

Courtesy Will Cadigan

Housing ordered Lawn residents on "Bachelor's Row" to take down Christmas trees because of violations of housing policy. The decorations came down a day before the annual Lighting of the Lawn.

# Housing bans festive trees

University officials order Lawn residents to remove Christmas decorations; students protest ban

**By Grace Hollis** Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Lawn residents have taken down holiday trees outside their rooms in response to requests for their removal by the University's office of Housing & Residence Life.

After more than two weeks of disagreement about whether the holiday trees violated the fire code, Assoc. Dean of Students Gay Perez, director of Housing & Residence Life, proposed a compromise in an email Wednesday.

"I have reached out to Facilities Management and requested that temporary power be provided in the alcove area where the Homer statue is located beginning tomorrow afternoon until Friday morning," Perez said in the email. "This will provide the arena for you to display the trees as well as highlight your sponsorship of this initiative."

The compromise Perez proposed ended what Owen Gallogly, fourth-year College student and Lawn resident, described as not only "a request to be allowed to have the trees for the holiday season, but also simply a request that we have a meaningful dialogue."

The trees were originally placed outside rooms on "Bachelor's Row," lawn rooms 35 through 51, by Lawn residents Nov. 25 after students returned from Thanksgiving break. By Tuesday the entire row of decorations was complete.

Bachelor's Row residents represent a full spectrum of religious affiliations, including students who identify as Christian, agnostic and Jewish, said Lawn resident Brad Whitwell, a fourth-year College student.

The community's response to the holiday decorations was overwhelmingly positive, Whitwell said. "I was woken up by people talking outside my door," Whitwell said. "Families were taking photos in the rocking chair outside my room with kids, and everyone, from U.Va. architects to professors to students, admired the holiday spirit. People told us they wanted to walk past this room because it cheered them up so much."

Lawn residents took the trees down earlier this week after Housing threatened to charge residents for the trees' removal if the residents didn't remove them first.

"There was little flexibility about starting an appeals process for keeping the trees," Whitwell said.

Fourth-year Commerce student and Lawn resident Andy Colberg said in an email he was frustrated by what he perceived as a disconnect between the student body's desire to build community and Housing's desire to follow the minutiae of every rule and regulation.

Housing policy permits Lawn residents to have only firewood,

Please see Lawn, Page A3

# **MEN'S BASKETBALL**

# Cavs stymie Vols 46-38

Mitchell notches double-double as Virginia limits Tennessee to abysmal 28.8 percent shooting

By Daniel Weltz

Cavalier Daily Senior Associate Editor

Redshirt freshman point guard Teven Jones Wednesday night walked to the line for the most important free throws of his young collegiate career with 32 seconds remaining and Virginia clinging to a 4-point lead against Tennessee. But before the teams could even get to the line, the shot clock lights went out, forcing Jones back to the sideline to wait and think. Coach Tony Bennett turned to assistant athletic director Ronnie

Wideman and asked, "Now?" Bennett and Virginia had more than a few reasons to ask that question on a night when senior point guard Jontel Evans inopportunely reinjured his troublesome right foot, possibly inflicting a crippling loss on the Cavaliers at a highly inconvenient time.

When it mattered most, however, Jones came through. After the lights returned, he calmly returned to the line and sank both free throws to help the Cavaliers earn their most impressive win of the season in characteristic, grinding fashion, beating Tennessee 46-38. Virginia (7-2, 0-0 ACC) shot 36 percent from the field, made just one 3-pointer and had just two scorers in double figures. For

newspaper

the best statistical defensive team in the ACC, that performance was plenty to get by the Volunteers.

"They're not pretty games, they're not fun games to watch but since I've been here, there's no greater satisfaction than holding a team and frustrating them with your defense," junior forward Akil Mitchell said.

Just five days after Tennessee (4-3, 0-0 ACC) suffered through its worst offensive performance in 15 years in a 37-36 defeat to Georgetown, the Cavaliers held the Vols below the 40-point mark for the second time in a week. Virginia's 46 points allowed was the fewest the Cavaliers had earned in a win since 1982.

"We're going in the right direction," Bennett said. "I think there's better basketball out there for us. We weren't the prettiest, but it's a grind for us and we just keep trying to find what Virginia basketball is going to have to look like."

After Tennessee cut the Cavalier lead to four with a 5-0 spurt to open the second half, Virginia's most polished offensive weapons responded with four flawless minutes of basketball. Evans split the defense on back-to-back possessions and finished with a layup, pushing the

Please see M Bball, Page A4



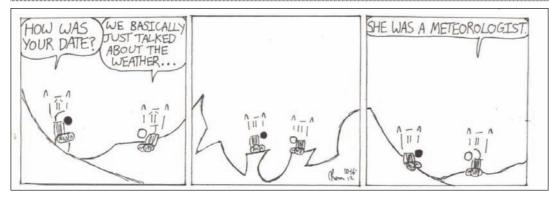
Redshirt freshman point guard Teven Jones finished with three assists and sunk two clutch free throws late in Wednesday's 46-38 victory at John Paul Jones Arena.



Additional contact information may be found online at www.cavalierdaily.com.

Thursday, December 6, 2012

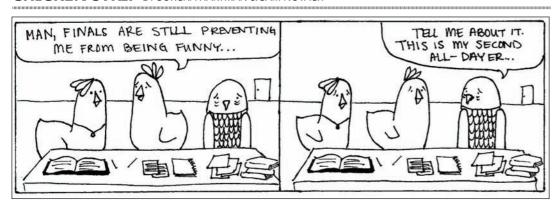
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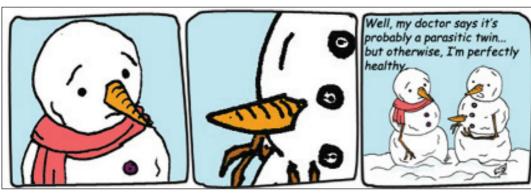
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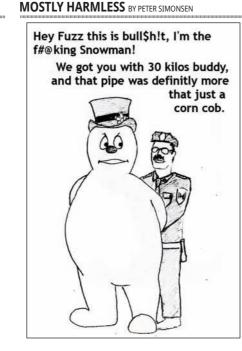
A BUNCH OF BANANAS BY GARRETT MAJDIC & JANE MATTIMOE



QUICKS & CURLS: 1910 YEARBOOK DRAWINGS



**SUPREME LEADER SAYS:** 



In DPRK, bad children mine their own coal, which is their only source of winter heat. What does each child get as their present from Supreme Leader? The Supreme Leader.

# **OROSCOPES**

ARIES (March 21-April 19), You deserve to work with experienced people who can help you get to the next level. But inexperienced people who rely on you may be an even better bet to inspire your best.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't put too much stock in what people who are in the thick of a crush have to say. Infatuation is a deceptive state of mind. The same qualities that enrapture you in one moment could repel

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Take the advice of those who have "been there," but come up with your own solutions, too. New connections will come about through unconventional

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You could extract a wide range of meanings from your daily interactions, but most of them wouldn't be accurate, and few of the accurate ones would be of any consequence. So avoid overthinking things

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes when you love people, you feel possessive of them. Intellectually, you know that no person can own another, but there's a territorial animal instinct inside you that seems to believe otherwise

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The moon gives

you an extra burst of can-do energy, not to

mention a sheen of glamour that the more

glamorous around you will notice. It takes one to know one LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may realize that you've been trying to fill a void that was never really there to begin with. Nothing is

missing. There are excellent reasons why

things are exactly the way they are.

makes you feel stubborn and sluggish. The right way has a nice ring to it. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Those who are trying to prove their own rightness will be

which direction to follow. The wrong way

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Pragmatism

You'll be paid for using your good sense

Someone will find your logical approach

is an attractive quality now, especially in the

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Many will advise you, but it won't be difficult to know

eyes of those who struggle with practicalities.

unable to listen to anyone else. So instead of making a case for yourself and your way of doing things, sit back and gather information you can use later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When opportunities seem scarce, endeavor to deliberately create them. You may still come up empty-handed, but someone will like your initiative and keep you in mind for the next round

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In some ways, you're on top of the world. In other ways, you're in the thick of the muckity-muck, fighting your way through. Neither position is better than the other. The fight keeps you strong, and the ease gives you perspective.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 6). You'll have excellent timing and a thriving personal life in 2013. Your goals are perfectly aligned with a partner's, and together you'll be unstoppable over the next ten weeks. A victory at work will win you money and admiration in February. Those who require special attention will return it threefold in May. Leo and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 20, 41, 47 and 8.

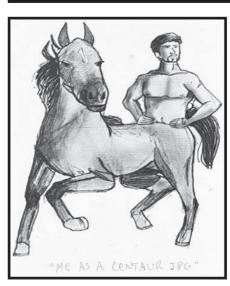
# Amazing... But True!

# hoo-cabulary:

Critical lexicon for the UVa neophyte

### the lighting of the lawn:

The tradition of the Lighting of the Lawn began during the terrible Boar-beetle scourge of the winter of 1847, a harrowing infestation that would later be the inspiration for the Vin Diesel film, Pitch Black. Each night, the students of the University would light great bonfires on the Lawn, as they were the only sources of light intense enough to injure the sensitive eye-stalks of the innumerable, dog-sized beetles. Today, we still gather once a year, now in the glow of electric lights. We gather to give thanks that we huddle together for warmth and season's cheer, and not as protection from a horrible dismemberment in the countless, hungry mandibles of a hoard of insectoid monsters. Happy Holidays!





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Temperatures today will finally contomorrow, but another backdoor	To receive Cavalier Weather Service forecasts via email, contact					

# Panhandlers sue City over speech rights

American Civil Liberties Union, five Charlottesville homeless men say solicitation restrictions violate First, Fourteenth Amendments

**By Alia Sharif**Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

Charlottesville City Council and the American Civil Liberties Union Wednesday went before a judge in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond to discuss panhandling restrictions at the Downtown Mall.

The ACLU originally filed the case with the Charlottesville Federal District Court in January on behalf of five homeless men. The men believe the ordinances, which restrict solicitation on the Downtown Mall, violate their First and Fourteenth Amendment rights, according to the complaint. ACLU attorney Jeff Fogel said the case argued Wednesday challenges the earlier suit's dismissal.

Fogel said this ordinance discriminates against some types of free speech and not others.

At issue during Wednesday's session before the court was

whether the judge was wrong to consider information from the Downtown Business Association, a group Fogel said has been hostile to panhandlers, without giving the five homeless men a chance to challenge it.

"People have a constitutional right to free speech," Dickler said. "There is no constitutional right to being aggressive."

The City has considered strengthening its panhandling ordinances in recent weeks, but

Dickler said no progress had been made so far.

"What's happening now is a conversation," Dickler said. "The only changes that would be made would be ... creating an area 10 feet from buildings [in which lying down would be prohibited, or] possibly something that would restrict sleeping and laying down in [the mall] area."

The ACLU felt the arguments were well-received in court

Wednesday, Fogel said. "They seemed dubious that it was appropriate to dismiss the case without giving us the chance to challenge," he said.

weather@virginia.edu

Dickler declined to comment on the status of the trial on behalf of the City.

Fogel said he expects a decision from the court in three to four weeks. If this appeal is rejected, the ACLU plans to file another appeal with different complaints.

# Task force passes human rights proposal

Body's members all endorse commission's creation, disagree about proposed anti-discrimination committee's anticipated punitive power

By Erik Payne & Kaelyn Quinn
Cavalier Daily Senior Writers

Charlottesville's Human Rights Task Force Wednesday evening voted 6-4 to pass its final proposal to Charlottesville's City Council for a human rights commission with enforcement powers — or, as human rights commission advocate and Education Prof. Walt Heinecke put it in an email, "a commission with teeth." Of the 10 task force members, seven were present at last night's meeting. All members present voted for a commission with some enforcement powers, but the degree of those powers is still a matter of debate.

In February 2012, after a year's worth of research, Charlottesville's Dialogue on Race Policy Action Team proposed the creation of a human rights commission to Charlottesville City Council. This commission would "enforce anti-discrimination ordinances" and "would follow the Virginia Human Rights Act," Heinecke said. The act allows for local bodies to hear, investigate and resolve complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, real estate, private education and credit.

The Council created a Human Rights Task Force to spend 10 months reviewing the proposal.

The Charlottesville Human Rights

Commission then formed as an advocacy group dedicated to the establishment of a commission composed of citizens appointed by the City Council that could enforce local anti-discriminatinon laws, according to the group's website.

Not all task force members support such an objective.

Task Force member Abigail Turner said the task force had a wide range of opinions on multiple aspects of commission structure, including how many tasks the commission would perform and the level of enforcement power it would have.

"I am troubled with anything in writing that says we have a clear vote [on anything], because we do not," Turner said.

When the task force voted in November on "possible characteristics of a human rights commission," the vote was split 5-5 as to whether the commission should be able to wield punitive powers, Heinecke said.

"Some are still trying to argue against a Human Rights Commission with enforcement powers," Heinecke said. "Opponents are proposing replacing a citizens' Human Rights Commission with a Human Rights Advocate in City Hall."

Another proposal was to install a field office of the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Charlottesville. The EEOC allows workers to file suits contesting discrimination against a job applicant or employee based on race, gender, age or any other characteristic irrelevant to the workers' competence.

Heinecke said he viewed an EEOC field office as an unlikely and inefficient possibility.

"The EEOC is underfunded and I don't think there is likelihood they will come to town," Heinecke said. "The EEOC process takes a lot longer to come resolution than a local human rights commission would."

Moreover, the task force's proposed commission would address not just employment discrimination but also discrimination in other areas such as housing, Heinecke said.

Some City Council members endorsed an active commission but still saw flaws in the proposal.

"I do support an anti-discrimination commission or council but my problem with the models being discussed right now is that they don't go nearly far enough," City Councilor Dave Norris said in an

Norris said a new commission should focus specifically on racial discrimination within the community. He said the commission's job would not be to create new anti-

discrimination laws but to enforce

"We already have mechanisms in place ... of state and federal antidiscrimination laws," Norris said. "This new body should ... work to make those mechanisms more visible and accessible.

The task force plans to rewrite its proposal by Dec. 10 and present a final recommendation to City Council Dec. 17. Council will ultimately decide whether to accept or reject the recommendation to form a human rights commission.

"A human rights commission is the best way to ensure justice and fairness for people in Charlottesville," Heinecke said.



Jasmine Lee | Cavalier Da

Members of the Human Rights Task Force split on the specific authority of a new Human Rights Commission for Charlottesville at a meeting Wednesday evening. The Task Force approved its final proposal by a vote of 6-4.

# S.6 The Jefferson District S-1 S-2 S-3 S-4 The Blue Ridge District S-5 S-6 S-7 S-8

Courtesy Albermarle County

Albemarle County launched a new geo-policing initiative, dividing the County into two districts and making specific officers responsible for those areas.

# County restructures police

Albemarle geo-policing holds officers, superiors accountable for specific regions

By Andrew D'Amato
Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

The Albemarle County Police department has overhauled its policing model to more effectively target crime trends in the county. The new geo-policing model has divided Albemarle County into two districts: the Blue Ridge district and the Jefferson district.

The move will make it easier to effectively address crimes in different areas of the county, Albemarle County Police spokesperson Carter Johnson said.

"It wasn't in reaction to anything specific," Johnson said. "It was what Colonel Steve Sellers, the chief of police of the county, thought would make us more accountable to the county. It would be a more effective and productive way of policing."

The structural change aims to help improve accountability

by linking particular officers to particular geographic areas for which they would be responsible for, Johnson said.

"If you have a problem and you're in the Jefferson or Blue Ridge district, you know exactly who to go to," he said. "The officers who patrol those areas will stay active in those areas ... the [U]niversity patrols will know who to call directly."

The decision was informed by crime trends in different parts of the county, Johnson said. "We hope by breaking up the county by geography we can help face these crime trends more effectively," he said.

"We also have commanders over the district," Johnson said. "If you have a problem and you're in the Jefferson or Blue Ride district, you know exactly who to go to. The officers who patrol those areas will stay active in those areas. We'll have a

better purpose in serving you directly."

The police department has spent the last few months transitioning to the new geo-policing method. The method itself will have no implementation costs above the department's usual budget.

The county cast a wide net in finding community partners to work with when setting up this new police effort, Johnson said.

"We tried to address as many different partners in the community as possible so that everyone would be aware of what was going on," Johnson said.

The new model will not impact the University Police, University Police Lt. Melissa Fielding said.

"The county does not come in contact with us before implementing anything," Fielding said. "The model of policing does not affect our relationship with them nor with how we do things."

# **Trees** | Residents still permitted firewood, hibachi grill

Continued from page A1

a hibachi grill, an ash bucket and a rocking chair outside their doors.

Emails between fourth-year College student and Lawn resident John Dreyzehner and Sarah Olson, an area coordinator for Housing & Residence Life, sent last week reveal disagreements about the significance of the Christmas trees' presence out-

side the rooms.

"What I would like to propose is treating the holiday season like a tailgate," Dreyzehner said in an email to Olson. "[My] tree takes up less space than a table and is only out for a short period of the holiday season, much like a tailgate table is only out on weekends."

Olson responded that the tree was a "safety hazard."

Student Council President

Johnny Vroom responded to the issue by citing a Student Council resolution that passed Tuesday evening and aimed to promote effective communication between Lawn residents and University housing.

"We didn't feel it was our place to vote on a bill when Housing hadn't voiced the other side of the argument forbidding the Christmas trees, so we shortened the bill so that it promoted effective communication between the Office of Housing and students who live in University-sponsored housing," Vroom said. "That's something that can help bring about an effective resolution on this matter."

Student responses to the tree removal have been largely negative. "It's just killing the vibe of Christmas," third-year College student Jake Pittman said.

Lawn residents in favor of

keeping the trees recorded a YouTube video titled "UVa Lawn Christmas 2012." It captured the many positive reactions of University students who walked by the decorations on Bachelor's Row.

Housing & Residence Life was not able to be reached for comment on this story despite repeated attempts.

Emily Hutt contributed with

reporting.





Courtesy Virginia Athletics

Coach Steve Garland said freshman George DiCamillo has already become a team leader after just a month of action.

By Matthew Wurzburger Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Sports fans are often overly anxious to appoint the next star. Competitors are showered with undue superlatives, and "once in a lifetime" athletes seem to come

around every decade or so.
Occasionally, an athlete truly deserves all the positive attention. Those around the Virginia wrestling program believe freshman George DiCamillo can

become one of those rare gems. "It sounds cliché, but kids like

George come by once in a lifetime," head coach Steve Garland said. "There aren't too many guys like him out there."

The 133-pounder from Highland Heights, Ohio has demonstrated to coaches his mental toughness, positive attitude and a level of maturity belying his youth. DiCamillo combines these intangibles with an endless well of raw talent and a relentless motor.

Before enrolling at Virginia, DiCamillo starred at St. Ignatius High School. His 152 varsity wins set a school record, and he competed in the Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic and the Dream Team Classic, two of the nation's most prestigious high school competitions.

Yet DiCamillo entered the 2012-13 season planning to redshirt his first year. Only when Joe Spisak moved weight classes and left a void in Virginia's lineup did Garland ask DiCamillo if he wanted to forfeit his redshirt and aid his team. Without hesitation, DiCamillo rose to the occasion.

# Young wrestler amazes squad

Coach Garland lauds freshman DiCamillo's attitude, work ethic after scintillating 2012 season start

"I'm a firm believer that everything happens for a reason," DiCamillo said. "It was a scary thought for me at first, but I embraced it, I took on the challenge, and I've been doing well for myself."

DiCamillo debuted at the UTC Duals in Chattanooga, Tenn Nov. 16. His second match of the day represented an immediate trial by fire as he fought Iowa's Tony Ramos, an All-American and the No. 3 133-pounder in the nation. Although he lost 22-8 by major decision, DiCamillo approached the match fearlessly and earned valuable experience against a vaunted foe.

"He's this big, bad All-American," DiCamillo said. "I went in with the mindset that I would wrestle how I always wrestle and whatever happens happens."

The encounter with Ramos would pay immediate dividends. DiCamillo ousted Virginia Tech's Erik Spjut in a dual meet Nov. 25 before steamrolling much of an elite field at last weekend's Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational en route to a surprising semifinal berth.

Eventually, DiCamillo lost in overtime to No. 2 seed Nathan McCormick of Missouri. He bounced back to claim fifth place, impressing Garland with his resilience.

"I gave him a two-minute speech about putting your armor on because the war isn't over," Garland said. "He's up and ready to go a few minutes later. I would have been a complete wreck when I was his age.'

DiCamillo was seeded sixth heading into the tournament and has hovered around the mid-teens in most weight class rankings all season. Should he continue his sizzling stretch when the Cavaliers return to action Jan. 1, his ranking will likely continue to soar.

Many of the more experienced wrestlers are beginning to look at DiCamillo for leadership as the team heads into a month's worth of rigorous training without formal competition.

"People are following his actions, and his actions are to train really hard, care a whole lot, and fight really hard for every point," Garland said.

Though aware of his relative inexperience, DiCamillo is not shying away from his leadership role. "Knowing that they look up to me doesn't mean I let up at all," DiCamillo said. "It means I have to train harder."

# Virginia visits No. 9 Terps

Boyle challenges front-court to outstrip Hawkins, juggernaut Maryland

By Michael Eilbacher Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Coach Joanne Boyle's Virginia women's basketball squad floundered against an athletic West Virginia team Sunday, but Boyle is hoping Virginia bounces back as the team heads to College Park Thursday for an early ACC matchup against No. 9 Maryland.

"I think our team is good about rebounding back from things," Boyle said. "The girls really respond to watching film and seeing where their mistakes were.

The Cavaliers (5-2, 0-0 ACC) struggled to establish consistency Sunday under the pressure of the Mountaineers' rapid pace and lockdown defense. They will not find much respite as they take on the highly ranked Terrapins (4-2, 0-0 ACC). Despite having suffered two losses, Maryland has averaged almost 23 more rebounds per game than its opponents this season to lead the NCAA.

"They're a very good team, but the game plan is very simple," Boyle said. "You have to be able to battle and board against them, and you've got to be able to get back in transition, and you've got to make them play in the half court. If you can do that, then you're going to be in the game."

For the Cavaliers to curb the Terrapins' dominance in the paint, their post players will need to build on previous success. After logging 33 minutes off the bench Sunday, senior center Simone Egwu returns to the starting lineup Thursday needed height for the team in the paint. She led Virginia Sunday with 14 points.

Egwu will contribute to a Cavalier post rotation that includes sophomore forward Sarah Imovbioh, who currently leads the team in scoring and rebounding with 12.7 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Imovbioh's athleticism has helped power Virginia so far

this season, and the team will be looking to her for continued reliability on the block.

"Our coaches have really challenged the post [players] to come out and play defense," Imovbioh said. "They're a very fast team, and a good rebounding team, so we have to come out to board. Rebounding is something that I love doing, so when the ball goes up, my mind is on the ball."

Maryland has had Virginia's number recently, winning all three matchups against the Cavaliers last year — including a 70-58 win in the ACC quarterfinals. The Terrapins enter Thursday's showdown ready to improve on a Dec. 3 loss to No. 2 Connecticut in Hartford.

"Maryland is always a really exciting game for us," Egwu said. "There's a little bit of a rivalry there, and they're also a very athletic and very talented team. It's going to be a couple of intense days of practice this

To compete against Mary-



Jenna Truong | Cavalier Daily

Junior Ataira Franklin ranks second on the team with 12.1 points per game.

land, Virginia must contain the frontcourt trio of Tianna Hawkins, Alyssa Thomas and Alicia DeVaughn, who have all averaged double-digit points so far. Hawkins' 18.8 points and 10.0 rebounds per game both lead the ACC.

"The big three is the big three," Bovle said. "We're going to have to do our work on all three of them. If we do that, we'll definitely be in the game and have a chance to win it."

The game tips off at 7 p.m. in the Comcast Center.

# **M Bball** | Men outlast Tennessee, tally sixth straight win

Continued from page A1

Cavalier lead back up to eight. Moments later, Evans found junior guard Joe Harris for the team's lone 3-pointer of the night. Virginia extended its largest lead of the game to 15 when Mitchell rebounded and scored on an Evans' miss and Harris added a jumper on an ell said. "I don't know what to

alley-oop inbounds pass from

Then, with Virginia's three best offensive options all clicking for the first time this season, Evans tweaked his foot and exited the game. He did not return.

"I'm just worried for him, being his senior year," Mitch-

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expect. I'm not sure he knows what to expect, so just pray for the best."

The injury changed the tenor of the game. Tennessee responded with a 12-2 run to cut the lead to 38-33 with 7 minutes, 41 seconds remain-

Despite Evans' injury, Virginia was able to close out the win the same

way it built the lead: with stifling defense. Tennessee got no closer than within 4 points of Virginia before Jones' clutch free throws effectively sealed

If Evans is forced to miss more time with his foot injury, the Cavaliers will likely reinsert Jones into the starting lineup. For the first time this season, the Cavaliers used a

starting five devoid of freshmen and used their reserves, all freshmen, sparingly.

Mitchell and Harris once again led the team offensively with 13 points apiece. Sophomore forward Darion Atkins added 8 points with an array of fadeaway jumpers in the paint, and Evans finished with 4 points and four assists.

Virginia held Tennessee to just 6 points for nearly

the first 15 minutes of the first half to build an early 21-6 lead. The Volunteers missed all eight of their 3-pointer attempts, committed nine turnovers and made just eight field goals in the period. But Virginia had its own struggles offensively, managing just 25 points in the 20 minutes on 39 percent shooting.

"Those are two good defensive teams," Bennett said. "Baskets weren't easy to come by. It was physical. We're trying to play tough possession basketball."

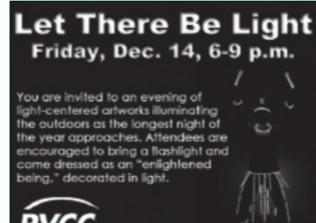
Virginia hosts Mississippi Valley State Saturday and looks to extend its winning streak to

"We've grown up so much," Mitchell said. "We've matured as a team, we've found an identity and with Tony Bennett teams, you know what our identity is."

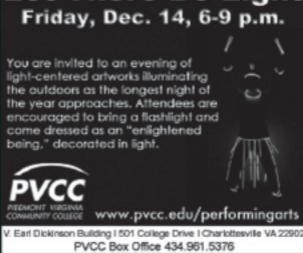


Home, Saturday, 4 p.m.: M Basketball vs. Mississippi Valley State

Away, Thursday, 7 p.m.: Women's Basketball @ Maryland



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december 6, 2012

arts & entertainment

# by ACE staff the best and worst of come a long way since Gigli.

BEST MOVIES:

1. The Dark Knight Rises: 2012 was the year of the blockbuster, and no box office smash soared higher than the latest and greatest entry in the Batman series. Equipped with excellent star turns from Tom Hardy and Anne Hathaway, this instant classic has redefined the superhero movie genre.

2. Skyfall: Agent 007's latest adventure achieves similarly epic heights. Loyalties are tested when Bond takes on one of the franchise's most frightful villains, as well as — perhaps even more frighteningly — the approach

3. 21 Jump Street: This clever comedy may have slipped off the radar for many by the time predestined critical hits such as Zero Dark Thirty and Les Misérables hit theaters, but its adorable sense of humor and its charismatic stars place this 1980s TV program update head and shoulders above the brutally unfunny yet critically adored Silver Linings Playbook.

4. Moonrise Kingdom: Love him or hate him, veteran director Wes Anderson offers up some of the most visually inventive and intricate filmic landscapes in the industry. This sweet story of a blossoming romance between two youngsters combines gorgeous art direction and all-star acting to brilliant effect.

5. Argo: Based on the true story of a CIA mission to rescue a group of American embassy staffers during the Iran hostage crisis, this suspenseful and witty thriller benefits from Ben Affleck's brilliant direction. He's clearly

-by Conor Sheehey

### **WORST MOVIES:**

1. The Vow: A terribly sappy romance filled with clichés, The Vow vows to made us regret spending money to see it in

2. Piranha 3D: A sequel so grossly bad that you wonder why anyone would make it in the first

3. The Lucky One: Zac Efron bums everyone out with his static character in the mediocre

adaptation of the Nicholas Sparks novel. 4. That's My Boy: Adam Sandler and Andy Samberg fall short in this cringeworthy "comedy" about a father-son

relationship. 5. Taken 2: Who would even think of taking on Liam Neeson again, after his kick-ass performance in the much better original *Taken*?

-by Jamie Shalvey



Courtesy/20th Century Fox

### BEST TELEVISION:

1. Homeland: The show that turns TV drama conventions on their heads by seemingly changing the course of the show each week has delivered a second season even more thrilling than

its first. 2. Breaking Bad: The chemistry (pun intended) Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul share on screen is absolutely riveting.

3. Game of Thrones: Possibly the most daring show ever produced on television, Thrones upped the ante in season two. Just see the indescribably epic battle in "Blackwater."

4. New Girl: The dorky, adorable yet positively funny Zooey Deschanel is the new girl in town to take the airwaves by storm in 2012.

5. Modern Family: This hilariously offbeat family still leads the pack of TV comedies. -by Troy Kirwin

**Courtesy ABC** 

### WORST TELEVISION:

1. Two and a Half Men: Charlie Sheen may have been crazy, but at least he

2. American Idol: Will American Idol forever be remembered as the highlight of our childhood, the reality hit that discovered Kelly and Carrie and Jennifer? No. Fox just won't let it die. 3. The Neighbors: Just like your neighbors, only less comical. This sitcom,

which involves a New Jersey family moving into a neighborhood full of aliens named after famous athletes, is the worst new sitcom of the year. 4. Abby & Brittany: TLC's mini-reality series desperately tries to

convince viewers the conjoined twins are just regular college students. Although both Abby and Brittany are likeable girls, the entire show is just in bad taste.

5. Here Comes Honey Boo Boo: As much as I love Alana, the fasttalking, go-go-juice-drinking 6-year-old

beauty pageant sensation, I would be remiss not to include this show. Watching Honey Boo Boo's self-proclaimed redneck clan mud dive and eat roadkill is far from beautimous.

-by Bonni Dinerstein



### BEST ALBUMS:

1. Bloom; Beach House – Fall into yet another Beach House dream when listening to their latest album. The dream may seem familiar, but I'll bet it won't be one of those dreams you wake from having forgotten everything, or anything at all.

2. Channel Orange; Frank Ocean – Take a dive into the sensual depths of the \*uh\* ocean of Frank's latest album, where he constantly battles emotions within his own mind while fascinating himself with the crazy world around him.

3. Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City; Kendrick Lamaar – Filled with odd samples and self-made recordings, Kendrick's latest album lyrically and musically exhibits the rapper's journey from irresponsible adolescence to

4. Blunderbuss; Jack White – Drawing from more than 30 years of work with his various bands, Jack White's 2012 album certainly falls into the mix of great rock albums of history ... but then, doesn't the record of any monumental musician who can put his crazy life into intense lyrics make the cut?

5. The Idler Wheel Is Wiser Than the Driver of the Screw and Whipping Cords Will Serve You More Than Ropes Will Ever Do; Fiona Apple – Well, the epic length of the title would only be sufficiently warranted if this album was actually epic, so thankfully this girl can sing her soul out. -by Madie McDonald

# **BEST ALBUMS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD:**

1. Until the Quiet Comes; Flying Lotus – Both eccentricity of style and seamless production make this masterpiece feel less like a set of discrete tracks and more like a cohesive materialization of a surreal dream, leading you through the rabbit hole and into the universe of Flying Lotus.

2. 'Allelujah! Don't Bend! Ascend!; Godspeed You! Black Emperor – The dramatic instrumentals throughout this thunderous epic build and crescendo, fall into chaotic noise and finally leave behind the crumbled wreckage of what you thought an album can

and should be. 3. Celebration Rock; Japandroids – For those who prefer to power through their angsty freak-outs with unhealthily loud guitar noise and raucous, but sensitive, anthemic

shout-alongs, this one is for you. 4. An Awesome Wave; Alt-J - Within the strange space where digital meets analog,

Alt-J finish their thoughtfully written songs by patching together acoustic Courtesy Interscope Records sounds with sparse electronic influ-

ences, making an album that is, for lack of a better term, awesome.

5. *Lonerism*; Tame Impala – It's one thing when a band gets stuck in a bygone era. It's another thing entirely when a group such as this takes the work of the past, in this case '60s psychedelic rock, and syncretizes it with the styles of the present day, forming something that is new and ultimately exceptional. -by Will Mullany

**BEST SINGLES:** 

1. "Ho Hey"; The Lumineers – Watch out Mumford & Sons. The new-comers in the growing trend of folk rock into the mainstream has made this year's best single, all equipped with catchy choruses and chants.

2. "Boyfriend"; Justin Bieber – The Biebs is back. The incredibly catchy single shows Beiber's maturity, highlighted by his excellent falsetto and rapping skills.

3. "Some Nights"; Fun. – After "We Are Young" was incessantly overplayed over the radio, Fun.'s latest single is the perfect blend of a capella and pure pop, which is refreshing in today's top-40 scene.

4. "Mercy" (feat. Big Sean, Pusha T, & 2 Chainz); Kanye West – 'Ye produces another club banger and has put a Lamborghini on every rapper's Christmas list.

5. "Beez in the Trap" (feat. 2 Chainz); Nicki Minaj – The best single Nicki Minaj has put out since "Did It On 'Em," the current queen of hip-hop dismisses her critics and reminds everyone why she's currently the best female rapper. -by Millicent Usoro

# **WORST SINGLES:**

1. "Call Me Maybe"; Carly Rae Jepson – Although still an incredibly catchy song, the amount of sports teams, celebrities and ordinary people putting their version of this song on YouTube is appalling and way overdone, making it this year's worst single.

2. "Gangnam Style"; Psy – Korean pop has officially arrived in America, but our fascination quickly became an obsession and subsequently ruined a perfectly fun song.

3. "Starships"; Nicki Minaj – This tragic attempt to straddle between pop and hip-hop made many even more confused at her musical identity, making Minaj on both the best and worst list.

4. "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together"; Taylor Swift – I'm pretty sure he never wanted to get together in the first place, Taylor.

5. "Where Have You Been"; Rihanna – The worst single by Rihanna sampled "I've Been Everywhere" and was not really that catchy at all. -by Millicent Usoro

# TOP POP CULTURE MOMENTS:

1. Snooki refuted common beliefs by proving that it is still humanly possible to reproduce after spending a third of one's life in a tanning bed. Early checkups proved the baby was in fact not the spawn of

2. Kristen Stewart, America's favorite "trampire," allegedly cheated on beaux Robert Pattinson, inspiring seismic waves of tears across the nation among teens who apparently forgot that Edward and Bella are fictional characters and thus subject to human things such as high

3. Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez's love affair also came to a close, offsetting all the sadness about the Kristen stuff as millions of tweens resumed planning their weddings to a prepubescent stud who doesn't know they exist.

4. Honey Boo Boo rocked/terrified the country with a charming dose of sass and baby fat. Americans, transfixed by the young pageant queen, remained blissfully unaware that their obsession raised Honey Boo Boo's net worth to \$300,000, giving her a solid foundation to pay the psychiatric/legal fees she is likely to face later in life.

5. Miley Cyrus chopped off her long locks, sending hairdressers worldwide into a state of panic as it became apparent that they had all the expertise of a 4-year-old with a pair of safety scissors. From jail, Lindsay Lohan showed minimal surprise, saying she'd always had this theory that if you cut all Miley's hair off she'd look like a British man.

-by Julia Horowitz

# MOST NOTEWORTHY VIRAL VIDEOS:

1. "Gangnam Style:" The original video has nearly 900 million YouTube views, and well-known remakes — especially the ones with good-looking men — have given this song notoriety and the world a whole new set of dance moves. 2. Every cat video ever: eHarmony Cat Lady started it off in 2011 and

from there, it's just kept rolling. I must say every video I have been shown by a friend in the past few months has to do with a cat meowing in a weird way. I even saw an intriguing one about the proper way to give a cat massage. poor average

3. Honey Boo Boo: This girl is everywhere. From her "Go Go Juice" to her bizarre sayings about food and mud, she and her mother have taken the internet by storm.

4. Kony 2012: This had to be included because, after this summer, there is not a single person on Grounds who has not seen this video. Though controversial for its lack of nuance, there is no doubt that this video deserves a spot in the top five.

5. Instead of a fifth viral video I will suggest that everyone watch at least one Jenna Marbles and/or Dom Mezzetti video and experience the

-by Katie Cole

# **WORST FASHION TRENDS:**

1. The Longchamp bag: Simplement, non. 2. Harem pants: As per my article, a fashion no-go.

3. Bean boots: Unacceptable for both men and women.

4. Neon: Just like drinking — only OK in moderation. 5. Ugg boots with shorts: One word: Heinous.

-by Sofia Economopoulos

### **BEST VIDEO GAMES:** 1. Dishonored: You play a badass assassin with supernatural powers.

Enough said.

2. Halo 4: Though some may argue the Halo series is getting long in tooth, 343 Industries has brought it roaring back, crafting an amazing first-person shooter that will have fans and newcomers alike drooling at their television screens.

3. Mass Effect 3: Arguably one of the greatest role-playing games of all time, Mass Effect's amazing visuals, sprawling story and memorable characters have set the bar high for future sci-fi games.

4. Borderlands 2: Improving upon the formula of its predecessor, Borderlands 2 uses both role-playing elements and old school gunplay to bring us an addicting game with great replay value. 5. Kingdoms of Amalur: Reckoning: Although not well-known, this

title is stellar, combining the fluid combat of an action game with the engrossing story and freedom of choice featured in role-playing games. -by Ben Willis excellent

# INSIDE



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# ONLINE

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A&E Blog: http://cdtablog. tumblr.com/

# **NEXT WEEK**

Good luck with finals, and Нарру Holidays!



by monica mohapatra

Think you've seen the best movie you'll watch this year? Think again: *Wreck-It Ralph* is going to change your 2012 rankings. The Disney — sans Pixar — 3-D CGI film had a \$49.1 million opening weekend, a record for Picney Animation Studies Disney Animation Studios

Wreck-It Ralph's plot is rather "Pixar" — the film is about a day in the life of a video game character — as opposed to that of a toy, rat, car or fish. Although some critics have called out the feature for brand-switching,

Disney lives up to the challenge of going Pixar.

The story follows Ralph (John C. Reilly), a video game character who's tired of being the bad guy in his own video game, Fix-It Felix. So he leaves the game, determined to earn a medal to prove that he, too, can be a good guy. Jumping between games, he comes across the hard-as-rocks sergeant Calhoun (Jane Lynch) from the game Hero's Duty, where he finds a medal and promptly loses it again in his next game, Sugar Rush. Bumbling through the candy-filled fantasy land of the

**Courtesy Walt Disney Animation** latter game, he meets Vannellope Von Schweetz (Sarah Silverman), the sassy little glitch girl banned from

racing in the game. Although a heartrending and convincing character, Ralph was not the film's focus. He is a central point around which the ingenious universe setup and hilarious supporting cast revolve. Silverman as Vannellope and Jack McBrayer as Fix-It-Felix are perfect, in part because of their typecast roles but also thanks to a convincing script. The plot is just as tight as the script, and it's to the writers' credit that the film is surprising, as well as comforting. There is not one moment where you doubt the emotional bond of a couple brought together by drowning in chocolate milk inside a video game about racing through candy. At least once during the movie, you'll find yourself tearing up or laughing riotously. The plot upholds every bit of minutiae imagined by a 40-year-old video game nerd in the writing room and nothing is redundant, from characters' names to

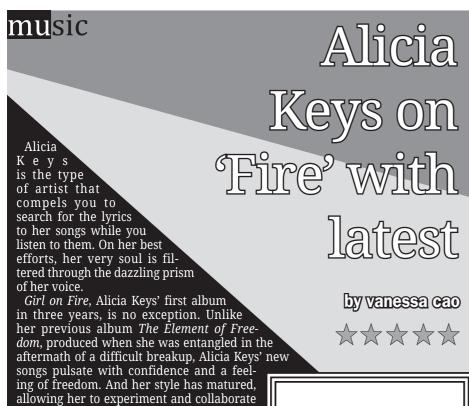
The most exciting part of the film is its retro nostalgia. The incredibly detailed scenes play out like a game of "I Spy," in which you try to recognize as many video game characterists as you can in a 15-second pan. Mario comes

in, Pac-Man makes an appearance, and then you spend some time reminiscing about your first Atari.

Because the art manages to tie together several stylizations, from 8-Bit '80s games to Halo-esque shooter scenes, the movie successfully appeals to a range of

iges.
If nothing else, *Wreck-It Ralph* is worth a watch for the Pixar short that precedes it: a cute little episode at the beginning of a love story. Or the smart Fix-It-Felix online game that comes with the film. But even on its own, *Wreck-It Ralph* is a surprisingly good flick, with endearing characters and artful animation — an easy contender next to the other less-than-shiny animated features from 2012, from *Brave* to *Frankenweenie*.





# **Album Highlights**

"Brand New Me" "Listen to Your Heart"

with other industry stars (Bruno Mars, Frank Ocean, Jamie xx, Nicki Minaj, Emeli Sande, Babyface, Dr. Dre, John Legend and Maxwell) without diluting her own creative

Unlike Alicia Keys' previous works, many of the songs on *Girl on Fire* feature some

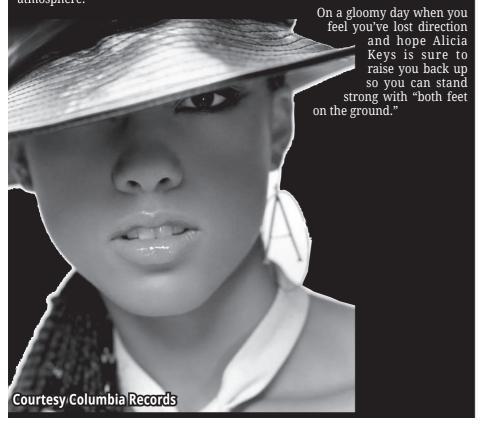
hard beats and a significant amount of

hard beats and a significant amount of jingle-jangle. Alicia Keys draws on both hip-hop and pop, making this latest record one of her most commercially appealing albums yet. Despite the slightly glitzy packaging, her songs have not lost any of their emotional gravitas, resonating deeply with the listener.

"Brand New Me" emerges from the lingering notes of the album's prelude, escalating and soaring to breathtaking heights: "It's been a while, I'm not who I was before / Don't be mad, it's just the brand new kind of me," she sings. "Can't be bad, I found a brand new kind of free." This sense of triumph and strength in the face of adversity norwades her entire album pervades her entire album.

"Listen to 2 Ur Heart" celebrates letting your heart, not mind, take the lead: "You never know until you try / Why so scared, when hearts don't lie / Turn off the world, and close your eyes / Lose yourself, and / Listen to your heart." Her songs are a source of encouragement, lifting the listener's spirits and rekindling faith without being cliché or overly optimistic. You might shed some tears. That's the magic of Alicia Keys

To be fair, like any album, this one does have one or two minor stumbles. The title track, for instance, is a bit jolting at first. What is Nicki Minaj's nasally voice doing in the middle of a poignant Alicia Keys record? Even here, though, the lyrics don't disappoint: "She's living in a world, and it's on fire / Feeling the catastrophe, but she knows she can fly away," continuing the sense of freedom essential to the album's atmosphere.



# music Christina Aquilera: bast her prime?

Christina Aguilera has arguably the best voice in the business right now, and she has the strength and the attitude required to be a premier pop star persona. But she falls short in a number of important ways. Although Aguilera has resided in the music hall of fame for two decades with loud and proud belt-tastic tunes, she seems to be going stale with her latest album *Lotus*, which is sure to disappoint die-hard Christina fans and new-

Lotus lacks fluidity; each song is choppier than the last, and even ballads such as "Best Of Me" and "Blank Page" sound broken up, interrupted too often by the singer's long, albeit impressive runs, which feel out of place in these slow songs.

"Best Of Me" and "Blank Page" fall apart because they come on too strong vocally, whereas club anthems "Let There be Love" and "Your Body" come on too strong in every way. Lyrics such as "I want your love here in the club," "makin' my eyes roll back" ("Let There be Love") and "all I want to do is love your body" ("Your Body") do not appeal to me in any way, shape or form. Aguilera is not Rihanna, and she should not try to be. For goodness sake, Christina was there first. Why would she scrap her "Genie in A Bottle" persona in favor of the skeeziness of "S&M" or "Rude Boy"? Lotus' odd coupling of overthe-top vocals and full-throttle eroticism is just too much.

But it doesn't stop there. No. Aguilera's album has 17 songs on it, and these scattershot tracks offer up more than vocal runs and eroticism. For a number of the record's tunes, the singer adopts an obnoxious Kelly Clarkson-esque angry female persona: "Army Of Me," "Cease Fire," and "Shut Up" are jarring and have all been done before as far as lyrics go.

To be fair, had "Cease Fire" employed fewer runs and gotten rid of a weird angelic choral a capella moment, it just might have worked, since it's a fiery song that fits Aguilera's

incredibly strong voice. Sadly, in true diva fashion, Aguilera put all of herself into this track and left none of her poignant power for the rest of the record.

If the album does have a running theme, it's Aguilera's diva attitude; she seems determined to tell the world she can do what she wants, whether we want to hear her sing about it or not. There's nothing wrong with being a diva, but when it overtakes such a fantastic voice we have a problem. Aguiler vocals can stand on their own, but this latest record indicates that the so-called "Voice" feels driven to prove herself. She's trying too hard to think "outside of the box," as seen in problematic songs such as "Circles" and "Red

# **Album Highlights**

"Cease Fire"

Hot Kinda Love," the latter of which actually gave me a headache.

I hate to be the one to say this, but Aguilera should have stopped making albums when the Boombox went out of style. Her voice remains strong but is not holding up through the years the way that Beyonce's has, largely because of poorly written songs, weird beats and a lack of thematic coherence. Maybe she should pull a Britney and just quit making records to enjoy a spot as a reality TV show judge. Even divas need to know when their time has passed.

classic



excellent

average

good

# Welcome baby: Will and Kate announce pregnancy

'soffa economopoulos

Just in time for the end of my semester at the University, my favorite balding prince and his stunning wife have announced they are expecting a royal baby.
After Kate was admitted to
King Edward VII hospital in
London with acute morning
sickness, officially known as
"hyperemesis gravidarum" "hyperemesis gravidarum," the royal couple was forced to admit the pregnancy, only informing the royal family a few hours before the official announcement. The royal family was overjoyed by the news. So was the rest of world: British Prime Minister David Cameron and other David Cameron and other celebrities such as Cheryl Cole immediately took to their Twitters to congratulate

the royal couple on their impending bundle of joy.
Although the couple wanted to wait until the Christmas holidays to announce the news to the royal family, Kate's illness sped the process along. The duchess' family along. The duchess' family found out this weekend when, after an appearance at her prep school St. Andrew's in Berkshire, Middleton was unable to keep any food or drink down at all — a key symptom of hyperemesis gravidarum. The soon-to-be royal uncle, Prince Harry, currently serving in Afghanistan, was notified by email.

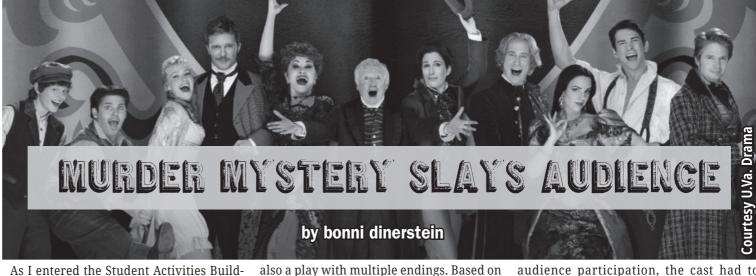
Pregnancy gossip has circulated since before Kate and dear William tied the knot, but I had almost given up

but I had almost given up hope that the two lovebirds would get it together and conceive by the time I graduated from college. But it seems those who sensed a pregnancy after seeing Kate's new hairstyle (the Dutchess of Cambridge now rocks darker locks with a fringe) were right on the money — she is thought to be about eight weeks in. It could have been a lucky guess by the rumor mill, but the new hairstyle is perfectly timed with the important milestone in the duchess's life. The couple's strategic choice of water while attending a gala in Singapore in September was also a hint that Kate was

expecting.
The duchess is expected to remain in the hospital for a few days as a precaution-ary measure. William has been a doting husband, staying with her as she regains her strength. As she's recovering, the media needs to gear up for the challenge to come: documenting the pregnancy, getting the scoops on potential baby names (which dailymail.co.uk has already begun) and the sex of the royal baby.

I look forward to this baby because it means more members of the royal family to stalk — not only will Kate get to redefine maternity wear as we know it, but I also can't wait to see what she's going to do once the child is actually born. The crucial outfit choices (both for her and the baby), how long will it take her to lose the baby weight, the worries that the baby could inherit William's male pattern baldness if it's a boy, or even worse, that he could look like his grandfather Charles are only a tiny serving of what Kate will be forced to anticipate now that the baby is on the way. I have faith, though, that in true waity-Katie fashion, she'll do her prince proud.

poor



ing Sunday evening, I was not sure what to expect. I had seen scores of turquoise posters and T-shirts bearing the First Year Players logo around Grounds throughout the week, and I was intrigued to see if FYP's production of *The Mystery of Edwin* Drood was worth the hype.

The first thing I noticed was the audience. The makeshift theater was packed with students and parents and, surprisingly, some of the actors. Before the show and during the interval, the cast of *Edwin* Drood, appropriately adorned in 19th-century garb, roamed the aisles, striking up conversations with playgoers. These interactions made for an entertaining opening.

The play began with a speech given by the chairman of the Music Hall Royale (Mitchell Minahan). As the entire cast joined him for the first musical number, 'There You Are", it became clear how demanding a task FYP had taken on. Edwin *Drood* is not only a play within a play; it is

also a play with multiple endings. Based on Charles Dickens' unfinished mystery novel of the same name, the play follows the Music Hall Royale ensemble as they enact the story of young Edwin Drood (Rachel Mink), an orphan living in Cloisterham, England. Central to the plot is Edwin's uncle, John Jasper (Zach Showalter), who is in love with his student, Rosa Bud (Willa Sweeney) — another young orphan who just so happens to be betrothed to Edwin.

As a result of this unorthodox take on

audience participation, the cast had to be prepared for a variety of outcomes. Sunday evening, the foreigner Neville Landless (Rishi Malhotra) was cast as Datchery and Reverend Crisparkle (Tim Lewis) was chosen as the murderer. The audience also decided they wanted to see Princess Puffer (Emily Yates), the matron of an opium lair, and Durdles (Dan Barr), a stonemason, to fall in love. I was particularly impressed by the cast's adaptability. Each actor seamlessly transitioned from the world of Cloisterham to the world of the Music Hall Royale, and all flawlessly adapted to the plot modifications. The excellent acting, singing and dancing skills on display made for a number of memorable musical numbers and show-stopping

The extraordinary talent displayed Sunday evening, alone, made watching Edwin Drood a worthwhile experience. When FYP puts on its spring performance, I will certainly be in the audience.

Although the play seems to have all the makings of a Shakespearean tragedy, the antics of the Music Hall Royale actors kept the show light and comical. During the second act, the chairman asks the audience to make three critical plot decisions. The audience then votes for who they would like to see play the part of the detective, Dick Datchery; who they would like to cast as the murderer; and which two characters they would like to see fall in love in the end.

# music Parachute puts on exciting show fit for hometown audience

by shelby gee

If you weren't at the Parachute concerts Nov. 29 and 30 at the Jefferson Theater, you missed out on a high-energy show jam-packed with great music and fantastic performers. The two-night event featured songs from the band's first album on one night and songs from its second album on the second. As a member of the audience the second night, I felt I received more than my money's worth out of the concert, with 17 songs from Parachute and about seven from opener von Grey.

Parachute consists of five young men who are actually from Charlottesville, some of whom are University alums. At one point, lead singer Will Anderson shared an anecdote about how the band's first performances were outside of Miller's, the bar across from the Jefferson. The Charlottesville connection added a friendly, personal

touch to show, and it meant the lucky hometown audience was privy to bonus performances and songs the

band had never performed

The performance started off with opening act von Grey, an alternative band of four sisters from Atlanta, Ga. Ranging from 11 to 17 years old, these girls were pretty much the coolest teenagers ever. They each played several instruments, including the cello, violin, mandolin, banjo, guitar, keyboards and an even a strange electronic drum. Their songs were energetic, albeit containing somewhat creepy lyrics about things like drowning and Gollum from Lord of the Rings. They were also amazing to watch. It felt like we were watching them rocking out at their house.

On the second night, the band played through their full album The Way It Was; all nine songs, as well as five songs from their debut album Losing Sleep, a few cover songs and a new song from their third album, which they are about to start recording. Perhaps the most fun parts of the show were the random jam sessions, for which they brought out their crew members on guitars and keyboard player Kit French jammed on his saxophone. The guys of Parachute were even cool enough to come back on for a 30-minute

Of course, a huge part of the concert experience is the

audience. The audience at the Friday evening show could not have been any more excited to be there. They were all singing along with every word and swooning over the more emotional songs. When the band threw their guitar picks and drumsticks out into the crowd at the end of the night, the expressions on the faces of people who caught them were priceless.

Courtesy Mercury

Fortunately for those who missed it, the band promised to come back after their third album comes out, and everyone should check them out — they give a killer live show. But don't buy all the tickets, because this writer is going to want one, too.



by soffa economopoulos

Lindsanndsay Lohan)

Lindsanndsay Lohan)

Lindsanndsay Lohan)

Model.

Further de Liz & Dick, Lindsan-

ity's (aka Lindsay Lohan) latest attempt at relevance, was an interesting mini-biopic about the love affair between the glamorous Elizabeth Taylor and her co-star/husband Richard Burton. A Lifetime original movie, I was initially surprised at how well-made Liz & Dick was. Compared to the Will and Kate special I reviewed two years ago, Liz

& Dick is Oscar-worthy material. Beginning on the set of 1963's Cleopatra, where the two stars fell in love, the film successfully chronicles the story of the movie stars, from steamy start to Burton's death in Switzerland. Grant Bowler plays the dashing Richard Burton, who claimed he was smitten with the violet-eyed Taylor after he saw her at a Hollywood party before they ever even worked on Cleopatra together. Bowler's per-

formance was fantastic. He carries the film playing the sexy Brit who drove Elizabeth mad with passion and love but also jealousy and rage. From his masculine voice to his passionate looks at Lohan's Elizabeth, you almost feel as if you are watching the real Burton act out a piece chronicling his own life.

The same, however, cannot be said of Lohan. Although I thought they did a terrific job making her look like Elizabeth Taylor, she sounded far too much like herself and didn't match her costar's natural ease of performance. Her memorable shout of "I'm so bored" while on hiatus post-Cleopatra sounded more like a childish Lohan temper tantrum rather than an outburst worthy of the great Elizabeth Taylor. She slips in and out of a shaky accent that also made it hard for the audience to see her as anything more than a cheap imitation of the real Elizabeth. Her performance reminded me of a young girl trying desperately to grow up and impress the world by

naively impersonating her role

Further detracting from the authenticity of her portrayal is her appearance. Lohan allegedly refused to gain weight to play the curvy Taylor, nor did she don any pads to add weight to her middle or her butt. During the scenes when the tabloids were making fun of Taylor's weight, Lohan looks more waifish than voluptuous, and considering the amount of alcohol she and Burton drank on a daily basis, it is impossible that her body would have been completely unaffected by her The drinking was one of the more

darkly humorous parts of the movie with zingers like, "It's 8 a.m., and they're already drinking — let's do the take while they're still standing," from one of their directors; or "Two Bloody Marys, please. Oh, hello, Richard, I just ordered breakfast," from Taylor.

They could have picked a better title, as nowhere in the movie is Richard Burton referred to as Dick, and Elizabeth Taylor is called Liz only a few times. Still, I think this movie is interesting enough to take the time to

watch, especially for fans of the classic pair — but lowering your expectations will help. **Courtesy Lifetime** 

average 🥎 good excellent

# Opinion Thursday, December 6, 2012



# The Cavalier Daily

"For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it."

—Thomas Jefferson

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# House of cards

A new initiative by the Obama administration should implement a think tank's suggested changes

When President Barack Obama's administration announced the "college scorecard" in February, the initiative was lauded as a crucial first step in giving students better information about colleges. The scorecard — which is still in the planning stages — aims to be a one-page fact sheet displaying statistical data. Each card will assess the average cost, the graduation rate, the average loan and rate of loan repayment, in addition to the potential earnings that graduates obtain by at U.S. institutions. Then, each college would have its own scorecard that students could examine online. The Center for American Progress, however, has released a new study, "Improving the College Scorecard: Using Student Feedback to Create an Effective Disclosure," that polled focus groups to describe how the scorecard still needs improvement. The government would be well-advised to take the center's recommendations before unveiling its proj-

The Obama administration's goal in designing the scorecard was to provide students something that was clear and straightforward. Given that there is so much information about colleges, the president hoped that students could examine all the relevant facts in one useful location. But critics say the cards are confusing in their simplicity.

According to the report, the main problem students had with the scorecard was confusion about its purpose. Many of the students were not immediately certain what the scorecard was, exactly. The government logos only added to students' frustration, rather than making the cards look official. The study thus first recommends that each card offer information about

the scorecard initiative itself. Each card presents five rows of information about the college in question. The study argues that the metrics used need improvement. For instance, the scorecards present information about the six-year graduation rate of each institution, to the distress of many students who are concerned only about the four-year graduation rate. The report thus suggests that the four-year graduation rate also be tabulated.

Next, the report criticizes the scorecards for not explaining the matter of price. Currently, each scorecard shows the "net price" of each institution — a term unfamiliar to some. Net price is the cost of tuition for students after accounting for aid. Moreover, the cards mention nothing whatsoever about financial aid possibility or the cost of living expenses.

Lastly, the report found that students wanted more customization. Rather than just list the average tuition or average earning of graduates, the scorecards would better equip students if they had specifics according to major.

On the whole, the scorecard project could largely prove a success. Still, though, it is important the government finalize design changes now before the cards are put into practice — if they keep making adjustments after the cards are created, it could prove detrimental. The White House nevertheless deserves credit for making the scorecard template public, so groups like the center could suggest a host of improvements. Its recommendations should be implemented before the project is finished.

**Editorial Cartoon** by Peter Simonsen

# Headed down to Mexico for Winter Break Brah! I'm so stoked and totally amped.



I'm stamped,

### Featured online reader comment

"It's called an Op-Ed. Was someone holding a gun to your head while you read it?"

"SJ," responding to Meredith Berger's Dec. 2 column, "The end is

### THE CD

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To better serve readers, The Cavalier Daily has an ombudsman to respond to questions and concerns regarding its practices. The ombudsman writes a column, published every week on the Opinion pages based on reader feedback and his independent observations. He also welcomes queries pertaining to journalism and the newspaper industry in general.

The ombudsman is available at ombud@cavalierdaily.com.

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**FORREST BROWN** 

**OPINION COLUMNIST** 

# A general method

General education requirements provide academic direction for undergraduates

SHLEY SPINKS' Dec. 2 column, "A more liberal education," argues that the general education requirements here at the University are mis-

guided and unnecessary. The crux of her argument is

that these requirements restrict students from fully exploring their own interests outside or in support of their major, that they are overly subjective in their content and often unnecessary and finally that they indicate a lack of trust in students to act like adults and choose their own classes. In many ways I agree in my college search a heavy load of core classes was offputting. But I do not think that the idea of general education is a bad thing either, especially in a moderate form. I believe in the basic philosophy embodied by general requirements and a liberal arts education: that all fields of study, regardless of major, profession or interests, will be useful and worthwhile later in life.

The author's first point is that she did not need core classes to engage in a variety of fields, because she was already interested in various subjects and would have been more excited by self-directed academic exploration. She notes that the credit hours consumed by these

classes could be used for an additional major or for classes that

relate to but are not part of an intended major, such as bioethics or public policy for pre-med students. These concerns are valid, but a creative approach to required classes can alleviate them. Just because a class is a general requirement does not mean it cannot also be applied to a major. By creating an overlap between general and major requirements, it is certainly possible to add a major or minor without undue difficulty.

as conducive, in my opinion, as an open curriculum to taking the peripheral classes that do not directly contribute to a major. A pre-med student seeking to support his or her education in a variety of fields should simply fulfill each requirement with that goal in mind: public policy could go toward social sciences, bioethics for humanities, etc.

And with this approach, stu-

And requirements can be just

dents would be unable to avoid certain fields that they dislike even though these fields may have unexpected applications in their field of study. Although this

may not be as "inspiring" to students, it is helpful preparation for life, where no job will be completely

satisfying and enjoyable all the

Ashley's second point is that general requirements are overly arbitrary and can often be unnecessary and inapplicable to future careers. She specifically balks at the fact that almost a quarter of the University's requirements are in math and science and does not see how a major such as theater would find those courses useful. Here I strongly disagree. For starters, I think less than 25 percent of general classes being math and science is way too low. These fields are arguably the most directly applicable to adult life. Regardless of your profession, you need to be able to balance a checkbook, make smart purchases, calculate tips, budget travel time, convert measure-

ments, adjust recipes and generally use math and logic to solve problems. Even the worst cooks need to know how much water to add to their ramen. Science

"It is not always obvious

what skills will be needed or

helpful in the future."

can help you eat healthier, understand how and why you make decisions, use technology with some

comprehension of how it works, avoid illness, explain natural phenomena that have both direct and indirect impacts on your life and deal with numerous other universal concerns. As a citizen, being able to talk intelligently about scientific issues is necessary to making informed decisions.

This general applicability is true of all fields — having a variety of knowledge gives you an enhanced and more complete perspective for approaching any problem in your career or your life in general. My grandfather planned to major in journalism but became a chemical engineer. Despite the change, he still values his education in writing, because he was able to express complex concepts in his work

more efficiently and clearly than many of his colleagues. It is not always obvious what skills will be needed or helpful in the

The author's last point is that as adults, we deserve more respect and freedom in our academic choices. This is fair, but also overlooks the fact that just like core classes, some aspects of life are unavoidable. Paying bills is unavoidable. Being able to communicate effectively is useful in any field. Economic and environmental issues will have direct impacts on your life regardless of your understanding of each subject. Being forced to tackle all of these challenges in coursework, regardless of how boring, difficult and unnecessary they may seem, is preparation for a world where the next obstacle will not always be the one we anticipated. By preventing selfinduced informational isolation, core requirements make us more ready to enter into a complex world with more than a few requirements of its own.

Forrest Brown's column appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at f.brown@cavalierdaily.com.

# Life over limb

There is a longstanding precedent of sacrificing Constitutional rights in times of need

URING the global war on terror of the early to mid-2000s, the Bush administration presided over a significant expansion of tioned by the Constitution and governmental

powers in order **RUSSELL BOGUE** to prosecute ter-**OPINION COLUMNIST** rorists threatening

our national security. These measures included helping to pass through Congress the Patriot Act — which allowed wiretapping of phones without a warrant — the opening of Guantanamo Bay and the use of "enhanced interrogation techniques" on suspected terrorists. In so doing, Bush helped to reopen a debate on the use of extra-constitutional prerogative. That debate is about whether the executive use of extra-constitutional powers should be allowed if so doing would enhance national security and safeguard the rights of the American people during powers was most visible during the Civil War, during which time President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus and issued the Emancipation Proclamation, both considered outside his jurisdiction. Although critics contend that working outside the Constitution is morally wrong and dangerous for the liberty of American citizens, they have missed the fundamental purpose of the Constitution. Extraconstitutional action by the executive in times of national crisis is both implicitly sanc-

necessary for the functioning of our government.

As a document made to preserve the future rights of citizens, the Constitution would undermine its very purpose by restricting efforts to protect those rights. Our founding document has two fundamental natures: the idealistic goal of asserting the natural rights of every man, and the pragmatic recognition that rights need laws and institutions to back them up to have any meaning. The Constitution recognizes that laws without the moral compass of a Bill of Rights are dangerous and arbitrary. and rights without a framework of enforceable law are meaningless ideals. Its purpose is not merely an exposition of rights but rather a promise to preserve these rights for future generations through the structure of a democratic government guided by individual liberties. The logic, then, becomes straightforward: The Constitution, in promising to preserve our future rights, necessarily promises to preserve ment to rights, therefore, does not oppose but rather supports extra-constitutional actions in times of crisis, for it recognizes that the Constitution implicitly

sanctions any action that will preserve the document for future generations.

Lincoln eloquently summarizes the

argument through his famous "life-limb" metaphor: "By general law life and limb must be protected; yet often a limb must be amputated to save a life; but a life is never wisely given to save a limb." Lincoln's goal was to justify his decision to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in an attempt to retain the Union. If the Constitution and Bill of Rights are the body, then an individual law or right would be a limb of that body. In moments of crisis, it is better to sacrifice a limb — i.e., use prerogative to suspend a peacetime right — to preserve the entire nation than to risk the destruction of the Union to maintain just one right. What is the use of steadfastly defending a single right, or even several rights, against temporary abridgment if the longerterm consequence is a loss of all rights altogether? Would we not

be undermining the very Constitution we seek to uphold by refusing to allow every possible recourse for its protection? But if the executive is to enact

"In moments of crisis, it is better to sacrifice a limb...

than to risk the destruction

of the Union."

these measures and also define the parameters under which its powers must expand, the potential for abuse is

significant. A president could very easily decide that any war justified expanding his powers to deal with the threat to the United States. The only way to mitigate this threat is to make the parameter for implementing extra-constitutional policies strict necessity, and nothing else. A president must be able to make a case to any reasonable man that his actions are justified as necessary for protecting the nation's security and the secur ing of the rights of American citizens. It may well be that the Civil War is the only crisis in U.S. history in which the continuity of the Union and the principles of the Constitution were in danger; or, modern day terrorists may pose a significant and creative enough threat. In any event, the efficacy or existence of the Constitution itself must be at stake to justify extra-constitutional action by the executive. Only in such moments of great national crisis, such as the Civil War, can actions that contradict the peacetime Constitution become lawful in order to preserve the Union. Once the crisis has passed, such actions can no longer endure.

Although this argument takes root from the actions of a president more than 150 years ago, it has applications today. The United States faces new threats every day. Our enemies are creative, ideologically driven to hate our precepts and amorphous in identity. Dealing with them requires aggressive action on multiple fronts, both abroad and at home. Whether or not the current war on terror constitutes a national crisis is up for debate. It is not a stretch, though, to contend that the nature of the war poses unique and powerful threats to the rights of our citizens, and protecting our nation will require thinking outside the constitutionally-delineated box set up by our Founders. This issue, though historic by nature, is one that Americans will have to grapple with for centuries to

Russell Bogue's column appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at r.bogue@cavalierdaily.com.

# Five angry men

Reforming juries in honor cases is unnecessary and would ensure Committee members have undue say

REVIOUS columns defend ing a proposal to reform Honor Committee juries have criticized student jurors for being unengaged, easily

duped by guilty defendants who lie their way through

the system, and reluctant to convict out of not wanting to impose the single sanction. The proposed jury reform would compose honor juries of Committee members, rather than the 12 random students that most defendants currently choose.

I don't know what has happened at the overwhelming majority of honor trials that are held in secret, but I do know what happened at the open trial I attended. Two students were accused of cheating on a biology exam. Despite the gravity of the situation everyone in the room was cool and professional throughout. The jurors were quite attentive and active in questioning the witnesses, 11 of them asking at least three questions each. At the end of the trial, the defendants seemed to be guilty, and the jury returned a guilty verdict.

None of the criticisms of student jurors were present, so how do we know that such criticisms are accurate? We have only the opinions of the Committee members

our nation and government to protect those rights. A commit-

themselves, the FRANK BELLAMY very people asking us to imbue them **GUEST VIEWPOINT** with additional power, because nobody else sees the trials or the evidence.

> Aside from the limited evidence supporting the proposed jury reform, there are significant problems. The point of an honor trial is to figure out the truth, not to convict anyone accused, so if composing honor juries of Committee members served that goal, those accused would expect innocent defendants to prefer juries of Committee members. Yet in the three semesters for which reports are available on the Committee's website, not a single defendant has chosen a jury composed entirely of Committee members. It is not hard to guess why. Who would want to be judged by people who have chosen to devote a significant amount of their time to punishing liars, cheaters and thieves? Who would want to be judged

by people who have seen several trials before, and may therefore be less attentive than a new juror with a fresh pair of eyes?

Further, the significance of an act of lying,

cheating or stealing is at the heart of an honor offense. One of the elements of an honor offense,

which a jury must find beyond a reasonable doubt in order to convict, is that open tolerance of the act would be inconsistent with the community of trust. Is stealing a can of Coke from a vending machine that threatening to the community of trust? Answering "present" for an absent classmate? Presenting fake ID to buy alcohol? These are questions that the honor system entrusts to randomly selected student jurors, and to which those jurors are entitled to answer "no" if they choose. The proposed jury reform would remove them from random student jurors and place them in the hands of individuals who have dedicated significant amounts of

their college careers to punishing liars, cheaters and thieves. And there is historical evidence that this distinction matters. In 1944 the Committee declared

false mustering — there were a lot of "Who would want to be judged by people who...may naval cadets therefore be less attentive training here than a new juror..." during the war honor offense,

despite the student body having voted by a ratio of 14 to 1 the previous year that it should not be. So placing the determination of the significance of an act of lying, cheating or stealing in their hands ought to be something we would all

object to. A final problem with the proposed jury reform derives not from who the jurors would be, but from how many there would be. Reducing the number from 12 to 5 would significantly reduce the diversity of a jury. The probability of finding a fraternity or sorority member on a jury of five random University students is only 67 percent, versus 93 percent on a jury of 12. And

if the allegation is that the student plagiarized from fraternity archives, having someone in the jury room who understands how fraternities work might be important. The probability of finding an African American student on a jury of five random University students is only 34 percent, versus 63 percent for a 12 person jury. And if the allegation is that the student lied about being racially profiled, that might

be important. When it comes time to vote in the spring, students will likely be presented with one up or down vote on two different reforms to honor, jury reform and a much more promising informed retraction option. To give students the opportunity to vote separately on these two reforms, to approve informed retraction while rejecting jury reform, we must petition to get informed retraction on the ballot separately. I have created a Facebook group, Students for Informed Retraction, to facilitate that petition. I hope to see you

Frank Bellamy is a student in the Law School.

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# Love Connection

Social etiquette faux pas, crossed lines makes for awkward first-date experience

### Antonio, 2nd year Chemistry Major

University involvement: Rowing, Chi Alpha, Army ROTC, College Republicans

Hometown: Fairfax, Va.

Ideal date person: Fun, outgoing, athletic Ideal date: Dinner and a walk in the park

If you could date any celebrity, who would it be? Alex Morgan

**Deal breakers:** Fat, smells bad or smokes

**Describe a typical weekend:** Crew practice in the morning, hanging out with friends, getting homework done and going out.

Hobbies: Reading, chilling with friends, piano (when I have access to one), sports (and anything physical)

If your dating life was a primetime or reality show, what would it be? "Dancing with the Stars

Have you ever streaked the Lawn? Yep, on multiple occasions

What makes you a good catch? (It's OK to brag): Girls have told me on multiple occasions that I have a cute smile. I am also really fun to hang out with. *Describe yourself in one sentence:* I talk a lot.

# Friday Night, Boylan

Heidi: Well, I love doing fun things like this, being set up and meeting new people.

Antonio: My friend dared me [to fill out the

Heidi: [When they told me] it was like "finally!" but also why is this coming at 1:30 a.m.?

Antonio: I mean, it's U.Va, so I expect at least decently attractive and smart, and she was, and I didn't set my expectations too high. I expected to have at least something in common.

**Heidi**: So I walk up and recognize him and I'm like, "Oh! OK!" I have him come down the steps and we introduce ourselves, start chatting and walk toward

Antonio: She didn't even know my name so we introduced ourselves. She asked if I was there for Love Connection, and so then we decided [to go] to Boylan for dinner. Turns out our waitress was someone I knew from my first-year dorm (Courtenay) and she knew her too. I thought Heidi was cute, well-dressed, [and] seemed well-spoken. I believe a first impression is important. I would say yeah, she is my type. She seemed like she was in very good shape.

**Heidi**: I knew he was the type who friended people before first year started, I see him around sometimes riding his bike, so I sort of already formulated a first impression from first year ... He could have been more receptive to me — he kind of cut me off sometimes in conversation. He was well-dressed though. Antonio: Money really wasn't a huge issue because

I just got my paycheck from the Army, so I threw out hey, how about Boylan? — and she agreed.

**Heidi**: I thought we might go to Michael's Bistro if he's "trying to spend some money" but instead we go to Boylan. On the walk over he was talking about his night before — some kind of Republican convention. Cotillion rules state that you do not talk about certain subjects, especially on a first date, such as politics. He talked about money. He talked about politics. He's a hard-core Republican.

Antonio: We shared a dessert, ate from the same plate. She paid for her meal, but when we shared the dessert I paid for it.

**Heidi**: I thought if the guy is trying to make a good

Heidí, 2nd year Planning and German Major

University involvement: Sigma Kappa sorority, Chi Alpha, club cross-country, U.Va. Ambassadors volunteer, random seminars and events found on EngageUVA listserv.

Hometown: Leesburg/Purcellville, Va.

*Ideal date person:* Just generally good-looking and athletic, kind-hearted, Christian, funny, confident, worldly/sophisticated, gentlemanly, likes to dance and laughs at my corny jokes!

*Ideal date:* An evening in a city on the water — dinner at a cool restaurant with live jazz music (where we can dance a little), walking around and looking at fun things surrounding us, grabbing dessert, going for a spontaneous boat ride to look at the city lights and stars.

If you could date any celebrity, who would it be? Michael Bublé, Frank

Sinatra, Enrique Iglesias, Joseph Gordon-Levitt is pretty adorable too. *Deal breakers?* Smoker, negative outlook, sloppy (dress), crude/immature

Describe a typical weekend: I go out Thursday, Friday, Saturday usually attend a pre-game or two at friend's apartments, go to frats or bars, or hang out on the Lawn. I also try to go downtown during the day sometimes to shop or attend something cultural.

Hobbies: Socializing, working out, exploring the University/Charlottesville (I love going to the A-school or art museum), I like to listen to music and have dance parties, often by myself so that things can get really funky ... also, nature is great to look at and appreciate.

If your dating life was a primetime or reality show, what would it be?

"The Bachelorette" or "Secret Prince" sound sort of close.

\*Have you ever streaked the Lawn? Yes, twice. But my best streaking experience didn't occur on the Lawn.

What makes you a good catch? (It's OK to brag): I'm constantly smiling and in a good mood, easy to make laugh, very friendly and nice, flirtatious, well-dressed, can dance and have good manners, I can talk to anyone and am very enthusiastic, and I have some solid (funny) stories.

Describe yourself in one sentence: Hi, I'm super sociable and enthusiastic

and a great catch and I just want to explore the world and meet people.

impression and do the gentlemanly thing that he would pay, especially since he was talking about his new check coming in.

**Antonio**: I flirted a little bit. [I think she flirted with

me] a little bit, not overly. **Heidi**: I was not flirting, I don't know about him. I didn't pick up any flirtation on his part. He did move his chair closer to mine; we were sort of sitting across from each other and then he sort of moved closer.

Antonio: We got the dessert, walked out, then she had to go back to the library. [I got a] goodbye hug, got her number, went back to my apartment; it ended well. I'd rate the date about an 8.

**Heidi**: I would rate the date a 6.5. He had some big shoes to fill after a lot of my dates. I mean, the most lively things got was when we connected about the not liking people who smoke.

Antonio has since friended Heidi on Facebook, but no love on the horizon yet.

—compiled Alexander Stock

# Top 10 Things this Holiday Season

By Annie Mester | CAVALIER DAILY COLUMNIST

# 1. Tacky Christmas sweaters:

With Christmas a few weeks away and everyone wanting to procrastinate before finals, what better way to do so than with a tacky Christmas sweater party? You can find them almost anywhere: a thrift shop, your grandma's closet or that girl down the hall who wears them year-round and you're not sure if she's being ironic. The holiday season is all about the red, green and extravagant, so bonus points for anything sparkly, 3-D or my favorite: matching pants.



# CHRISTMAS TREE SMELL:

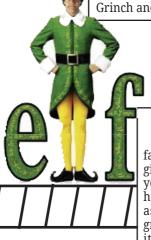
There are few things more comforting than the smell of pine needles from a Christmas tree. The scent can fill up a whole room. It simultaneously reminds me of home, cookies, Santa and a time of no stress, all things most college students are craving right now. A Christmas tree is the best-looking air freshener out there and worth the inevitable pine-needle mess you'll still be cleaning up come February.



# 5. Department store

decorations: Growing up near New York

City, it has always been an exciting thing to walk down Fifth Avenue and look at the extravagant department store displays. It makes knowing you'll never be able to afford those beautiful \$500 shoes in the window a little less painful. Closer to Grounds, the Downtown Mall is decked out for the holidays, sporting a huge Christmas tree and countless Christmas lights. It's worth taking a break from studying to walk around and soak in all the Christmas spirit.



**4.** ABC Family Christmas movies: Topping off my bucket list of important things I wish to accomplish in this lifetime is watching all 25 days of ABC Family's Christmas. I dare you to find one person who knows a better way of spending a night than watching movies such as "Elf" and "Home Alone." Probably one of Will Ferrell's best movies, you haven't lived unless you've seen "Elf" at least five times. Watching these movies will do wonders for any bad mood you have. It's hard not to smile at a furry Grinch and Taylor Momsen before she turned totally emo.

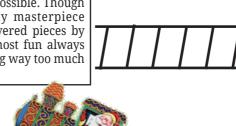


### 3. CHRISTMAS FÕÕD: Full disclosure: I have never

had eggnog, but, I have had an eggnog milkshake from McDonald's, which is almost the same thing. Other holiday foods no one can live without: peppermint bark, peppermint schnapps, Starbucks' peppermint mochas, peppermint anything, the breakn-bake cookies with little Santas on them, hot chocolate, chocolate reindeer and pecan pie. In the words of Buddy the Elf, "We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup."

# 6. Gingerbread houses: Gingerbread houses are probably my

favorite part of Christmas. You enjoy making gingerbread houses just as much in college as you did in elementary school. Gingerbread houses are all about creativity and fitting as many M&M's on three square inches of graham cracker as humanly possible. Though it was always inevitable my masterpiece would end up in frosting-covered pieces by the end of the process, the most fun always came from laughing and eating way too much of it with friends and family.



### 7. Christmas music:

I could probably write an entire top 10 dedicated to the work of art that is Michael Bublé's Christmas album. I have been blasting it from my room since my last bite of Thanksgiving turkey. Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You" is another classic and a must-have on any good Christmas playlist. And, as much as it pains me to admit it, "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber is an absolute guilty pleasure. Other notable mentions are the Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Pandora station and all Christmas songs as remixed by Alvin and the Chipmunks.

# 9. Unwrapping presents:

Everyone has his or her most horrific/best-ever gift stories. The best thing about unwrapping presents is that you never really know what's inside them. No matter how many times you shake it or how many times you beg your parents to just tell you, please!, the element of surprise is exciting. The opposite is true, too — the look on your friend's face as she unwraps the perfect gift you've been dying to give her for months is unparalleled by anything else

# 10. A holiday romance:

Think of the holidays as a final preseason game before the big leagues: Valentine's Day. Things not to do: carry mistletoe with you everywhere and hold it over random people and demand they kiss you, or take a hint from Justin Timberlake by giving your special someone a "D\*ck in a Box." Things to do: serenade them with Christmas carols, make them a snowman or help pick out the perfect tree.

# 8. No school:

Fall break never lasts long enough. Thanksgiving break always leaves you feeling 20 pounds fatter and 500 percent more worried about impending exams. Christmas break is truly a time to relax with family and friends without having any work or school-related things to think about. Little compares to waking up in your own bed at one in the afternoon not having accidentally missed a class.

