

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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NEWS

This week in-brief

Tanner Kissler | Senior Associate



TANNER KISSLER | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Following a series of changes to the University's public health guidelines this spring, masks are no longer required in classrooms or non-clinical U.Va. Health facilities.

Mask-optional policy enacted for classrooms, Final Exercises will continue as planned

Masks are no longer required in classrooms or non-clinical U.Va. Health facilities, effective Monday. This update follows a number of changes to the University's public health guidelines this spring.

Following an executive order issued by Governor Glenn Youngkin in January, the University rescinded its vaccination requirement for staff and faculty Jan. 19. Masks were made optional in University-owned spaces — except for classrooms, U.Va. Health facilities and University transit services — thanks to an announcement last week, and the University closed its saliva testing program March 24.

Friday's decision follows a downward trend in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations at both the University and in the Charlottesville community. There were 12 new cases of COVID-19 Monday, with a seven-day average of 7.57 new cases per day. On Jan. 11, at the peak of the wave of cases caused by the omicron variant, the seven-day average of new daily cases was 74.43. 29 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 at U.Va. Health as of Wednesday, with nine new admissions Monday.

Recently, the Center for Disease Control reclassified Charlottesville City and Albemarle County's COVID-19 community level from "medium" to "low" — a classification based on the amount of new and total COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents as well as the percentage of local hospital beds taken by COVID-19 patients.

Final Exercises will also be held in person and masks will not be required for indoor or outdoor venues. While vaccines are encouraged, the University will not require proof of vaccination from attendees.

This will be the first time since the spring of 2019 that Final Exercises will proceed without restrictions or delays. The Class of 2020 faced a series of postponements before finally having a ceremony in May 2021 along with the Class of 2021, but had limited capacity at both indoor and outdoor events.

Dean Risa Goluboff testifies at Supreme Court confirmation hearing

Risa Goluboff, dean of the School of Law, testified Thursday at Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's final confirmation hearing for the Supreme Court. An expert in constitutional and civil rights law, Goluboff spoke personally before the Senate Judiciary Committee and praised Jackson's extensive legal experience and pragmatic legal approach.

Jackson was nominated by President Joe Biden following the retirement of Supreme Court Associate Justice Stephen Breyer.

Speaking highly of Jackson's background, Goluboff told the Committee her vast experience in legal theory demonstrates her dedication to the fair process of justice.

"[Jackson's] robust embrace of every lawyer's obligation to serve the public, but also to her commitment to the rule of law in an adversarial system in which every party is entitled, and criminal defendants are constitutionally entitled, to zealous advocacy," Goluboff said.

Goluboff ended her testimony with a personal connection between herself and Jackson, whom she has known personally and professionally since 1998. Both women once clerked for Breyer, whom Jackson is intended to succeed, and Goluboff's husband, Law Prof. Richard Schragger, served on the Harvard Law Review with Jackson in the 1990s.

Drawing upon her personal connections to Jackson, Goluboff acknowledged their shared patriotism and desire to hear others' opinions and find common ground.

"The appetite for dialogue, optimism, open minded and open heartedness and joy," Goluboff said. "If you confirm Judge Jackson, as I urge you to do, those virtues, both personal and judicial, will indeed remain with the Court, much to the benefit of us all."

3.24

3.25

3.26

OAS hosts annual Africa Day celebration

Africa Day opened its doors around 5 p.m. and welcomed guests until well past its planned conclusion of 9 p.m. Saturday night in Newcomb Ballroom. Over 300 people dressed their best for this showcase, one of the Organization of African Students' most spectacular annual events.

This year, all celebrations centered on the theme of African Futurism. To spotlight this theme, the event featured eight fashion show scenes — The Motherland, Femme Forte, African Sexuality, African Deities, Black Diaspora, Afroelegance, Enchanted and Afropunk — interspersed with three dance performances from Afro-Hoos, a Virginia Commonwealth University-based group called Les Fiyettes et Fils D'Afrique and the Ethiopian Eritrean Student Association and two poetry readings.

The event's organization was not without its challenges, however, including funding and development. In all, OAS' budget for Africa Day totaled \$23,000. The group received \$10,000 from Student Council and applied to several grants elsewhere to fund the remaining cost. As last year's Africa Day was held virtually due to the pandemic, leadership had to rely on documents from three years ago and frequent calls to previous executive team members as guidance.

Third-year College student and president of OAS Danielle Johnson served as the co-director of Africa Day this year.

"We have this event to bring together students at the University, but also to educate the wider community because — as it says in our mission statement — a lot of people have a certain perception of Africa," Johnson said. "I think, with Africa Day, we do that successfully because it just showcases what Africa really is."

Seven new fellows join Carter G. Woodson Institute

Global scholars will participate in the competitive African American studies fellowship program

Caroline Hagood | News Writer

Each year since 1981, the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies has welcomed a collection of pre-doctoral and postdoctoral fellows into the institute's Residential Fellows program. This fall, seven scholars will set roots in Charlottesville to begin the two-year program.

Named after Black author, publisher, educator and historian Carter Godwin Woodson, the Woodson Institute runs the University's African American and African Studies major and minor programs and facilitates faculty research in Black history.

The cohort spans demographic and interest areas, with five women and two men, four pre-doctoral and three post-doctoral students and individuals from the U.S., France, Syria and the Caribbean. The seven diverse scholars will join a history of over 200 Residential Fellowship program participants, including Director Robert Trent Vinson.

This year's fellows were chosen from a collection of over 100 applicants, and will dedicate their time to manuscript and dissertation writing — postdoctoral students will also teach undergraduate classes. Alongside writing and teaching, fellows regularly host community talks to educate students, faculty and staff on their area of academic study.

In discussing the diversity of the incoming cohort, Vinson voiced that applicants are chosen intentionally by a panel of academics and former fellows to represent a range of various disciplines and areas of study into the global Black community.

"We really try to find a balance between continuity and change so that the new group can complement the current cohort but also do something different," Vinson said.

Vinson was an informal fellow at the Woodson Institute in 1998, at a time when there were only two postdoctoral fellows and four pre-doctoral fellows. When the fellowship program began, according to Vinson, most of the scholars were historians. Today, the fellows embody a range of disciplines — political science, gender and sexuality and anthropology are just a sampling of the list.

Anna Duensing, incoming post-doctoral Woodson Institute fellow, earned her doctorate in history and African American and American Studies at Yale

University after growing up in Charlottesville. Duensing told The Cavalier Daily how the opportunity the fellowship program offers to engage with "fundamentally transformative" work with Black studies in a global context was a major draw to the program.

"The interdisciplinary and geographic range of the faculty and fellows' work is especially exciting to me," Duensing said. "In my own work, I strive to bring an interdisciplinary, transnational approach to global histories of white supremacy and Black resistance, but that work is always ongoing and necessarily collaborative and border-crossing."

Frances Bell, incoming fellow

reputation of the Woodson Institute drew them to applying. Abraham Seda, current pre-doctoral fellow and PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Minnesota, said he was drawn to the program after reading the work of former Woodson Institute fellows.

"In terms of Black Studies, the Woodson was an obvious choice," Seda said. "Many scholars whose work I admire have been fellows at the Woodson over the years. I was very interested in becoming a part of that tradition."

Mahalia Little said the prestige represented in the high percentage of job placement at the University and among other com-

guest speaker who joins the cohort to provide feedback on their dissertation or manuscript. In each workshop, a fellow shares a chapter of their work and the group engages in a seminar discussion moderated by the guest. Current postdoctoral fellow Little found the workshops to be especially valuable to her work.

"It was electric," Little said when describing her workshop. "I enjoyed getting feedback on my writing in a low-stakes and supportive environment."

Vinson highlighted the importance of consistent collaboration between scholars and Woodson Institute staff, a task facilitated by staff members attending both

benefit the University community. By offering new classes to undergraduate students, the fellows expand University curriculums while making contributions to ongoing research.

"I look forward to continuing discovering and learning new things and building a community that is deeply humane and ethical and intellectual," Vinson said.

Collaboration with other fellows and engagement with teaching and research ultimately add to the value the Woodson Institute offers these scholars and helps to make their area of study more meaningful. For many fellows, research is already meaningful and personal — like for Seda, whose work focuses on how African people have created beautiful lives despite the violence they have faced under colonial rule.

"As a scholar from Africa who writes about Africa, I derive a lot of satisfaction from writing about the communities that have played an influential role in shaping who I am as a person," Seda said.

One incoming pre-doctoral fellow Kelsey Moore plans to use her research on the Santee-Cooper Project and Black Southern history in the 20th century to challenge and shape current perceptions of Black Southerners. She hopes that through her work at Woodson she can "expand how historians and beyond think about African American history more broadly."

The fellows are all excited for the work they will do over the next two years on Grounds — especially Duensing. Having grown up in Charlottesville and now equipped with a past of education and activism around Grounds, she is awaiting her return to the University as a historian in a few months.

"The idea of beginning my career with a return to that community, the possibility of teaching, writing and being in conversation in the midst of that complex political and public history landscape was really appealing," Duensing said.

No matter their primary area of study, all incoming fellows will add to the blossoming study of African American and African history that the Woodson Institute fosters — a study of both history and the present. From which the entire University community will ultimately benefit.



DOMENICK FINI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

A panel of academics and former fellows selected the seven new fellows from a collection of over 100 applicants.

and PhD candidate in the Department of History at the College of William and Mary, echoed Duensing in choosing Woodson for the exposure it offers to a rich range of subjects within the study of the Black diaspora.

"I'm really looking forward to working with scholars who come from a wider range of disciplines — literature scholars, anthropologists, artists — as well as historians from different fields than my own," Bell said. "It's easy to find yourself only speaking to people in your own field, but while that's important, it's also invaluable to work with and learn from people with different expertise."

For many fellows, the strong

petitive colleges was compelling yet daunting. Since its founding, Woodson has placed over 180 scholars in tenure track positions and post-doctoral fellowships across the nation at universities such as Brown University, Vanderbilt University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I knew when I applied that the acceptance pool would be selective, but my hope to join the Woodson's academic lineage overrode my initial doubts about my odds," Little said. "I'm so glad I did."

Many incoming and current scholars spotlighted the value of the biweekly workshop series, during which fellows invite a

workshop sessions and regular community talks given by Woodson fellows.

"It's not like we just give them office space and never engage with them, but they appreciate how we look after them," Vinson said. "We see them as human beings who are important and need to be supported."

Alongside writing and editing manuscripts, a key component to the post-doctoral fellows' role in the program is expanding their teaching portfolio through offering courses in the Department of African Studies at the University. Vinson believes the fellows are experts, contributing novel knowledge in ways that directly

Student Board of Visitors member reflects on unique role

Mehta focused on student connectivity and transparency during her time with the Board

Merrill Hart & Elizabeth Rambo | News Writers



ARIANA GUARENMAHEH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Often the only student present during meetings with administrators, Mehta learned to work with experienced leaders and to connect on a personal level with other Board members.

Fourth-year College student Sarita Mehta is approaching the final months of her tenure as student member of the Board of Visitors after entering the role in June 2021. While on the Board, Mehta has worked to connect as many students as possible with the Board and University administration in order to give them a voice in a body she feels many students feel disconnected from.

The student member of the Board is a non-voting member chosen through a rigorous application and interview process. Mehta was selected from a pool of 23 candidates last March after interviews with both former student member Mazzen Shalaby and the Executive Committee of the Board.

Mehta said she aimed to connect students to the Board and University administration, especially any who might feel ignored. More specifically, Mehta strove to directly interact with the community by meeting with randomly selected students over coffee and learning about their unique experiences at the Uni-

versity.

"How do you connect the student that isn't going to go out of their way to reach out to admin, the student that doesn't know who the provost is ... how do you get that person plugged in?" Mehta said. "You are one for 20,000 — so it takes a lot of active outreach on my part."

Along with building relationships with students, Mehta said that some of her most memorable experiences on the Board involved getting to know the Board members at meals before and during meetings. There are 18 members on the Board, whose occupations range from private investors to chief executive officers of companies including Dominion Energy and real estate investment trusts. One of those members is also a faculty member at the University and serves as the faculty representative.

"I've learned a lot and really enjoy these conversations," Mehta said. "It's nice to have those personal relationships when you're sitting at the Board table ... and just get to know them as

genuine people."

Often the only student present during meetings with administrators, Mehta learned to work with experienced leaders and to connect on a personal level with other Board members. Being able to connect in this way with her colleagues helped her find common ground when working together.

"A fundamental value of mine is in humanizing people," Mehta said. "It's easy to write off the Board of Visitors as just the Board, it's easy to write off Madison Hall as just the people in Madison Hall, but when you sit down and get to know each of those people, I think that goes a really long way to show that at the end of the day, we all want the same thing."

One of the most public issues the Board took on this year was its decision to raise tuition for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years following a tuition freeze last year. Tuition will increase by 4.7 percent next year, and by 3.7 percent the following year. The Board typically determines

tuition changes annually, but this plan reflects part of the administration's larger goal to improve transparency for students by improving foresight of future University policy changes. Much of this increase will go toward increased operating costs with inflation, minimum wage increases and staff salaries.

Increasing tuition gave rise to controversy for the Board, particularly as the University becomes increasingly less affordable for some students. The economic downturn of the pandemic widely hurt household incomes, and the path back to stability has not been as quick for many as it has been for the University. Additionally, a survey created by Student Council and promoted by Young Democratic Socialists of America in February 2021 titled "Tuition Payment Difficulty" demonstrated that 42 percent of students and their families struggled to pay tuition that year.

While acknowledging that the higher costs are not ideal, Mehta challenged the misconception

that the tuition increase was made to "line people's pockets" rather than address the inherent needs at the University.

"A lot of [the increase] stems from the fact that tuition was frozen last year, and then there's a need to increase staff and faculty salaries," Mehta said. "There's a lot of things that go into running the University that most students don't see ... there's so much behind the scenes."

Additionally cognizant of rising student mental health concerns, Mehta focused on re-vamping the advising process, improving mental health care through services such as Timely Care and supplementing second-year activities to benefit students who missed out on many first-year traditions — including an in-person orientation, convocation and first-year formal. To fully welcome the Class of 2024, the University hosted a delayed convocation this fall, as well as a second-year formal in the winter.

The ability to create "tangible, long lasting change" was what initially compelled Mehta to run for the position, and after a year serving as student member, Mehta says she feels fulfilled by her time on the Board.

"It's been a really challenging, but really, really fulfilling year — I've learned so much," Mehta said. "I've met incredible people. And I've been able to contribute to this university in a way that if you would have told me this four years ago, I probably would have laughed in your face."

Mehta will be succeeded by third-year Architecture student Lily Roberts this June. Roberts was confirmed during the Board's March meeting.

Offering advice to her successor, Mehta emphasized the importance of working towards small steps of progress to avoid being overwhelmed by the magnitude of tasks and the resulting public reaction.

"UVA. has no shortage of problems, and you're not going to be able to make every single person happy," Mehta said. "And I think once you accept that, you'll be able to get a lot more done because you're not trying to just solve everything and please everyone."

Community members voice opinions on changes to Corner

Although nothing has been announced to replace Sheetz, a new Chipotle will be replacing the old College Inn

Margaret Glass | Senior Writer



FADY ATTIA | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Some community members would like to see a dining option replace the former Sheetz location, while others reminisced on the days the Corner was dominated by retail businesses.

Nearly a year ago, both the College Inn and Sheetz — avowed Corner staples for students and community members — closed down. With the City of Charlottesville yet to announce what will replace one of the two closures, Corner business owners have had ample time to reflect on the changing landscape of the iconic area.

Jeff Werner, historic preservation and design planner for the City of Charlottesville, said in an email to The Cavalier Daily that nothing has been announced to replace the Sheetz on the Corner that closed last June. The store was closed after the parent company that owned the location ended a national project of opening up café Sheetz around college campuses.

“[No rumors] yet about this building, but if there were, until I see an actual application it will remain the former Sheetz,” Werner said. “I was in grad school during the legendary ‘Bodo’s is coming to the Corner’ [rumor]. Yes, that one eventually proved true, but it was a very long ‘eventually.’”

As of this month, a banner has been put up outside the location announcing that Chipotle would be moving into the property where College Inn was located, which also closed in June.

In order to get a business approved to be on the Corner, it must pass the standards set forth within the City Code, including the Architectural Design Control District Area guidelines, which are put in place to maintain continuity among structures within the same city districts. The most recently approved building is the new Chipotle, which will move into the space the College Inn inhabited.

As all await the announcement of what will replace Sheetz, students and community members are debating what they hope replaces the food store, while businesses reflect on the stores that have opened and closed in the district.

Alec Lorenzoni, co-owner of Ragged Mountain Running and Walking Shop, has been running the athletic business since January 2020, along with his sister, Audrey Lorenzoni. The business, which has been run by the Lorenzoni family since its founding 40 years ago, moved into its Elliewood location in 2006.

“We love the vibrancy and youthful energy of the Corner, and have a very close connection to the University, as we’ve had over 1,000 employees in our 40 years, almost all of them UVA. undergrads or grad students,” Lorenzoni said.

Lorenzoni and Mark Mincer, owner of sportswear company Mincer’s, share a storied history on the Corner — Mincer’s was founded in 1948 when Mark Mincer’s grandfather Robert Mincer opened the store. In 1954, Mincer moved to its current location at the corner of Elliewood and University Ave. and has existed there ever since, an experience that Mincer says his family is “very fortunate” to have.

Both business owners commented on the changing focus of the Corner, which they say used to be predominantly dominated by retail businesses but which is now primarily populated with food and entertainment establishments. Lorenzoni offered up ideas for additional retail stores to fill in any vacancies that arise, including a cycling shop to complement Ragged Mountain’s running focus.

“Maybe one of our already established, local cycling shops would be interested in a location directly across from UVA,” Lorenzoni said. “There’s certainly a continued emphasis on alternative modes of transportation locally, with bikes and e-bikes being at the forefront of that, and there’s certainly a large potential customer base with 20,000-plus students right across the street.”

However, some students would rather see additional food and dining options — like the incoming Chipotle — take over the location previously occupied by Sheetz.

Third-year Kinesiology student Shiori Benotakeia said that many consumers want another convenient food place that matches what Sheetz provided.

“I would like a Wawa or something similar to what was offered at Sheetz, like the 5 for 5 deal that was very popular amongst most UVA students,” Benotakeia said.

Students aren’t the only group

of individuals with a stake in what replaces the Sheetz. Any student or community member who walks through the Corner likely takes note of individuals stationed on street corners or in front of businesses wearing bright yellow ambassador polo.

The University Police Department implemented a public safety-oriented ambassador program in 2015 to cover any area adjacent to Grounds containing student housing. Ambassador services are vast, including providing directions to community members and visitors, escorting students home and identifying police about potential criminal activity.

Ambassador supervisor Dave Mickelberry has been part of the program since January 2016. Mickelberry mainly patrols areas immediately off-grounds, including the Corner, providing an “extra set of eyes and ears.” Mickelberry and ambassador Scott Riscoe both expressed a desire to see another easi-

ly accessible and quick food option to replace the Sheetz that left last year.

“[I would like to see], honestly, something that is reasonably priced and easy to swing in and out of,” Riscoe said. “I know Sheetz was super popular amongst all our staff.”

Mickelberry echoed Riscoe’s particular appreciation for Sheetz, further demonstrating the ambassadors’ affinity for the grab-and-go food store.

“I do miss the old Sheetz on the Corner,” Mickelberry said. “Always nice to run in there for a quick and inexpensive lunch or dinner. I think I would like to see another small restaurant to come in to give a few more choices for food.”

What will take over the space is yet to be seen. According to Werner, the whole process depends on interested applicants reaching out — which begins with an online application to the City of Charlottesville or a call to 434-970-3211.

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SPORTS

Diana Ordoñez lets faith and heritage guide soccer career

The former Cavalier star reflects on the experience of becoming a professional female athlete

Jacob Tisdale | Senior Associate

When Diana Ordoñez was selected sixth overall by the NC Courage in the 2022 NWSL Draft, she was sure to have her family by her side. The former star Virginia forward and Prosper, Texas native explained that her family was instrumental in introducing her to the sport and getting her to her current position as the 19th Cavalier taken in the National Women's Soccer League Draft's 10-year history.

Ordoñez's familiarity with the sport was natural from a young age, as her father and brothers also spent time on the pitch.

"My dad grew up in Ecuador and my mom is Mexican," Ordoñez said. "Those are two countries where soccer is the predominant sport. My mom didn't play soccer, but my dad did and my two older brothers played as well ... That was the first sport that they had me try out. It just kind of stuck."

Ordoñez said she knew that soccer was something she wanted to pursue long-term right after she became a teenager. While she had her mind set at a young age, she has never shied away from trying to accomplish things early. She finished high school a semester early just after turning 17 and traveled all the way to Charlottesville as an enrolled freshman for the spring term to mentally prepare for the fall season. This decision didn't come easy and wasn't always the plan, but Ordoñez is happy she put herself in the position to succeed.

"I [originally] committed to Texas A&M because I wanted to stay closer to home when I was first looking around," Ordoñez said. "After a few months of being committed, I wanted to give myself another chance to look further away because I wasn't so stuck on the idea of staying at home anymore."

Even after de-committing, Virginia was hardly on Ordoñez's radar. She was first introduced to Charlottesville because of her close family friend and former hometown teammate, Taryn Torres, who had recently joined the Cavalier roster and had seen major growth in her game. After seeing Torres's success, Ordoñez took a leap of faith and decided to journey to Virginia.

"It seemed like the right fit for me, and I wouldn't change it if I could go back," Ordoñez said.

Virginia fans wouldn't change her decision either. The results speak for themselves. Ordoñez became a prolific scorer at Virginia, finishing her three-year career with 45 total goals, good for third all-time in University history. In perhaps her best individual season this fall, she was named ACC Offen-

sive Player of the Year, leading the conference in goals, points, goals per game and points per game. However, she first made an immediate impact upon arriving on the scene in 2019, starting in 18 of 19 total games and scoring 15 goals.

Former Virginia teammate and current keeper for the OL Reign, Laurel Ivory, recalled when she first got the opportunity to play with Ordoñez.

"My first impression of [Diana] was that this girl was playing way beyond her years," Ivory said. "She came into college as a 17-year-old and her speed, power and soccer IQ was far above any 17-year-old I had come across at the time."

While Virginia never quite made it to its ultimate goal of a national championship during Ordoñez's collegiate tenure, the program made strides

sense of community with teammates who share my faith."

After her phenomenal junior season, Ordoñez knew it was time to make the leap to the NWSL. She said Virginia's staff — especially Head Coach Steve Swanson — was supportive of her decision while also keeping her expectations realistic and grounded. Both Ivory and Ordoñez were quick to praise Swanson, highlighting his impressive coaching résumé, his versatile knowledge of the game and his belief in and support of both past and present Cavaliers.

"Obviously, [the coaches] would have liked me to stay, but I think the way that they handled me bringing it up to them was very supportive and the thing I appreciated the most was just how honest, especially Steve was with me," Ordoñez said. "He told me

been one of the key battlegrounds for closing the gender pay gap. The U.S. Women's National Team recently settled a \$24 million lawsuit for equal pay, breaking new ground and opening doors for women in soccer as well as other sports to pursue more fair and equitable compensation for their services. There is still plenty of work left to be done in order to ensure female athletes are provided the opportunity to pursue their dreams. In 2019, a study showed that the average MLS player earned \$375,730 more than their female counterparts in the NWSL. One of the main proponents in this fight is USWNT star Megan Rapinoe, who is currently teammates with Ivory on the OL Reign.

"With the recent lawsuit, it's honestly been an observation period for me," Ivory said. "I have people on

towards groups and individuals on the professional level that have worked to make strides in this realm.

"That is something that I'm greatly appreciative of... The player's association and all the people, leaders and representatives from the different teams who have worked endless hours trying to make financial situations and the environment of the league for new players," Ordoñez said.

However, she thinks the time will come when women will reach the light at the end of the tunnel.

"I think it is getting better," Ordoñez said. "There's things to look forward to. There's a lot of strides being made to mitigate those wage gaps."

While the more serious financial and social aspects of the NWSL may be daunting, Ordoñez isn't afraid to show her enthusiasm about her first professional season. Whether she's practicing, working out or listening to Drake to get game-ready in the locker room, Ordoñez is ready to make the most of her chances. She's already getting late-game minutes across the first two games of the NWSL Challenge Cup, and Virginia fans know that if she keeps receiving opportunities, her first professional goal is soon to follow. However, Ordoñez maintains humility and a team-first mindset.

"I think my goals are more team focused," Ordoñez said. "I'm very excited for the things we can accomplish. I would like to see our team hoisting a trophy at the end of the season, I think at least from what I can see right now, we would be very deserving to do so."

She also is thrilled about the opportunity to be on the opposite bench from some familiar faces.

"It's actually crazy," Ordoñez said. "[In] our first game last weekend, we played against Gotham which is where Taryn [plays]. It was kind of like this crazy full circle moment growing up together, playing in college together, and now ... our first professional game was against each other."

Her enthusiasm about reuniting with Torres demonstrates Ordoñez's passion for the people and things that formed her, from the childhood friends and family values she developed in Texas, to her coaches, teammates and skills from Virginia. Ordoñez is excited to make a name for herself among the already numerous Cavalier alumnae that have gone pro.

"It's something to be proud of, coming from a place that has had so many women make it to the league," Ordoñez said. "I think it's a really cool thing to be a part of."



LEILA TROXELL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Selected sixth overall by the NC Courage in the 2022 NWSL draft, Ordoñez was an impact player while at Virginia, scoring 45 goals during her collegiate career.

with her on the field, including an impressive run to the NCAA semifinals in a unique 2020-21 season altered by COVID-19.

Ordoñez doesn't just attribute the success she finds on the field to her family and roots in soccer. She recently made an appearance on the podcast 'Our Game His Glory' to talk about how she finds strength through God. She holds her faith close to her heart and is open about the way that it influences not just her game, but her life.

"[My faith] is something that is very central to my life and that's something that motivates me, that I carry with me, and gets me through any sort of hard time I'm having whether it's not even on the field to begin with," Ordoñez said. "It [gives me] a good

what parts of my game are ready to be at this level and what parts of my game might not be."

Ordoñez forwent her remaining years of eligibility at Virginia and was selected sixth overall by the NC Courage. While the move only took her one state down from Charlottesville to Charlotte, N.C., like with any other athlete, the transition didn't come without challenges.

"You have to be very, very passionate and ... ready to be putting your body through what it has to go through," Ordoñez said. "In the pre-season, it's really hard and during the season it's just a lot of effort for what seems like a very low return for what you put in."

Of course, women's soccer has

my team who have been in the league since its beginning ... I have learned so much from them about the realities of female soccer players and how to fight and push back towards people ... It's inspiring."

Ordoñez said she is thankful for a strong support system in her family, which provided her the opportunity to pursue her passion professionally, but added that not every woman experiences this reality.

"I didn't realize until I got here how much effort and fight that took from people who are in the league," she said. "These are people who have to go to practice every day, have to play in every game, going through all the struggles of ... being in a season."

Ordoñez expressed her gratitude

The sports world reacts to the conflict in Ukraine

Two professors help explain the context for the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict and the impact that professional athletes have had

Sam Liss | Sports Writer

Dressed in blue and purple Black History Month warmups, National Basketball Association players from the Denver Nuggets and Sacramento Kings gathered at center court before a Feb. 25 game to lock arms in solidarity with Ukraine — the last time players participated in such a demonstration was in the 2020 NBA Bubble. A day earlier, across the Atlantic, the Russian military — observing the orders of President Vladimir Putin — invaded Ukraine, reigniting a war that had been going on for over eight years.

Just as ESPN, the largest sports media company in the U.S., covered the demonstrations of athletes in the Bubble, ESPN also highlighted the Nuggets and Kings' joint statement on their Instagram account of 22.2 million followers. From Instagram to Twitter to TikTok, many college students have digested the war in Ukraine through their social media accounts. For some, professional athletes and their social media platforms have offered the most powerful and relatable content.

Laurent Dubois, a John L. Nau III Professor in the Histories and Principles of Democracy, described the ability of well-known athletes to utilize online platforms to bring awareness to various causes.

"Popular athletes have massive social media followings and can immediately broadcast their messages," Dubois said. "The last decade has seen a tremendous rise in athlete activism around the world, spurred on by the actions of Colin Kaepernick in the U.S., and Premier League teams continue to kneel in protest against racism at the beginning of games."

Today, athletes across the globe are reacting to the horrible scenes taking place in Ukraine. Reactions from the world's most popular sport — football — have been put front and center.

"There have been really remarkable and rapid responses," Dubois said on the football world's reactions to the war in Ukraine. "This is testament to the ways in which athletes increasingly feel it is their responsibility to speak out about broader political and social questions."

As one of the most talented players on the Ukrainian National Football Team, fullback Oleksandr Zinchenko has used his Instagram account to both raise awareness for the war and attack Russian President Vladimir Putin, with content broadcasted to 1.6 million followers.

"My country belongs to the Ukrainians and nobody can take it over," Zinchenko said in an Instagram post Feb. 25. "This is my country ... in which I was born and raised ... whose colors I represent ... [and] whose border must remain intact."

Born in 1996, in Radomyshl, Ukraine, Zinchenko, like many other Ukrainians, has feared the threat of Russian aggression his entire life. Today, however, his nation's greatest fears have become a reality.

Kyryll Kunakhovich, a professor of history at the University and an expert on the Cold War in modern Europe, provided an analysis of the ongoing developments in Ukraine. While Putin had made advances towards Ukraine in previous history, Kunakhovich explained how the Russian president has gone further this time.

"None of [Putin's previous forays into Ukraine] have been enough," said Kunakhovich. "Now he is trying to remove Ukraine's democratically elected government and install a puppet regime."

According to the UN, between Feb. 24 and March 15, there have been over 1,900 civilian casualties and over three million refugees have fled the country. In the past month, teams and players across the sports world, Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian alike, have taken to social media to both encourage Ukrainian citizens and inform young people from across the globe about the horrors of the war.

Roman Yaremchuk, forward for Portuguese club Benfica and the Ukrainian national team, was one of the first athletes to give the world notice. On Feb. 24, Yaremchuk scored a critical goal in the 79th minute of Benfica's Champions League match and proceeded to take off his jersey, revealing a black undershirt with an emblem of the Ukrainian coat of arms.

Three days later, Feb. 28, Benfi-

ca's 65,000 supporters greeted the Ukrainian national with a resounding roar when he subbed in during the second half of Benfica's match against Vitoria F.C. As Yaremchuk walked to his spot on the pitch, a video — later posted to Twitter — captured the 26-year-old holding back tears as he watched a sea of fans hold up anti-war signs.

With almost 30,000 retweets and 165,000 likes, this video joined an inundation of social media content that captured the decisive reaction of the sports world to the war.

"No matter the topic ... social media seems to raise the temperature," Kunakhovich said. "[It] will bring a lot more attention to this conflict, and sports can really spread awareness — especially in countries like the U.S., where most people know little about Ukraine."

Posted on ESPN's Instagram account shortly after Russia's invasion, images of world famous Ukrainian boxers Vasiliy Lomachenko and Oleksandr Usyk, decked in full combat gear, demonstrated the gravity of the war in Ukraine to the account's largely American audience. Accustomed to seeing these fighters compete in the ring, Americans witnessed two of the world's most renowned boxers take up arms for their country.

While the Ukrainian government recently granted Usyk permission to leave the battlefield in order to train for an upcoming bout, Lomachenko must remain in the thick of combat alongside all other Ukrainian men between ages 18 and 60. As they fight against Russia, many of their family members — wives, children, sisters and parents — have fled Ukraine, escaping to any country that will take them.

Thirty-five Brazilian footballers found themselves in the middle of this refugee crisis. Camped out in a hotel in the capital Kyiv on the afternoon of Feb. 24, players for clubs in the Ukrainian Premier League and their families appealed to the Brazilian government on their social media pages for help leaving Ukraine.

"We heard the noise of fighter jets, the noise of bombs ... It was a horrible situation," said Shakhtar

Marlon Santos, defender for Ukrainian side F.C. "But there were people that were willing to take risks, such as [a teammate], who managed to go after food, diapers for children."

In the days spent fleeing from Ukraine to Brazil, Santos posted clips on his Instagram account to keep followers updated and informed on his experience fleeing Ukraine. Unlike Santos or the other Brazilian footballers, however, Ukrainians who have escaped the war do not have another home to return to.

Instead, the BBC reports that the overwhelming majority of Ukrainian refugees — over three million and counting — have made their way to Poland, Ukraine's neighbor to the west. As his nation opened its arms to these Ukrainian refugees, Poland's most decorated athlete, footballer Robert Lewandowski, made a statement on his Instagram account declaring his solidarity with Ukraine.

"As an athlete, I can't pretend nothing is happening," Lewandowski said to his 24.5 million Instagram followers Feb. 26.

To put Lewandowski's influence into perspective, LeBron James is the only American athlete that has more Instagram followers than the Polish star forward. Thus, Lewandowski's willingness to speak out on the war has reverberated throughout the football world. Besides empowering his followers, his message, along with those of other athletes, has forced the hand of football's power brokers — organizations that have the capability to sway international politics.

The same day of Lewandowski's Instagram post, the Polish National Football team announced their refusal to play Russia in their upcoming World Cup qualifying match. Two days later, the International Federation of Association Football indefinitely banned Russia from the World Cup and UEFA indefinitely banned Russian clubs from competing in any European competitions.

According to Dubois, FIFA has not taken such a stand against a country since the organization banned South Africa from participating in any international tourna-

ment in 1957 because of worldwide backlash against its apartheid system. The Russian economy, however, is much more intertwined with the football world today than South Africa's was in the 1950s.

"Putin has gotten a tremendous political boost globally from hosting international sporting events, particularly the 2018 World Cup," Dubois said. "So sporting institutions have been complicit in the way [Putin's] regime has positioned itself on the world stage. Russian money, most obviously Roman Abramovich's ownership of Chelsea, [also] plays a massive role in the current global football economy."

As countries throughout the world instituted crippling economic sanctions on Russia in recent weeks, individual football clubs too have taken steps to disassociate themselves with Russian state-affiliated companies. Additionally, under immense social pressure from fans and media alike, Roman Abramovich, Russian oligarch and owner of Chelsea F.C., announced March 1 that he will sell the \$3.1 billion-valued club. Perennially a top side in the English Premier League, according to Forbes, Chelsea is the 25th most valued sports team in the world.

"Politics is very much about stories and symbolism," Dubois said. "Obviously, football on its own can't dramatically change the political context, [but] through athlete's actions, those of federations and confederations, and those of private clubs, the world of [football] will undoubtedly ... have an important role in shaping how [the war] ultimately plays out."

Regardless of the actual effect that the sports world will have on the outcome of the war, it is clear that people are more aware of the conflict in Ukraine due to the social media presence of athletes, clubs and sports media companies. From Cristiano Ronaldo to LeBron James, athletes have the power to effect change in millions of people, the question, however, is what they will choose to speak up on.

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LIFE

Sombrero's brings food truck to Grounds

Opening their restaurant location in 2019, Sombrero's has now brought their food truck to the amphitheater

Nicole Ryeom | Food Writer



AVA PROEHL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Although the food truck has only been available on Grounds for a few days, Sombrero's owner Bernardo Martinez already emphasized the impact the amphitheater customers made on his business, as they actually sold out of food on the first day they were parked there

Sombrero's Mexican Cuisine and Cafe braved the COVID-19 pandemic shortly after bringing their fresh and homemade food to Charlottesville in 2019. Since then, the restaurant has struggled to keep business active because of the residual fear of indoor eating, especially in close quarters. To remedy this lack of customers, Bernardo and Lucrecia Martinez — the husband-and-wife team who own and manage the restaurant — worked with the University's consulting club Enactus to bring Sombrero's Food Truck to the McIntire Amphitheater, Scott Stadium and Lambeth throughout the school week. Sombrero's began selling food from their food truck on Grounds March 21 thanks to the CIO.

Enactus is a McIntire-affiliated CIO that provides pro-bono consulting services for local companies, such as Northshea and Pearl Island Catering. Enactus has been working closely with Sombrero's since September 2020, when the group noticed they weren't

faring well economically during the pandemic, giving them general assistance with things such as branding and marketing. Most impactfully, however, was Enactus's role in getting Sombrero's a spot at the amphitheater during lunch on the weekdays.

Catherine Morningstar, first-year College student and Enactus team member, worked diligently with University Dining Services and Sombrero's to obtain the necessary permissions to move the food truck to the amphitheater. Morningstar was a part of the outreach team tasked with finding locations on and off Grounds where Sombrero's could park their food truck.

Morningstar said the process of working with University Dining was challenging because of their vetting process, including getting rights and permissions to produce food in the food truck, securing a spot at the amphitheater as well as the multitude of documents that the University requires for businesses that want

to bring their food trucks to the amphitheater.

"At first it was kind of challenging to get them to agree to bring [Sombrero's] to Grounds because they kept on saying that there was a really long process of getting the food truck to be vetted, and getting those rights and permission to actually produce their food there," Morningstar said. "So it took a little bit of time, but after a while, we just continually called them and they were happy to work with us."

Although the food truck has only been parked on the amphitheater for a few days, Bernardo Martinez already emphasized the impact the amphitheater customers made on his business, as they actually sold out of food on the first day they were parked there.

"It's been great so far," Martinez said. "Tuesday we were in the amphitheater, it was very busy and we ran out of food ... [this] was a long process, but it was worth it."

The food is prepared each

morning at Sombrero's restaurant location. Then it is packed into hot boxes to be taken to the food truck to ensure that all of the food is fresh and healthy. The only food that is not prepared ahead of time are the taquitos because they are freshly deep fried in the air fryer on site so that they are still crunchy and fresh when served to customers.

"Whatever we sell on campus has been prepared in those early hours. We come to the restaurant early morning and we cook the beans and the rice, [making sure] the sauces and the pico de gallo and everything [else] that we offer has been prepared [in the] early morning so we can assure that everything is healthy and tasty and fresh," Martinez said.

Bernardo and Lucrecia emphasized the importance of cooking healthy, homemade and authentic Mexican food. They explained that a lot of people have certain misconceptions about the health of Mexican food, but that all of their food is homemade and fresh,

which people always notice when they visit Sombrero's. They also said that all of the food they sell, they eat themselves.

Their two most popular dishes are the Burros Bañados — Bernardo's personal favorite — and the Taquitos Bañados — Lucrecia's personal favorite — but their menu includes an array of offerings for everyone. The Sombrero's menu features a "Build-Your-Own" option for \$10, starting with a bowl, burrito, taco salad, quesadilla, huarache, tacos or grande nachos. There are also pre-selected dishes, ranging from breakfast burritos and omelets to empanadas and tamales.

The entrepreneurial couple praised Enactus for the help that they have given them during a time of economic setbacks and business difficulties. They highlighted that the Enactus team members were willing to help in any way possible and were always coming up with innovative and new ideas to improve the business.

"If it wasn't for [Enactus], we wouldn't be on campus. Simple," Martinez said. "The first group [we worked with] set up the beginning of what we have now, and the second group, they've been following the same standards that the guys did before. So I mean both of them are doing a great job. They did a great job and the second group is doing an excellent job."

The pair also emphasized their thanks to the University student and faculty community that has shown them so much support during the short time that they've been at the amphitheater. Students love the food so much that they often come up to Martinez after they've eaten to compliment the delicious and authentic food.

To visit the Sombrero's food truck, one can drop by the amphitheater Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Scott Stadium on Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Lambeth on Monday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Sombrero's restaurant is located on 112 W Main Street Suite 6 and is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

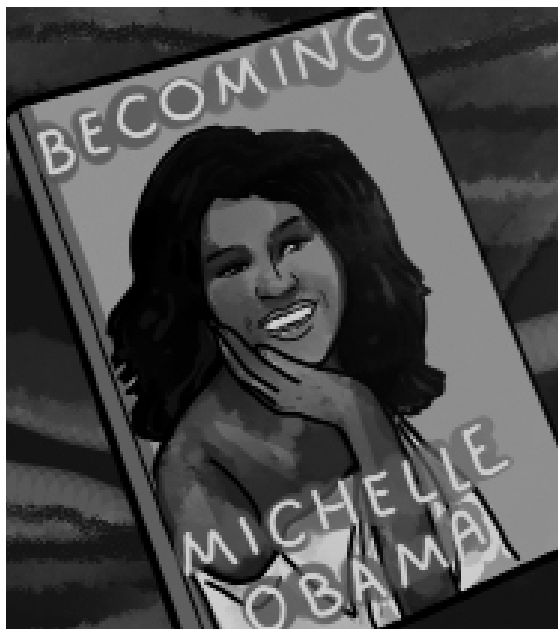
Top 10 books for your ‘Hot Girl Era’

A curated reading list for anyone searching to cultivate a meaningful and rewarding lifestyle.

Elizabeth Parsons | Top 10 Writer

1. “Becoming” by Michelle Obama

This is one of my favorite books, so I naturally associate it with a hot girl era. “Becoming” details the life of Michelle Obama, highlighting the struggles and triumphs our former First Lady growing up as a Black woman in the U.S. This memoir will not only make you grow even fonder of Obama, but you will also emerge feeling empowered to chase after your dreams through a lens of “becoming” — which is striving, changing and growing. I read “Becoming” when I was a sophomore in high school, and it kick-started my interest in reading other works by strong women.



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2. “Call Us What We Carry” by Amanda Gorman

After listening to “The Hill We Climb” at President Joe Biden’s inauguration in January 2021, I was absolutely captivated by Amanda Gorman’s sharp and powerful words. I jumped at the chance to purchase her latest collection of poems, published at the end of 2021. As you read, her voice will instill a sense of hope and purpose. I especially enjoy keeping this book next to my bed so I can pick it up if I have a moment of downtime — before bed, as I get ready for class or even during a homework break. Filling your spare time with powerful poetry is just one example of enjoying a hot girl era.

3. “Bad Feminist” by Roxanne Gay

I urge you to dive into this collection of essays seeking to understand what it means to be a feminist in an imperfect world. Roxanne Gay’s candid and captivating tone will establish a special layer of trust between the page and your mind. Coincidentally, “Bad Feminist” was on the reading list for my women and gender studies course, making it convenient to enjoy reading this book both for pleasure and to complete an assignment. After all, a hot girl era would not be complete without engaging with a more academic reading.

4. “Please Don’t Sit on my Bed in Your Outside Clothes” by Phoebe Robinson

I stumbled across this title in the University bookstore on a Sunday afternoon. I had just finished a really difficult exam, and I was searching for something to take my mind off of the anxiety rushing through my brain on the first floor of Clemons Library. I needed something to empower me to embrace my life — despite the dread attached to exams, deadlines and projects. As I opened the first page, this hilarious collection of essays instantly made me feel seen — Robinson began by recounting her COVID-19 quarantine experience, reminding me that if I made it through the height of the pandemic, I can make it through a difficult first semester, too.

5. “The Comfort Book” by Matt Haig

Even hot girls can feel sad, tired and overwhelmed. In fact, hot girls acknowledge their emotions and work through them. College — and life — can make it very easy to feel inadequate or that you should be doing more with your time. Finding a way to escape these feelings of doubt is vital. “The Comfort Book” feels like a warm embrace from your mom. Haig’s book includes a series of short messages, quotes and reminders that are designed to encourage and soothe readers. It is the ideal book to have on hand because even reading a single page will make you feel more at ease.



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6. “Why Not Me?” by Mindy Kaling

Who doesn’t love Kelly Kapoor from “The Office?” Through this hilariously and cleverly written collection of personal essays, Mindy Kaling, the brilliant comedian behind Kelly Kapoor, tells readers more about her life — which epitomizes the definition of being a hot girl. As a college student, reading about her college adventures at Dartmouth — including her complicated relationship with Greek Life — was especially relevant and amusing.

7. “I Am Malala” by Malala Yousafzai

The powerful story of Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban for attending school, is bound to awaken your desire to elicit real change in the world. It also encourages self-reflection about the privilege of attending a university and highlights the dangers of restricting women from accessing education. Her memoir speaks to the need to use your voice to achieve justice for everyone — especially those who are marginalized.

8. “Do You Mind If I Cancel? (Things That Still Annoy Me)” by Gary Janetti

Everyone needs a laugh sometimes. This is where Gary Janetti comes into play. His collection of essays is certain to make you smile — just look at the subtitle. He carries the same sarcasm and brutally honest tone throughout his writing. Finding a way to make light of situations is essential to launching and sustaining a hot girl era. Also, check out his Instagram @garyjanetti for witty commentary on everything ranging from the pandemic to social interactions and the royal family.



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9. “I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter” by Erika Sánchez

This young adult novel was a National Book Award Finalist and explores the difficulties of growing up in an immigrant family in the United States, defining your own identity and coming to terms with extreme loss and sadness. Sánchez’s work will have you rooting for the protagonist, Julia, and questioning your own experiences and existing beliefs. While this is a YA novel, people of any age can be moved by Julia’s experiences — similar to the way that a hot girl era is available to anyone and everyone.

10. “Conversations With RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law” by Jeffrey Rosen

Who could be more inspirational and integral to a hot girl era than Ruth Bader Ginsburg? RBG embodies the definition of being a hot girl — fostering a dedication not only to one’s beliefs, but also to uplifting the rights of others. This book welcomes readers to gain valuable insight and life advice from a one-of-a-kind Supreme Court Justice who we miss dearly.

Queer Student Union celebrates 50 year anniversary

Students and faculty express their sentiments and experiences in queer life at the University from the past and present

Cecy Juarez & Mario Rosales | Life Editors

The Queer Student Union has overcome fear, prejudice and discrimination to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and recognition for the past half century. Colorful and lively celebrations have taken place around Grounds to commemorate this historic milestone. In light of this anniversary, members of the University community have reflected on the early and difficult past of the organization, what they have achieved and what they still strive to accomplish.

First established as the Gay Student Union in 1972, the organization quickly faced its first obstacle after requesting \$45 from the Student Council for general needs. This simple request for funds was met with bureaucratic opposition, eventually reaching the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors. The issue concluded with the Board suggesting to deny the request for funds on the basis of preserving the heteronormative notion that sexual behavior should only occur between men and women.

This was just the beginning of the many challenges the GSU would face throughout its existence at the University. In the 1970s, the organization struggled to find a safe place on Grounds to exist.

Andy Humm, College alumnus and president of GSU in 1975, recounted how the group used to meet in the Wesleyan Church. He described the difficulties of being openly gay at the University and the harassment he endured.

"After I came out in my fourth year — publicly — [my first-year roommate] wouldn't speak to me anymore," Humm said. "[Someone] painted my car and painted a big penis on my driveway ... I also taught Sunday school in those days of the Catholic parish, there were people who wanted to have me fired. [But] the priest stood up for me."

Edward Finley, assistant commerce professor and 1987 College alumnus, said he had to hide his identity throughout his college career in order to protect himself from discrimination and hostility. Finley attended the GSU dances, but under the radar. Finley was a student just under a decade after smoke bombs and firecrackers had been thrown into two GSU dances, demonstrating the present danger of participating in the organization's events.

"The very first time that I

went [to a dance], there was still a fair bit of stigma attached to it. It's not clear how much of that was in my head, and how much was around me, but I'm pretty sure there was plenty around me," Finley said. "So therefore, I had to lie to my suitmates and make some excuse for where I was going and worried that I might see somebody [I knew] in there."

The lack of a safe space for LGBTQ+ students persisted through the 1990s. In November of 1996, three men, posing under

dents at the University.

In 1998, the group changed its name to the Lesbian and Gay Student Union in order to include women. By 2002, however, the organization had changed its name to encompass students of all kinds of identities and orientations to what it is today — the Queer Student Union.

Mae Hovland, fourth-year Architecture student and president of the QSU, takes pride in how far the organization has come since its founding by becoming

ity and community. Second-year College student Hannah Luviano expressed how the organization has helped her feel connected.

"I think that it provided a sense of comfort and community and given me the opportunity to know that there's other people who understand how I feel — they understand my same anxieties about being queer at UVA., predominantly in a heteronormative world, they understand me, relate to me and they're willing to listen to me," Luviano said.

teer, witnessed the transition of the center from a small, cramped basement space to a more elegant and colorful social area on the third floor. She was pleased with the change and how it helps promote visibility and recognition for queer students at the University.

"I think representation does matter, and the fact that it's been raised up [to the third floor] means that we're more visible to the school and more people in general just walking by will see the center and be able to converse to different people," Garcia said.

The QC has served as a safe space for many students at the University who seek to find more people like themselves without fear of judgment or exclusion. The creation of the QC has also enabled Multicultural Student Services and QSU to host a variety of events for students to engage with one another and find shared meaning in their community.

Ankit Agrawal, fourth-year Commerce student and QC volunteer, spoke to this sentiment and how it has transformed his experiences at the University.

"Having a space like the Queer Student Union, and other similar queer spaces like the LGBTQ+ Center, they're supporting systems with programming and [enabled] meeting some of the other people who were involved," Agrawal said. "I think really [it] served as a space for not only finding support, but also friendship — people that I've met through those kinds of spaces are some of the closest friends that I've made at this university."

The QSU has been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the organization's founding by hosting events like Drag Bingo and the Sapphic Circle Picnic. Agrawal attended the group's Histories of QTBIPOC Excellence and described how it highlighted important LGBTQ+ alumni of color at the University and spoke about their work.

"They discussed figures that were historic, alumni and current students, who were queer students of color who have done [and] amazing work and progress at this university," Agrawal said.

One of these figures at the University right now is fourth-year College student Abel Liu — the University's first Chinese American Student Council President and the first university student government president who



TAYLOR WEIGAND | THE CAVALIER DAILY

In a society where heterosexuality has been established as the norm, QSU has provided students with a sense of solidarity and community.

the false pretenses of potential male partners, brutally beat Evan James Kittredge, University employee and alumnus, going as far as to urinate on him and burn him with a cigarette. Kittredge was left severely injured and locked in the trunk of his own car before authorities discovered him roughly 40 hours later. Despite this horrific episode, GSU continued to make an effort in becoming a more representative organization for LGBTQ+ stu-

more inclusive of all LGBTQ+ students and students of color through its name.

"Gay [Student Union] as a whole was a very white male [organization]," Hovland said. "Within the past 30 years, we became what we're called now — QSU — which is trying to include all groups within that umbrella."

In a society where heterosexuality has been established as the norm, QSU has provided students with a sense of solidar-

In 2001, the organization was also able to obtain a spot in Newcomb Hall to meet as an organization in the LGBTQ+ Center, which is commonly known as QC for short. The center originally resided in the basement of Newcomb, but acquired a space on the third floor in 2020 that has more floor space and windows to allow natural lighting in through student advocacy.

Emily Garcia, fourth-year College student and QC volun-



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Though the group has made some great strides towards supporting LGBTQ+ students at the University, members of the organization also noted some shortcomings.

was openly transgender upon election in the country.

Liu recognizes the monumentality of his presidency and how it has helped shed light on trans and queer issues that students like him face every day.

“The most significant part of my being trans and being president is that the representation idea also serves as a means of education for a lot of administrators who may not have had direct exposure to queer trans issues before our relationship,” Liu said. “Now they realize how their work impacts queer and trans students every day.”

Though the group has made great strides towards supporting LGBTQ+ students at the University, members of the organization also noted some shortcomings. Agrawal acknowledged a lack of diversity within the group, which he attributed to the University as a predominately white institution more broadly. Still, Agrawal expressed satisfaction in how QSU has made an effort to be more inclusive and cognizant of supporting marginalized groups.

“U.Va. in and of itself is very white — it’s a predominantly white institution,” Agrawal said. “Its history means that it was built and made and primarily serves white people — white, cis and straight students. In that context, I think the QSU has been able to make strides and leaps and bounds towards offering a space of support and community for queer students, and I think that they’re continuing to do that work now for queer students of color.”

Luviano agreed, adding that not all spaces meant for LGBTQ+ students at the University always feel particularly accepting for

students of color.

“A lot of the queer spaces at U.Va. are very dominantly white and they don’t feel very welcoming to students of color,” Luviano said. “I think making more efforts to emphasize the work that queer people of color have done for the LGBT community within QSU’s broader goals and emphasis [would improve QSU], and just having more people of color volunteers in the center.”

Looking to the future, QSU is currently working on several initiatives to improve student life for LGBTQ+ on Grounds and gain more recognition. Hovland looks to enact change in the University community through the QSU’s three priorities of activism, education and community engagement.

“We’ve been working for a while on trying to get more open housing options, so if you don’t fit in male or female dorms,” Hovland said. “Education can be within the communities, so sexual health education, or can be trying to educate the broader U.Va. community about queer issues.”

Luviano feels that the University does not do enough to help educate students on safe sex practices, which can perpetuate misunderstandings. As a first-year resident advisor, Luviano recognizes the importance of using gender inclusive language and pushing for safe sex practices for all kinds of students and situations.

“As a resident advisor, I tried to break some of that [heteronormativity] down by trying to use gender inclusive language by providing both dental dams and female condoms and male condoms to my residents,” Luviano

said. “[I’m] just trying to encourage open and inclusive language

when we are talking about relationships or hookups or crushes — we need to work on being more inclusive rather than just assuming someone’s orientation.”

As an alumnus, Finley added that from his experience as a student in the 1980s, as well as a member of College Republicans and Honor, have led him to hope for QSU to be more inclusive of students from the entire political spectrum.

“We’re talking about ideological diversity, intellectual diversity [and] racial diversity in so many aspects at the University today — the middle [of the political spectrum] seems to be missing,” Finley said. “I think what I would want for the Queer Student Union is to find ways ... to make their organization more welcome to people who maybe don’t share their political ideology.”

Assistant Director of MSS Alex Winkowski is grateful to be able to witness the 50th anniversary of the QSU’s existence after being a part of the University community itself for three years. They look forward to the future

to continue and strengthen the legacy that the QSU and other queer advocates have begun.

“I continue to work toward a future at U.Va. where every trans and queer student has a place where they feel affirmed,” Winkowski said in an email statement to The Cavalier Daily. “The LGBTQ+ community is not a monolith, and I’m excited to work with QSU to explore more ways to create inclusive environments for trans and queer students.”

With the past and present in mind, students are excited to see the future of the QSU and LGBTQ+ activism at the University in their efforts to create a more equitable and safe environment.

“I’m excited to see where they go,” Agrawal said. “We’ll be able to continue to see the queer community and queer people of color flourish even more.”

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OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

We're in the final stretch

Although the pandemic seems to be coming to an end, we encourage U.Va. students and administration to remain cognizant of others' safety

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are in the final stages of the pandemic. Reflecting CDC guidelines, the University recently updated its public health guidelines on March 18 and March 25. What likely caught most students' eye was the change to the masking policy and testing requirements. Masks are now optional in classrooms and non-clinical U.Va. Health facilities, while saliva testing for unvaccinated students ended and prevalence testing is no longer available in the basement of Newcomb Hall. However, symptomatic students can still get tested through an appointment at Student Health and Wellness and asymptomatic students have access to a limited number of free at-home tests through the University — in addition to testing available at retail pharmacies, online and through the federal government. We commend the University for following the CDC's updated guidelines. However, there are still policies that should stay in place to ensure every-

one's safety until we complete this final stretch.

Aligning nearly entirely with the CDC guidelines, we are in full support of the University's updated policies on masking. For context, the CDC's most recent updates establish different guidelines based on the risk of COVID-19 in various geographical locations — Charlottesville is deemed a low risk location.

Students — although the University does not require exposed or symptomatic students to mask — as this is nearly impossible to regulate — we encourage you to do so. Fellow students, we implore you — consider that there are still people in our community who may be at increased risk for worsened symptoms, should they contract COVID-19. A reminder about common decency — follow the University's suggestion and be respectful of those around you. As leadership wrote, “treat each other with respect and common courtesy” and be “willing to put on a mask when asked, communicat[e] masking

preferences in advance or [offer] to meet virtually if appropriate.” As we all follow these recommendations, remember that one is not entitled to anyone's personal health information — if someone requests you wear a mask, please put one on.

While we applaud the University's continued available testing for symptomatic students — who should never be hindered from testing — we contend that the University must have more accessible testing for asymptomatic students. First, we must return to PCR tests rather than rapid tests — the former is known to be much more reliable, particularly for asymptomatic individuals. We also demand the University reimplement an unlimited supply of tests for students — the current system only offers students an unspecified but limited number of tests. Students must be able to test as often as is necessary.

In order for voluntary testing to be effective — meaning to ensure that those who have symptoms or

are exposed actually get a COVID-19 test — there must be systems in place to ensure students who contract COVID-19 don't face negative academic consequences. Students should not avoid getting tested because they are worried they will test positive and be barred from attending class. Further, students who need to quarantine deserve hybrid course options. This might range from recorded lectures to hybrid classes — at the discretion of professors, of course — but the central focus is that there must be an established standard to ensure students who must quarantine do not face negative academic consequences. These class options provide a crucial level of protection to professors as well — in the same vein as students, professors should not be forced to hold in-person classes if doing so risks their health or the health of their loved ones.

Looking forward, we recommend that the University consider implementing permanent alternative class options when students cannot

attend for other reasons out of their control — from student athletes traveling to individuals sick with the flu. Those of you reading this article have lived through the pandemic, and we cannot forget that many did not. At the very least, we should learn something from the past two years. Hybrid or recorded lectures can allow professors to ensure an education is still accessible to those who cannot come in person for whatever reason. The pandemic is nearly over. Cases are decreasing, rapid tests are widely available and most people have access to vaccinations and booster shots if they want them. Now, we must focus on a post-pandemic future. We have the opportunity to learn from the past two years — we cannot squander it.

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Stop hyperfixating on slave narratives in English courses

The frequency of slave narratives taught in U.Va. English history classes can have a negative effect

As an English minor here at the University, I have encountered a number of different genres of literature in my classes. My least favorite is the slave narrative — an account of the life of an enslaved through their perspective. While I agree it is imperative to expose non-Black students to the harsh realities of this genre, I find it incredibly damaging for myself as a Black student. To give an example, I am currently taking History of Literatures in English II and have enjoyed it thus far. However, when it came time to read “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave,” I could not get through the first few sections. The content was wonderfully honest, but graphic — and I could not stomach it.

Here at the University, many English professors make an effort to include Black authors. In the class I currently take, my professors have described slave narratives as vital to understanding the full scope of American literature. I agree wholeheartedly. Firsthand accounts of the experiences of enslaved people on plantations and in cities are vital to comprehending the lives of the four million people enslaved throughout American history. That being said, the degree to which English professors at the University

include slave narratives gives me the same feeling I get from trauma-porn. I know the harsh realities of my ancestors — not to mention the reality of enslavement on Grounds — and to have it thrown in my face quite carelessly is jolting every time. It is fantastic that Black authors are included in these classes, but to only include slave narratives is the bare minimum. And to be grateful for the bare minimum

the issue. There are non-Black professors who give ample warning, but still teach material inadequately, and there are non-Black professors who give no warning and still teach the material inadequately. The students who then make ignorant comments regarding the literature in the discussion sections to follow are a whole issue in and of themselves.

So far in my coursework, I have

to know that self-education is just as important as what we learn in classes. However, for many students, it can be easy to be disinterested in the things that affect students of color the most. In these cases the classroom is the only place white students would learn about these issues.

In my African American Studies and Creative Writing courses — which also have heavy reading requirements

ask many students in my classes to name more than three Black authors their answers would be limited to the likes of Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass and Maya Angelou. All of these writers were and are fantastic, but there is a much broader scope to what Black American authors in history have to offer.

I am still overstimulated from the increase in racial tensions and media exposure of racial conflict ever since the death of George Floyd almost two years ago. It is not easy to exist as a Black person in a majority-white space like the University while continuing to face the harsh realities of being Black in America generally. Black history in America may start with slavery, but it does not end with slavery. If a class is titled Histories of Literature in English, the Black authors featured should not primarily feature those who wrote about enslavement. Slave narratives should still be featured in class curriculums, but they should not be the focus when it comes to Black authors.

ALIYAH D. WHITE is an Opinion Columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

Slave narratives should still be featured in class curriculums, but they should not be the focus when it comes to Black authors.”

is tragic.

I have stated previously that I do not believe white people should teach Black history. That is true in this situation as well — white people should not be teaching slave narratives. The level of empathy needed to adequately teach Black history has been lacking from what I have observed in my English courses that are taught by white professors. Their warnings of sensitive language are nice, but not when that sensitive language includes words such as “negro.” I believe there are two sides to this particular part of

had to read the work of writers such as Phillis Wheatley, who showed deep appreciation for her enslavement, and Frederick Douglass, who wrote graphically about his experiences while enslaved. Are there many Black authors in history that wrote in the English language about topics other than enslavement? The answer is yes — there are. Yet, taking an English history class at the University would have you think otherwise. It can be dangerous to only show the perspectives deemed as worthy. As college students we should have the common sense

— I have had the opportunity to read a broader scope of works by Black authors that span multiple genres. I wish I could say the same for my History of Literature in English courses. Many of the enslaved authors the English professors include in the curriculum have works about topics other than enslavement, but this still remains the focus. There is a larger array of themes Black authors have written about other than violence and trauma. In addition, there is also a tendency to teach only the most popular names in Black literary history. I feel that if I were to

Tell me — what about the children?

The argument of identity censorship for children is best left in the past — children are just as capable of learning about society as anyone else.

In 1984, Alice Walker’s “The Color Purple” was banned in several school libraries for homosexuality, violence and explicit language among other themes. Just recently, Governor Glenn Youngkin banned critical race theory from Virginia public schools — despite it never being taught in the first place. Both of these actions were done under the guise of protecting children from topics that they should not or could not understand. This argument about concern for children is one of normativity, not of substance. Children are not only capable of understanding the world, but it is imperative that they do — race, gender and sexuality are not new trends seeping into schools and playgrounds. As these concepts have existed forever, children should be taught about them — not only for their sake, but also our own.

Regarding race, the argument about children being aware is often presented around this assumption that children will emulate whatever they see without any understanding. Show them racial segregation, intersectionality or police violence and the Black and brown children will become baby Black Panthers while the white children will walk around apol-

ogetic for their ancestors. Race, many people think, is an adult problem and yet the concept of color is formulated for most as a child. Studies show that children — as young as four — have a concept of race from simply discovering they are different colors from one another to actively bullying one another for these differences. Race is far

not ready to process can lead to misunderstandings. An example of this can be seen in summer 2020, when a five-year-old Black girl asked a white officer during a protest if he was going to shoot the protesters. From heavy and complex exposures to race, she assumed that white cops always shoot Black people. However, it has

publicly exposing children to pride parades or commercials and cartoons with LGBTQ+ people, are rooted in this fear of anything other than heteronormativity. The protests against Lil Nas X kissing another man on stage and the exasperation over Superman’s son — who also becomes Superman — being bisexual all suggest that this

exposable. The same goes for race — children are never taught extensive history on the Black Panther Party or Malcolm X, rather they are exposed to a Disney-fied version of the civil rights movement. Seemingly, this argument does not make life any easier for children. They grow up ignorant — or worse, implicitly biased — while different races, genders and cultures will still inhabit the Earth.

The argument of children not being exposed to certain aspects of society is not for the benefit of the children. It is for the benefit of us. We do not have to understand other races, religions or genders, and moreover, we do not have to teach it. Instead of taking advantage of the fact that today’s children have more information than previous generations, this argument is used to try to keep things exactly as they were in the past. Ironically, children are supposed to be our future. Tell me, how can you know where you are going if you do not know where you are?

SHALEAH TOLLIVER is the Senior Associate Opinion Editor for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

Ironically, children are supposed to be our future. Tell me, how can you know where you are going if you do not know where you are?”

from an adult problem, and exposing children to it in a diverse, inclusive and intersectional light is not a disservice.

This can also be seen in more than just formal education. Many people cringe at the thought of allowing their children to learn about the unmarked graves at the University filled with nameless enslaved people. The same goes for children attending racially marked events — such as a Black History Month parade or a Black Lives Matter protest. In some ways, this thought is warranted — exposing children to concepts they are

been proven that children already develop concepts of race on their own. Thus, there are ways to develop the concept of race at gradual levels — so as to not generalize any race — that offer children a chance to understand the world as they grow.

The same goes for the concepts of sex, gender and sexuality. Studies also show that children somewhat understand these three concepts and can even develop their own conclusions. Not seeing LGBTQ+ members does not ensure heterosexual and heteronormative children and vice versa. Therefore, these protests about

argument is not rooted in protecting children. It is rooted in queerphobia and the perverse and false idea that if children see gay, trans or genderfluid people then they will get ideas. Identity is not an idea.

The peculiar aspect of this argument about limiting exposure for children, however, is that it is hypocritical. Concepts like being transgender are viewed as too much for children, and yet, from assigning one’s sex at birth to telling little boys that they cannot play with Barbie dolls, we do expose them to gender and sex — only the parts we deem

HUMOR

Things that aren't cults but feel like cults — part two

Well team, we're back at it again. Last year, I gave you a list of the top five cults at the University and a quick run down of just what you're getting yourself into. Now we're back with a whole new list. Sit down and buckle up — these groups are so culty, they rival The Cavalier Daily itself.

5. Second Years

Sophomore, derived from the Greek — “wise fool.” These kids reek of vomit, hubris and the distinct scent of the Boylan bathrooms. Bow down, because they've figured out how to get into frats, into bars and into each other's pants. But don't worry. They'll humble themselves when that tight-knit first-year clique they swore never to sur-

render falls apart because Becky really gets on Avery's nerves but Avery won't talk to Becky about it, so they just don't hang out anymore, but Avery lives with Claire, which means that Claire and Becky don't hang out anymore, but Avery lives across the hall from Sophie, who's still really close with Claire, even though Becky slept with one of Sophie's best guy friends and he never called her back, all of which is complicated by the fact that they all sincerely hate each other.

4. Spin Girls

Maybe they're addicted to the endorphins, maybe they like the camaraderie or maybe it's just the aesthetic. These ladies have certainly got the uniform figured out,

but you may have to do a double take to notice cause they'll breeze past you faster than you can say athleisure. The swing of their ponytails can be best equated to the fall of the guillotine. These are the sorority girls that don't take executive board positions, but seem to care more about the sorority than exec. Either it truly is a life changing workout, or these girls are on drugs.

3. Echols Kids

There's two types of Echols Scholars — the ones who love telling you where they lived their first year, and the ones who hate telling you where they lived their first year. Some are bright enough to have learned humility. Others can spell it, define it, use it in a

sentence, give you the pallady of origin — but are still working on the practical application. They may look down on we the people, but they don't hate you. There's only one group they truly hate — Jefferson Scholars. Big Brother is always watching.

2. Chi Alpha

This pyramid scheme is ripe for the mocking. To many first years it may seem like the perfect solution — they're so nice! Don't be fooled. You'll take a donut from a tabling event and next thing you know they're knocking on your door, asking for money and your left kidney. They'll tell you drinking is wrong, but in reality, spot-the-Chi-Alpha-kid-at-bars is the only drinking game

you'll beat them at. Don't drink the kool aid — especially if it's served to you in a mug — and if I go missing, check under the Hub.

1. People Who Have Their Laptops Open On The Patio of Trin

Did you know hard liquor is conducive to studying? These kids exude the work hard, play hard mentality more than anyone I know. They've got tabs — on their laptops and at the bar — and if they took a shot everytime someone said “networking,” they might start to feel it.

ELLIE WILKIE is a Humor Senior Associate for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com

CARTOON

Maskfish

Ruma Jadhav | Cartoonist



PUZZLES

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Ava MacBlane | Puzzle Master

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

Across

- 1. April 1 victim
- 4. Forbidden
- 6. 50 Cent piece
- 9. Helpers
- 11. King of the road
- 12. Period from dusk to dawn
- 13. Stuffy-sounding
- 14. How a computer chews?
- 15. Chilling, say
- 16. Santa, on an off day
- 17. Comes to a sudden halt
- 21. World record?
- 23. Published in installments
- 24. Hwy.
- 25. Like a sandal or moccasin
- 28. Blueprint
- 30. Arcane
- 31. Dean Banquet of the NYT
- 34. Everyday article
- 36. Pizza place a UVA student may frequent
- 39. Greenfly, e.g.
- 40. With the circled words; an English nerd's idea of an April Fool's Day prank
- 43. "Who cares?"
- 44. Berry touted as a superfood
- 45. Dead, as an engine
- 49. Island rings
- 51. Hair style creating by weaving
- 53. Adornment for a bride
- 54. ___ __ ten, as a rating scale
- 55. "___ Inconvenient Truth," 2006 film
- 56. An official seal used to mark documents
- 57. Green-eye monster Down

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Down

- 2. Like wines aged in certain barrels
- 3. Fluff left in a dryer
- 4. Panhandles
- 5. Burning issue?
- 6. Daytime host O'Donnell
- 7. Banana plant fiber
- 8. Did a gondolier's job
- 10. Six-sided game piece
- 11. Animal trainer
- 13. Cash register button for when a charge doesn't go through
- 14. Message container, for Taylor Swift
- 16. Angel's instrument
- 17. Fast-paced musical piece
- 18. Summer shirts
- 19. Do you prefer the cookie or the cream?
- 20. Trapper's prize
- 22. ___ Zeppelin
- 26. "Star Wars Episode III - Revenge of the ___"
- 27. Crystalline rock

- 29. A salad consisting of olives, eggs, and tuna or anchovies -- yum!
- 32. Essential amino acid absorbed in diet, abrv.
- 33. La-la starter
- 35. Tokyo, formerly
- 37. Before 50-down, way in
- 38. After 55-across, pay to play
- 40. Sesame confection
- 41. Continental divide?
- 42. Daily delivery
- 45. "Critique of Practical Reason" author
- 46. Affirmative vote
- 47. Davidson of SNL
- 48. Japanese noodle
- 50. "Don't give up!"
- 52. Caviar

* SOLUTION FROM LAST ISSUE

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Uncovering Overcranked

The year-long program continues to shape young filmmakers at the University

Sophie Hay | Staff Writer

The University might not have a film department, but it offers many outlets for its young artists, from disparate classes in different departments to student organizations on Grounds. Still, there is one standout program that consistently attracts motivated filmmakers at the University.

Students refer to this program as Overcranked. It has supported the University's student filmmakers in writing and directing their own short films for the past five years.

Over 10 years ago, a group of student filmmakers sought course credit from the University for films they had worked on independently. They approached Paul Wagner, an Academy Award-winning independent filmmaker based in Charlottesville, to act as their mentor and support their efforts. Wagner was eager to help.

"For a couple years, I supervised them just making their own films, but I would meet with them weekly and give them suggestions and guide them a little bit," Wagner said. "That gave me the idea that I then took to the chairman of drama."

Wagner imagined a program that could educate student filmmakers within the University's pre-existing arts infrastructure.

"U.Va. could create a film program just for writer-directors, and not have to have a whole curriculum and several faculty members and a separate department to teach film," Wagner said. "That was the idea basically, in going to drama, to build on the great things that U.Va. has."

Doug Grissom, a playwright, associate professor and interim chair of drama, had been teaching screenwriting over the summer for years when Wagner approached him with his idea. Together, they created their own year-long film course in 2017. Students now take screenwriting with Grissom in the first semester, drafting several scripts before ultimately choosing one to develop. In the second semester, students study directing with Wagner and shoot their films.

The University's young filmmakers know Grissom and Wagner's program as Overcranked, a name invented by its first cohort of students. When they learned about early hand-cranked film

cameras in Wagner's class — the terminology for producing slow-motion footage by turning the crank quickly, or overcranking — they "seized on it as a metaphor for what the class is like," Wagner said.

"There is an intensity to it, and I think that's what the students like," he continued. "It's very personal because these stories are very personal and pow-

erful ... If it means something to you, you get wound up about it." Overcranked is selective. Students interested in the program apply to the screenwriting class during enrollment for the fall semester, and this represents their application for both screenwriting and the spring directing course — one class cannot be taken without the other. After submitting writing samples, some students are chosen to complete an interview with the professors, and then admissions decisions are made.

Students spend their first se-

mester with Grissom working on their scripts, and the second semester with Wagner learning directing and filmmaking techniques and shooting their films. This second semester is relatively self-directed, with professors offering benchmarks and tasks that students work to accomplish on their own timeline with their collaborators.

Fourth-year College student

Dramatic Academy — in working with the actors in her own film.

"I feel like that really helped me in terms of directing, because I think sharing language and understanding with actors is important," Gregory said.

Fourth-year College student Karen Zipor also acknowledged the role of her collaborators, noting the importance of forming connections and fostering a sup-

portive network of fellow artists.

Third-year College student Mia Gaultieri explores a different genre in her mumblecore-inspired film depicting the experiences of two middle-aged women.

"They're both involved in this art scene in their town, and they're much older, and they end up becoming friends and falling in love late in life," Gaultieri said.

She is still in the process of shooting, and values the insight she's gained by working with artists outside of the University.

"It's been very cool to work with older actors and hear their opinions on certain dialogue, like, oh, my gosh, my character would never do that. It's been very cool to have them care so much about their roles and really want to be authentic," Gaultieri continued.

While Gaultieri was an experienced filmmaker by the time she applied for Overcranked, the program challenged her to develop her writing skills.

"I think before I took this class, I would only ever write with the intent of shooting. Otherwise, I didn't see it as a productive thing to do," Gaultieri said. "But I have since completely changed my mind on that, and I think that you just have to create, even if on a first read, you're like, what have I just done, this is horrid. You have to just keep writing."

Overcranked students bring a variety of perspectives to the program, and their work is influenced by educational experiences outside of film. Gregory minors in American Sign Language and Deaf Culture, and dreams of one day collaborating with deaf artists on filmmaking projects. Zipor is double majoring in drama and computer science, and both contribute to her professional work in animation.

Grissom and Wagner express pride in the films that have come out of their program. "It's been wonderful for me to understand U.Va. students better in terms of what they're interested in, the stories they think are important to tell," Wagner said. "They're all very strongly felt stories."

Interested individuals can check out the free premiere for this year's Overcranked films May 2 at 7 p.m. in the Caplin Theater.



COURTESY CLAUDIA TROY

Zipor emphasizes the importance of forming connections and fostering a network of friends and fellow artists who are supportive of each other's work

erful ... If it means something to you, you get wound up about it."

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Students spend their first se-

Rainah Gregory, who completed the Overcranked program last year, created an intimate film about two friends struggling to communicate and cope with anxieties surrounding sexual experience.

"Two best friends decide that they want to get their first time over with, and the dramatic question is, will they or won't they," Gregory said. "I wanted to explore the pressures of society."

She drew on her acting experience — both through her drama major and a 16-month conservatory at the American Musical

portive network of fellow artists.

"Make a lot of friends," Zipor said. "Get on a lot of sets and make a lot of friends. Be kind to everyone you work with because they're all donating their time and energy for your project."

Zipor shot her Overcranked film this semester, based on a subversive horror script.

"The horror is the scariest thing known to man — a Jewish mother," Zipor says. "It's very tongue in cheek, but it has some heart as well. It's about a man who's grappled with the death of his mother and the loss of his cul-

Sitting down with Kate Bollinger

Bollinger discusses new music, her recent show at the Jefferson, DONDA and more

Brandon Brown | Staff Writer

When Kate Bollinger opened for Faye Webster at the Jefferson Theater on March 3, it was her first time returning to Charlottesville on a real tour. It was something of a homecoming for Bollinger. She had performed at the Jefferson Theater on a one-off occasion, opening for the Charlottesville-based Kendall Street Company in 2019, but she had not performed in the area since.

Bollinger nicely set the tone with her trademark soothing, ethereal sound. Live, however, she injected a jazzier sound into her discography, pairing nicely with the hazy blue hues of the venue. Of course, Faye Webster followed with her indie rock, country and folk fusion for an all-around great concert. They even performed a duet. A couple weeks after the concert, Bollinger was able to sit down with The Cavalier Daily for an interview. Bollinger reflected on the homecoming show, talked about her time at the University,

new music, her “DONDA” credit and more.

The Cavalier Daily: I want to start off by saying great concert. I thought the duet with Faye Webster was really cool because I have been listening to both of you independently. I first wanted to know, how did that come about?

Kate Bollinger: I have been a fan of her music for years, I think since her album, [Faye Webster], came out in 2017. I have been keeping up with her online and listening to her music. We kind of started talking to each other over the internet because we liked each other’s music and then our booking agents made it happen.

Was that your first tour?

Not my first tour, but definitely my longest. I did a tour in November with Real Estate and while I was at U.Va., towards the end, I was touring a little bit on

weekends and in the summer but just for like a week at a time.

You mentioned your time at U.Va. Can you tell me about your experience?

I grew up in Charlottesville and I actually did not want to go to U.Va. because I wanted to leave. As decisions came closer, I realized that it was the best choice for me. I got there and didn’t know what I wanted to do. Music did not seem like something I could make a living on so I did it for fun. I wasn’t the best student. I feel like I wasn’t the worst. I kind of just went to school and did music on the side. I switched majors a bunch and then studied film which I love.

Were you really credited on “DONDA?”

Yeah, that was a crazy weird thing. What was weird about it was that I learned about it in the same three days that I found out

about the Faye tour so I was kind of just losing my mind that week.

Basically I got a call from my manager and they were like, “Your lawyer got an email from another lawyer claiming their client wanted to use one of your songs as a sample.” My lawyer asked some questions and figured out it was Kanye West. I didn’t know at all what it was gonna be. I was kind of picturing the chorus of the song sampled in some big way but then he sent it to us and the chords in the intro of “Candy” were the chord progression of “DONDA.” So [“Candy”] was just sampled through the whole song. We got to hear that version which was amazing. He ended up using another version because I feel like he always makes ten versions of everything. So he used another version but he still gave us song interpolation, which is when a song is directly inspired by another song.

What’s next for you?

We’re opening for L’Impératrice for a little one week stint in April and then we’re going to Europe in May. I have my first headlining tour in June and then I’m just going to be writing a lot.

Bollinger has just finished her tour with Webster and has exciting developments for the future – within the United States and abroad. She has a small tour before her first European tour, and an EP, “Look at it in the Light,” coming April 22. Charlottesville citizens must be proud to hear her taking the sounds of her hometown throughout the states, Europe and even on Kanye West albums. Not to play on her new EP’s namesake, but it is looking bright for the University graduate.

This is an excerpt — for the full interview, visit cavalierdaily.com.

Charlottesville’s queen of indie-rock, Caroline Hullman

As co-president of University Records, Hullman is a leading force in the cultivation of the University’s music scene

Tanner Rowe | Staff Writer

Four years ago, fourth-year College student Caroline Hullman moved to Charlottesville with a collection of original songs, an affinity for 90’s grunge and an itch to start a band. A former theater kid from Fairfax who yearned for a bigger audience, Hullman now serves as the frontwoman and lead guitarist for the indie-rock project Marti, for which she released her debut EP last year.

Hullman found her place in the music community through University Records, a student organization dedicated to providing resources for musicians on grounds. As its current co-president along with Nate Cantu, a fourth-year Commerce student, Hullman remains a leading force in the cultivation of the University’s music scene.

Looking back on her childhood, Hullman recalls listening to the radio during hour-long commutes to school with her father, who she credits for introducing her to 90’s alternative bands like The Smashing Pumpkins.

“My dad’s musical tastes re-

ally influenced my desire to get into the kind of music that I have been doing for a long time,” Hullman said. “Some people who don’t listen to rock music have that reaction where they hear a grittier voice and they’re like, ‘Oh, I don’t like that.’ I feel like it did the opposite for me.”

Hullman’s identification with indie-rock guitarist and singer Lindsey Jordan — frontwoman of Snail Mail — marked a turning point in her musical trajectory.

“I feel like [Jordan’s] tomboyish-ness kind of reflected a part of me that didn’t feel super seen at the time,” Hullman said. “In high school, her music really resonated with me. Just the style ... it was kind of emotional and feminine, but also cool.”

Hullman’s musical impulse draws from a wide array of indie and alternative artists. Hullman cites Alex G’s unexpected chord progressions, Phoebe Bridgers’ emotionality, and the ethereal distortion of 90’s rock band My Bloody Valentine as profound influences on her music.

In the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hullman was inspired

to record a collection of songs she had written over the years, resulting in last year’s release of her debut EP “Marti.”

“I just wanted to document everything I had written thus far and put it out there in a professional way,” Hullman said. She enlisted the help of Cantu for the production and mastering of the EP.

“We had sort of a mindmeld,” Hullman said about the creative dynamic between the pair, who became close friends during the recording process. “It’s really funny how it worked out that we’re now both co-presidents together.”

Hullman expressed her gratitude to the connections she has made through URec, from Cantu to the rotating cast of talented musicians she has collaborated with.

“I wouldn’t be where I am without URec,” Hullman said. “I wouldn’t have met any of the bandmates I’ve had, who have all been completely instrumental in being able to do band gigs and bring my sound to life at performances.”

According to Hullman, URec has grown far beyond its former reputation as a “boys club” that primarily caters to “frat jam bands.”

“UREc means the opportunity to do what you’re trying to do with music because it provides so many different opportunities, whether you’re trying to perform or record music,” Hullman said.

By serving as a musical and social network for students, organizing shows, creating opportunities for musicians to play live and providing access to practice spaces and music equipment, URec is committed to shaping a vibrant, supportive community of musicians and artists on grounds.

Hullman and Cantu have played an instrumental role in URec’s recent growth and the emergence of a diverse lineup of student bands, such as Indecisive and Mellowdrama. URec’s most recent milestone is the creation of a formal website designed to digitize the organization and centralize resources, making them more accessible to students.

The website has also facilitated the organization’s mar-

ketability and the formation of partnerships with venues in Charlottesville like The Graduate and The Southern, both of which have committed to hosting URec shows this semester.

Hullman and her bandmates, many of which are URec members, are also proud to be included on the lineup at MACROCK XXV, an annual DIY music festival in Harrisonburg on April 1 and 2.

“UREc means musicians and artists supporting each other. Because we all have the same passion for music... making it and creating it specifically,” said Hullman. “I think some of my best memories are playing at house shows and watching bands at house shows.”

To catch Hullman and her bandmates live in the flesh, one can stop by Marti’s set at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Pale Fire Brewing Company.

The 94th Oscars highlight the Academy's struggle

The heavily-debated Will Smith controversy has distracted viewers from this year's lackluster programming

Delaney Hammond | Staff Writer

After several years of declining viewership and fervent criticism, the Academy made a variety of attempts to bring back viewers and spice up its programming. However, these best-laid plans were thwarted by unexpected drama and an otherwise bland broadcast.

Hollywood's biggest and brightest gathered in the Dolby Theater, completely free of masks and social distancing Sunday. This year, the program was meant to run for three hours only, in hopes of bouncing back from last year's record-low viewership. In the past, the program has lasted up to four hours and twenty minutes.

In order to save time, eight categories were announced while most guests were still on the red carpet, then edited back into the broadcast — many of these awards were in the technical categories and were taken home by "Dune," including best original score, visual effects and cinematography. Despite this change, the broadcast still managed to run three hours and forty minutes.

The live show began with an electrifying performance from Beyoncé of "Be Alive," the original song she wrote and recorded for the Best Picture-nominated "King Richard." Sporting a bright yellow costume and performing on one of California's tennis courts, the star paid homage to the Williams family that the film is based on.

In traditional Oscars style, hosts Amy Schumer, Wanda Sykes and Regina Hall used their opening routine to shed light on Hollywood's biggest controversies, tackling topics like toxic masculinity and sexism in the entertainment industry.

"This year, the academy hired three women to host because it's cheaper than hiring one man," Schumer joked.

The ladies also took jabs at some of the nominees.

"[Leonardo DiCaprio] has done so much to fight climate change, and leave behind a cleaner, greener planet for his girlfriends," said Schumer about the 47-year-old actor. Many of the jokes were laughed off by their subjects, as is usually the case with award shows.

In several desperate attempts to evoke nostalgia among viewers, the show's presenters revisited some of Hollywood's biggest hits. Actors Woody Harrelson, Wesley Snipes and Rosie Perez hit the stage to honor the 30th anniversary of sports comedy film "White Men Can't Jump," and a dramatic montage honored 60 years of the James Bond franchise. While these

segments may have piqued viewers' interest for a couple of seconds, they ultimately did little to draw sustained attention to the broadcast.

Despite the show's obvious attempts to please fans, this year's Oscars had some positives, including several wins for representation in Hollywood. Arianna DeBose became the first openly queer woman of color to win an Oscar after taking home the award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

"To anybody who has ever questioned your identity, or you find yourself living in the gray spaces, I promise you this. There is indeed a place for us," DeBose said in a mov-

Mated Feature, and was also celebrated with a vibrant performance of the movie's hit song "We Don't Talk About Bruno."

For her work on "The Power of the Dog," Jane Campion — the only female director nominated — took home the award for achievement in directing. These wins follow a years-long wave of criticism of the lack of diversity among Oscar nominees and winners, including the famous #OscarsSoWhite discussion on Twitter.

Despite the moving wins, the award show was often derailed by the Academy's obvious and heavy-handed attempts at increasing viewership. In recent years,

to the moment when the Flash enters the Speed Force in "Zack Snyder's Justice League." Despite its good intentions, these moves from the Academy only come across as pandering and desperate.

As more categories were announced and more old movies were highlighted, the show hit a lull — until it was time for Chris Rock to present the award for best documentary feature. In the most talked-about moment of the night, Best Lead Actor nominee Will Smith slapped Rock after he cracked a joke about Smith's wife.

Rock jokingly suggested that Jada Pinkett Smith will appear in the sequel to "G.I. Jane," a movie

defending his wife, while others condemned his use of violence, especially in front of such a vast audience.

Smith later won the Oscar for Best Lead Actor — the first Academy Award of his career — making vague references to the conflict in his acceptance speech.

"I know to be able to do what we do, you've got to be able to have people talk crazy about you," Smith said. "In this business, you've got to be able to have people disrespecting you."

The day after the ceremony, Smith released an apology via Instagram. Calling his actions "unacceptable and inexcusable," the star took the opportunity to address Chris Rock himself — something he neglected to do in his acceptance speech.

"I would like to publicly apologize to you, Chris," Smith said. "I was out of line and I was wrong."

Unfortunately, even a novel event like Will Smith's slap could not help the Oscars generate the ratings of its heyday. Although the awards show managed to increase its ratings from last year, the 2022 Academy Awards were still the second least-viewed in recorded history.

It is obvious why Smith and Rock's interaction has dominated most of the post-show conversation — outside of the controversy, there was not much else to discuss. When the Smith controversy is taken out of the equation, the Oscars felt frustratingly similar to any award show of the recent past — its formulaic montages, speeches and performances have become indistinguishable from year to year.

While the Oscars offered a handful of monumental wins and shocking moments — well, moment — this year's show hardly saw a deviation from its usual dryness. Once again, the Oscars revealed just how hard the Academy is struggling to find a balance between preserving the fine art of cinema and appealing to the masses. Viewers' fixation on Will Smith's slap reveals that what viewers really want is something memorable, something unexpected — a desire that will not be satisfied by shortening the programs or adding a couple of "people's choice" categories. If the Academy wants to regain the viewership and acclaim it once had, more substantial, long-term changes may be necessary.



MAYA KALIDINDI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

ing acceptance speech.

Troy Katsur also made history as the first deaf man to win an Oscar, taking home the award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his work in "Coda." Katsur delivered his speech in American Sign Language and was met with uproarious applause, both audible and silent. The same film also took home the coveted Best Picture Award at the end of the night, ending the broadcast on a triumphant note.

To many fans' delight, the beloved Pixar feature "Encanto" snagged the award for Best Ani-

viewers have pointed out the discrepancy between Oscar nominees and box-office hits — since "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" won Best Picture in 2004, not a single Best Picture nominee has been in the box office revenue top ten. Many criticize the lack of inclusion of more commercially popular movies in the Academy's nominations, citing it as a reason for declining interest.

In response, the Academy introduced two new fan-driven awards — the Oscars Fan Favorite, won by Netflix's "Army of the Dead," and the Oscars Cheer Moment, given

starring a bald woman. Jada is also bald, and has spoken openly about her struggle with alopecia — a condition that causes hair loss.

Following the joke, Smith walked up to Rock and struck him in the face. "Keep my wife's name out of your f—king mouth," Smith said as the audio cut out of the live broadcast.

The moment blew up on social media as a frenzy of debate over whether Smith was justified in his confrontation followed. Many celebrities weighed in on the subject — some said Smith's actions were justified and praised him for

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Improved algorithms may help physicians diagnose diseases

Researchers at the U.Va. School of Data Science explore new technologies at the intersection of data science and medicine

Haylee Ressa | Staff Writer

Recent advances in algorithms are providing physicians with new tools to predict, diagnose and even treat diseases. Professors and students at the School of Data Science are at the forefront of this progress.

Algorithms create sets of rules for processing softwares to follow, allowing the softwares to sort and analyze the data. These algorithms being developed in the medical field incorporate new forms of data including how patients speak about their symptoms as well as very high-resolution images that can be zoomed in to the nuclear level.

Engineering Prof. Don Brown, founding director of the Data Science Institute, is working on the development of these algorithms and their implications for medicine.

“[The algorithm development] has allowed us to look at and better diagnose diseases,” Brown said. “For example, when you look at an image from a biopsy, it’s hard to read that image. So it makes it much easier for us to use computers to understand what’s happening in images like that.”

Deep learning models computerize processes that humans do naturally, such as identifying images of dogs and cats. Image identification functions can also be applied to analyze medical data. For example, an image of a biopsied cell will have features that lead a physician to identify the cell as abnormal or healthy.

These common features, or patterns in the images of healthy cells versus abnormal cells, are used as guidelines for the algorithm. The algorithm can then sort through new images and label them as healthy or abnormal, creating a deep learning model. The benefit of using a model is that many more images can be analyzed rapidly.

Graduate data science student Saurav Sengupta collaborated with peers at the University and others in Zambia, London and Pakistan on a capstone project that applied these models to the diagnosis of celiac disease.

“We were able to build a model that was able to predict with a high degree of accuracy if the image that we were seeing is a celiac disease image, or a normal image or environmental enteropathy,” Sengupta said. “We had to classify each image into the three

classes and see if there are medical insights that could be had when we investigate those models.”

Part of the model Sengupta worked on classified images of environmental enteropathy, a chronic intestinal inflammation disorder. These algorithms are now being used to analyze a wide variety of diseases — including Barrett’s, Crohn’s and Alzheimer’s disease at the School of Data Science.

“If you’re making the prediction that the person has a disease, you have to be very sure of that prediction, and you have to be able to explain why you made that decision,” Sengupta said. “A lot of like real-world, state-of-the-art methods don’t really have those things and the major challenge for us is to make the models more explainable such that they are giving you a high degree of accuracy.”

The role of the physician in this process remains important as well. Dr. Sana Syed, a pediatric gastroenterologist at U.Va. Health, uses artificial intelligence for pattern recognition in biopsy images.

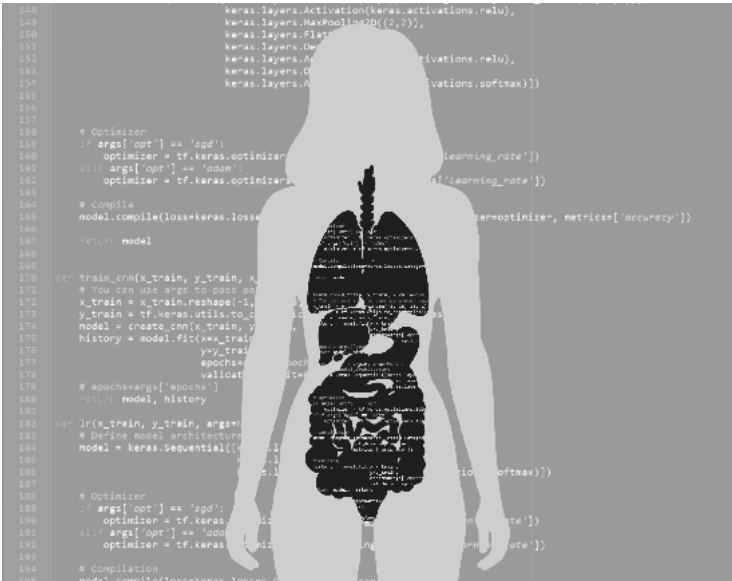
“You have to have a human because there are all these limitations of bias,” Syed said. “And then the other thing is an algorithm can’t tell you what to do if something goes wrong. So a human has to be part of that, but it can enhance your decision-making.”

Biases, or the model producing predilections for certain outcomes, come from not having a large enough or representative data set, Syed said. ImageNet, a research project created by Prof. Fei-Fei Li at Stanford University, enables researchers to train image recognition models and has been very impactful to this field, according to Syed. The power of ImageNet comes from its use of an extremely large data set made of 15 million data points. The larger the data set a model is trained on, the more accurate the model is likely to be when encountering new data.

The next steps for research in the intersection of data science and medicine lie in improving the accuracy of these models. Researchers at the School of Data Science and U.Va. Health are working together to improve this technology and continue to ap-

ply it in a medical setting.

“There’s a lot of work that needs to be done on improving the algorithms and better understanding the characteristics of the algorithms so that we can drive those improvements,” Brown said. “There’s a lot of work that needs to be done in building out these kinds of techniques — these kinds of data science machine learning techniques — that will do an even better job of prediction, diagnosis and classification.”



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