

The Cavalier Daily

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Cloudy. High 44, Low 31 See A3 www.cavalierdaily.com Volume 123, No. 82 Distribution 10,000



In emails obtained by the Washington Post, University President Teresa Sullivan reacted strongly to a list of 65 strategic goals from University Rector Helen Drags, above, during an exchange of messages in early February.

Sequester cuts hit U.Va.

Pell Grants left untouched; research, medical expenses expect funding decline

By Audrey Waldrop
Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

The sequester developed by President Barack Obama and Congress during the August 2011 debt crisis went into effect Friday after legislators failed to reach a budget compromise. The plan, which Politics Prof. James Savage said implements an “across-the-board cut in unprotected programs in the central budget,” was originally slated to take effect in December 2012, until last-minute deals gave Congress three additional months to work out an agreement. Though the sequester is a product of D.C. politics,

students can expect the federal budget cuts to impact their lives at the University. Non-defense agency budgets for the 2013 fiscal year will now be cut by 5.1 percent, said University vice president for research Thomas Skalak. Protected programs, such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will not cut back on services, though starting April 1 Medicare payments to doctors will decrease by 2 percent, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Additionally, Pell Grants, the largest federal grant program for undergraduate students, will not be affected.

Last Thursday Skalak advised the University research community, which relies on funding from a variety of federal agencies, to “encourage all Deans and Schools to prepare for back-up funding for special needs.” The National Science Foundation, which offers substantial grants to the University, will not cut this year’s funding, but sequestration cuts will force the organization to significantly reduce the number of awards offered in future years, Savage said. The National Institute of

Please see **Sequester**, Page A3

Sullivan, Board tensions rise

Email exchange reveals dispute about University goals; President calls Rector’s agenda ‘micromanagement’

By Alia Sharif
Cavalier Daily Associate News Editor

An email exchange obtained by the Washington Post between University President Teresa Sullivan and Rector Helen Dragas concerning goals for the academic year reveal a continuing divide between the University’s leading officials. “I am not averse to stretch goals, but I also do not care to be set up to fail,” Sullivan wrote in a Feb. 6 email to Board members, referring to a list of 65 goals for the University that Dragas sent to Sullivan on Feb. 2. Sullivan sent the Board of Visitors what she referred to in the emails as “detailed” goals for Board approval back in November, and criticized the Board’s response for both its scope and its substance. “You sent me 65 goals, 22 of which I had never before seen and which no one had previously discussed with me,” Sul-

livan wrote. “[O]ther flagship university presidents typically have a one-page list of six or seven high-level strategic goals to accomplish within one year.” Sullivan accused Dragas of “micromanagement,” and the provision of unattainable goals, adding Dragas had not given her adequate time to prepare before the Feb. 20 Board meeting. “Four of [the goals] require me to prepare and present something at the February Board meeting, for which the posting deadline occurs in less than one week,” she wrote. Sullivan also criticized the list of goals for omitting increasing faculty salaries, which she said was one of her top priorities. The Board approved the goal of increasing faculty salaries in its February session. “On June 10, [2012], Helen [Dragas] cited inaction on faculty salaries as a reason to ask for my resignation, even though

Please see **Emails**, Page A3



Dillon Harding | Cavalier Daily

Sequester cuts began to take effect after Congress failed to find a compromise to avoid them. University scientific and medical research is likely to suffer.



Bob Schieffer, the host of CBS’ “Face the Nation,” addressed students in Politics Prof. Larry Sabato’s class Monday afternoon about the nation’s partisan gridlock.

Schieffer critiques D.C.

“Face the Nation” host discusses current partisan gridlock, journalism career

By Maggie Ambrose
Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

Bob Schieffer, longtime journalist and host of CBS’s weekly news broadcast “Face the Nation,” spoke to Politics Prof. Larry Sabato’s Introduction to American Politics class Monday afternoon. Schieffer offered anecdotes from his 50-year career in journalism, and addressed the current situation in American politics, or what he called “the mess that we find ourselves

in.” The seasoned reporter said he went into journalism “for the reason your professor will tell you not to get a job — it was just so much fun.” He also recounted memorable moments from his time in the news business, including hearing former president Richard Nixon make a joke about outhouses. He then moved on to discuss the current state of the American political system. “I have been in Washington

for 45 years and working for CBS News — I have not seen a situation where the government has become as totally dysfunctional,” Schieffer said. “[Washington is now about] arguing and putting out press releases, and playing the blame game ... The rest of the country has been left to itself.” Schieffer said pollsters and consultants make politicians lose contact with the people

Please see **Schieffer**, Page A3

Cavs drop weekend pair

After humbling defeat to top-ranked Terps, squad falls just short against PSU

By Matthew Morris
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Playing in Charlottesville for the first time this season, the No. 12 Virginia women’s lacrosse team suffered a decisive 18-10 defeat against No. 1 Maryland Friday evening and failed to complete a late rally in a captivating 15-14 loss to No. 10 Penn State Sunday afternoon. The Cavaliers (2-3, 0-1 ACC) dropped to 1-3 against top-10 competition this season. The matchup with Maryland (5-0, 2-0 ACC) marked the 54th encounter between the two

traditional ACC powers, and in the first half, the game featured all the intensity expected for such a storied rivalry. The Teraps repeatedly established narrow leads, but Virginia did not allow the game to tilt much in their favor. Even after senior attacker Alex Aust notched her third score of the half to give Maryland a 7-4 edge with seven minutes left, free position scores by sophomore attacker Casey Bocklet and junior attacker Ashlee Warner, sandwiched around another Maryland score, trimmed the lead to 8-6 at the break.

“You know, in the first half when Maryland scored, we tended to score right away,” Virginia coach Julie Myers said. “We didn’t really let them build their lead that much in the first half.” The second half unfolded quite differently. In the first 10 minutes after halftime, the Teraps scored seven goals, with reserve sophomore attacker Kristen Lamon notching four. In the same span, Virginia produced only two scores of its own

Please see **W Lacrosse**, Page A5



Chris Jacobson | Cavalier Daily

Sophomore attacker Casey Bocklet totalled nine points this weekend but could not spur Virginia to victory against Maryland or Penn State.

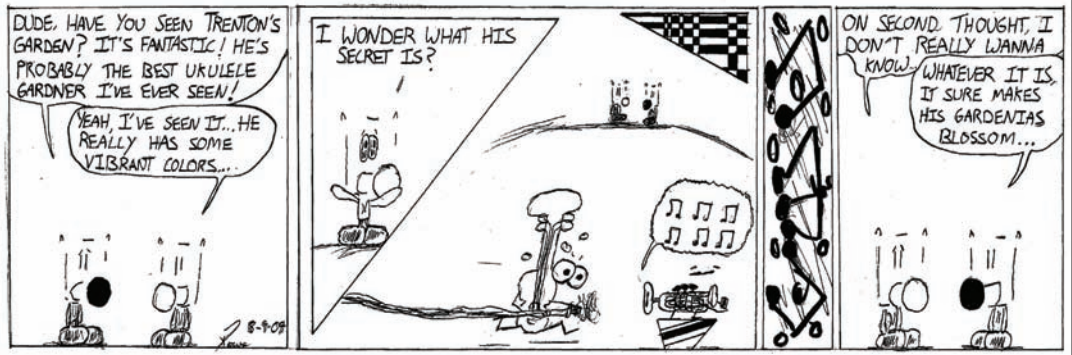
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Comics A3
Opinion A6
Life A8

DJANGEO BY STEPHEN ROWE



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



SOLE SURVIVOR BY MICHAEL GILBERTSON



RENAISSANCING BY TIM PRICE



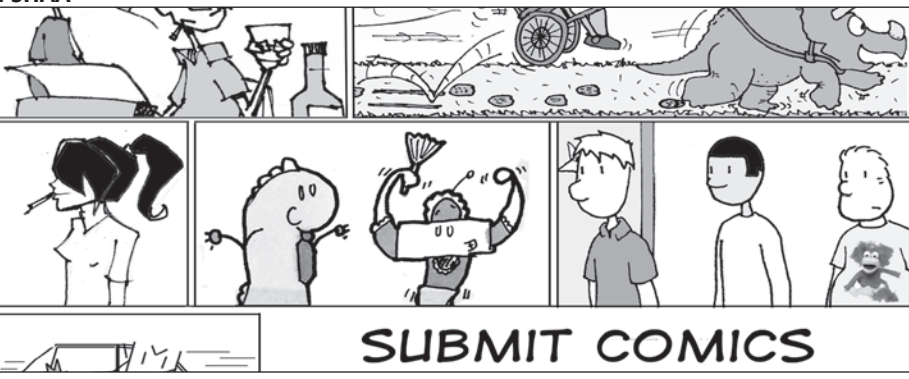
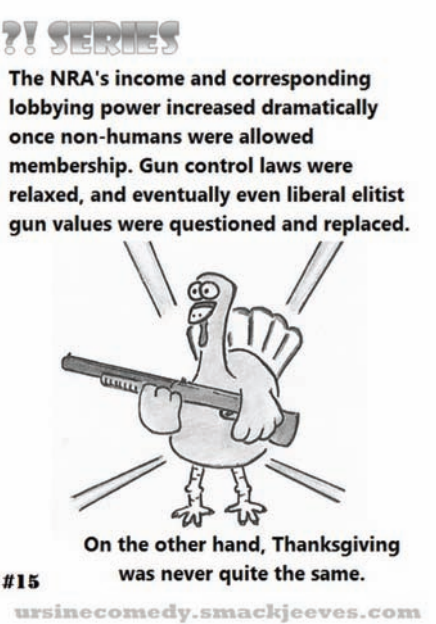
NO SUBJECT BY JANE MATTIMOE



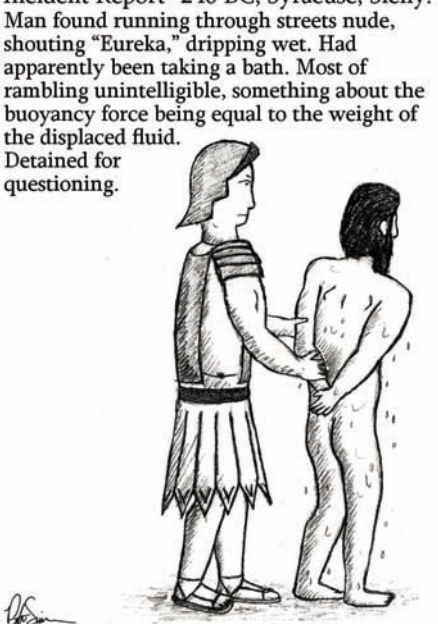
A BUNCH OF BANANAS BY JACK WINTHROP & GARRETT MAJDIC



BEAR NECESSITIES BY MAX MEESE & ALEX SCOTT



MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you're on the job you will enjoy collaboration, even when it's not going so smoothly. Sometimes the more raucous collaborations produce the most impressive results. You work it through with your eye on the end result.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As it was with the turtle and the hare, getting to the finish line first isn't always about moving fast. A slow and steady pace will increase your chances of winning, as well as your enjoyment of life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're not afraid to disagree with those in charge. However, you wisely choose the best time to do this — not today. Gather your thoughts, as well as the evidence that there might be a better way to proceed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The creativity is definitely flowing now. If you share your fantasies, they will be taken seriously. This can be positive or negative, depending on what you've been imagining and whom you tell.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Playing hard to get is so against your nature when you really want the other person (or job or other situation) enough to chase after it. Luckily you have the confidence not to pursue. Let life come to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's so lucky that people come to you with problems now. Your service and expertise is needed. You could make some money with this and there's nothing stopping you from doing so.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your sweetness is not only appreciated, it's needed. Someone with a demanding career will rely on you for a feeling of home and family. Your brand of comfort will favorably affect this person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not enough to know that all things are connected. You want to feel it. That's why you're on the hunt for a sign that you are in the right place at the right time. Synchronistic events will delight you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are times to be tenacious and this isn't one of them. When you feel resistance, back off. Reconsider the people involved. Ask more questions about what others want and need from a situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Part of the reason people gravitate toward you is that you are a source of interest and fun for them. Remember this when you're with your inner circle of comfortable people. Make an effort, even for family.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Those who exhibit some kind of creative talent will catch your eye. Not because they can do something special, but because they make you feel a certain way. You'll be inspired to develop your own talents, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There is no reason to desire what you already have. That may be why you subconsciously create some distance in relationships. A loved one senses you are not so easily won and will work to gain your favorable attention.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 5). The dreams you have for your personal life will materialize this year. Loved ones who depend on you will be thrilled with what you bring to the relationship. Your professional efforts will be recognized by a VIP and promoted in the late spring. Others find your observations fascinating. You could be asked to speak in public. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 26, 52, 33 and 18.



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EASY # 22

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

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6	5	9	8	7	4	3	1	2
1	7	2	3	6	9	5	4	8
4	8	3	5	2	1	7	6	9
2	6	7	4	9	3	1	8	5
3	9	5	7	1	8	4	2	6
8	1	4	2	5	6	9	7	3
7	4	8	6	3	5	2	9	1
5	2	1	9	8	7	6	3	4
9	3	6	1	4	2	8	5	7

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

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 Wines said to go well with meat
5 White-bellied
10 Musical Mama
14 Each
15 Bubkes
16 Voting nay
17 *1952 Marlon Brando film
19 It might hold the solution
20 Arctic fishing tool
21 *2008 Meryl Streep film
23 Parent who can pass on an X or Y chromosome
25 Orioles and Blue Jays, informally
26 From the start
30 *1968 Mark Lester film
34 Name on a plaque, maybe
35 French seas
36 Part of fashion's YSL

40 It follows the answer to each starred clue
43 Medvedev's denial
44 Skew
45 Blue Cross competitor
46 *1972 Jack Lemmon film
48 Atlas blowup
49 Harvard Law Review editor who went on to become president
52 Bubkes
54 *1980 Robert Hays film
58 Intense passion
63 Tart fruit
64 *1969 Barbra Streisand film
66 Letter-shaped support
67 Lensman Adams
68 Common feature in Roman statuary
69 Achy

70 Emulated a lamb
71 Former New York archbishop

DOWN

1 Shankar at Woodstock
2 Like some falls, in modern slang
3 Bird of peace
4 Baden-Baden and others
5 Seiji _____, longtime Boston Symphony maestro
6 Dead letters?
7 Tight-lipped sort
8 Court proceedings
9 Hoax
10 Chargers in "The Charge of the Light Brigade"
11 Japanese cartoon art
12 Connector of stories
13 Fictional Manner
18 Actress Pia
22 Daisy _____
24 Realm
26 Mideast oil port
27 Hardly aerodynamic
28 Formerly
29 Watt's equivalent
31 Allow to attack
32 Silent film effect
33 Letters on brandy
37 Textile factory containers

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

IMP	IDLES	DADAS
NOR	LEEZA	ERUPT
FUEL	LEVEL	CAMPO
ENTO	MIKE	HAMMER
SEUBEN	SID	YAM
TIERED	PERUSE	
SENAT	SLIP	OPED
WHAT	ATAT	TOOL
ARAL	SUBS	BLOKE
LETSON	CLONES	
ABE	RAE	I HAVE IT
MODEL	PLANE	ELLE
OXIDE	FIRE	DRILL
DERNS	IDEST	NOL
ESTAIS	NAMES	ERE

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0129

PUZZLE BY DAVID STEINBERG

38 White-tailed raptor
39 Game similar to bridge
41 Many a C.E.O.
42 Did perfectly
47 Batman portrayer
49 Desert stop-off
50 A ring bearer

51 Loud, as a crowd
53 Poker player's "Uncle"
55 Melville captain
56 "99 Luftballons" singer
57 "Lohengrin" heroine

59 Tedious learning method
60 Many a YouTube upload
61 Gymnast Korbut
62 Meg of "Sleepless in Seattle"
65 Big name in jeans

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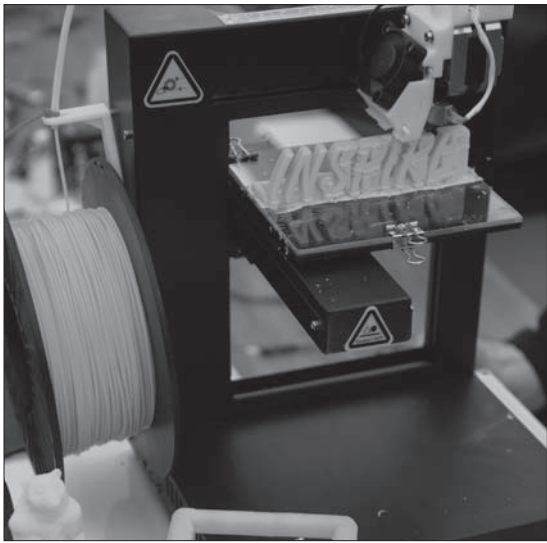
Three-Day Weather Forecast

Provided by the Cavalier Weather Service

 TODAY High of 44°	 TONIGHT Low of 31°	 TOMORROW High of 38°	 TOMORROW NIGHT Low of 31°	 THURSDAY High of 48°
Cloudy skies, with calm northerly winds becoming easterly at 4-8 mph.	Overcast skies, with easterly winds becoming northerly at 6-11 mph.	Mostly cloudy skies, with northerly winds at 12-21 mph, and some gusts up to 30 mph.	Mostly clear skies.	Sunny skies.
High pressure moves out of the region Tuesday. A low pressure system forms off the coast of the Carolinas Tuesday night giving us a slight chance to see some snow flurries overnight, with no accumulation expected. Another high pressure system moves in for the end of the week and the weekend.				To receive Cavalier Weather Service forecasts via email, contact weather@virginia.edu

Gov. approves high-tech classrooms grant

University partnerhsip aims to teach local middle school students science through applied technologies manufacturing technologies



Dillon Harding | Cavalier Daily

University faculty and students formed a partnership with Charlottesville City Schools to bring high-tech equipomment, such as 3-D printers, above, to local classrooms next year.

By Joseph Liss
Cavalier Daily Senior Associate News Editor

The University received a \$300,000 grant from the Office of Gov. Bob McDonnell Monday to plan a science education partnership with Charlottesville City Schools.

The partnership will encourage scientific learning by providing students high-tech equipment to work with, Curry Prof. Glen Bull said, and will be supplemented by funding the University has already received from the National Science Foundation, Motorola and other foundations and corporations.

“It’s the nation’s first laboratory school for advanced manufacturing technology,” Bull said. “The United States is calling for the first time for teaching science in context.”

Students at Bufford Middle School will get 3-D printers, which cost \$1,000 per device, starting in August. The new course will give them the opportunity to learn how to use and program the technology, Bull said.

The science teachers will have a video link to two graduate students, who will staff a lab 40 hours per week to provide technological support for the curriculum, Bull said.

Bufford eighth-grade student Angie Salinas said she has had an opportunity to work with the 3-D printing technology this year as part of the Young Women Leaders Program, which partners young female students from around the city with University women studying in STEM fields.

“It’s not that bad — it was pretty easy to catch on to,” Salinas said. “I’m pretty good with computer software and setting up stuff.”

The grant from the governor’s office would help University professors, graduate and undergraduate students, and City school officials plan a curriculum, said Libbey Kitten, the science coordinator for Charlottesville City Schools.

“What we’re hoping to do is [develop] a program over the years that spans down to [kindergarten] and up through high school,” Kitten said. “We’re bringing in advanced manufacturing technologies and using them to teach science concepts.”

Now the educators must submit a proposal to be approved by the state’s Department of Education during the summer so the new classrooms will be ready when school starts in August at Bufford. City and University officials plan to build a lab at Charlottesville High School in the summer of 2014.

Emails | Faculty ‘disheartened’ by Dragas, Cohen says

Continued from page A1

I had secured a 2 percent merit raise for the faculty,” Sullivan wrote. “The retention and hiring of faculty is our greatest challenge, and improving compensation is critical to resolving that challenge.”

Faculty Senate Chair George Cohen, a University Law professor, said before the Faculty Senate meeting Monday afternoon the faculty were “disheartened” to read these emails, but were encouraged by the Board’s endorsement of increasing faculty salaries at its recent meeting.

“Based on the information presented in [the Washington Post] article, we find regrettable Rector Dragas’ actions as well as the statements in her

email and in her interview,” Cohen said.

Cohen said Dragas had not learned the lessons about University governance from the ouster and reinstatement of Sullivan last summer.

Sullivan’s email to the Board also said a list of goals needed to include addressing the concerns of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the

University’s accrediting agency which placed the University on warning following the events of last June.

In response to Sullivan’s email, Dragas said the list of goals were the result of several contributors.

“It appears, though, that the divergence in opinion are too significant to be harmonized yet,” Dragas said, adding that

the issues would be further discussed at the February Board meeting.

Responding to the Washington Post’s initial article, Sullivan said in a statement the correspondence was released without her consent or knowledge, and emphasized the importance of her relationship with the Board and her respect for their policy.

Sequester | McDonnell, Warner for once on the same page

Continued from page A1

Health, from which the University receives more than 80 percent of its research money, will cut back on some of its current spending levels this year.

Students whose parents work for the federal government will also be affected by the sequester, Savage said. But University President Teresa Sullivan said students’ parents wouldn’t be

the only ones whose jobs would be impacted if sequestration continues.

“We have a lot of people employed on federal grants,” Sullivan said. “We have an operational reserve that if we had to tap into, we could, to keep those people working for at least a few months.”

Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., and Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell reflected the bipartisan frustra-

tion toward sequestration. In a statement Thursday, Warner said he voted for both the proposal from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and the Republican counterproposal to limit sequestration. While neither proposal passed, Warner said each was “less stupid” than sequestration, which he said would disproportionately impact residents of the Commonwealth.

McDonnell echoed Warner’s sentiments in a statement released Friday.

“Virginia will be particularly hard hit because of our proximity to Washington, D.C., and our status as home to more military installations and private-sector military partners than almost any other state,” McDonnell said. “Multiple studies show that approximately 130,000 to over 200,000 Virginia jobs

could be lost because of these arbitrary cuts.”

McDonnell said he had prepared the state for sequestration by more than doubling the rainy day fund, targeting \$45 million for localities through the new Federal Action Contingency Trust Fund, and he has brought in experts to plan for defense cuts and ways to diversify the Commonwealth’s economy.

Schieffer | Longtime journalist cautions against biased news

Continued from page A1

they are supposed to represent. The public also have a responsibility, he added, to be smart in their use of the media to ensure they are receiving

accurately reported information.

“With the proliferation of media, you get your news like you go to a restaurant and order eggs — sunny side up, scrambled — you can order

your news to your taste,” Schieffer said. “If we are going to be informed we must read a variety of sources, and get our news from a variety of places.”

During his 30-year coverage of Washington politics

for CBS, Schieffer has won six Emmy awards, was named broadcaster of the year by the National Press Foundation in 2002 and has moderated multiple presidential debates, including the third debate in

2012. Now, Schieffer said he plans to take things one day at a time, he told students.

“I wake up in the morning and check the obits, and if I’m not mentioned then it’s going to be a good day,” he said.

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Cavaliers aim to ambush Catamounts

Starsia challenges precocious attacking unit to develop versus Vermont; LaPierre hopes to expedite recovery from knee injury

By Zack Bartee
Cavalier Daily Senior Associate Editor

After a heartbreaking 9-8 loss in overtime against No. 12 Syracuse that ended its four-game season-opening win streak, the No. 9 Virginia men's lacrosse team will look to bounce back against Vermont Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Klöckner Stadium before No. 3 Cornell visits Charlottesville Saturday.

The Cavaliers (4-1) delivered their lowest offensive output of the season against Syracuse (2-1), scoring only eight goals after coming in averaging 15.5 per game. The lack of firepower stems partially from the team's measly 38 shots, which pales in comparison to its 55.5 shots per game average entering Friday.

"[Shooting more is] something that we stressed over the course of the offseason," junior midfielder Rob Emery said. "With the rule changes that came along this year, we wanted to play a little more up-tempo, and move from shooting somewhere in the [range of] 30

shots per game, closer to the 50s."

But even before the game's first faceoff, Virginia coach Dom Starsia predicted the matchup would be low scoring, given the strength of the teams' defenses and the two offenses both searching for identities.

"The coaches understand that it's an early-season game," Starsia said. "We still don't even know our teams that well, and so it tends to be a little bit more of a players' game more than it might be later on in the year, and the kids take advantage of that."

Junior attackman Mark Cockerton and Emery led Virginia with two goals each, while senior midfielder Matt White tallied one goal and the squad's lone assist of the game — an astounding figure considering the team entered the contest assisting on 63 percent of its goals. Junior attackman Nick O'Reilly, who led the Cavaliers with 19 points entering the contest, was held scoreless by the Orange defense. Cockerton now leads the Virginia offense with 19 goals and

one assist.

"We still really don't know quite who we are offensively in every instance," Starsia said. "O'Reilly, Cockerton, [redshirt sophomore attackman Owen] Van Arsdale, [freshman attackman James] Pannell in particular, they need to continue to grow."

Pannell, who had recorded at least one point in the last three games and six total on the season, took only one shot and also failed to register a point against the Orange. Van Arsdale recorded one goal, his lowest point total and his first game without an assist in 2013.

Tuesday's matchup against Vermont (1-3) may provide an opportunity for the Virginia attack unit to get back on track against respectable competition. Despite their uninspiring record, the Catamounts defeated a Bryant team coached by former Duke head coach Mike Pressler and played No. 15 Colgate tough for most of the game before falling behind 13-7.

The game may also supply senior

midfielder Chris LaPierre more game-speed action before Saturday's faceoff against Cornell. LaPierre played against Syracuse after being held out for three games with a sprained knee but mustered just one shot, one groundball and one caused turnover in the loss. In a sport that now places more value than ever on two-way players, Virginia sorely misses the production of its lone captain on both ends of the field.

"He really wants to play," Starsia said. "If you said to me before the season, 'Pick one player that could take advantage of these new rules,' it would be Chris LaPierre. So I think, essentially, we don't have our best player yet."

Vermont, coming off a 2-12 season, is coached by former Cavalier standout defender Ryan Curtis. A two-time All-American and captain during his time at Virginia, Curtis was named the 1999 NCAA Defenseman of the Year and led his team to a national championship victory against Syracuse the same year.

Tuesday's matchup will mark the sixth consecutive season that Virginia has hosted the Catamounts. The Cavaliers boast a 5-0 record all-time in the series and defeated Vermont 16-10 in 2012, the closest margin of victory ever between the two squads. Attackman Chris Bocklet and Emery led the 2012 assault with four goals each, while Cockerton recorded three and attackman Steele Stanwick dished out seven assists.

In a game many expect Virginia to win by a comfortable margin, Starsia will likely play a substantial portion, if not the entirety, of his roster.

"We have a lot of younger talent," junior defender Scott McWilliams said. "We're comfortable with anyone stepping in. We feel that everyone can get the job done, as long as we're talking."

Regardless of the opponent, however, Starsia's message remains the same.

"We need to get better every day," Starsia said. "We just don't have a day to waste."

Cavaliers finish 2-1 during Winthrop Invite

Chapdelaine, Mitchell pitch gems, help squad drub Rhode Island, Winthrop; UNC-Greensboro edges team in weekend finale

The Virginia softball team competed in the Winthrop University Combat Invitational this weekend, defeating Rhode Island and Winthrop Friday before falling against UNC-Greensboro Sunday. Two games scheduled for Saturday were canceled due to snow.

In the first of Friday's two games, the Cavaliers (8-8) ousted Rhode Island (0-6) 4-2. Freshman pitcher Aimee Chapdelaine gave up two

runs while striking out three in six innings of work, while senior pitcher Melanie Mitchell struck out the side in one inning of relief to earn her first save of the year. The team hit three home runs, with senior shortstop Alex Skinkis belting one in the fifth and junior infielder Marcy

Bowdren and sophomore third baseman Megan Harris going back-to-back in the sixth. Virginia shut out the host Eagles (6-8) in the second game of the day, 5-0, behind a 13-strikeout, one-hit complete game effort from Mitchell. Bowdren tallied her second

home run of the day in the fourth inning, while a two-run home run by junior infielder Karli Johnson and a two-RBI double from senior catcher Kristen Hawkins rounded out the scoring.

The Cavaliers' Sunday game was relocated to the campus of UNC-Greensboro (15-2), where the team lost 2-1 to cap the weekend. Freshman designated hitter Shannon McGinley brought in the

team's only run with a single in the fourth inning. Mitchell struck out 10 and gave up three hits in the 99th complete game of her career.

The team plays its home opener Wednesday afternoon against Seton Hall and starts its ACC schedule Saturday with a three-game series against Georgia Tech.

—compiled by Peter Nance

An apology to LeBron

Dear LeBron,

Last year I wrote a ghost story about you loosely based on Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" and somehow passed it off as a column unimaginatively titled "A LeBron James Ghost Story." I'm not going to recapitulate exactly what it entailed, but just know that the phantasmagoric world that I limned in that column did not present a very flattering image of you, to say the least. I was a staunch critic of yours at that point, hovering around a seven on the "One-to-Skip Bayless" scale. Since that time, though, you have willed your team to an NBA title with an historic postseason performance and you are in the midst of one of the more incredible individual seasons I've ever seen. So, I say to you, LeBron, in writing, here today — I'm sorry, man.

I know that you may not know this, LeBron, but you and I have a complex relationship. You are almost solely responsible for my getting into this soul-draining industry that we call sports writing in the first place. It was the summer of 2010, the magical summer that all Knicks fans had been awaiting for years. The summer when

we all truly believed you would come to the Big Apple and rescue our beloved, hapless, battered-beyond-recognition Knickerbockers from our pathetically mired existence at that time.

I had an internship at a hospital that summer and thus was well on my way to leading a respectable life until your "Decision" came along and changed things forever. For the rest of that summer I was so disturbed by your choice of Miami instead of New York that I spent all my nine-to-fives — when I was ostensibly conducting clinical research — surreptitiously penning a scathing diatribe about you. By the end of the summer, and the close of my internship, I had furtively written upward of 40 pages detailing how your cowardly decision would define your legacy. The following month, now back at school, I declared as an English major and began writing for this fine literary establishment. So, LeBron, you either saved me or doomed me — either way, we're forever connected.

After that, I didn't like you, LeBron, for a litany of different

reasons — most selfish among them your coquettish treatment of my Knicks fan base in the years prior to your free agency while you covertly forged a "Super-Team" in Miami. I constantly excoriated you for what seemed to be your inherent aversion to the so-called clutch moments and your obdurate refusal to augment your low-post game. I didn't like all your dancing and preening and regal self-promoting, either. I rooted against you with fervor when you played Dallas in the 2011 Finals, adopting the Mavericks as my provisional favorite team and Dirk as my forever-favorite German. I cheered when you lost and could hardly contain my glee when Chris Bosh crumbled to the floor in tears. I truly thought, and lamented, that you simply would never get it.

Boy, oh boy, was I wrong on all accounts. Which brings me back to the reason I am writing this thing again in the first place. I'm sorry, man.

It has truly been an honor to watch you play the game of basketball for the last season and a half,

and that takes a lot for me to say because I am writing this almost immediately after you eviscerated my Knicks this past Sunday. When you doggedly chased down J.R. Smith after turning the ball over in the final seconds of a poorly played first half, my disbelief reached a level that was close to when I saw the images of Dennis Rodman chumming it up with Kim Jong Un. Superstars are not supposed to make that quintessential hustle play, just as psychotic ex-NBA players who once publicly married themselves should probably not be serving as delegates to North Korea.

Everyone knows what the stats say about you this year, LeBron. They're highlighted by your unfathomable streak of six straight 30-point games on 60 percent shooting. But the numbers don't even begin to explain what we as fans are getting to see — the ineffable, intangible aspects to your basketball genius. You are so far and away the best player on the court at all times that your games are starting to resemble those middle school AAU tournaments when that one precociously developed, naturally gifted kid is

just so much better than everyone else parents begin demanding to see birth certificates. That is not supposed to happen in the NBA.

I know that by evincing your true preternatural ability on the hardwood these last couple of years, LeBron, you have been able to allay some of your most strident critics and avoid the ubiquitous hatred that you had been accustomed to receiving. Yet, I still don't believe that the majority of us fans are truly appreciating what a privilege it is to be able to witness you revolutionize the game of basketball, as evidenced by the recent ludicrous clamor for you to save the Dunk Contest.

I don't even want to talk about your future right now, LeBron — partially because I'm coming dangerously close to my word limit and partially because it's not even fathomable to me at this point in time. Just know two things.

One, there is no shame in walking away from the sport for a couple of years and trying out the NFL so that your friends Carmelo and KD can have their shots at the title.

And, two, again: I'm sorry, man.

W Lacrosse | Late 4-0 run boosts Nittany Lions past Cavs

Continued from page A1

and spotted Maryland an insurmountable 15-8 lead. Though Virginia closed to 15-10 on goals by Bocklet and sophomore midfielder Morgan Stephens, the Terrapins erased any hopes of a comeback in scoring the last three goals of the game.

All told, Maryland claimed 18-of-30 draw controls to keep the Cavalier backpedaling defensively and scored its 18 goals on a hyper-efficient 23 shots, with Aust totaling five goals and five assists. Coach Cathy Reese let the Preseason All-American operate from behind the Virginia goal, from where she could either dish to open cutters or snake in front of the cage for close-quarters shots on Virginia senior goal-

keeper Kim Kolarik.

"I thought we challenged them and we made them work hard for what they got, but clearly you can't give Maryland or a team that's that good at shooting that many opportunities," Myers said. "I thought they had great open looks at the cage, not because we weren't working hard to try to deny them, just because I think they were that good and hitting good lanes and really making it look pretty easy sometimes."

Kolarik and Virginia fared better against Penn State (3-1), eventually faltering despite tallying more shots, more ground balls and more draw controls than the Nittany Lions. Instead of playing catch-up as they had in the Maryland game, the Cavaliers jumped out to an early 2-0

lead on a pair of goals by red-shirt sophomore attacker Dana Boyle.

But Virginia's quick start proved to be merely the first jab in a bout of back-and-forth blows. Penn State played its way to a 4-4 tie behind junior attacker Mackenzie Cyr, who scored three times in the game's first 17 minutes, and sophomore attacker Maggie McCormick, who assisted her on all three goals. The Nittany Lions took their first lead of the game when sophomore midfielder Haley Ford sprinted the length of the field before dishing to sophomore midfielder Kelly Lechner to supply Penn State a 5-4 advantage.

Inspired play from their seasoned veterans spurred the Cavaliers to a subsequent 4-0 spurt.

After Warner tied the game at five off a Bocklet pass, senior attacker and co-captain Caroline McTiernan rifled a shot past Penn State freshman goalie Emi Smith to restore Virginia's lead. After a yellow card to Stephens, Kolarik stymied the Nittany Lions on two free position shots — enlivening the home crowd. When Stephens returned and found McTiernan for another goal and sophomore defender Daniela Eppler followed with her first goals of the season, Virginia appeared bound for victory with a comfortable 8-5 advantage.

Penn State quickly sapped the confidence brewing among the Cavalier faithful with a 5-0 reversal to begin the second half. Senior attacker and captain Molly Fernandez scored

twice in the run, helping her team to an 11-8 lead. Virginia failed to respond until senior midfielder Anne Thomas' goal off Boyle's assist with 19:12 to go. Thomas' score, however, ignited a 4-0 stretch culminating in sophomore midfielder Courtney Swan's groundball scoop and pass to Warner on the break for a 12-11 Virginia edge.

But it was the Nittany Lions who levelled the final blast. They scored the next four goals of the game, and though Virginia closed to 15-14 on Bocklet's goal with 1:47 on the clock, the Cavaliers' late run fell just short.

Virginia will look to rebound in Chapel Hill against North Carolina during spring break, before returning to Charlottesville for another two-game homestand.

SPORTS

AROUND THE ACC

In his first game back since injuring his foot in early January, senior forward Ryan Kelly exploded for a career-high 36 points to spark No. 3 Duke to a 79-76 victory against No. 6 Miami Saturday evening at Cameron Indoor Stadium. Kelly shot 7-of-9 from beyond the arc and sunk 9-of-12 free throws for the Blue Devils (25-4, 12-4 ACC), who pulled to within two games of the conference-leading Hurricanes (23-5, 14-2 ACC) with two contests remaining on the ACC schedule ... Sunday afternoon, North Carolina breezed its way to a fifth straight victory and bolstered its NCAA Tournament resume by trouncing Florida State 79-58. Fueled by 20-plus point performances from junior guard Reggie Bullock and sophomore forward James Michael McAdoo, the Tar Heels (21-8, 11-5 ACC) shot a blistering 58 percent from the field in the first half to bury the reeling Seminoles (15-14, 7-9 ACC), who have surrendered five of seven games ... Riding freshman guard Alexis Jones' 22 points and a stifling defense, the No. 6 Duke women's basketball team triumphed against archival No. 15 North Carolina 65-58 Sunday. Despite shooting just 37.7 percent and yielding a staggering 28 offensive rebounds, the Blue Devils (27-2, 17-1 ACC) bounced back from a stunning midweek loss to Miami and reestablished momentum heading into this weekend's ACC Tournament. On just 5-of-23 shooting, senior point guard Tierra Ruffin-Pratt led the Tar Heels (26-5, 14-4 ACC) with 16 points and six assists ... A week after Virginia announced a home-and-home series with Boise State, Florida State revealed that its football team will play the Broncos in 2019 and 2020. After Boise State travels to Tallahassee Sept. 7, 2019, the Seminoles will venture west to Boise in September 2020. The schools will exchange \$400,000 in guaranteed money as part of the deal.

—compiled by Fritz Metzinger



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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CAPS and trade

The University should increase its support of student mental-health care

Mental illness transports loved ones away: sometimes temporarily, as we struggle to recognize a friend in the grips of a manic episode; and sometimes irrevocably — the recent death of first-year College student Jake Cusano, whose mental-health status was unknown, is one such irreversible loss. Student Health’s Counseling and Psychological Services, the main arm of the University’s mental-health care efforts, has in recent years seen increased demand for its services, as well as increased severity of problems that draw students to its offices, CAPS Interim Director Matt Zimmerman said. Zimmerman attributed the swelling number of patients to declining stigma surrounding mental-health treatment and CAPS’ successful outreach efforts: the agency works with the Office of the Dean of Students and Residence Life, among other organizations, to ensure students in need are aware of the resources CAPS offers.

The University’s psychological services are strong. The school’s suicide rate is one-third the national average for public institutions of a similar size, Zimmerman said, and the Office of the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer has consistently made mental health a priority: health and wellness is one of the VPSA’s six core values, and enhancing students’ “psychological

well-being” falls under the office’s mission statement.

CAPS has taken steps in recent years to serve students more efficiently. In August 2011 it implemented a screening process to prioritize need and risk. The screening system helps CAPS officials determine whether students need to be seen immediately, within 48 hours or within a week. CAPS has also tightened its operations by referring students who need a specialist or long-term therapy — and can pay for it — to community providers, freeing up resources to treat other students in-house.

The amount of care CAPS can currently offer, however, has been pushed to its limit. The agency is at space capacity. The office’s space constraints preclude CAPS from hiring any more therapists, Zimmerman said.

CAPS now has about one therapist for every 1800 students. An ideal ratio is one to 1500, Zimmerman said.

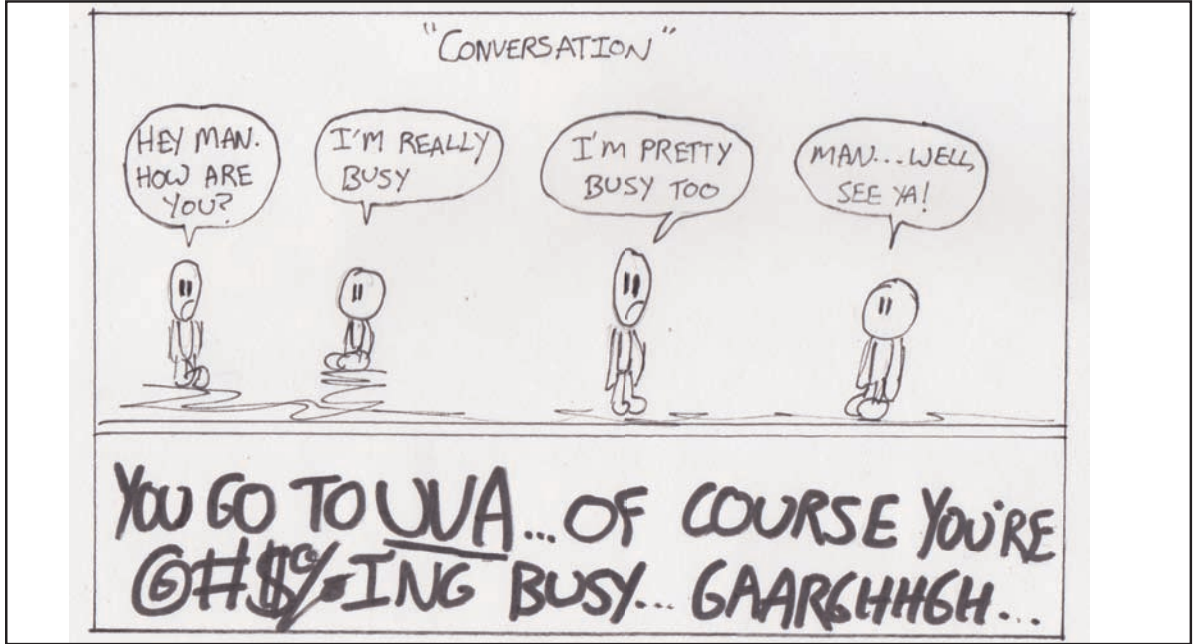
The agency has done its part to maximize its efficiency. Now, it needs to be able to hire more staff to keep pace with a growing student body. If the administration approved more space for CAPS today, it would likely be two years before the division could hire an additional therapist, Zimmerman said. In that interim, more and more students will enroll at the

University, and the upward trend of those seeking mental-health treatment shows no signs of abating. Considering this probable two-year wait, the University should act swiftly to start putting plans in place for expanding CAPS.

For public universities, matters of funding are a delicate balance. Many offices clamor for dollars within student affairs. CAPS receives funding from student fees, which include a health fee. The Board of Visitors must approve increases in the student health fee. The VPSA office, then, should consider pursuing supplemental funding sources for CAPS, rather than waiting for the Board to approve fee increases. Some funds dedicated to student life — which might otherwise go to pizza for first-year students or flyers for events that get canceled — might be better spent on CAPS.

Though concerns about mental wellness flare up in the aftermath of a student death, the psychological health of students is an ever-present, ever-pressing issue. The fragility of psychological stability, and the grim implications for what can go wrong, mean mental health must remain near the top of the VPSA office’s priorities list. And to CAPS, which dispatched therapists to conduct floor meetings in dorms after Cusano’s death, and which has proved itself worthy of sustained support, we tip our caps.

Editorial Cartoon by Peter Simonsen



Don’t be bored, be diverse

Leaving one’s comfort zone to embrace diversity heightens the University experience

One year after he founded the University of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson pronounced, “This institution of my native state, the hobby of my old age, will be based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind, to explore and to expose every subject susceptible of it’s contemplation.” With this quote in mind, I pose the following questions to my peers here at U.Va.: How many rocks have you left unturned? Are the majority of your friends spitting images of you? How often do you look beyond your comfort zone for new ideas, experiences and involvement in our community?

The opportunities for enrichment at our University reach far beyond the walls of Cabell Hall, the Chemistry Building and the pavilions. The conversations I have had and the friendships I have made with people from every walk of life have taught me more than any professor ever could.

My peers have been my greatest teachers. If I had the chance to leave behind only one piece of advice after four years at the University, it would be to embrace diversity. In a school of nearly 15,000 undergraduate students, this should not be hard. Any person that makes the effort to get to know people of a different race, nationality, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion or political belief will find that there is a fountain of knowledge in each person that can help you look through the eyes of someone from a completely different background than you and to diversify your worldview. The diversity

is here, I promise. Sometimes it just takes a little extra effort to find and to embrace.

I challenge every student at U.Va. to honestly assess his or her experience here, and if you think there could be more diversity in your life, find it. Some of the best ways that one can reach out to people with diverse backgrounds are:

- Attend general body meetings of student organizations you may have interest in, such as the Chinese Student Association, the Latino Student Alliance or the Queer Student Union. Even if you feel out of place the first time, continue to go and take part in activities and events.
- Join a semester-long Sustained Dialogue group. Talk with 10-15 peers about themes such as success, drugs and alcohol, race, religion, hook-up culture or honor at the University.
- Study abroad somewhere you have never traveled before. There is no better way to learn about another culture or society than actually immersing yourself in the daily routine of an Argentinian, Filipino, Italian or Moroccan person.
- Go with your friends to that party you have been invited to but always turned down because you thought it would be awkward or you would feel out of place. You might be surprised and make some friends you would have otherwise never met.
- Take a class that does not pertain to your major, whether it is Race and Ethnic Relations, Introduction to Brazilian Portuguese or African Archaeology. When else will you have the opportunity to learn about

something that is not your intended field of study?

Our University is so unique in the fact that there is a chance to learn about nearly every culture, participate in a new event each weekend, and to talk to people from countries you may never get the chance to travel to. So, why not embrace it?

Embracing diversity has defined my own personal experience at U.Va.. The majority of my friends here are of a different race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, upbringing and background than me. Because of this, I am able to travel to India to visit my best friend during winter break, recognize my own social privileges, describe the difference between teaching styles in China and the United States and have the ability to articulate why being a “Southerner” from Virginia and Mississippi are not the same thing. For me, there is nothing more exciting than the chance to learn about the lives of other people. Needless to say, I never get bored.

I’m from Virginia. I know what it is like to have grown up here. So, why not learn about what it was like to have been raised in Haiti or Germany or Washington State? What is there to lose by learning about someone who has had a completely different life than the one that you have lived? It is with these questions in mind that I hope every student here takes advantage of the chance to embrace diversity. Embrace the University. Embrace our community. Don’t be bored. Be diverse.

Ben Hemenway is a fourth-year trustee.

Featured online reader comment

“Although this version of the informed retraction seems a bit sloppy, I’m still glad it passed because this shows student support for getting away from the single sanction. We’ll see how long the committee can keep holding out but I think at this point change is inevitable.”

“The end,” responding to Joseph Liss’ March 3 article “Students approve informed retraction”

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Letters should not exceed 250 words.



THE CD

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Talking about my generation

University students must find new ways to deal with high stress levels

In addition to being the most narcissistic, our generation of college students reigns as the most stressed. According to a 2012 “Stress in America” study commissioned by the American Psychological Association, those born after the 1980s — known as millennials — make up the most stressed-out demographic.

The study shows that nearly 40 percent of millennials had increased stress levels in the last year, and an even greater number said stress kept them awake at night during the last month. Anxiety is a proven cause of insomnia, which can cause fatigue and attention problems and also increase the risk of disease. Heightened stress levels, however, do not only affect our sleep patterns. They also lead to weight gain, substance abuse, weak immune systems and mental illness.

High levels of stress negatively affect our generation, and the study showed that 44 percent of millennials experienced stress-induced irritability and anger, and 19 percent had been told they are suffering from depression. According to Nancy Snyderman, NBC’s chief medical editor, stress is “a huge factor” contributing to medical problems such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes and cardiac disease.

The current job market is one source of stress for our generation. A study by the Center for College Affordability found that 48 percent of working college graduates are in jobs that do not require a college degree and 38 percent are in jobs that do not require a high school diploma. The report also found that from 2010 to 2020, while 19 million college graduates will be entering the job market, the economy will only add around 7 million jobs that require college degrees.

Beyond jobs, our generation’s stress stems from the high standards to which we hold ourselves. These standards increase

as academic life and the job market grow more competitive. It is not uncommon to see students at the University crying from stress, getting angry and becoming irritable from stress and even becoming reclusive at times. But while I understand stress is sometimes unavoidable, our peers need to learn how to handle stress more healthfully.

In my short time at the University, I have witnessed students camping out in the libraries all night long believing they will be more efficient, drinking excessively to forget about their stress and going home multiple weekends in a row in hopes of “running away” from their stress. I have even seen students gorge themselves on donuts and other unhealthy foods during times of heightened stress to procrastinate and also to get energy from the sugar. Our generation faces a lot of pressure created by increased competitiveness for getting into college and getting jobs. We stress about what majors to choose and how that choice will affect our future. We are told to follow our hearts and study what we are most interested in, but realistically we need to choose majors with future employment possibilities in mind. Majors we often desire sometimes threaten to leave us unemployable, or so it seems. So we study topics that may not interest us, but with which we feel more secure.

What’s more is that students are now more than ever searching desperately for connections and competing for internships, and all of this stress is finally getting to us.

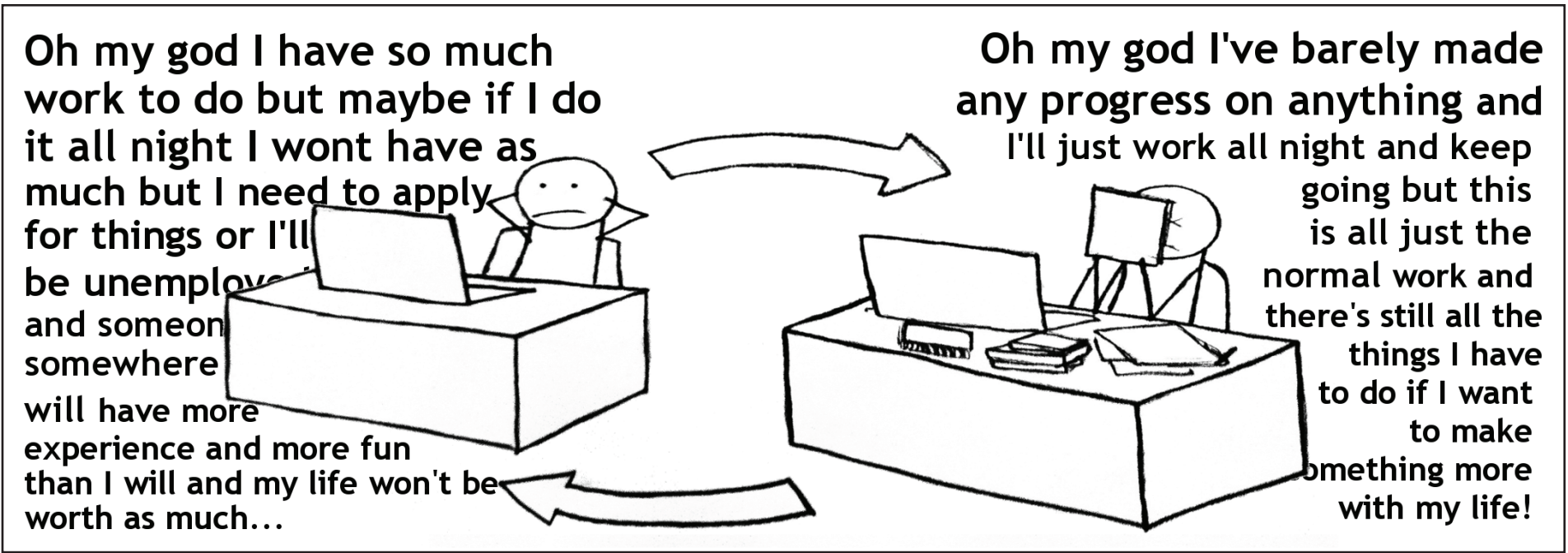
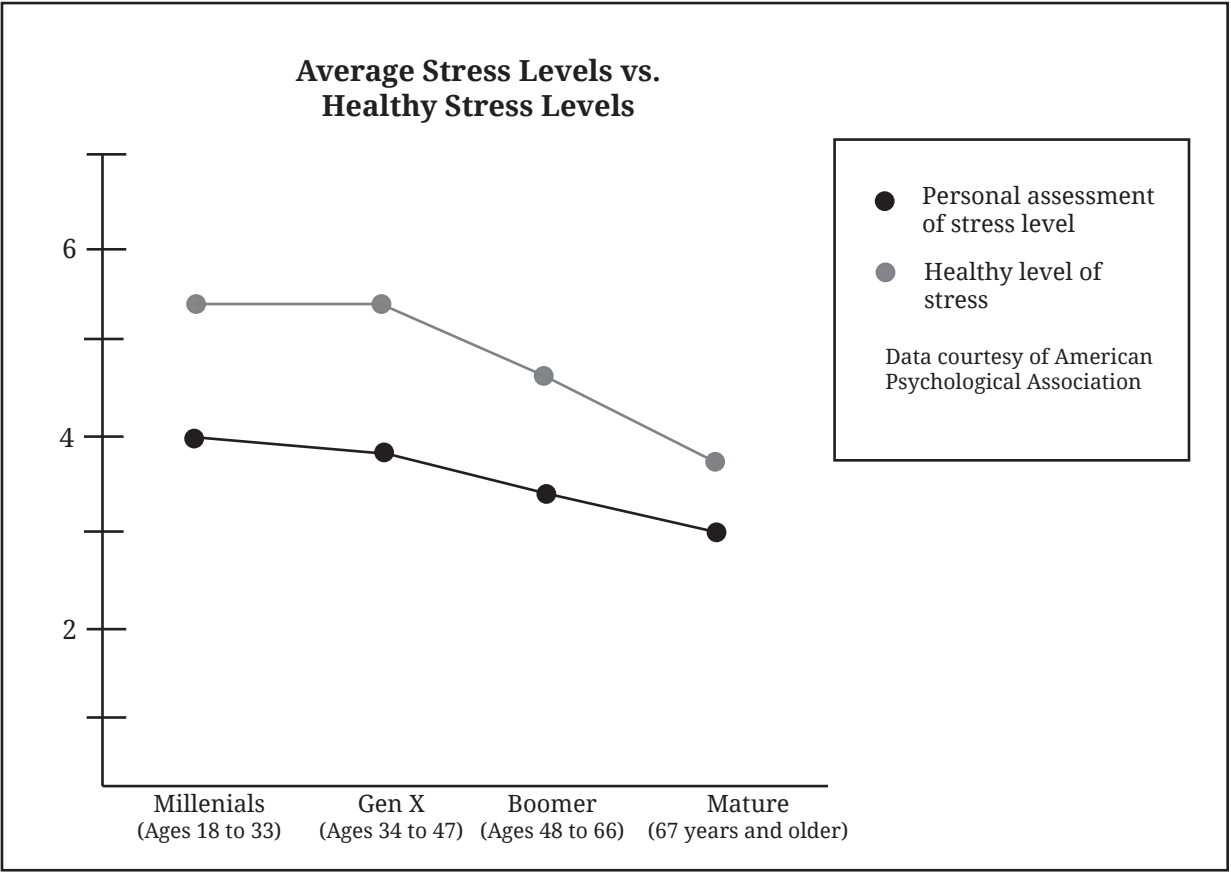
While the stress itself may be unavoidable, we can still prevent

some of its more negative consequences. Talking to peers can be extremely helpful for people dealing with stress. Internalizing stress is harmful, and the more lonely and isolated you are, the greater your vulnerability to stress is. According to an article from the Mayo Clinic, “Having close friends and family has far-reaching benefits for your health.” The article also explained how telling your problems to others, rather than internalizing them, increases your sense of belonging and your sense of security, which “contributes to psychological

well-being.” Therefore, a strong network of supportive friends and family members can help combat life’s stressors. In some cases, however, families only exacerbate stress by putting pressure on their children. Even friends can be a cause of stress in our lives rather than a solution. In such cases, reaching out to the University’s Counseling and Psychological Services might be helpful. CAPS is the University’s primary student counseling clinic and its mission is to “be responsive to the mental health needs of U.Va. students while also providing consultation, education, out-

reach and crisis management to the broader U.Va. community.” With CAPS and other services like it, students are able to voice their problems and concerns to one person without fear of judgment. CAPS is just one of many places to go on Grounds where students who find themselves overwhelmed and stressed can receive help and consultation from professionals trained in dealing with these sorts of cases. I am not telling students to give up stress: stress is a part of life and at health levels it can be constructive. But it is imperative that students do not stress excessively, lest they put themselves at risk for insomnia, attention problems, increased risk of disease, weight gain, substance abuse or mental illness.

Meredith Berger is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at m.berger@cavalierdaily.com.



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Write a letter to the editor.
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Without Rhyme, With Reason

Creative Writing Prof. Lisa Spaar’s poetry welcomes life’s complexities with open arms

By REBECCA KIM | CAVALIER DAILY SENIOR WRITER

“Is courage artifice? / As though to answer were within my means,” Lisa Russ Spaar writes in her poem, “Midas Pas-sional.” It is this characteristic acceptance of the unknown that has set Spaar apart from many of her colleagues. For some, poetry provides answers. Spaar appreciates it mainly because it does not.

Spaar, who specializes in cre-ative writing and poetry, has taught in the University’s English department since 1993. Though she previously was a professor at both James Madison Univer-sity and the University of North Texas, she was drawn back to Charlottesville, where she was both an undergradu-ate and gradu-ate student, at the request of famed poet Rita Dove — a Pulitzer Prize winner and former U.S. Poet Laureate who also serves as the Common-wealth Professor in the English Department. Spaar has been a full-time faculty member since 1995.

“Charlottesville is a hard place to get out of your system,” Spaar said. “I began to write poems here, and felt I came awake as a student when I was here. I think people teach because they love being students. It was a privilege to come back and teach at the place that taught me so much.”

Spaar’s passion for poetry, liter-ature and reading was sparked at a young age. From third grade onward, Spaar started to keep diaries and journals. Through-out high school, Spaar dedi-cated herself to the works of the

Brontës, Dickens, Dickinson and Bachelard.

“The more serious poems I read, the more I wanted to write poems myself,” she said. “I came to Virginia knowing that they have a wonderful English pro-gram, and got so excited about the possibility of really, seriously writing poems. I could write as somebody writing her own story.”

Spaar realizes that many people are critical of poetry, viewing the art form as intentionally con-fusing and obscure. But she is quick to note it is when people are in a state of crisis — dealing with death, anger or the trials and tribulations of love — that they turn to poetry.

“On some level, I think choosing the life of a poet is accepting that there aren’t easy answers to things,” Spaar said. “I think what a poem tries to do is honor the complexity of things, in an era when people want things dumbed down or easily swal-lowed. Poetry is not about that.”

Spaar attributes much of her continued inspiration and growth to her teaching job, particularly the contact with her students.

“I’m always reading new stuff — new poets, old poets and all kinds of literature — and I get to talk about those texts with very smart young people,” Spaar said. “It is a great gift to have a new crop of 18- and 19-year-olds every year to help me stay

“I think people teach because they love being students.”

Please see **Spaar**, Page A9



English prof. Lisa Russ Spaar has taught at the University since 1993 and specializes in creative writing and poetry. During her tenure here she has won numerous teaching accolades and secured a Guggenheim fellowship.

Courtesy Cole Geddy



When it rains, it pours

Breaking Barriers



VALERIE CLEMENS

Without any way to cir-cumvent the point, I’ll go ahead and write bluntly. An old friend died this weekend. With this death in my rearview, I can’t seem to sort through my murky, clouded thoughts to bring myself to write about anything but him. We hadn’t talked in more than a year, but Steven held a sig-nificant presence in my past as my first high school boyfriend — someone I spent endless teen-age nights with. My neighbor, a community member, an athlete, a student, a friend. More impor-tantly, he was a really special and influential person to a lot of people who remain very close to me.

The sun shines bright today, but I’m at a loss of words. I sat in Newcomb watching the Sunday hustle and bustle with the com-puter screen in front of me and music I wasn’t listening to pour out of headphones as cold chills crept up and down my back. Nobody here knows Steven and everyone moves on with his or her day. Nobody knows Sat-urday morning, an innocent 20-year-old from Fairfax, Va. got hit by a car in Greenville, N.C. and died. They’ll never get to know him.

The people from home, of course, we all know him — but that’s not my world right now. My world is U.Va. for one last week until I can be with the people who knew Steven. That’s the world where my heart and thoughts are, though I must remain in Charlottesville. I tell my best friends I love them, that I cherish their friendships and their lives, but that doesn’t

Please see **Clemens**, Page A9

Thing 1 and Thing 2

Whenever I play the clas-sic “random fact” ice-breaker game, I always manage to surprise people with one fact. I don’t have any rebel-lious tattoos across my lower back, and I’ve never eaten guinea pig in Latin America. I haven’t seriously broken the law, and I can’t speak Mandarin or Cantonese. I don’t tell them that I’ve never eaten an egg, though that’s true — and it’s beyond me why more people don’t think eating scrambled chicken embryos sounds gross.

The one really surprising thing about myself, actually, involves an entirely different person. I’m a twin.

This might not be a life-alter-ing revelation to you, but most people, especially those I’ve known the longest, react as if I’ve transformed before their eyes. No longer little old inde-pendent me, I become half-person, half-mystery.

“What! What do they look like? Who are they? What school do they go to? Why didn’t you

ever tell me! Do you know what they’re thinking right now?” The questions continue — and continue — until I’m tempted to actually call up my brother as proof. When they find out he’s, well, a he, a few brave souls venture forth and ask if we’re identical twins.

I sardonically respond, “Well, I hope not, consid-ering, you know, I’m a girl.” They retreat, quickly deterred by my explanation of all things frater-nal. Indeed, my fraternal twin fraternizes with his fraternity brothers at James Madison Uni-versity’s Kappa Alpha fraternity house, Thursday through Fra-turday.

Having a twin has shaped my identity from the womb — I call him my wombmate — through my senior year of high school. We went to the same elemen-

tary school, although thank-fully we remained separated for classes. Still, I knew which girls’ decorated cereal boxes he chose to fill with Valentine’s Day cards and whether he’d gotten in trouble at recess. We rode the bus home together,

ate the same after-noon snack and quarreled about whether we’d play catch now or later. For two different people, we cer-tainly led similar lives.

Middle school altered the pattern more than ever, as we finally attended different schools

— though this was more of a technicality than anything else, as we were never separated by more than a few feet of hallway. I’d still hear through the instant messaging grapevine about my brother’s antics — though I hope he never heard about mine. While forced to navigate

separate hormonal jungles, we were still fundamentally together.

High school took away the minimal distance established in middle school and once more we were wholly twins. For the first time ever, we had the same teachers. This caused a bit of a strain, especially when Matt would try to trip me with fishing lines as I studiously completed my lab reports. Our teachers, our friends and the school attendance lady knew us as the Stonehills, individual entities still forced together by a single surname.

So, to my college friends who act incredulous when I mention I have a twin — you should. I might seem complete, but you’ll never fully understand who I am until you meet who I am not.

It’s a strange concept, espe-cially considering how drasti-cally different Matt and I can be. As the real world looms ever

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It’s a Punderful Life



ELIZABETH STONEHILL

Sister, Sister

When my sister Jenni-fer was born nearly 20 years ago, I didn’t quite understand the concept of having a sister. While my mom was still in the hospital and my grandma was taking care of me, I asked my grandma, “Who is Jennifer’s mommy going to be?” and then, “Where is she going to live?” After taking out my initial jealousy on our white couch with my magic markers, I learned having a sister essen-tially meant having a built-in partner-in-crime, having a playmate on family vacations and rainy afternoons, having a seatmate on roller coasters and — most importantly — having a best friend.

Now that we’re almost “grown up,” I often ask Jennifer for advice when I can’t make a decision, or call her when I’m having a bad day. Wise beyond her years, she always knows exactly what to say to make me feel better without sugarcoating the situation.

Maybe it’s the years of watch-ing teen dramas such as “The O.C.,” “One Tree Hill” and “Gilmore Girls” that taught her what not to do, or maybe

it was her superior ability to learn from the mistakes of those around her. Either way, my sister really has a great outlook and understanding of how to approach life — regardless of her occasional overly dramatic text about trivial things like a botched eyebrow wax.

I don’t know why this sur-prises me. When we were little kids, I always envied my sis-ter’s ability to live life to the fullest. Jennifer “YOLO’d” before it was cool. She was not afraid to get dirt on her clothes and ruin her outfit while I watched from the sidelines, keeping my half of our match-ing Gymboree outfits pristine. She would play with her toys all throughout the house until they wouldn’t work anymore, while mine were kept in mint condi-tion and in their rightful homes. When our youngest sister, Lind-sey, was born in 1999, Jenni-

fer was able to sustain her imagination longer than I ever could, making sure Lindsey’s childhood was filled with as many Barbie Jeep and dress-up memories as our own.

As we got older and out-grew those matching outfits, our relationship evolved from that of playmate to confidante. Even though our car rides to high school were silent, as I groggily forced her to listen to my favorite songs on repeat, our car rides home were filled with chatter as we compared days.

While I worried about a one-point mistake on a math quiz or stressed about not starting a long-term project a week in advance, Jennifer was more focused on whether she would be carbo-loading with a bagel or bread sticks before she ran off to hours of cheer practice. She never sweated the small stuff like I did, instead throwing

herself into her greatest life passion.

As I studied world history and read classic American novels, Jennifer analyzed hours and hours of cheerleading competi-tion DVDs and voraciously read her American Cheerleader magazine. Then, on weekends, she would jet off to a new city — okay, it was usually Cleveland — to perform the routines she practiced all around our house and at the gym. And after she practiced flipping on our couch so many times she almost broke it, our mom finally caved, and our childhood dream of having a trampoline right in the back-yard finally became a reality.

The night before I left for col-lege I knew I would miss a lot of things about home. Strong water pressure and home-cooked meals were near the top of the list, but one of the hardest people to say goodbye to was Jennifer.

Despite that tearful goodbye, I quickly realized it wasn’t a goodbye at all. After a night out on Rugby Road listening to Miley Cyrus sing “Party in the U.S.A.,”

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Urban Legends



KATIE URBAN

Spaar | Students, critics alike laud poet’s contributions

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caught up and ... make me think in new ways.”

Spaar also contributes much of her maturity as a poet to the experiences she's gained from parenting and motherhood.

“Being a mother is another kind of making and creation that deepened my awareness of what I was doing as a poet,” Spaar said. “Aging, watching my parents get sick and age and realizing that the time one spends in one's body is finite – the more I become aware of that, the more I become aware of the forms of poetry and the kinds of things I [want] to say and do in my poems.”

Spaar has received significant critical acclaim as both a poet and a teacher. Spaar highlights her teaching awards, such as the All-University Award and the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award, as some of her greatest accomplishments.

Fourth-year College student Isabelle Connor, who is currently enrolled in Spaar's poetry capstone seminar, said Spaar is a dynamic professor who values the input of her students. “She's extremely generous intellectually, and the atmosphere of her classes reflects that,” Connor said. “Students feel welcomed to come at the material from different directions.”

Spaar complements her teaching accolades with both a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Carole Weinstein Poetry Prize.

“When someone you don’t know taps you on the arm and says this committee of poets around the country has decided your poetry is worth supporting, it means a lot, because writing is such a solitary thing,” Spaar said. “I’m writing for me to make sense of the world and to whoever might be feeling what I’m feeling, but it [is] so meaningful to have that inner space in which I felt accepted and encouraged.”

Spaar’s most recent project, due out this month, is a book titled “The Hide-and-Seek Muse: Annotations of Contemporary Poetry,” which is a collection of essays and commentaries on poems for the Chronicle of Higher Education. The book features a diverse collection of poets who represent a wide range of ethnicities, aesthetics and styles.

“[The Hide-and-Seek Muse] relates to questions about what American poetry [is] at this moment and what place [it has] in ... American life and culture,” Spaar said. “Many people question poetry and think they need a certain password in order to understand it, and this book tries to provide answers by asking, ‘What can it mean to people in this world?’”

At a time when it can seem somewhat trivial to pursue a liberal arts education, and students look to forgo academic passions in favor of more financially secure alternatives, Spaar continues to encourage her students to follow their true interests.

“Many of my students have gone on to become professors, lawyers, businessmen, published writers and doctors,” Spaar said. “When you study poetry, you learn that every word counts. Every word you say [and] every word you write makes you more aware. You pay attention and make connections in smart, discerning ways. That is something that's going to help you no matter what you do.”

Clemens | Third-year bids high school friend final goodbye

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change what’s happened. A beautiful family loses their only son, less than two years after having lost their father to a heart attack. A former family of five now has only three crying, heartbroken women left. I’m too afraid to delve into my imagination and put myself in that family’s shoes. The thought is unthinkable. When it rains, it pours.

I’m at a loss of words thinking about how crushed his family and closest friends are. In the blink of an eye your life, your everything, your little brother, your best friend, can be snatched from you. A person so present in your everyday life, or so heavily ingrained in your memory is forever gone and there’s nothing you can do but keep on treading. Life doesn’t slow down for anyone, so what are you supposed to do when you so desperately can’t keep up with it — when you’re lost in a whirlwind and real time means nothing but numbers on a clock, or words on a calendar.

Nothing makes sense when you think about it for too long, but I could think about death for a lifetime and still never understand. I believe the mental capacity to understand death was strategically left out when our minds were formed — the greatest coping mechanism mankind has. You can’t wrap your head around a lack of something. From one minute to the next, a life is gone. But what is life then? His body is gone, but his soul remains dispersed amongst his loved ones. His spirit and essence are no longer concentrated in one physical being, but rather disseminated and dispersed; shattered into a thousand pieces — a small morsel for each person to hold onto.

Sunday I crawled into myself and spent the day reflecting. It’s sad that it takes extreme tragedies to make one realize how lucky we are. A blessing in a horribly gruesome disguise. I went on a long drive holding hands with my best friend just appreciating the beauty of the roads and the bright rays of sun shining on my face. But still, I feel selfish worrying about my midterms, and thinking about what I need to pack for spring break. Enjoying my dinner, calling my dad, driving my car to Target, reading a book. I feel selfish sitting in my pajamas writing my column in a candlelit bedroom after a hot shower, because someone I was once so close to will never again enjoy life’s simple pleasures.

I heard someone once say you only truly die when the last person you know on Earth dies, and I think I would like to start believing in this. Since Steven’s human shell can’t hold his spirit anymore, it’s on the rest of us to hold it for him. Everyone’s spiritual and religious views are different, and I respect that, but it’s a fact of physics that energy cannot be destroyed or created. It can only converted from one form to another, and it’s a duty and a responsibility we have to keep him alive.

Rest in paradise, Steven.

Valerie’s column normally runs biweekly Tuesdays. She can be reached at v.clemens@cavalierdaily.com.

Stonehill | Twinship weathers long-distance

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closer, however, I realize that our twin paths are also separating. Instead of, “What school does your twin go to?” with Matt only an hour away in Harrisonburg, it’ll now be, “What city does he live in?” with Matt situated halfway across the country.

No matter where we are though, I’m not the same without Matt, and I can bet he would say the same thing about me. That is, if he were to actually read my column.

E.P.’s column runs biweekly Tuesdays. She can be reached at e.stonehill@cavalierdaily.com.

Urban | Younger sister imparts wisdom

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I would Facebook message her to tell her all the details of what college life was really like.

Then, when she went to James Madison University just two years later, I was able to visit her for lunch on a bad day or invite her to Charlottesville to watch “Saved By the Bell” for old times’ sake. Like our TV choices, not much has changed. She doesn’t spend too much time worrying about a text message she shouldn’t have sent or what she could have said to someone instead of what she actually said. Over-analyzing is my specialty, but Jennifer recently taught me a good rule of thumb: if you’re obsessing about something for more than 15 minutes, you’re overanalyzing it and should change your mental channel.

The 15-minute rule doesn’t apply to everything. Some things, like thinking about how I don’t know where I will be living in June when my lease in Charlottesville runs out, merit a little more consideration. But my uncertain future becomes less paralyzing when I remind myself that no matter who else comes in and out of my life, Jennifer isn’t going anywhere.

Katie’s column runs biweekly Tuesdays. She can be reached at k.urban@cavalierdaily.com.

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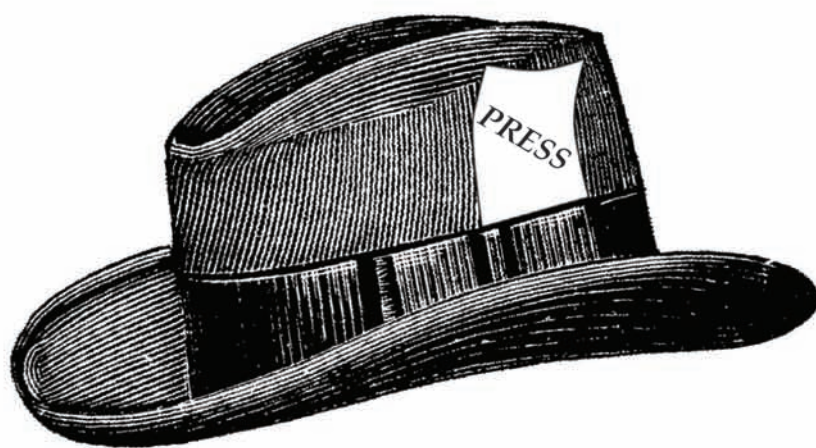
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