The Cavalier Daily Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Sunny. High 54, Low 24 See A3

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Interim treasurer gains landslide win

James Madison University graduate defeats former University Computer Science Prof. John Pfaltz in special Charlottesville election

By Kelly Kaler Cavalier Daily News Editor

Jason Vandever defeated former Computer Science Prof. John Pfaltz to become Charlottesville city treasurer in a 1280-397 vote Tuesday. The Democrat beat

out Pfaltz's Independent run in the special election after Jennifer Brown, who had held the position since 1993, retired in October.

Vandever watched the results come in at a viewing party at the South Street Brewery with friends and supporters. The 30-year old James Madison graduate has been working for the treasury office for nearly five years, and has served as interim treasurer since Brown's retire-

The treasurer's office is directly responsible for the city's revenues and expenditures, and Vandever said he is excited to integrate a new tax management system which will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the city's finances.

Pfaltz, on the other hand, said he was running to increase City support for retirement funds and deliver quarterly finance reports to increase transparency. He said he thought Vandever's party affiliation would ultimately

Please see **Election**, Page A3

Threads of Thought

Humanities Week, a five-day celebration of the University's humanities departments, includes panels, poetry readings, article swaps and a photography exhibition.



Jenna Truong

Income affects student success

By Sarah Pritchett Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

In a study released Monday, Education School Prof. Sarah Turner and Stanford University's Caroline Hoxby, an economic professor, found that the college application process inhibits high-achieving, lowincome students from going to top universities. Although the students are qualified to attend selective institutions, they are often uninformed about the application process and do not know which schools to apply to.

The Expanding College Opportunities project focused on a group of 39,682 lowincome students and allowed them to apply to 200 colleges for free. These students were

in the bottom 35 percent of the distribution for family income and had college assessment scores in the top 10 percent. Most students were not from "feeder high schools" schools in which students are streamed into a certain college or university system.

Students in the study received charts with graduation rates and application information for certain schools before applying. With this information in hand, participants submitted 48 percent more applications than usual to colleges than students not part of a study. The colleges they applied to also had a combined average graduation rate 17Study participants had an

Please see Income, Page A3

Frank handles adversity

Reigning ITA Rookie of the Year continues to impress in sophomore campaign

Kerry Mitchell Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Sophomore Mitchell Frank arrived in Charlottesville in 2011 as the No. 2 tennis recruit in the nation and immediately began making noise. He won the ITA All-American Singles title in October and just one month later took the ITA National Indoor Singles as well, becoming only the fourth player ever to do so.

When the spring season arrived, he had earned himself the No. 1 spot in the ITA rankings and continued to roll through a stellar rookie year. Frank handled opponents from across

the country with ease — including a win against then-Southern California senior Daniel Nguyen in the 2012 NCAA Championship, one of the Cavaliers' two points in the match — and compiled a 38-2 record on the year. Unsurprisingly, the accolades rolled in: Frank was named ITA Rookie of the Year and selected to the ITA and USTA Collegiate All-Star Teams, as well as the ITA All-American Team. A summer of training and pro events was all that stood between Frank and a dominant fall season, until one stroke of misfortune threw everything off track.

In July, Frank was training back in College Park, Md. He

had just finished an exercise on a mat and was rolling over to stand up when, in a bizarre twist of fate, Frank's foot caught

on the mat and his left knee

twisted, tearing the meniscus in the process.

"It was one of those injuries where you could tell it wasn't just a strain," Frank said, "All the guys up there were trying to keep me calm but I was obviously pretty distraught at first. I knew it was not going to be good, and then I found out I had to have surgery."

After a phenomenal freshman year of college tennis, the injury

Please see M Tennis, Page A5



Ienna Truong | Cavalier Daily

After missing the entire fall season with a torn meniscus, No. 27 sophomore Mitchell Frank has posted an 11-1 singles record since returning Jan. 25.

Kelsev Grant | Cavalier Daily

McCarthy to push the Cavaliers' lead to 2-0 against Liberty Tuesday night.

BASEBALL

No. 8 Cavs douse Flames

The No. 8 Virginia baseball team continued its midweek dominance against Liberty Tuesday, allowing just one hit in a

2-0 win against the Flames. Freshman Josh Sborz picked up the win with four innings on the mound.

Virginia (26-3,

9-3 ACC) jumped out to an early lead by capitalizing off mistakes from Liberty (17-12, 6-3 Big South) junior starter Josh Richardson. After a single from redshirt senior first baseman Jared King, freshman outfielder Joe McCarthy and sophomore outfielder Mike Papi walked to load the bases. Sophomore infielder Kenny Towns was hit by a pitch in the next at bat to drive in the first run and one batter later,

> sophomore third baseman Nick Howard drove in another run on an infield single. The Cavaliers had just three hits in the

game, and did not pick up a hit after the third inning.

The slim lead was enough for the Virginia pitching staff, which cruised through the day. Sborz impressed in his second start of the season, giving up just one hit in four innings to keep the Flames off the board. Lefty

freshman Nathan Kirby went 3.1 innings in relief without giving up a hit, while juniors Austin Young and Kyle Crockett combined for the last five outs of the game to help Virginia improve to

17-0 in non-conference games. Virginia now faces a quick turnaround with a Wednesday game against Virginia Military Institute (13-17, 4-5 Big South) at Davenport Field. The game was previously scheduled for March 6, but was moved due to inclement weather. The Keydets dropped two of three to Coastal Carolina during the past weekend, but picked up a 9-7 Tuesday win against James Madison.

—compiled by Michael Eilbacher



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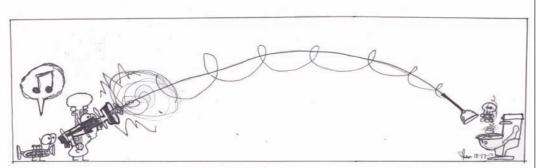
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Comics Sports **Opinion**



Comics Wednesday, April 3, 2013

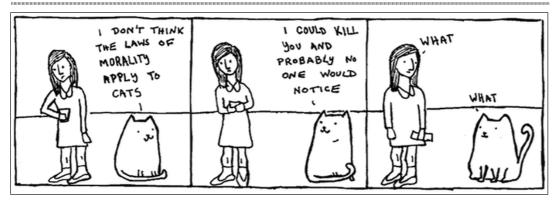
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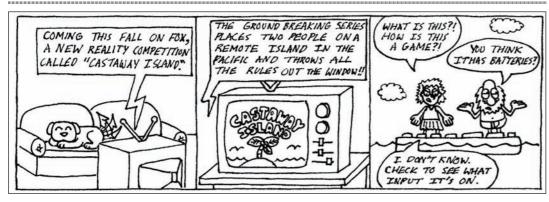
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SOLE SURVIVOR BY MICHAEL GILBERTSON



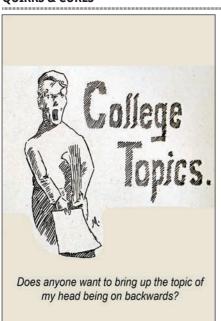
(NO SUBJECT) BY JANE MATTIMOE



TWO IN THE BUSH BY @REALSTEVEBALIK & DANA CASTNER



QUIRKS & CURLS MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN





OROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You strive to come at life from a place of abundance and optimism. You accomplish this by noticing all the cool things around you. You will someday have and do other things. Still, what you have now is pretty amazing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). "I'm sorry" should not be followed by the word "but." Accept and give only apologies that express a regret and intend a change. Also consider adopting a "no apologies" policy for a few days.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your job isn't easy, but it's not that hard, either. So push yourself, You'll be amazed at how much more you can do once you pass the first three points of internal resistance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your tender heart craves a feeling of acceptance. You'll get what you need when you go where you believe you'll fit in. Your contributions will be recognized there.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a certain sequence of actions that you like to follow while getting ready to greet the world. When you don't have time for your usual routine, you'd rather stay in - which may very well be your choice today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Be wary of the one who paints a selfish picture by talking only in terms of how the world can help him and not at all about how he might help the

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You do something different from what your competitors do. Highlight that difference now, as there will be people who respond to your unique approach You may even be paid handsomely for this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The gender divide will be a hot topic, and you'll be made all too aware of the behaviors that are deemed acceptable for one gender but not the other. Challenge the status quo and do something crazy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a kind of rage in you — a fire that burns in your belly and won't let you quit even long after it seems sensible to do so. That rage is part of the reason why you'll reach a goal by

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Matters of identity and presentation can be complicated. There are many facets to your personality, and you don't want to confuse people by showing them too many sides of you at once

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your delivery will be everything. The way you speak, the tones you use and the spirit of nurturing behind your words will make all the difference in successful communication.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Demonstrate your independence. Your autonomy makes you desirable to interesting partners. Relationships based on a shared drive to build and create are far more engaging than relationships based on need

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 3). You do want vour fondest wishes to come true, but not right away. That would be no fun. The journey is the thing, and you're in for the long ride. In May, you'll be traveling for work. June brings an improvement in your family dynamic. Scorpio and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 4, 33, 1 and 16.







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Fill in the LAST SOLUTION: grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 #25 through 9.

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The New Hork Times Crossword 37 Decision reversal ... or literally, what can be found inside 17-, 22-, 49- and 58-Across

41 Church laws

42 Model's asset

48 Web video gear

49 Cybermenaces

58 How children

65 Eye, to a bard

66 Apple products since 2001

67 Blast from the

past

should be, in a saying

org. 47 It's hot, then it's not

MEDIUM

ACROSS 1 Sing the praises of 6 Online party reminder

11 Josh 14 "The Family Circus" cartoonist

15 Corral 16 Surgeon's org.

17 Yellow-eyed birds of prey 20 Apple products since 1998 56 Pants, slangily 57 Hunter in the night sky 21 Solemn column

22 Part of a fraternity ritual, perhaps 28 energystar.gov

grp. 29 Sound of delight 30 Spectrum start

31 Traces of 34 Dr. Seuss's

org. 69 Guita

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DOWN 1 Hosp. readout 2 Gen

system) 4 How elated people walk "I want to try!"

6 Geologic span 8 Room offerer 9 Homophone of 3-Down

10 Maze's goal 11 Where to order oysters 12 "My answe was ...," in teen-speak

13 Whacked good 18 Magician's prop 19 Sound of delight

23 Movie that might have thousands

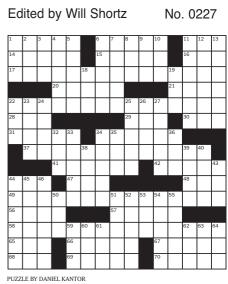
25 Unworldly ones 27 Docile sorts

32 Pre-election ad buyer, maybe 33 Chaotic situation

34 Crystal-filled rock

36 Southeast

Edited by Will Shortz



39 Major Thai

46 Simple creature 50 Wordplay from Groucho

export 51 Sonata finale.

19th-century anarchist's foe

43 Ambulance 44 Pursues, as a

45 Wood-damaging 55 Belfry sound 59 Razor brand

63 Letters on 53 River islet Halloween decorations

61 Blouse, e.g.

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Provided by the Three-Day Weather Forecast Cavalier Weather Service TOMORROW NIGHT **TONIGHT ★** TOMORROW **FRIDAY** High of 55° Low of 37° High of 54 Low of 24° High of 57° Mostly clear, with Mostly sunny skies becoming Mostly sunny, with westerly northwesterly winds around cloudy in the early evening, Overcast, with temperatures Cloudy, with temperatures winds becoming northwesterly falling to the upper 30s. increasing to the upper 50s. 6 mph becoming calm and with northerly winds at 6 to 14 mph. northerly. becoming southerly.

Canadian high pressure will build into our area through this evening, keeping cooler temperatures in the low to mid 50s. Coastal low

StudCo elects new chair

pressure will bring rain back to Charlottesville tomorrow night and Friday.

Council selects third-year College student Promisel as representative body leader

Student Council elected thirdyear College student Michael Promisel as the chair of its representative body Tuesday. Promisel was nominated for the position alongside thirdyear College student Evan Dunks, a College representative, and Batten School Representative Sheridan Fuller, a

fourth-year Batten student.
Fuller said he wanted to make Council a more cohesive organization that is responsive to the student body.

Promisel said his experience with Council's recent bylaw reform positioned him well to serve as chair.

"It is in our hands to set a new precedent," Promisel said. "Having helped deliberate and draft these reforms, I am situated to make sure they are realized." All three candidates highlighted their experience with Council in speeches to Council members. "I have the experience to get things done as chair," Dunks said to

Council. "You can read all day how it's supposed to work but seeing it — that gives me the edge to do a good job as chair."

In addition to implementing the new bylaws, Promisel said he also wants to quickly fill the four vacant committee chair positions. "[Council needs] to adjust what we do to meet [students'] needs and concerns," he said. "I am uniquely positioned to address that dissidence."

— compiled by Abby Meredith



Jenna Truong | Cavalier Daily

To receive Cavalier Weather Service

forecasts via email, contact weather@virginia.edu

Council in a meeting Tuesday evening voted for third-year College student Michael Promisel to serve as this year's representative body leader.

Election | Vandever denies Pfaltz's partisan allegations

Continued from page A1

make him less able to fulfill the demands of the position.

"Jason is a member of the Democratic club, he's unlikely to report anything that would be embarrassing [to the Democrats]," Pfaltz said. "There are embarrassments in the city finances, and as an Independent I can afford to expose these things

and work to fix them."

Vandever said Pfaltz's concerns were largely about the city more generally, and not the treasurer's

office. "I really just want to focus on the treasury, and that's a big part of the city — its finances,"

Income | Socioeconomic status influences applications

Continued from page A1

average admittance rate 31 percent higher than students not in

the study, and were admitted to colleges with graduation rates 24 percent higher than students not in the study.

percent higher than the schools to which non-participants applied.

At the University, the number

of low-income students applying has increased by 30 percent since 2007, Dean of Admissions Greg Roberts said. To encour-

age increased socioeconomic diversity, the University must provide robust financial aid programs, he added.

I never my drinking and economics

87.6% of UVA students do not ride with drunk drivers.*

Professor Kenneth Elzinga, Economics Department

*data from the 2007 Health Behaviors Survey, completed by a random sample of 1,573 students

Track and field wins 12

Men and women place second at Virginia Invitational, shatter personal records

Matthew Wurzburger Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The Virginia men's and women's track and field teams put forth an impressive showing Saturday at the Virginia Invitational at Lannigan Field. Twelve Cavaliers won individual events and both teams finished the day in second place.

Many Virginia athletes improved by leaps and bounds, shattering their previous personal bests.

"The team did a very good job of stepping things up," Virginia coach Bryan Fetzer said. "We had some folks have some monster PRs today. Each week we want to build from where we were, we need to continue this and raise our level again next week."

The men and women each claimed an early win and 10 points in the high jump. Junior Tommy DeVita set a personal best with a jump of 2.07m. Sophomore Moira Cronin also broke her previous personal record in the high jump, clearing a bar set at 1.80m for the win and the fifthhighest jump in school history.

Junior Abbey Karin took the final field event for the Cavaliers in the women's javelin throw, launching her javelin 47.32m down range in the finals to secure top marks. The throw was also the fourth-longest ever recorded in Virginia women's

The Cavaliers carried their success into the running events. The Virginia men dominated the long distance events, winning all four, while the women won three races as well.

Sophomore Vanessa Fabrizio and senior Vicky Fouhy dueled for first place in the women's 800 meter run. Fabrizio would get the best of Fouhy, edging her out by four-tenths of a second. The winning time of 2:06.45 was the fifthfastest time in program history.

Barbara Strehler continued her dominance in the 1500 meter run. The junior won with a time of 4:29.50, notching her second consecutive personal best and race victory in the 1500.

Junior Katherine Walker made her season debut in the 5000

meter run, cruising her way to an easy victory as she finished more than a minute before the nextfastest runner.

It did not take long for the Virginia men to assert their dominance in the distance events. Junior Bryan Lewis finished the men's 3000 meter steeplechase with soaking feet and a first place finish. Lewis worked the race in a pack of fellow teammates sophomore Colin Mearns and freshman Adam Visokay, helping to cut down headwinds and provide a significant psychological edge, before separating himself down

"Our goal was to out there and hang out for the first kilometer, and then get a little faster," Lewis said. "It is always good to run with a group to make sure you keep going.'

Juniors Anthony Kostelac and Chris Foley and sophomore Kyle King all won their respective distance races. Kostelac won the 800 meter run in relatively easy fashion. King defeated junior teammate Taylor Gilland for the 1500 meter title. The 5000 meter



Courtesy Virginia Athletics

Sophomore Vanessa Fabrizio edged out her teammate, senior Vicky Fouhy, for first place in the women's 800 meter run by four-tenths of a second.

run came down to a final sprint between Foley and Lewis, with Foley winning by a hair and crossing the finish line with a time of 14:56.94 — a mere three-thousandths of a second faster than Lewis.

The Virginia Invitational featured an impressive amount of talent amassed at one track meet, and the Virginia team held up against stiff competition.

"Competition is huge," sopho-

more Jordan Lavender said. "You can be running against people who aren't very talented and come out in first without running a good time, or you can run against people who will push you to a great time. At the end of the day you really just want to improve.

The Cavaliers will next travel to Berkeley, Calif. Saturday for a tri-meet against Michigan and

Something for everyone

SEAN MCGOEY

ESPN is my home page, and lately, I've been refreshing the NFL Rumor Central page every hour in hopes of catching a tidbit about what my Saints are doing. But like I did with the Super Bowl, I'm tuning it out this week, because there's something bigger afoot. We're nearing the culmination of my all-time favorite sporting event — the NCAA men's basketball tournament. I love Final Four weekend. Maybe it's innate; I was born the day before Duke and Michigan's Fab Five earned the right to play each other for the 1992 national championship and six days after the Duke-Kentucky East Regional final — considered by many to be the greatest game of all time.

Maybe it's that without fail, I go into the tournament's final weekend so far behind in every pool I entered that I have long since burned my bracket — a blessing in disguise that allows me to focus on great basketball rather than my own picks. But whatever the reason, I love the Final Four more than the Super Bowl, World Series, Stanley Cup and NBA Finals put together.

And this year is no different. My picks were once again terrible - it's tough losing a Georgetown squad I predicted to make the Final Four in the round of 64 – but after making lots of safe picks, I'd like to think we're better off with some unexpected teams. This Final Four has it all.

Love defense? Look no further than Syracuse, whose 2-3 zone has flummoxed Montana, California, No. 1 seed Indiana and Big East foe Marquette into averaging fewer than 46 points per game in the tournament. Top overall seed Louisville's aggressive pressure has yielded just 59 points per game. And in their eight combined games, Michigan and Wichita State have given up 70 or more points just twice — against No. 1 seeds Kansas and Gonzaga, respectively.

Is inside play your thing? Louisville, Wichita State and Syracuse all rank in the top 50 in the nation in rebounding. The Shockers are averaging a whopping 13 offensive boards per game. The Orange have the high-

est rebounding numbers of the bunch despite not having a true center. Louisville junior center Gorgui Dieng is a fearsome post presence. Perhaps the best inside weapon of all, though, is Michigan forward Mitch McGary. The freshman has burst onto the scene with 17.5 points and 11.5 rebounds per game in the Big Dance.

And all of that is before we even discuss the guards that these teams are trotting out. Syracuse sophomore Michael Carter-Williams, an athletic 6-6 point, and Michigan sophomore Trey Burke, the favorite to win national player of the year, are likely to be two of the first lead guards off the board come NBA Draft time. Michigan also boasts swingmen in freshman Glenn Robinson III and junior Tim Hardaway Jr., both talented sons of talented former NBA stars. Louisville senior Peyton Siva and junior Russ Smith, while not garnering the same NBA attention, are a potent one-two punch nonetheless. The sleeper is Wichita State's Malcolm Armstead, a senior who is averaging 15.5 points per contest in the tournament. Whether he can get it done against Siva and Smith Saturday will likely determine the

Shockers' Final Four fate. Not too concerned with oncourt happenings? Don't worry; this Final Four has storylines too. Michigan is playing in its first Final Four since the Fab Five had consecutive title-game losses in 1992 and 1993. Wichita State, a No. 9 seed, is vying to become the lowest-seeded team to ever cut down the nets as champion. And Louisville is playing for injured teammate Kevin Ware, the victim of a gruesome leg injury against Duke in the Elite Eight. Anyone who saw Ware's teammates weeping on the court as he was stretchered off knows that the Cardinals are playing for some-

thing bigger than just themselves. Have you heard enough? Hopefully you don't need more convincing to tune in for the best three-day weekend — yes, I say "Monday Night" should be counted as a holiday — American sports has to offer. I know the Charlottesville weather is finally starting to blossom into the beautiful spring we've all been hoping for, but this weekend, I'll be on the couch with snacks, friends and a cold beer — now that I'm 21 — my eyes glued to the Final Four. Spring lasts for months; enjoy it when there isn't basket-

Cavs travel to Fairfax

Virginia seeks Wednesday doubleheader wins against in-state George Mason

Andrew O'Shea Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

Following its first ACC serieswin of the season, the Virginia softball team will travel to Fairfax, Va. to play George Mason in a Wednesday doubleheader. The Cavaliers (14-16, 3-6

ACC) have been plagued by inconsistencies this season. After a three-game win streak in mid-March, they were swept in a three-game series at Maryland. This past Saturday, they rebounded with a series-clinching 4-1 win against Boston College at home. The Cavaliers are hoping the momentum from their first conference series-win will propel them to further success.

"We'll feel good going into next weekend," senior shortstop Lauren Didlake said. "It's good to get on a roll and get

After splitting the doubleeader Friday, the Cavaliers put on a strong showing Saturday to secure the series. Senior pitcher Melanie Mitchell threw 13 strikeouts while only allowing one run in seven innings, improving her record for the season to 11-9. Her performance led to the conference tapping her as the ACC Softball Pitcher of the Week Tuesday.

With the win, Mitchell tied Lisa Palmer for the most wins in program history at 74. Additionally, she became the first Cavalier to throw more than 1,000 career strikeouts — tallying 1,008 for her career. She is only the seventh ACC pitcher to reach the career milestone.

The Cavaliers take a brief break from ACC play to face the Patriots (9-21, 2-4 CAA), who have also experienced a difficult season so far, but also enter Wednesday coming off a series win last weekend. They defeated UNC-Wilmington twice in a three-game series in Fairfax, after having lost 14 of

their previous 15 games.
Despite the Patriots' lackluster record, Virginia coach Eileen Schmidt does not view the game as an easy win.

"I think they started off a little hotter than what they've been right now," Schmidt said. "[George Mason coach] Joe [Verbanic] does a great job. His team is always well-coached, usually extremely aggressive and they'll swing big bats."

Virginia is looking to improve on its previous road series, when the team was swept at Maryland. The Cavaliers' Saturday game against Boston College exemplified their volatile play early, but they were able to overcome an early deficit to take the win. In the first inning, the Eagles scored quickly to take a one-run lead, but the Cavaliers responded with three runs in the second. Senior infielder Alex Skinkis delivered a sacrifice RBI groundout. Two batters later, Didlake hit her first career home run, scoring senior catcher Kristen Hawkins, who

had reached base on a walk.

The Cavaliers have made it a habit of coming from behind, so overcoming the early deficit was not difficult. Of Virginia's last eight wins, six have come after trailing at some point in

"We stayed up the whole time and we're behind each other the whole time," Didlake said. "No matter what happens, we're always there cheering for each other and keeping it going, keeping our roll when we had a roll or rally going."

But Virginia is seeking to improve upon the uneven playing habits that have become a theme this season before facing the second half of its ACC schedule.

"That's kind of what we've been talking about ... all year, is the consistency piece of all areas of our game," Schmidt said. "Whether it's having pitching and not getting the hitting, or having the hitting and not getting the consistent pitching and defense."

Fresh off the Boston College series, the Cavaliers remain optimistic heading into Wednesday afternoon as they look to top the Patriots, who are looking to avenge a 5-1 loss to Virginia last season in Charlottesville.

"Hopefully we can go and get two wins," Mitchell said. "The offense has been doing very well, and our defense is finally catching up to our offense."



Senior shortstop Lauren Didlake hit her first career home run, scoring senior catcher Kristen Hawkins and taking a two-run lead in a 4-1 win against Boston College last Saturday.

Courtesy

M Tennis | Sophomore phenom shines in return to court

Continued from page A1

came at what seemed like the worst possible time. Instead of building on his success and defending his fall titles, he spent six months rehabbing his knee and supporting his teammates from the sideline. Still, Frank believes that the time off may not have been entirely detrimental.

"I was obviously pretty upset and disappointed, but at the same time I had been playing a lot of tennis and I had been under a lot of stress the whole year," Frank said, "In a way it almost ended up being a nice break, and I was able to get back to doing things how I wanted to do them.'

Virginia coach Brian Boland agreed, highlighting Frank's unwavering commitment to his sport and his team throughout

his injury. "Adversity strikes all of us and we're defined by how well we handle that, and nobody handled it better than Mitchell," Boland said. "He was extremely dedicated to doing things the right way, to getting back to competing full strength as soon as possible. But he really focused on doing a great job in other aspects of his life — including his academics — and he did a great job staying involved with the team and supporting his fellow teammates during fall matches and individual tournaments."

Frank was cleared to play Dec. 31, and Jan. 25 he finally returned to the courts. In the ITA Kick-Off Weekend, he topped North Florida senior Pedro Davisson, 6-1, 6-0, and didn't drop a match en route to clinching the team's fifth National Team Indoor title.

"I was pretty nervous," Frank said of his first matches this season. "Obviously I was very, very happy to get back out there, but it was tough — and it still is tough — because I don't have the same number of matches that most players have. At the same time I think I've been getting more confident with every match I get and I've been able to piece things together and improve on my old form."

Since his return, Frank has only lost once in singles. He has defeated eight nationallyranked opponents, and after going undefeated during a grueling spring break schedule, he was named ACC Player of the Week for the first time in his

"He's worked really hard on finding that balance between defending his court, taking over the point, [and] becoming more offensive," Boland said "I think he works just as hard as he did in the past, but I believe he's learned to manage his body much better and to make sure that he's careful with his approach to training."

The numbers might suggest that he has basically picked

up where he left off — a 6-0, 6-0 shutout of Duke freshman Michael Redlicki comes to mind but Frank insists he still has work to do.

"Physically I feel pretty much 100 percent, but there are still a couple kinks I can work on," Frank said.

Of course, Frank is not called "The Machine" for nothing. After watching Frank's phenomenal debut, his determination throughout rehab and his performance since returning to the court, Boland expects nothing but tremendous success in Frank's future.

"Mitchell's a winner," Boland said, "He has been from the day I met him and he will continue to be one."





Marshall Bronfin | Cavalier Daily

Sophomore midfielder Morgan Stephens tallied two goals and an assist in the first half to lead Virginia into halftime up 9-0 against American.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Cavaliers dominate Eagles

After a disappointing weekend loss to ACC-rival Boston College, the No. 11 Virginia women's lacrosse team bounced back Tuesday afternoon with a commanding 16-4 victory against American in Washington, D.C. The Cavaliers (7-6, 0-4 ACC) scored the first 11 goals of the game and limited the Eagles (5-7, 3-0 Patriot League) to seven shots on goal in just the second meeting ever between the two

Virginia built a 6-0 advantage in the game's opening 20 minutes and tacked on three more unanswered goals before halftime. Freshman attacker Kelly Boyd and sophomore midfielders Courtney Swan and Morgan Stephens all scored twice in the first half.

The Cavaliers continued to apply pressure in the game's second half, with junior attacker Ashlee Warner adding two goals in the first five minutes after the break to her pair of first-half assists. American finally got on board when sophomore attacker Jordan Harrington scored off a pass from senior attacker Kimberly Collins with 20:59 to play. But the Eagles never closed the deficit to single digits despite three goals and an assist from Collins, a 2012 first-team All-Patriot League selection.

Sophomore attacker Casey Bocklet, Virginia's leading scorer, bounced back from her

first zero-point outing of the year — Saturday's 10-7 loss at Boston College — with two goals and an assist. Stephens and Warner led the Cavaliers with four points each, and Swan won six draw controls. Sophomore defender Daniela Eppler contributed two grounds balls and caused two turnovers. Junior goalkeeper Liz Colgan recorded three saves in her fifth straight start filling in for injured senior Kim Kolarik.

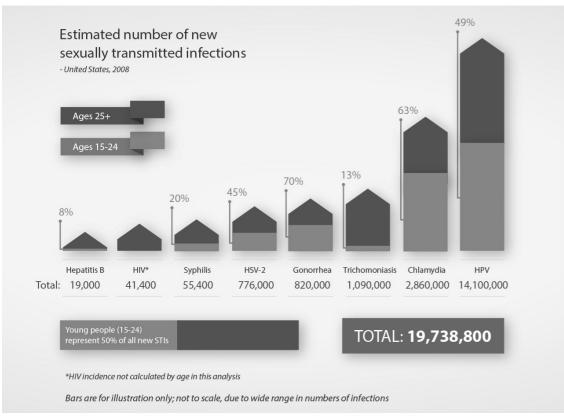
Virginia will look to maintain its momentum Sunday against No. 4 Northwestern in the first of three games at Klöckner Stadium to conclude the regular season.

– compiled by Matthew Morris

Health Science

Student Health hosts annual free STI testing

Virginia Department of Health, University's Ryan White program co-sponsor event; clinic provides HIV, gonorrhea results in 15 minutes



Courtesy U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Student Health will be hosting its annual free STI testing clinic in Newcomb Hall April 9 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fifty percent of new STI diagnoses are in the 15-24 age range, according to the U.S. Department of Health.

By Tayler Bruce Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

Student Health is hosting its

annual free testing for sexually transmitted infections April 9 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. in Newcomb Hall's Commonwealth Room. At the event — co-sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health and the University's Ryan White Program — students can receive results from chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV

tests within 15 minutes.

More than 700 students have visited Student Health for STIrelated issues in the past two years, said Dr. Jamie Leonard, director of the office of health promotion. This event not only provides students the opportunity to learn their health status before any physical symptoms manifest, Leonard said, but also reinforces the importance of knowing your STI status before becoming sexually active with a new

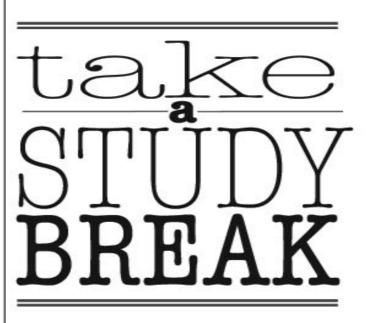
partner.

a student to be able to talk with a provider, ask questions and analyze their own risks in order to make positive choices in the future," she said.

Infection rates for gonorrhea and chlamydia among people aged 15-24 are four times higher than that of the general population, according to data compiled by the Center for Disease Control in 2011. And of the 20 million people in the United States diagnosed with an STI each year, more than half are aged 15-24 — including 70 percent of new gonorrhea cases and 63 percent of new chlamydia infections — according to a February report.

Preventative measures are the most important step in combating STIs, Leonard said.

"The best advice is to protect oneself from acquiring an STI in the first place," she said. "Limiting the number of partners, consistently and correctly using condoms, and knowing a partner's status are "It is an important time for all strategies for protection."



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olofdance.com

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BOOK SALE

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pinion Wednesday, April 3, 2013



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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Digital learning, digital labor

The University should not set Bloomfield's Herculean online-learning efforts as a realistic standard for faculty

The University last week released an article in UVA Today hyping its offerings on Coursera, a company that hosts free online courses. The piece spotlighted Physics Prof. Lou Bloomfield, who is broadcasting his popular "How Things Work" course to roughly 5,000 students around the globe.

Bloomfield is a University legend for many undergraduates. His class on the fundamentals of physics, punctuated by lively hands-on experiments — falling balls and ramps and seesaws has the visual flair to succeed as a MOOC. And judging from student feedback, his course has fared well. Though only about 10 percent of the students who initially enrolled in the class are still participating, this figure is typical for MOOCs.

Given Bloomfield's popularity and his apparent interest in digital-learning platforms, it is fitting that the University, in seeking to highlight its forays into MOOC-world, would center its coverage on him. But in demonstrating Bloomfield's prowess as a teacher, the University's article raises some concerns about how labor-intensive teaching an online course might be.

Bloomfield has to work 100 hours to produce one hour of video, the piece reported. By the semester's end, he will have invested more

than 1,000 hours in the course. By contrast, if Bloomfield were to invest 20 hours a week into teaching his on-Grounds "How Things Work" course, after 15 weeks his total investment would be 300 hours — a fraction of what his MOOC demands.

In addition to arranging and presenting the course content, Bloomfield is also responsible for shooting and editing his own video. This iteration of the "How Things Work" MOOC contains just six episodes, but Bloomfield plans to add more in future versions.

The University's report of this daunting workload is likely meant to provoke esteem. And it should. Bloomfield's staunch work ethic is undeniably impressive. (He also finds time to manage Lou's List, which allows students and faculty to navigate course schedules without venturing into SIS.) But the sheer number of hours Bloomfield is putting into his MOOC is intimidating.

The University's party line on Coursera is that the online venture is an experiment. Bloomfield, an established faculty member, has the flexibility and freedom to engage in such experiments without serious risk to his professional stature. His grueling undertaking, however, should not set a precedent for what the University may rightfully expect from other faculty members who take on MOOCs.

First is the matter of workload. While we commend Bloomfield for his work weeks that likely extend into triple digits, we wish them on no one. In the event that more and more professors begin teaching MOOCs, the University must remain conscious of what it may fairly demand from its employees.

Second is the matter of technical support. Bloomfield is shooting and editing his own video, but most professors would require technical assistance to ensure a high-quality product free of glitches. Such assistance would also maximize faculty members' teaching and research time. For professors to both teach and produce their MOOCs is an unrealistic expectation.

Bloomfield's taxing schedule may be energizing for him. For other faculty members — especially those who cannot afford to take a full semester off other research and teaching obligations — such a workload could be debilitating. Bloomfield is an exceptional professor. We hope the University recognizes this fact — and in terms of what the school demands from its faculty teaching MOOCs, a Bloomfield-esque workload should be just that: an exception.

"The Managing Board explained what happens to Chris the Christian if he harasses another student (under any circumstance). However, the board failed to discuss what happens if Chris intends to be annoying or disruptive in a non-violent way. Can University Democrats or College Republicans bar members of the opposing party who join to bog meetings down with procedure? Can groups, even radical ones, still choose their membership to "peaceably assemble" under the First Amendment? If the University wants to be an unbiased partner for student growth, then it should not be in a position of picking winners and losers among law abiding groups. Fighting arbitrary discrimination is a just cause, but it need not limit people's rights. The First Amendment's implied right of association allows Chris to associate with any person or group within the confines of the law. However, it does not make those CIOs associate with him if he opposes the group's mission."

Featured online reader comment

"Joel Taubman," responding to the Managing Board's April 1 lead editorial, "Groupthink."

Write a letter to the editor today!

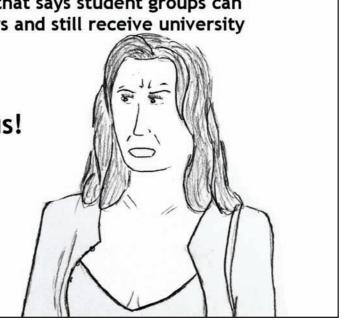
opinion@ cavalierdaily.

Editorial Cartoon by Peter Simonsen

McDonnell just signed a law that says student groups can discriminate against members and still receive university funding.

You can't sit with us!

Prejudice against sweatpants wearers is likely to continue



The pursuit of happiness

Students should give back to the University to benefit future students

Spring break hit me like a brick wall. The arrival back in Charlottesville reminded me that the real world is right around the corner. I will have a real job next year, live

in my first apartment and — gulp — be on my own. The sudden realiza-

tion that Final Exercises lies only weeks away caused me to reflect a little on my time here at the University. This reflection is one I want to share — and I want to encourage you to consider too.

My reflection started out with the question of, "How have I changed?" Although I couldn't put my finger on specific ways I have changed from first to fourth year, I do know that I have become less naïve about the world around me. I have learned that deep hurt and sadness exist. More importantly, this " unnaiveté" taught me to appreciate the little things in life.

This then led to introspection about what "little things" I have come to love about our University. It's funny how this list doesn't end. From a friend who has a story polar opposite from mine, to a professor who sat down and talked to me about raising and showing cattle, I've been changed. There is also the fact that I am living in a room

endowed purely for someone that is "good." These little things have shaped me here at the University, and these little things have led to finding inner joy.

Right now I am taking a project management class in the Commerce

"Giving back so others

can share the little things

that I prized is something

that I now find joy in

being part of."

School. I've learned a little bit about root cause analysis, causing me to ask why, why, why, again and again — hoping to find the origin of the things that I do and think. For these little things — these little joys — the bottom why comes down

to someone giving back. My friend goes here because he is on scholarship. Someone giving

VIRGINIA MOORE

GUEST COLUMNIST

back made this school and my relationship

with him possible. My professor teaches here because someone gave back to create a professorship, thus ensuring that there is money for him and others to reach out to students far in the future. My room, an acknowledgement that this University cares about character, came from someone starting an endowment. By giving back, a family ensured that someone would be

recognized every year for putting others in front of themselves, for ensuring humility and for making this place a better one.

In my "root cause"-like analysis, I dug deep to find that there is joy in giving back. Giving back so others can share the little things that I prized is something that I now find joy in being part of. This year, the Class Giving Campaign is one that allows everyone in the fourth-year class to give any amount to any "little thing" that has changed them or their lives here at the University. I encourage each and every one

of you to think about how you have changed. As younger first, second and third years think about the little things that are changing you.

At the University, expect them. Think about what has made you better and what has opened your eyes to the world around you. Think about these "little things" and take it upon yourself to give back and make them possible for

Virginia Moore is a fourth-year trustee and the current resident of the Gus Blagden "Good Guy" Room.

THE CD

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Searching for reasons

Google's decision not to create a doodle commemorating Easter has resulted in unwarranted criticism

Even if you do not use Google, you are probably aware of the search engine's practice of stylizing its homepage logo into quirky doodles. The doodles normally ref-

erence a particular person or event, usu-

ALEX YAHANDA SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ally one that coincides with the date on which the doodle appears. Many users consider the doodles one of the site's endearing characteristics. This past Easter, though, Google's doodle incited controversy in a ridiculous instance of religious outrage.

Google caused an outcry from Christians and conservatives by not representing Jesus or anything Easter-related in its doodle on Easter Sunday. Instead, Google displayed a doodle commemorating historical labor figure Cesar Chavez. The doodle was appropriate for Sunday, as it coincided with the fact that March 31 is also Cesar Chavez day, which President Barack Obama started two years ago. Nevertheless, some felt insulted.

The fact that Easter is a major Christian holiday that millions of Americans celebrate does not mean that Google is obligated

to change its homepage to reference either Jesus or anything else Easter-related. In fact, it is surprising that controversy has arisen from something as triv-

ial as a Google doodle. True, Google traditionally has altered

its logo to reflect a special happening on a particular date. Yet Google's refusal to include Easter in its Sunday doodle does not necessarily indicate that the

day.

site's opera-"Google similarly abstains tors find from producing doodles Easter to be unimportspecifically celebrating ant. Rather, Christmas, Hanukkah and they simply other religious holidays, and chose to emphasize should be praised for mainsomething taining a secular attitude different toward what it chooses to about that commemorate."

I look at the Google doodles as an entertaining aspect to the website and not much more. If Google does not celebrate something that I found important about a date, I do not find myself getting actually outraged. For instance,

Google did not commemorate

Charles Darwin's 200th birthday this year, which I thought was a shame. I was not upset enough, however, to lambast Google for its lack of a proper homepage, because I do not take their doodle choices seriously. I assumed that others felt the same way. Apparently I was

The fact remains that there is a nontrivial amount of the American population that does not recognize the divinity of

Jesus. There are Jews, Muslims, atheists or agnostics and many other religions that do not assign religious importance to Easter. Google s i m i l a r l y abstains from producing

doodles specifically celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and other religious holidays, and should be praised for maintaining a secular attitude toward what it chooses to commemorate. Google and its derivatives like Gmail dominate the list of the world's most visited websites. With such a public presence, Google rightly refrains from promoting one religion to the exclusion of any others. Taking a fair approach to all its users, Google opts to treat all religions equally by highlighting no religious holidays or events in doodles. Why should Christians be treated any differently than Hindus or Buddhists? That so many Americans are upset because they feel that Google should prioritize something Christian says more about the absurd religious sensitivity of the American populus than it does about Google's decision-making processes.

And it is not as if Google chose not to show a picture of Jesus in favor of something irrelevant or offensive. Cesar Chavez, regardless of whether or not one believes in his political leanings, is an important American historical figure. And Google, a search engine, seeks to assist people in obtaining knowledge, so its doodles should do the same. For instance, doodles from this past year have celebrated less well-known happenings such as foreign nations' election days, women's day, and the birthdays of historical figures like Nicolaus Copernicus. How Google doodles seek to inject bits of random knowledge into everyone's daily lives is something to be admired. Knowledge of Easter in the U.S. is nearly universal. There does not seem to be much point, then, in creating a doodle that focuses on Easter while ignoring lesser-known events.

Google doodles should not be the cause of outrage, especially outrage as widespread as that created by the Cesar Chavez doodle. There are reports of people wanting to boycott Google because other search engines like Bing included Easter graphics on their homepages. People who celebrate Easter can sufficiently commemorate the holiday on their own; everything on Easter Sunday need not be centered on that holiday. Those who found themselves upset about a 24-hour Google doodle will hopefully set their priorities straight and use Google to find causes actually worth getting upset about.

> Alex Yahanda is a senior associate editor for The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at a.yahanda@ cavalierdaily.com.



The Facebook delusion

Those using social media to publicize a cause may not truly be informed about the issue

Using social media to advocate political positions has taken hold in the past few years. A recent high-profile example of social-

FARIHA KABIR

OPINION COLUMNIST

media advocacy has been people posting images of the equality sign

with a red background in sup- yes, the picture reflects support port of marriage equality. The Supreme Court's tackling of gay marriage's constitutionality has invigorated equality advocates nationwide — and on Facebook.

The Supreme Court is considering two cases dealing with gay marriage. The first case involves California's Proposition 8, with the plaintiffs arguing that the legislation, which bans gay marriage in California, violates the federal constitution. The second case involves Defense of Marriage Act from 1996 (DOMA), signed under former President Bill Clinton. DOMA denies gay married couples the federal benefits heterosexual couples receive. It also formally defines marriage as an institution between a man and woman.

Scrolling Facebook, looking at the many marriage-equality

images, I question how many people posted the picture because they were aware of the Supreme Court cases and

how many posted it because of peer influence. On a superficial level,

for marriage equality. But on deeper level, it is important not to assume that everyone who posted the picture necessarily understands the issues behind the image. While one can advocate for a cause without being informed about the issue, such advocacy lacks any value. To a certain extent, social issues on Facebook are along party lines, but they also turn into fads. Such fads are not limited only to gay rights.

Early last year, Facebook and other social media sites became embroiled in the fight against the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect the IP Act (PIPA). The legislations were meant to protect copyrights, prevent piracy and prevent the trafficking of goods online. Yet most people on Facebook believed the legislation was about was about censorship and First Amendment rights. The legislation was about protecting ideas and

expression rather than preventing knowledge, though the line between the two may have become hazy. That haziness caused mis-

understandings. The legislation was meant to prevent the piracy of music and movies, but did not necessarily mean that people were going to be restricted from exercising freedom of expression. The disparity between the legislation's purpose and the general reception of the legislation on Facebook reflected the possibility that people may not fully understand the issues they support through online activism. This misunderstanding is often a consequence of jumping to conclusions because of peer influence rather than investigating the topic and forming an educated opinion. Social media, which allows peers to

broadcast their opinions, may heighten the danger that online political actions are examples of conformity

more than

This trend

is not limited

to Facebook.

It extends to

online activ-

ism more

broadly.

advocacy.

"While one can advocate for a cause without being informed about the issue, such advocacy lacks any value."

> Online activism is a fantastic way to publicize issues and help such issues gain prominence. And activism via online media is very common now. But it is important to take into account that support for an issue — especially online support — does not mean people are informed about the issue. It is thus important to not overestimate the powers of online activism. For example, social causes such as alleviating poverty in Africa are fairly common on Facebook. However, reading the small description on that page and then liking the page is

> not indicative that the person

understands the complexity

of the issue. They have only obtained a superficial understanding of it. Moreover, having ill-informed supporters behind a cause devalues the cause and its significance. How can someone rally support for an issue if he or she does not understand it? Ignorance results in other people having misconceptions about the cause, which may reduce support rather than increase it.

My intention in this article was not to promote the issue of gay rights or SOPA one way or another but rather to increase awareness of the limitations of advocating different issues on Facebook. I myself have not put up the equality sign as my profile picture, not because I do not support the issue — for I most certainly do — but because I found out about the Supreme Court case rather belatedly. Putting up that profile picture when one fully understands the issue will go further toward making a difference than will blind support.

Fariha Kabir is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily.

Speak Up.



Student Spotlight: Merci, Margot's Cupcakes

A little bit of icing, a little bit of cake and a whole lot of personality

For fourth-year College student Margot Mellon, what started out as a casual baking hobby for service projects has turned into a fruitful and promising entrepreneurial endeavor.

Mellon recently started her own business — Merci, Margot's Cupcakes — which delivers homemade cupcakes for \$2 per treat. After gaining experience at a bakery during the summer and baking for many events for her service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, she decided to take that knowledge and turn it into a business venture. To place an order, all that's needed is a text to Mellon, and a bit of patience for the delivery.

"I think there is a niche within U.Va. for this kind of service," Mellon said. "There is Campus Cookies, and this is kind of on par with that ... I deliver to people [and] it's not as expensive as going to an actual bakery and buying cupcakes.

Though Mellon has tried various marketing techniques to let people know about her business, she said the most effective method of promotion has been word of mouth.

"I think that cupcakes make people happy," Mellon said. "I know they're not very good for people, but I think [they're] definitely worth a lot — just to get somebody a moment of their day when they can enjoy a cupcake.'

The business is run entirely out of Mellon's kitchen, allowing her to be very flexible and

to cater to individual needs. "I like the fact that she hand delivers her cupcakes so you really get to know her," said third-year College student Lydia Prokosch, Mellon's roommate. "Each [cupcake] you can tell has a lot of love put into it."

At the moment, Mellon offers red velvet with cream cheese icing, pumpkin cake with cream cheese buttercream icing, chocolate cake with peanut buttercream icing, and any combination of chocolate and vanilla.

"I'm not a particularly science-y person, but I like the precision of baking, and the science of food really fascinates me," Mellon said. "I have the classic mother who is a great cook and baked a lot [when I was]

growing up."

Though she'll be graduating in a little more than two months, Mellon's not looking too far into the future when it comes to her cupcake busi-

"I definitely am interested in the business side of it and how I could possibly grow it, but no plans right now to open a shop," she said. "We'll see."





Courtesy of Margot

Bored games

Dear Abbi



ABBI SIGLER

ored games," you say? Nah, you've got it all wrong. Board games are anything but boring. You probably haven't played them in a while, unless you've been on a rainy family vacation, but they're not just for kids and old people anymore. As someone who rediscovered her love of board games last semester and pretty much hasn't stopped playing since, I am here to encourage you to get back in

the game. It all started innocently enough - one of my roommates and her boyfriend asked us to play because they needed two more people for the game. More people, more fun. How could we say no? It would only take an hour. False. If I had known that I would ultimately spend exponentially more time playing board games than going to the gym and the library combined, I might never have accepted his initial offer. We played again and again, bringing in his roommate to make a complete five. We made a little board game clique, excluding others because, "Sorry, only five people can play."

Maybe you've gone too far when each person in your clique asks for a different version of the same game for Christmas, because everyone knows everyone else's strategy exactly. Maybe you've gone too far when you create a Google spreadsheet and graphs to keep track of your point standings. Maybe you've gone too far when you stop updating the spreadsheet after individual games, knowing you've played so much that the standings won't change.

Please see Sigler, Page A9

Giving thanks

I love words. I love that, when strung together, words make sentences. I love that these sentences tell stories.

And yet, I struggle with my words. More often than not I fear that they are insufficient. I fear that what I say may be ruined by how I say it. I love words so much that I've been crippled by my endless search

for all of the "right" ones. There are two words that I struggle with more than any others: thank you. My parents support me financially and emotionally. My sister loves me unconditionally. My boyfriend will sense my bad mood, pick up his guitar and play a madeup song that makes me laugh. My roommates encourage me in all potential adventures sober or otherwise. How can I ever thank them? How can I be okay with thanking them and

leaving it at that? What's even harder than thanking the people I love and live with, though, is thanking people from my past. As difficult as it is for me to express gratitude toward my small inner circle of family and

I am an English major because friends, it's even more diffithere too.

cult for me to send words Things I Don't Know of thanks to people I once For Sure

If I could gather all of the right words, I would say thank you to my favorite high school teachers. I would tell Mrs. Baldwin that Donne's "A Valediction

Forbidding Mourning," is still the most beautiful poem I've ever read. I would tell Ms. Sharp that I can argue almost anything, with anyone, because she asked me to join the debate team and argue for one side as ardently as I argued against it. I would tell Ms. Riley that despite my short-lived career in investigative journalism, Woodward and Bernstein are still my favorite journalists, and I listened to them talk at the Virginia Film Festival, mainly because I



CONNELLY HARDAWAY

ones who are nice because they realize I'm human

strangers who email

me, occasionally,

about my column.

in all of the words

that sound pure and

generous and elo-

quent, how much

their own mean

to me. Words for

words: a simple and

powerful exchange.

I would thank the

customers who

leave me large tips,

and even just the

I would express -

If I had all of the right words, I would thank Lillian for being the smartest, most independent and determined girl I've ever met. I would couple "thank you" with "I'm sorry," because I think those often go together. I would thank Emelie for being honest and loyal and hilarious. I would thank Mitchell for showing me how to be weird and cool at the same time. I would thank Erica for being herself, through each and every one of her hair

styles. I would thank Mikey I would thank the and Matt and Matty, and maybe even some guys I used to date. I would thank them all for being themselves when I was being myself, and for giving me a reason to want to give them my

I have been writing to myself since I was in high school. In various journals — some on paper, some on computer documents — I have written to my current, past and future selves. I'm on pretty good terms with myself. I'm not quite as good at communicating with others.

I have written a few letters to people I love. I've written plenty of short thank you notes to people I like. But never before have I felt like I've said the right thing. I am who I am today because of the people I've encountered, and yet, I'm not sure how to show them my

I know this column will not suffice, but these words are just the introduction.

Connelly's column runs biweekly Wednesdays. She can be reached at c.hardaway@cavalierdaily.

A broadway Cinderella

'want to audition for the drama department's produc-Lation of "Crazy for You," but I'm nervous.

You wouldn't expect to hear this from someone who attended a performing arts high school, one that lent me an experience very much like that of the hooligans in "Fame." "Fame" circa 1980, that is, not the disgraceful new version that seems as though it was put into a blender with knock-off brand gummy bears and silver sequins.

My school was instrumental in shaping who I am today, as cliché as that may sound. I met my best friend there. I learned what it meant to act as a professional surrounded by pettiness. I adopted my somewhat lackluster partying lifestyle. Nobody smoke or drank in our musical theater department — such habits, we were convinced, would ruin our

vocal chords, making us about as useful to a performance as Edith is to "Downton Abbey."

thought she'd have liked to be

But I'm nervous going for-

ward. In musical theater, you're expected to perfectly embody the ultimate "triple threat." Directors want the girl with perfect pitch, 12 years of ballet experience and superior acting abilities. I have searched high and low for such beings — and I can safely say there

are probably no more than a handful of such talents in the world. As skillful as many people are, there's a natural tendency to lean toward one or two "threats," leaving a third

skill somewhat less refined.

I'm not a triple threat. I'm comfortable with my acting abilities — and my tap experience should

lend itself well to Laura in Wahooland "Crazy for You" auditions. But I've never been as comfortable with my singing. I'm pretty adept at faking my way through a tune, particularly since I embraced my typecast as the Judy Greeresque best friend characters, roles LAURA HOLSHOUSER

which generally allow you to avoid those messy high F's and

Despite my insecurities, I miss the stage. Acting is an escape, an opportunity to slip into someone else's skin. I used to tell my friends that I wanted to be an actress simply because it would allow me to hold all the outlandish vocations I'd never realistically have. I could be a secret agent, the CEO of a major company or a drug addict.

I'm not looking for a leading role in this show. I'm perfectly fine with being one of the silly bimbos who taps about a bit as the leading man charms his way downstage.

I know I'll never be the next Meryl Streep, or realistically even the next Miley Cyrus. But I try my best to act with integrity and commitment — two qualities this skill will always, always deserve. Acting has been good to me, so I try to be good to it.

Laura's column runs biweekly Wednesdays. She can be reached at l.holshouser@cavalierdaily.com

Sigler | Casual competition turns joyfully rivalrous

Continued from page A8

Maybe not. For reasons you can probably infer, I can't judge.

My parents were highly concerned when they learned I was playing board games more than doing my homework. But then I introduced them to a game called Ticket to Ride — or as my clique likes to call it, TTR.

Even though my mom struggled a bit in the beginning — building trains in all the wrong places and drawing cards at all the wrong times — after every

game she'd ask if we could play again. Such admirable resilience — maybe it's genetic? In any case, they began to understand the madness.

If you're looking to find your way back to the gaming world, I've got a few recommendations for you. If we are talking strategy games, you've got two stellar options here.

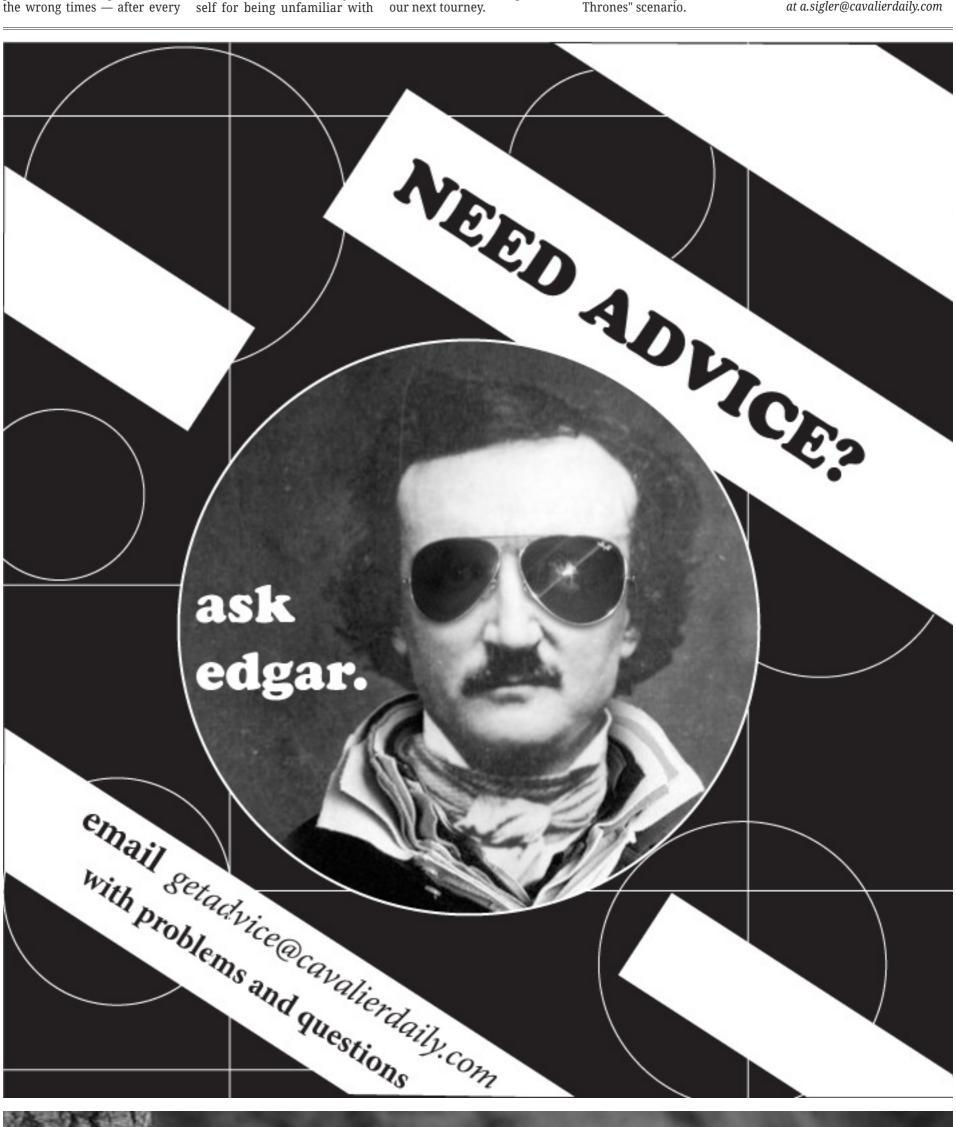
The solid fallback option is the aforementioned Ticket to Ride. Though arguably the best game ever created, don't fault yourself for being unfamiliar with

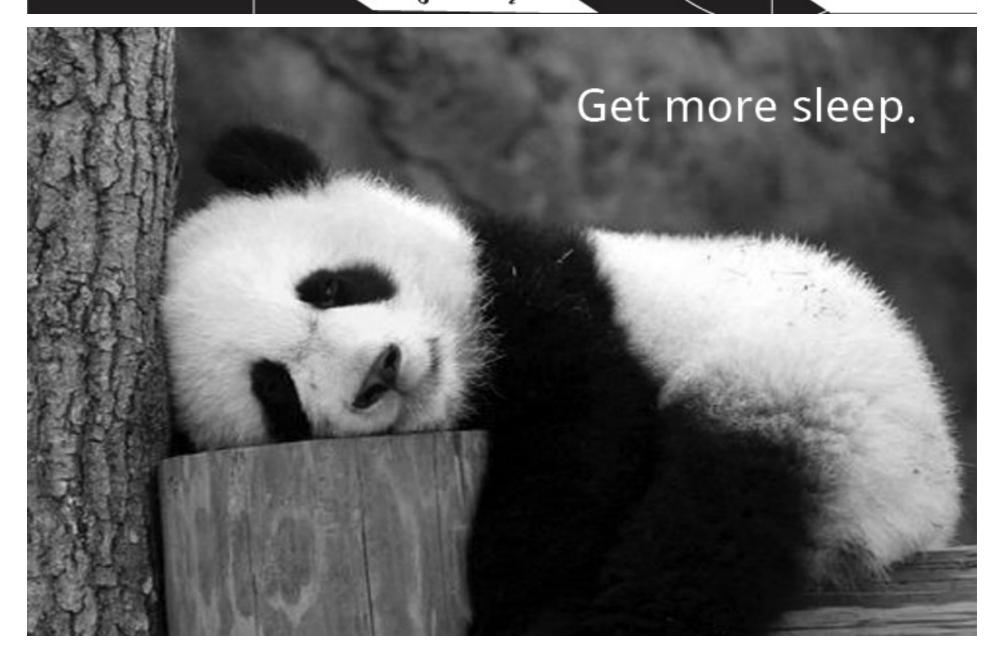
it — it was created after our age group passed the critical age for playing board games. Don't be scared off by the unfamiliarity. There are several different version of the game — allowing you to build trains across Europe, America, Asia, the Nordic countries, the Heart of Africa, Germany and India. If that's not enough for you, they also sell expansion packs. I won't bother to describe the rules for you here — just play it. Email me at the address below to get in on our next tourney.

Your second classic option is Settlers of Catan. Essentially, you build little settlements on different resource cards that hopefully become cities, gaining points all along. The first person to 10 wins. It may sound easy, but you try getting to 10 points when you have no wheat, limited iron ore and no reliable roads on which to trade. Battling these insurmountable odds makes me feel like a super cool, medieval settler in a strange "Lord of the Rings" or "Game of Thrones" scenario.

I won't make some quasiprofound claim about how rediscovering board games has changed my life, or how my friends and I have learned how to have fun without being too productive, or destructive but I'm too competitive for any half-baked attempt at success. So just dust off that box on the shelf, gather your closest clique and let the games begin.

Abbi's column runs biweekly Wednesdays. She can be reached



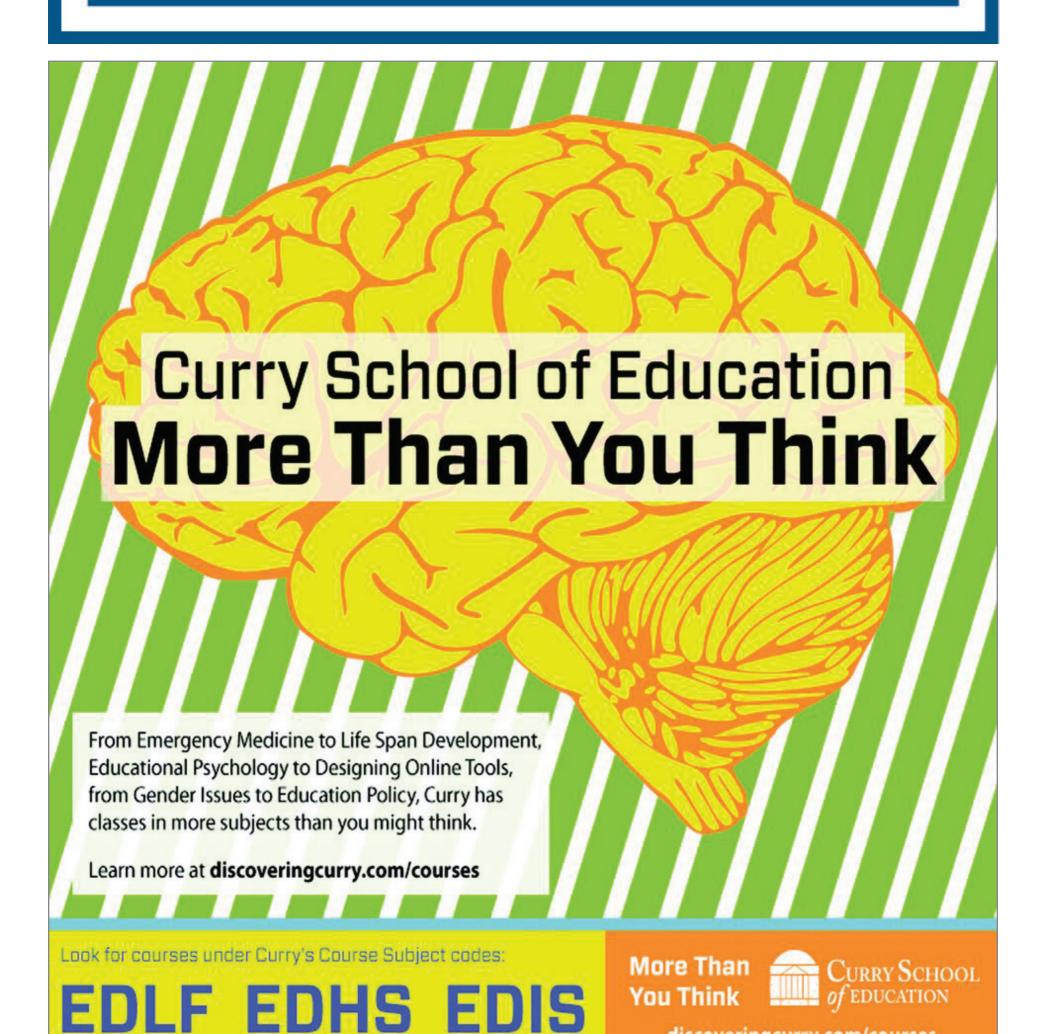




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