symphonic instrumentation coupled with the soft, insistent vocals of lead singers Torquil Campbell and Amy Millan. The five band members have done a wonderful job staying in tune with each other as individual musicians, and the polished feel of the album reflects their mutual appreciation for each other's strengths as artists.

The North has a more upbeat feel than the band's previous albums. Melancholy songs such as "Dead Hearts" from *The Five Ghosts* (2010) and "Your Ex-Lover is Dead" from *Do You Trust Your Friends?* (2007) pop into my mind when I think of Stars. Tracks from *The North*, however, have a decidedly happier tone.

Album Highlights

"The Theory of Relativity"
"Hold on When You Get Love and Let Go When You Give It"

That is not to say the band's new album is less multi-dimensional in any way; after all, sometimes you're just in the mood for something upbeat. In the case of *The North*, the lack of the darker undertones only means the band used fewer minor chord progressions, not that the tone of the lyrics has changed. For instance, "The Theory of Relativity" from *The North* has a sanguine sound, but the lyrics are no more optimistic than any of the band's previous songs: "But it can't be '93 sadly cause I wish it could forever / you call it luck, I call it tragedy," Campbell croons.

The show on Tuesday was one of the best indie concerts I've ever been to. The first opener, California Wives, was everything that an opening band should be: upbeat, soothing, cute and grateful. Not to mention that the lead singer had a baby blue guitar — adorable. The next band to play, Diamond Rings, was a strangely 80s-inspired electro-pop band that I started off hating and ended up loving. Like the first band, they were energetic and fun, and although their music was nothing like the style of Stars, it was actually a nice respite from the smoky-voiced, plinky guitar indie-pop.

The main event was everything I (and the other approximately 100 people in attendance) was hoping for. Stars seemed genuinely happy to be playing their most popular songs, and because Charlottesville was one of the first stops on their tour, nothing seemed campy or cliché; the material was just as new to them as it was to us. Everyone in the audience knew all the words to every song, and the whole setting was appropriately intimate for the type of music they make.

Regardless of whether you know the band's earlier music, I suggest you give *The North* a listen. Stars is a wonderful band, and let's be honest — there's always room for something different on your iPod.



SEPTEMBER MUSIC WRAP-UP



'Truth' doesn't hurt

by shelby gee

The *Truth About Love*, like most of Pink's albums, is a collection of rowdy songs with enough enthusiastic beats, trashy lyrics and gentle cheesiness to make them perfect for singing along at an obnoxiously high volume.

As the first few songs play, it seems as though the singer's sixth album will be her most subdued effort to date. But as the record continues, the profanity levels go up and the potential for shower-singing skyrocket. Tracks such as "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)," "Walk of Shame" and "Here Comes the Weekend" are perfect tunes to crank while getting ready for a night out or for driving along McCormick Road with the windows rolled down.

The *Truth About Love* is more of a carefree play than an emotional listen. The album's vibe is similar to that of Pink's previous hit singles "Get the Party Started" and "Raise Your Glass" and strays away from the slightly darker mood of 2006's *I'm Not Dead* and 2008's *Funhouse*. Although these albums did have their upbeat songs, such tunes were less prominent in the track lists than they are in this newest release.

The album's best tracks include first single "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)," "Try" and "Walk of Shame." "Try" is a mid-tempo tune about not being afraid of love and is one of the better-written songs on the album. "Walk of Shame" is one of those anthem-style songs many college students could find relatable ("I'm wearing last night's dress / And I look like a hot *** mess / Although my hair looks good / cause I haven't slept yet")

Weaker tracks include "Slut Like You" and "The Truth About Love." The title track is a cynical take on love that contradicts half the songs on the album, and "Slut Like You" is just a little too raunchy, even for Pink ("I got a little piece of you-hoo / And it's just like woo-hoo/ Wham, bam, thank you, Ma'am").

The album also features several high-profile guest appearances from the likes of Eminem, Lily Rose Cooper (formerly known as Lily Allen) and Nate Ruess (better known as the lead singer of Fun.).

The album is full of the usual cursing and inappropriateness — all in good fun, of course — Pink has become known for. But even more so than her previous efforts, it is nearly impossible to reach the end and not have one or more of the songs stuck in your head long past their final notes.

'Summer' not so hot

by millicent usoro

After listening to G.O.O.D. Music's *Cruel Summer*, my very first thought was that Kanye West did not need to make this album. West's fifth studio album, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, was the best-reviewed record in several years. Then, less than 10 months later, he teamed up with Jay-Z on *Watch the Throne*, which quickly became a cultural landmark — did anyone even say words like "cray" or "HAM" before? — and a defining moment in hip-hop history.

Cruel Summer serves as a formal introduction to West's clique/label G.O.O.D. Music, which includes a plethora of personalities from "ex"-drug dealer Pusha T, to more socially conscious artists such as John Legend and Common, to relative newcomers Big Sean, CyHi the Prynce, and more recently 2 Chainz. This album should have been a huge victory lap for Kanye — summing up his successful production of career-defining music from the past two years.

And it certainly starts off that way. "To the World," which features R. Kelly, is basically a big middle finger to everyone, with West declaring himself the "God of rap."

But the first four tracks just happen to be the best of the album. "Clique" sounds like what *Watch the Throne: Part 2* would be: essentially perfect production from Hit-Boy — "N***** In Paris" — featuring a subtle apocalyptic choir that seems to tell us to bow down to these hip-hop demigods. "New God Flow," possibly the best track on the album, samples Ghostface Killah's "Mighty Healthy" for the hook, who also happens to offer a fiery verse. West and Pusha T both spit quotable bars, with Pusha essentially mocking Lil Wayne's crew YMCMB. The monstrous production on "Mercy" doesn't even make the actual verses on the song matter anymore — all you need is the hook. How many people have tweeted "Lamborghini Mercy, yo chick she so thirsty?" Exactly.

The myriad of singles that have been circling the blogosphere/airwaves for the past few months have already solidified some commercial success. And perhaps this is the downfall of *Cruel Summer*. The album quickly disintegrates into a collection of strange collaborations — 2 Chainz/Marsha Ambrosius on "The One" — to almost incoherent songs that teeter to the point of laziness — Kid Cudi's "Creepers."

West makes rare appearances toward the end of the album. But even in his more mediocre verses, West sounds more passionate and spits with more vigor than his G.O.O.D. Music counterparts. West raps on "Cold" — formerly known as "Theraflu" — "and if you can do it better than me, then you do it." Sadly, the rest of the crew can't do better. When left on their own, they tend to fall flat.

In a YouTube video explaining the concept of *Cruel Summer*, West claims he gets "bored easily" and is "majorly underwhelmed in general." Ironically, *Cruel Summer* is generally an underwhelming experience. Unfortunately, if you're Kanye West, it's difficult to live up to the impossibly high standards set for you. But *Cruel Summer* proves it's still West's show, and his counterparts best serve as his backup dancers.

Big & Rich strike back

by colleen garrott

Hold on to your cowboy hats because country's craziest duo, Big & Rich, has just released its fourth studio album, *Hillbilly Jedi*.

Despite the title, much of the record showcases the duo's more serious side. Take, for instance, the lead single "That's Why I Pray." Beneath their loud, over-the-top, honky-tonk, rock star images, Big & Rich are still country western singers and the track touches on some of country's core values. The song features an unusually humble refrain, as John Rich croons about "begging for forgiveness" and "trying to make a difference" in a troubled society where family values and traditional homes seem to have fallen by the wayside. Few know that before pairing up with Big Kenny, John Rich was a founding member of the group Lonestar, which brought us such hits as "I'm Already There" and "My Front Porch Lookin' In."

Although "That's Why I Pray" has been a radio hit and opened at number 24 on the Billboard Country Music Charts, some of Big & Rich's other down-tempo songs fail to achieve the same success, and the album gets bogged down with tracks such as "Last Words" and "Never Far Away". The latter never goes anywhere, and the title of "Last Words" is appropriate considering the song drags on like a funeral dirge.

But Big & Rich fans should not despair. The majority of the album is packed with the rock-and-roll cowboy tunes that are the pair's bread and butter. The country party boys who brought us "Save a Horse, Ride A Cowboy" prove they have not lost their swagger with tracks such as "Rock the Boat," "Get Your Game On" and "Party Like Cowboyz." Yes, folks, you know it's a Big & Rich album when "cowboys" gets spelled with a "z." Fans of country music will be cranking up these party anthems at tailgates this fall and, depending on where you live, you might even hear one of these tracks at a bar or nightclub. Traditional country music connoisseurs sometimes criticize Big & Rich for integrating country with rock and rap, but the end results are songs it is hard to resist stomping your feet and moving your body to.

Some of the most innovative tracks on *Hillbilly Jedi* are "Born Again," which features Bon Jovi, and "Get Your Game On," featuring Cowboy Troy.

Whereas artists such as Garth Brooks, The Eagles and more recently Brantley Gilbert have created a well-established fusion of country and rock-and-roll, the latest and still developing integration of country and rap has proved controversial. Along with Big & Rich, artists such as Jason Aldean have experimented with verses of what can only be described as rap in between choruses of more traditional country music. Some fans have been hesitant to accept spoken word into their conceptions of the country genre. But hey — Big & Rich have been breaking rules and pushing boundaries from the moment they stepped onto the music scene, and that's what keeps fans coming back for more.

'Life of the Mind': 'Ben' there, done that

by james cassar

Ben Folds is a busy guy. He has sat alongside fellow precocious pianist Sara Bareilles as a judge on NBC's *The Sing-Off*. He has shared the microphone with William Shatner. He has collaborated with novelist Nick Hornby on a stopgap EP and has covered everyone from Elton John to Dr. Dre.

Aside from putting a different spin on classic tunes, the bespectacled multi-instrumentalist also landed on the charts in the late nineties with the moody "Brick" (off 1997's *Whatever and Ever Amen*).

The Ben Folds Five — the trio behind that '90s hit — was nothing short of eclectic. Formed in college, the three combined elements of jazz, funk and adolescent angst into a genre Folds himself described as "punk rock for sissies." With a sound centered around piano instead of guitar, the group's oddness contributed to a relative lack of popularity. After the release of a lackluster disc in 1999, the Five went their separate ways. Folds, the band's namesake, went solo — bearing a guitar.

Folds attracted attention across the entertainment industry with his contributions to the family-friendly film *Over the Hedge*, and his live shows became critically acclaimed for their spontaneity and wit. A star was born, as was the desire to revisit old friends.

The Sound of the Life of the Mind, the first album from the Five in more than a decade, brings together the ingenious storytelling of the group's earlier releases with the production and showmanship of Folds' solo material. The result charms and tantalizes.

The album opens with the theatrical "Erase Me," a song that sets cloying hints of hopeless romanticism (a Five mainstay) against a boisterous backdrop. "On Being Frank" offers a lens into yet another invented Folds persona. Unfortunately, Folds hasn't matured as a lyricist, and despite being no slouch on the keys, his tale falls flat.

The lead single "Do It Anyway" borrows from the circus-tent playbook of genre-benders Panic! at the Disco. Its inclusion among more introspective fare (the serene soundscape "Sky High" could fit on any Bruce Hornsby record) and static character sketches ("Michael Praytor, Five Years Later") is baffling. "Hold That Thought" sails the album back into calmer waters, with a delectable falsetto akin to Paul Simon.

The reunion disc closes with two heartfelt ballads. With a melody accessible to Maroon 5 fans, "Away When You Were Here" has a paradoxical title and delves into trite subject matter. It waxes needlessly overdramatic. The shamelessly direct closing track "Thank You For Breaking My Heart" highlights the sad but true fact that despite his chops as a piano-pounder, Folds retreads the same shallow topical waters as his contemporaries.

In short, this album is both as safe and saccharine as Folds' solo material and as jaunty as previous full-band efforts. But it is not as much a step forward as it is a revisiting of the band's former glories.



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