

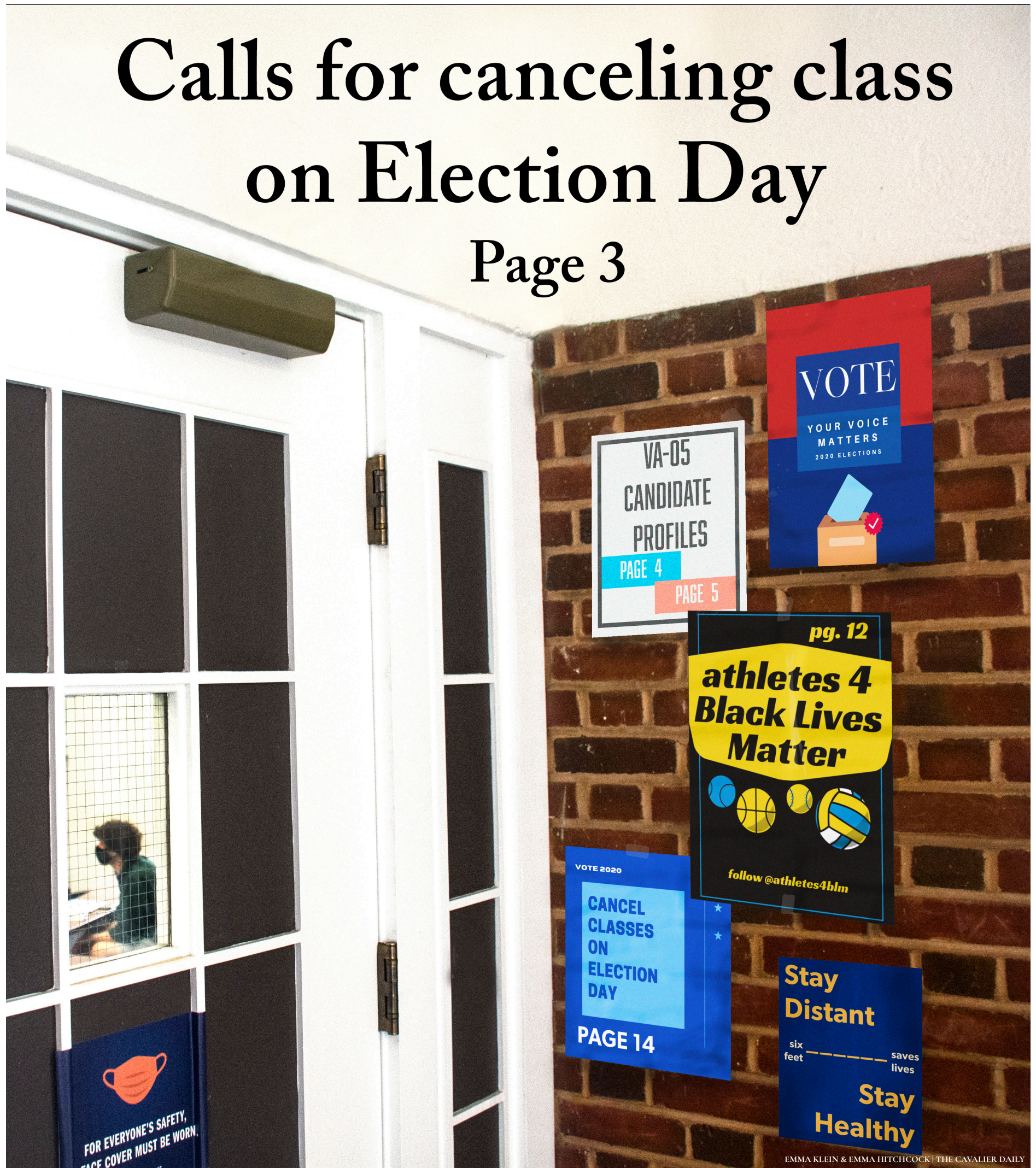
THE CAVALIER DAILY

Vol. 131, Issue 6

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Calls for canceling class on Election Day

Page 3



NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff

U.Va. to begin spring semester Feb. 1, replace Spring Break with shorter breaks throughout semester

The University announced Oct. 22 its plans to begin the spring semester Feb. 1 for undergraduate students and conclude May 6. In order to limit travel to and from Charlottesville, the traditional weeklong Spring Break will be canceled and replaced with shorter breaks throughout the semester.

Classes were initially slated to begin Jan. 20 and conclude May 4. The January term will run as scheduled from Jan. 4 to Jan. 15, though all undergraduate J-Term classes will be conducted online.

The instructional format of the spring semester will “largely mirror” the current semester, the University stated in its weekly Return to Grounds update. All courses — with the exception of a few labs and practicums — will include an online component. COVID-19 guidelines limiting the size of social gatherings, mandating mask-wearing and requiring physical distancing will remain in effect.

The University intends to announce plans for Final Exercises for the Class of 2020 and 2021 by March 15. Currently, Finals Weekend for the Class of 2021 is scheduled for May 21-23, while the Class of 2020’s celebration was rescheduled for May 28-30 after it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to returning home at the Nov. 24 conclusion of the fall semester, on-Grounds residents will be tested for COVID-19. Off-Grounds students will be provided with the same Let’s Get Checked kits used for pre-arrival testing over the summer.

IO.22 IO.23 IO.28

Democracy Initiative hosts outdoor Presidential Debate screening

The Democracy Initiative Student Advisory Council hosted a watch party for the presidential debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden Oct. 23. The event took place in the amphitheater and adhered to University COVID-19 guidelines.

About 50 students sat in the grass and on the stairs of the amphitheater to watch, and the debate was projected onto a large screen in front of Bryan Hall, live-streaming the debate between Trump and Biden, as moderated by Kristen Welker of NBC News from Belmont University in Nashville, TN.

According to third-year College student Noah Strike, a member of the Democracy Initiative Student Advisory Council, screening this debate in the amphitheater carried out the mission of the Democracy Initiative, but also provided a way for students to safely gather in person.

“It’s really important that students engage with the democratic process and the electoral process [and] when an opportunity to facilitate that engagement arises, it’s really important that we take it and create a space where students can go and engage with political candidates [and] political positions, peacefully,” Strike said.



KRISTIN O'DONOGHUE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The demonstration was held in response to University President Jim Ryan’s Oct. 2 statement.

Students demonstrate at the Rotunda in response to President Ryan’s statement about Jefferson’s legacy

Approximately 100 students gathered in front of the Thomas Jefferson statue at the Rotunda Oct. 23 in response to University President Jim Ryan’s statement that the University would not “walk away from Thomas Jefferson” under his leadership.

In an essay published Oct. 2, Ryan addressed calls to contextualize the Thomas Jefferson statue at the Rotunda and responded to the ongoing controversy surrounding signs on the Lawn.

“I do not believe the statue should be removed, nor would I ever approve such an effort,” Ryan wrote.

The Board of Visitors voted to recontextualize — either via a plaque or website — the Jefferson statue in a Sept. 11 meeting, among other changes to the University’s historic landscape, to acknowledge Jefferson’s ownership of enslaved people as well as the usage of enslaved labor to build the University.

The evening’s event in response to Ryan’s statement was engineered to facilitate community building and healing through speeches focused on mutual care, discussion groups and periods of reflection. One speaker said the mission of the gathering was to “reinvigorate and sharpen our vision for a better world because we believe firmly and boldly that another world was possible.”

The evening’s agenda included a series of student speakers, community-building discussion groups and a concluding exercise wherein students were invited to write responses to a series of prompts about Ryan’s statement.

U.Va. reports total of 1,092 cases of COVID-19 since Aug. 17

Since Aug. 17, the University’s COVID tracker has reported 1,092 positive cases of coronavirus in the University community — including faculty, staff, students and contracted employees. University students make up 964 of the total positive cases. As of Oct. 29, there are currently 59 active cases, 45 of which are students.

These numbers are only reflective of students who have tested positive through the Student Health & Wellness or the U.Va. Health Clinic. The University COVID tracker dashboard does not include the number of positive student cases that may have been detected with pre-arrival testing.

The dashboard also reports 4 percent of the student quarantine rooms to be currently occupied and 2 percent of student isolation rooms to be occupied. These numbers include students who are in post-travel quarantine.

U.Va. community calls for classes to be canceled Election Day

University spokesperson Brian Coy says the University “will not be canceling classes”

Zach Rosenthal | Senior Associate

As Election Day draws nearer, some students and professors are calling on the University to cancel classes on Election Day to encourage students and faculty to take the time to vote.

However, the University has seemingly already made up its mind. In a statement to *The Cavalier Daily*, University spokesperson Brian Coy stated that the University will not be canceling classes, noting that students have 13 hours of polls being open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in which they can vote alongside early voting, which ends on Oct. 31.

“The University encourages all students to exercise their right and responsibility to participate in elections happening wherever they are registered to vote,” Coy said. “Given the adjustments we have made to the fall academic calendar due to the pandemic, we will not be canceling classes on Election Day.”

Student Council, University Democrats, Young Democratic Socialists of America at U.Va. and the College Republicans have all come together to create a pledge asking faculty not to hold exams on Election Day.

“Many students every year are forced to choose between last minute exam preparation or participation in the political process. We believe that no student should feel that they are unable to vote due to academic worries,” the joint pledge states.

Fourth-year College student Andrew Dymon believes that having class on Election Day in a semester without time off would be unfair.

“Class needs to be canceled on Election Day because we need to do our civic duty and vote in the election,” Dymon said.

As far as Dymon knows, his professors aren’t making any accommodations to allow students to vote on Election Day.

Around 70 professors have signed the pledge to not give exams on Election Day, along with more than 100 students signing in support. A similar pledge circulated in 2018 by Student Council, University Democrats, and College Republicans had over 70 faculty members signatories.

The faculty signatories come from multiple disciplines, though most are within the College.

Third-year College student Lauryn Nilson originally had two classes on Election Day — one class was canceled and the other is occurring, although attendance is optional. Nilson says she



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Student groups across Grounds have called for the University to cancel classes on Election Day.

is lucky that her professors have made these accommodations, but that she is disappointed that the University administration hasn’t canceled classes.

“I think it would be incredibly stressful to have to go and vote, and then worry about missing class time or worry about missing instruction,” Nilson said.

Professor John Holbein shared an email with his fellow professors in the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and on Twitter to call for classes within Batten to be canceled on Election Day.

“I see canceling class on Election Day as the least I could do to help remove the barriers in the way of students voting,” Holbein said.

However, according to Coy, schools like Batten School of Public Policy or the McIntire School of Commerce cannot make the decision to cancel classes on their own. Provost Liz Magill is in charge of such a decision.

In general, Holbein was crit-

ical of the University’s perceived inaction in helping students vote. Holbein had many suggestions for the University, including texting students reminders about why voting is important and providing incoming students with voter registration forms.

“U.Va. should do much more to help their students to register to vote, in particular. Many young people are dissuaded from voting simply because they find voter registration burdensome and confusing,” Holbein said.

Nilson believed that online learning provided an opportunity for professors to be flexible with their class schedules on Election Day. For examples, professors could decide to either make their lectures asynchronous or move them to after the polls close.

“Some of the most important learning occurs outside of the classroom. Voting is a great opportunity for advancing the mission of the Batten School to train the next generation of young people who are actively involved in

Democracy,” Holbein said.

This year, University Democrats says that it would enthusiastically support a University policy that cancels classes or disallows exams on Election Day.

“This year’s election is incredibly consequential for young people and universities should do everything possible to encourage and protect voting, in particular as COVID-19 makes every aspect of the college experience more difficult,” U Dems communications chair and second-year College student Jackson Postal said.

Postal noted that the University, mostly through student-self governance, has taken some steps to support students’ ability to exercise their right to vote. Postal said that the University could increase its efforts, though.

“The University could always do more to help students vote, such as [provide] concrete information as to where student’s polling places are — especially because dorms are split between Albemarle County and Char-

lottesville City — greater efforts at student voter registration, and the cancellation of classes on Election Day,” Postal said.

College Republicans did not respond to requests for comment.

In Virginia, polls are open on Election Day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Everyone in line to vote by 7 p.m. must be allowed to vote.

In-person early voting will end on Oct. 31. Residents of Albemarle County can vote early at the County Office Building and Charlottesville City residents can vote early at the City Hall Annex.

Between in-person voting on Election Day, absentee voting and early voting, Coy says the University is confident that students will be able to vote.

“With this wide range of options, we are optimistic that students, faculty and staff can find the time necessary to vote early, absentee or in-person on Election Day this year,” Coy said.

Dr. Cameron Webb pushes for 'equity and justice' in VA-05

The Democratic candidate advocates for a future where everyone can start with a level playing field

Jee-Ho Kim | Staff Writer

Dr. Cameron Webb, a University graduate and current Director of Health Policy and Equity at the University's School of Medicine, is running as the Democratic candidate to represent the VA-05 Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Voters in the Fifth District — which includes the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County — will choose between Webb and Republican candidate Bob Good on the ballot for the Nov. 3 general election. Both vie to fill Republican Denver Riggleman's seat in the House. From July 1 to Sept. 30, Webb raised around \$2.7 million in fundraising, a record high in the District. As of Sept. 30, his campaign has received over \$4 million total.

After graduating from the University in 2005, Webb went on to earn degrees in Medicine and Law at Wake Forest University and Loyola University Chicago, respectively. Under both the Obama and Trump administrations, Webb served as a White House Fellow focusing on healthcare policy. He returned to the University in 2017 as a general internist at UVa. Health and to his current position as Director of Health Policy and Equity in the School of Medicine. As an assistant professor in the Public Health Sciences department, Webb also teaches classes at the University.

On Aug. 7 of last year, Webb launched his campaign for office, and on June 23 he won the Democratic primary against three other candidates, receiving 68 percent of the vote.

Endorsements have come in from prominent Democrats and groups, including former President Barack Obama, Senator Mark Warner, the Human Rights Campaign and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the largest coalition of labor unions in the U.S.

"My true north is equity and justice — that's what my entire career has been built around," Webb said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily.

Health

Emphasizing his background and experience in medicine, Webb advocates for affordable healthcare for all. He believes public health insurance should be an alternative available for anyone, with the option to still remain with private insurance.

"It's going to be important for folks to have both the public option and other private options available to decide what best meets their family's needs — that choice is important to a lot of Americans," Webb said. "The goal is that no matter what ... it should be affordable."

Lowering prescription drug costs — an issue he worked on in the White House under President Donald Trump — is another priority for Webb, which would arise through intervention from Medicare and more thorough barriers against monopolizing behavior among drug companies. He foresees bringing more generic drugs to the market as another way to lower prices.

"We still want to make sure that we preserve innovation in our prescription drug space and I say that as a practicing physician, knowing that the development of medications has been both life prolonging and life saving for my patients," he said.

The COVID-19 pandemic is at the forefront of issues representatives are expected to handle. Every week, Webb has hosted a weekly COVID-19 update livestream on his Face-

new policies to oversee responsible usage of funds by corporate entities.

Education

On the education front, Webb looks to promote equity among students of diverse backgrounds. He specifically mentions low-income students and older adults without higher education as groups disadvantaged by existing barriers to obtaining a degree. One of the biggest ideas he pushes is making two-year colleges and public colleges and universities free for low-income individuals, which he envisions being implemented through reforms to the Higher Education Act and grants and subsidies.

Related to lowering barriers to higher education is access to broadband, or high speed, internet — a significant factor in the digital divide

not a partisan issue. It's a matter of who can actually get to do the advocacy necessary to deliver on that."

Housing

Webb also addresses the issue of affordable housing and long lasting effects of redlining in Charlottesville, a topic he has explored in his own class with students called Place Matters. In order to make housing more accessible for lower income individuals, Webb stresses the importance of investing in first time homeownership through grants and incentives.

"The idea of homeownership is one that unlocks intergenerational wealth and stability," Webb said. "By creating grants that are available for first time homebuyers ... it's the key to making sure that we're opening up opportunities for folks and navigat-

longer timeline to reach zero carbon emission by 2050. Manufacturing, construction and transportation are three areas on which Webb wants to concentrate on placing new standards. A mix of carbon pricing caps and trade policies, he says, would gradually dial back carbon emissions as the country prepares to take on clean renewable energy as the primary source of power.

"This is a job creator," Webb said, pointing out Charlottesville and Lynchburg as centers for clean energy.

Gender Equality

In the realm of gender equality, Webb supports the individual's right to choose abortion. Increased funding for Planned Parenthood and access to reproductive care continue his plan to establish women's bodily autonomy across the country. Webb promises to push for the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment across the country and to reenact the Violence Against Women Act along with new policies designed to protect sexual and ethnic minorities. Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the ERA on Jan. 27.

Immigration

Webb acknowledges the work the International Rescue Center has done in Charlottesville to support refugees. "Humane" is the keyword he uses for the reform he wishes to enact in immigration policy. Ultimately, Webb wants to clear a fair pathway to citizenship for newcomers to the country.

"Yes, we want to have security at our southern border, and I'm not suggesting otherwise," Webb said. "But I'm suggesting that that process has to look like our values as a nation — I think right now it's falling short of that."

As of Oct. 20, Sabato's Crystal Ball characterizes this race as a toss-up. The Cook Political Report reaches the same conclusion, but Inside Elections says the race tilts Republican. An Oct. 4-8 poll conducted by the Global Strategy Group places Webb up over Good by 2 percent. According to previous polls by this group, Webb has only recently managed to pull ahead of Good as of late September. VA-05 has a history of voting Republican, with only one Democratic candidate having been elected to office since 2000.

Early voting continues in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County through Oct. 31. Oct. 23 was the last day to request a mail-in ballot.



COURTESY DR. CAMERON WEBB FOR CONGRESS

"My true north is equity and justice — that's what my entire career has been built around," Webb said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily.

book page, where he discusses latest updates and COVID-19-safe practices and answers questions from viewers. His platform has a three-layered approach for COVID-19 recovery that involves bolstering individuals, the healthcare system and businesses — particularly small businesses — throughout the crisis. For individuals, Webb advocates for direct stimulus payments and protection against eviction and student loan defaults, among other plans. Expanding on existing COVID-19 healthcare practices, he looks to increase testing, funding for hospitals and medical resources and contact tracing as methods to increase preparedness for a potential second wave of infections. Webb also supports increasing the amount of emergency loans offered to small businesses and introducing

among students. Webb deviates from opponent Bob Good's approach of incentivizing private internet companies in that he wants a public-private partnership where government funding plays a larger role in expanding broadband availability.

In rural areas where broadband is particularly hard to come by, private companies would find it difficult and not cost effective to take the extra effort to make sure everyone gets covered, Webb says. This is where he believes federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or Federal Communications Commission could support that effort, or through state intervention with the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative and local broadband initiatives.

"We all agree we need to have broadband access," Webb said. "It's

ing some of the existing dynamics."

Incentivizing builders to construct affordable homes is another method Webb hopes to implement to secure housing for lower income communities.

Underlying much of Webb's platform is the idea of bridging the divide between different income brackets. A major step towards reaching this goal, he says, is raising the minimum wage to \$15.

Environment

Webb aims to steer the U.S. towards setting a standard of 100 percent clean energy, but he does not support the Green New Deal, which he calls "aspirational." He cites reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that call for a

Bob Good aims to strengthen conservatism in VA-05

The Republican candidate's campaign focuses on issues such as immigration, law enforcement and the economy

Stratton Marsh & Jacqueline Skalski-Fouts | Staff Writers

Bob Good, a former Campbell County Supervisor and Director of Athletics Development at Liberty University, is running as the Republican candidate to represent Virginia's Fifth District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

With the general election coming up on Nov. 3, the tight race for Virginia's Fifth Congressional District is gathering national attention. Republican candidate Bob Good has received an endorsement from President Donald Trump, while Democrat Cameron Webb has received an endorsement from former President Barack Obama.

Good defeated incumbent representative Denver Riggleman in the Republican primary for Virginia's Fifth Congressional District in June, winning 58 percent of the delegates at the convention. Riggleman lost the support of many conservatives when he officiated a same-sex wedding last year.

The Fifth District includes the City of Charlottesville and the surrounding Albemarle county, as well as counties from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge region up to Fauquier County near Northern Virginia.

The Good campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

According to his website, Good hopes to "bring the conservative principles of financial stewardship and respect for hard working taxpayers back to Washington."

With about one week left before elections, there is a large discrepancy in fundraising between the two candidates. According to reports filed Oct. 15, Webb has raised over \$2.7 million while Good has raised \$722,000.

Good has recently received scrutiny for his Financial Disclosure Report and refiled a list of his unearned income Oct. 5. Good's previous financial disclosure listed zero financial assets, but he amended this disclosure after pressure from local news organizations and now records that he holds dozens of stocks, totalling between \$213,000 and \$1.65 million in assets and unearned income.

In addition to the president, Good has received endorsements from Donald Trump Jr., Texas Senator Ted Cruz, Ohio Congressman Jim Jordan, Idaho Congressman Russ Fulcher and Congressman Ben Cline from Virginia's 6th District.

"We need reliable representatives in the House who won't falter from their conservative principles and who are willing to fight for them," Cruz said in a quote on Good's campaign website.

Good's leading issues of concern include strengthening law and order and immigration policies, growing and maintaining American jobs, supporting the Second Amendment right

to bear arms, increasing rural broadband for internet access and shifting towards greater domestic energy production. Good also takes a strong stance against abortion and the right to life, affirming that he is unreservedly pro-life.

Pro-Life

"I am unashamedly 100 percent pro-life from the moment of conception, without exception, and will always strongly support legislation that protects all life in the womb," Good said on his abortion policy.

This includes supporting legislation such as the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2019 which would deny federal funding to Planned Parenthood, the Support and Value Expectant Mother and Babies Act — which would prohibit new abor-

enforcement "Bill of Rights" to protect police officers from investigation and prosecution, as well as increase funding for police departments. The "Bill of Rights," has been adopted by several states yet is becoming an issue of concern. Under these rights, officers are given greater protection through rules that increase waiting periods between accusations and inquiries of police misconduct, records of misconduct are erased after a certain period of time, and requirements that officers be investigated only by other officers.

Good hopes to designate crimes against police officers as hate crimes and has previously expressed support for an automatic death penalty for the killing of a police officer.

Economy

Good's economic policies include

lessen the power of unions and supports "Right to Work" laws, which allow employees to work without joining a union.

"I believe it is the role of the Federal government to protect American jobs for American workers, to secure our borders including the building of a wall on our southern border," Good said on his campaign website.

Immigration

Good plans to work towards ending "sanctuary cities" and in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants, which Governor Ralph Northam expanded in April. The current bill allows students to be eligible for in-state tuition regardless of citizenship status as long as Virginia residency requirements are met. By banning sanctuary cities, areas where undocumented im-

Rural Jobs

Both Good and Webb have focused policies on rural areas, which have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Job loss, compounded by a lack of access to high speed internet, has become a problem for many rural families. Good plans to provide tax breaks and grants to incentivize private internet companies to expand their infrastructure so that rural families can access high speed internet services.

Nearly 30 percent of Virginia residents have no access to internet service, and in some rural areas, wireless telephone service is unavailable. While on the Board of Supervisors in Campbell County, Good helped bring broadband internet to local neighborhoods by expanding existing coverage to underserved areas. He sees this as essential for the public good, as telemedicine, learning and commerce now rely on internet connectivity.

"I'm pleased that [rural broadband] is a priority here in Virginia in our state leadership, and it would also be a priority for me on the federal level," Good said in a series of responses during the Senior Statesmen of Virginia debate Sept. 9.

Despite beating Riggleman as the Republican candidate, Good has lost support from some conservative groups who had previously supported Riggleman. Bearing Drift, a conservative newspaper that covers Virginia politics, cites Good's "extremist" take on policy issues, such as his stance on LGBTQ+ rights. In an article posted on Good's website, homosexuality is described as "a very complex subject that medical science has confirmed is psychological moreso than genetic."

Seats in the House of Representatives are up for election every two years. Democrats hold 232 seats and Republicans hold 198. In order to gain a majority of 218 seats, Republicans must win the four current vacancies in the House and gain 16 seats. Since 2008, Virginia's Fifth District has elected a Republican.

The race for the Fifth District is now characterized as a toss-up, according to Sabato's Crystal Ball. An Oct. 4-8 poll conducted by the Global Strategy Group places Webb up over Good by 2 percent. According to previous polls, Webb has only recently managed to pull ahead of Good as of late September. VA-05 has a history of voting Republican, with only one Democratic candidate elected to office since 2000.

Early voting continues in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County through Oct. 31. Oct. 23 was the last day to request a mail-in ballot.



COURTESY BOB GOOD FOR CONGRESS

Good defeated incumbent representative Denver Riggleman in the Republican primary for Virginia's Fifth Congressional District in June, winning 58 percent of the delegates at the convention.

tion drugs from being created — and the Life at Conception Act, of which Good is a co-sponsor and would guarantee the 14th Amendment right to life to any human being beginning at the moment of fertilization.

Law & Order

Good also has campaign promises under the category he titles 'Law and Order.' This category encompasses legislation relating to police departments and the conduct of police officers. Sheriffs from Bedford, Buckingham, Campbell, Fauquier, Greene, Mecklenburg, Pittsylvania and Rappahannock counties have expressed their support for the campaign. If elected, Good hopes to increase funding to police departments and create a Law

bringing back and growing American jobs. Good supports replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United State-Mexico-Canada Agreement. USMCA is Trump's replacement for NAFTA, the free trade agreement designed to promote trade between Canada, Mexico and the United States. USMCA creates incentives to car companies to use parts made in the United States by requiring 75 percent of parts to be produced in North America to qualify for zero tariffs. Automakers will need to reach 75 percent in the next few years, as this figure is significantly higher than NAFTA's provision which required that 62.5 percent of parts be made in North America. USMCA also opens Canadian dairy markets to American farmers. Good hopes to

migrants are protected by the municipality, local law enforcement would be required to inform ICE officials of undocumented immigrants in custody. In the Fifth District, Albemarle County is a sanctuary jurisdiction.

Good supports the construction of a wall along the United States-Mexico border and the construction of other infrastructure that will give the United States more control over those who enter and exit the country.

Good supports ending immigration policies such as birthright citizenship, chain migration, diversity visas and the visa lottery system. The visa lottery system intends to diversify the immigrant population in the country by selecting applicants from countries with low numbers of immigrants coming to the United States.

Religious groups follow U.Va.'s public health guidance

Groups are focusing on facilitating relationships within their communities and looking forward to their futures post-COVID

Sevy Van Der Werf | Senior Writer



JACOB BERTON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Charlottesville's 50-person gathering limit does not apply to religious gatherings.

Though religious gatherings — along with NCAA and intramural sporting events and expressive activities, such as protests and demonstrations — are technically exempt from the University's 10-person gathering restriction, religious CIOs at U.Va. have still chosen to dramatically change their social and spiritual events to maintain the safety of their members.

The size limit on gatherings was originally five people, but the University raised it to 10 indefinitely as of Oct. 13.

Despite the exemption, which is a part of the University's official policy on public health and safety, religious organizations are still required to adhere to any local, state and federal restrictions on gathering size — and to follow mask-wearing and social-distancing guidelines.

Charlottesville's 50-person gathering limit does not apply to religious gatherings. While the state of Virginia currently permits gatherings of up to 250 people, religious

gatherings are exempt to this rule — however, attendees must practice social distancing and masking, among other rules.

Sujal Sigdel, a fourth-year Kinesiology student and president of Hindu Students Council, said that in a normal year, HSC would be focused on organizing big events like its annual Garba Night, an event where students dress up, enjoy traditional food and dance. However, due to the pandemic, events have shifted from large social gatherings to smaller spiritual gatherings over Zoom.

"We wanted to reach out and be closer with our members," Sigdel said. "We thought it would be a good idea to have [a] virtual meeting going biweekly, reading one sacred book."

Seek His Face, an organization that works to unite Christian groups across Grounds, normally focuses on bringing together 200 to 300 people through a worship gathering each semester. Matthew Houff, a class of 2020 alumnus and president of Seek His Face, said that the organization

has decided to step back this semester due to its traditional role in facilitating large events, and instead has decided to focus on allowing other Christian groups to facilitate creating small-scale Christian communities.

"We decided that for our club, our group, we'd be better to actually just maybe back off this semester and let those other fellowships just do what they're doing," Houff said. "They do the small-scale community really well."

Chi Alpha, one of the Christian CIOs that has traditionally organized smaller gatherings as well as larger events, has canceled its large events and is holding its weekly Monday Night Live gathering over a livestream. Its Core Groups, small Bible study groups that meet weekly, have been limited to 15 people maximum and are meeting either socially distanced outside or over Zoom.

Matt Gillam, a fourth-year Batten student and chair of the Hillel Jewish Leadership Council, said that

his organization has also chosen to conduct most spiritual events over Zoom.

"We do practically all of our services and all of our fellowships and things like that, where we would be spiritual or religious, all of that is over Zoom," Gillam said.

HJLC has facilitated small socially distanced meet-ups between members, but is encouraging members to follow the University-wide regulations.

"We're certainly mandating everybody follow all the regulations," Gillam said. "We're trying to balance that, and then we have a lot of one-on-one programs where folks will meet one on one in person, safe distance, etc, etc."

One of these programs is a mentorship program, through which about 20 upperclassmen have been meeting up one-on-one with younger members for coffee dates and other socially-distanced outings.

Saqib Rizvi, fourth-year engineering student and president of the

Muslim Students Association, spoke with The Cavalier Daily about how MSA has been organizing its two weekly events, smaller Quran studies groups and larger student-led discussions on religious topics.

"This year, we made them online, just because like we really didn't want to do any in person events," Rizvi said. "Because we didn't want our programs to lead to any increases [in COVID-19 cases]."

One challenge that many of the religious CIOs are facing is connecting with potential new members virtually — the Student Council's annual Fall Fair, which is traditionally the main way CIOs connect with potential members, was held virtually this semester.

Houff said that one of the focuses of Seek His Face this year, in the absence of organizing its usual worship gatherings, is keeping the club strong through the restrictions of COVID-19 by recruiting new members.

"We're just trying to find underclassmen, so that way, even if this is kind of a dud year ... at least we can have some enthusiastic, younger students who in future years can keep it going after I'm gone," Houff said.

Organizations that are still holding discussions over Zoom have also run into some difficulties with the virtual format, including MSA.

"Turnout is a little lower than normal," Sigdel said. "And it's harder to have those discussions in a similar manner as you would if they were in person."

Despite the difficulties, there have been a few positive changes as a result of the shift online. Sigdel said that the HSU has had more opportunities to partner with similar groups at other colleges, now that everyone is spending more time on Zoom.

"That's definitely more possible, since we can't do anything in person," Sigdel said.

Rizvi also said that it has been much easier to organize speakers for meetings, as there is no need to cover transportation and housing costs when speakers can just call in over Zoom.

For a safe community-building activity, Rizvi added that MSA organized a socially-distanced scavenger hunt to get first-years and returning members involved.

"If we're not doing anything in-person, it's really hard to engage the first-year class," Rizvi said. "We made [the groups] so that they couldn't be larger than three people at a time, so people could interact with each other, but at the same time, it wouldn't be like, we're telling people to come to one place."

LIFE

Mr. Jefferson, I'm speaking

The suppression of Black female voices on Grounds needs to end

Emma Keller | Life Columnist

The vice presidential debate Oct. 7 surely stirred up a social media storm of tweets, memes and even an entire profile — with over 100,000 followers — dedicated to the fly that landed on Vice President Mike Pence's head. But Senator Kamala Harris' words to Pence are the words I hope echoed around the world and reached the ears of every little girl — “Mr. Vice President, I'm speaking. I'm speaking.”

It is a tale as old as time — Black women being spoken over and spoken for — and one that extends far beyond politics, I might add. I would say with near certainty that any Black woman in America probably could not count the absurd number of times she has been interrupted and talked over in her life without running out of fingers on both her hands. I know I could name more than a few. Why is it that men — white men in particular — feel the need to interrupt us and to speak over us?

I think we all know the answer. Like I said, it is a tale as old as time — or as old as racism, if that could actually be confined to a time span. Sure, it may not be as obvious as using racial slurs or saying you would never vote for a Black woman, but it is covertly racist in a way that cannot be ignored. We see this familiar narrative play out every day, especially in the world of higher education.

An article from Inside Higher Ed dubs this phenomenon “manterrupting” and sheds light on the experiences of a few women from several races in academia. They also report results from a study on “manterrupting” that found that men interrupted women 2.1 times per three-minute conversation and interrupted other men 1.8 times, while women on average interrupted men once.

But I have known this for a long time — and the rest of the country has too. The most disrespected, unprotected person in America is the Black woman.

I see this lack of respect — this suppression of Black female voices — here at the University. I see it in the lack of Black female faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences — there are 23, a mere 2.65 percent of all faculty, while there are 245 white female faculty members and 376 white male ones.

I see it in the way I am expected to move aside when passing a group of white students on the sidewalk. I remember it in the way the “situ-



CHRISTINA ANTON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

I refuse to let a man who died nearly 200 years ago speak over me, and I refuse to accept that the systems he helped create are too old and too deep to be uprooted.

ation” at the Multicultural Student Center was handled by our administration last spring, and in the way I questioned whether our University valued protecting a Black student from physical harm or protecting its image on the internet.

I see it when I try to share my thoughts in class and am interrupted by a white peer who is trying to play “devil's advocate.” I feel it in my chest when I walk across Grounds and see that the buildings do not display the legacies of a diverse group of meaningful contributors to the University, but bear the names of affluent white men who would not have wanted to see me here on their Grounds.

But, I know that I am not alone when I say that I often feel like my voice is muffled by the University and by the racist, sexist beliefs it was founded upon. Whether we want to acknowledge it or not, Mr. Jefferson's University still perpetuates Mr. Jefferson's ideas.

Jefferson made his thoughts on Black people all too clear in jour-

nals, letters and documents that have been preserved online. Every member of the University community should read the words Jefferson wrote in Query XIV of Notes on the State of Virginia (1781) — “love seems with them to be more an eager desire than a tender delicate mixture of sentiment and sensation. Their griefs are transient ... In general, their existence appears to participate more of sensation than reflection.” In his own words, Jefferson described slaves as “moveables” incapable of reason and any emotion beyond lust.

But perhaps the most horrifying of Jefferson's recorded thoughts is in his letter to the politician John Holmes — “As it is, we have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other.” Jefferson, like many other slave owners, understood very well how absolutely vile it was to buy, sell and trade human beings like they were property, but he was unwilling to risk tipping the “scale”

that he claims was already balanced with Black people in chains.

The beliefs of the white men who shaped the University into the elite institution it is today still take up far too much space on our Grounds and play too big a role in who feels welcome here. That needs to change.

The kind of change I am talking about here has two crucial parts — the first being the continual acknowledgement and unhindered discussion of the stained legacy the University is inextricably linked to. The second is the amplification of the voices — the uplifting of the students — that are here at this University in spite of men like Jefferson.

I refuse to let a man who died nearly 200 years ago speak over me, and I refuse to accept that the systems he helped create are too old and too deep to be uprooted. I also refuse to believe that I am the only one speaking — I know that I am not.

So, I would like to take a mo-

ment to empower the Black women at this University who may feel like their voices are falling on deaf ears. Please keep speaking. Ignore the “angry and confrontational” stereotypes people may thrust upon you. Destroy the box this institution tries to cram you into. Your light and the power of your words cannot be diminished.

At least in my experience, people only try to suppress what they feel threatened by. So, please do not give up, keep speaking — it is working.

I promise to do everything I can to make sure our voices are heard, to remember that we do have a place here and to never stop using my own voice — or my own words — to call out the suppression I see.

Mr. Jefferson, we are speaking. We are speaking.

The College Scoop aids students applying to college

How a newly-founded organization aims to help first-generation, low-income and other minority students tackle the college process

Nayeon Kim | Features Writer

Applying to college is a daunting task — especially when students may not have mentors who have gone through the process to help them. As first-generation, low-income and minority students navigate the world of college applications and transition into a new period of their lives, resources seem limited and hard to organize — even more so during a pandemic where regular processes are shifted from the norm.

As students are overwhelmed by the current events and application processes, The College Scoop serves to act as a mentor in a time of uncertainty. The College Scoop, an organization founded at the University this March, was created to empower students within the FGLI and minority communities to aid in the college application and transition process. With the goal of bridging the gap of knowledge and resources between all students, The College Scoop dedicates itself to connecting with students all across the globe to provide resources and mentors to ease into the intimidating task of entering the college environment.

Fourth-year College student Savannah Page founded the College Scoop. With a strong drive to create avenues to pursue her passions, The College Scoop was inspired by her own experiences as an out-of-state student and the difficulties that have come with communicating during the pandemic.

“I started thinking about when I was going through college and the fact a lot of students aren’t able to come visit ... I wanted to provide a community where students could get a sense for what UVA. is like without having to come [physically],” Page said. “Connection is so difficult during the transition period from high school to college [and] COVID made things even harder so I wanted to ease that burden.”

The College Scoop aims to act as a hub of free resources that any incoming or current college stu-

dent may be looking for — from financial aid assistance to adjusting to classes, the organization hopes to become a place where students can rely on answering any troubles they may face in the transition to college life and the application process. Along with the diverse resources avail-

“Essentially we work to inform students through our mentors to what resources are out there,” Page said. “The goal is to equip mentors with this ability to both understand what students need and connect students with those resources ... [but] the most important thing is just a de-

plication process and how they can best transition into a college environment. The club is actively seeking to reach out through guidance counselors of schools in different states in order to let high school students know of the mentorship program available to them.

more so following you through your first year of college and building relationships ... [making] you not think of it as just a time commitment,” Milicic said. “It’s providing social and emotional support but also academic help whatever [mentees] may need.”

Although the executive board consists of University students, the mentees are able to enjoy conversations and resources that don’t necessarily have to be specific to the University. Students all across the world are able to ask questions regarding any concerns on how to better understand where they may be spending their time in pursuing a higher education.

Shana Xia, a current junior at American Heritage school in Plantation, Fla., has been a mentee of Page since the conception of the organization and talked about the highlights of her experience within the mentorship program.

“Honestly, [my favorite part is] just the accessibility, because it’s not too formal and [mentors] send out emails welcoming you saying, ‘Hey reach out to us if you need anything,’” Xia said. “I think the casual relationships that arise out of [the program] are really nice ... you get to make a new friend, [and] you don’t feel the constant pressure of having to be formal and perfect.”

As the organization takes its first steps into expansion, Page hopes to continue its efforts in building not only relationships but a wealth of resources and grants to help FGLI and other minority communities.

“We’ve [recently] partnered with the Student Council and we’ve submitted a \$150,000 grant to the Jefferson Trust to apply for,” Page said. “[The grant will] help fund a textbook library for low income students that students could pull from during the semester, and keep a book for the whole semester and then return it.”



NAYEON KIM | THE CAVALIER DAILY

able, The College Scoop runs a mentoring program that pairs students at any level of their academic career with a University student who wants to help. Currently there are 170 active mentees and 50 mentors within the program, and the program is continuing to grow with 230 new potential mentees having filled out contact forms.

sire to really make a change and make an impact in someone’s life and really use your experiences to guide someone else, through their path.”

The mentoring started since the organization’s founding in March, and high school students all over the globe have been paired with University mentors to learn about the college ap-

Andjelika Milicic, fourth-year College student and vice president of The College Scoop, spoke about what makes the mentorship program unique and her experience as a mentor in the organization.

“Our club is catered towards following through the transition, so you can get help with the application process, of course, but

GO VOTE

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 6 A.M. – 7 P.M. ON NOV. 3

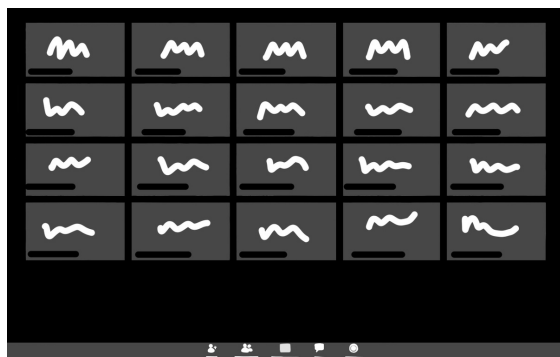
Top 10 classmates you meet in Zoom breakout rooms

The professor may be stalling, but we're bonding

Ben Rosenthal | Top 10 Writer

1. The overly peppy discussion leader

They are awake. They are well-dressed and well-styled. They are in charge, and you are OK with it. They do 80 percent of the talking. They call on people to speak. They pretty much dominate the conversation with their point of view. And you are also OK with this because they are willing to take notes, too. They are willing to screen share. They are willing to go first in the silly Zoom icebreaker your professor is still assigning nine weeks into the year. In conclusion, they are God's gift.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

2. The black screen

Perhaps the laziest variant of all the lovely people you will meet is the black screen. This person probably turned their camera off four minutes into the lecture portion and is currently halfway through the Bodo's Bagels line. Bonus points if this person is actually present and talking, but unwilling to show you their darn face. Look, it's not like I look amazing either. It's 10 a.m. and we've all given up, but please, let me see a human face. Please, I'm so lonely.

3. Mr. "Technology Problems"

First, they cannot speak. Then, when they can speak, it is only to say, "Can everybody hear me?" You tell them that, yes, you can hear them. But now, they cannot hear you. They log out and back on again. Now the audio is all fixed. But wait — they are having network connectivity issues. This person's only personality trait is that their computer hates them — and they hate it back.

4. "Wait, we had readings?"

In sharp contrast to the overly peppy discussion leader is our friend here who didn't even know there was a reading to discuss. Instead, they spend half of the breakout room complaining about how the professor assigns too much work, as if they would do any of it anyways. Also, they think that the midterm was way too hard and that a few of the questions weren't even mentioned in lecture.

5. Those two people who clearly know each other

"Hey Jack," one of them says with a smirk. "Hey Nick," replies the other, grinning ear to ear. You can see their fingers typing through the camera, laughing at whatever they're writing in their private chat. You know that they aren't talking about you, because why would they? You're just a person in a breakout room like everybody else. But at the same time, they're definitely talking about you and you know it.

6. The one with the talkative mom

There is nothing like taking Zoom classes from home, as most of us learned first hand last semester. While a good amount of students are back in Charlottesville, there are still quite a few of us back home. And you know how it goes — in exchange for the home-cooked meals and unconditional love, you have to have at least seven embarrassing parent cameos in the background of your Zoom calls per semester. It's in the fine print.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

7. The body language expert

This person is a genius. They want to look like they are participating without actually having to do so. How do they pull it off? They are always the first to nod their head to a solid point or give a thumbs up to a suggestion. Occasionally, they'll even pepper in a subtle "yes" to a remark. They'll never once suggest an original thought, but by the time the call ends, you'll feel like you really got to know them.

8. The guy calling from inside Buffalo Wild Wings

It's 3:30 p.m. on a Wednesday. Yet here this guy is, clearly attending lecture from inside of a Buffalo Wild Wings. He is there with at least six or seven friends, watching whatever basketball game is broadcast at a Buffalo Wild Wings at 3:30 p.m. on a Wednesday. And — to his credit — he is clearly having a good time. He doesn't have a mask on, but if you're eating at Buffalo Wild Wings, you have clearly given up on maintaining bodily health a long time ago. He contributes nothing, but he has an inherent likability.



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

9. The one who is way too comfortable in bed

Full disclosure — I attend 75 percent of my classes from bed. But because I am a man of class and status, I at least sit up straight. I have run into a number of people, however, who are visibly lying on their backs with their laptop on their stomach, and it just makes me so ... jealous? I want to get to the point in my life where I can publicly broadcast that level of giving up without feeling shame. One day.

10. You

Last but not least, there is you. "Me? But I'm normal," you insist. Wrong. In Zoom breakout rooms, we are all abnormal. You are the weird side character in someone else's breakout room story. No matter how much you want to doubt it, you are just another part of the carnival of horrors that is the University, online edition.

VOTE EARLY

IN

VIRGINIA

VOTING THIS YEAR
IS **QUICK, EASY,**
AND **CONVENIENT.**

LEARN HOW AT

IWILLVOTE.COM/VA

PAID FOR BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VIRGINIA.

SPORTS

Virginia vs. No. 15 North Carolina — a breakdown

The Cavaliers face yet another top-15 opponent under the lights Saturday

Akhil Rekulapelli | Sports Editor

Following a heartbreaking 19-14 loss to No. 12 Miami Saturday, Virginia football returns to Charlottesville on a four-game skid — it's longest losing streak since the 2017 season — and welcomes a top-15 opponent in No. 15 North Carolina Halloween night. The Cavaliers (1-4, 1-4 ACC), have spooked the Tar Heels (4-1, 4-1 ACC) in years past, holding a three-game winning streak in the South's Oldest Rivalry. However, this year's match-up features a struggling Virginia team against a surging North Carolina squad featuring last year's ACC Freshman of the Year, sophomore quarterback Sam Howell and 2019 first-team All-ACC linebacker graduate student Chazz Surratt.

After a 2019 season that saw a young Tar Heels squad secure North Carolina's first bowl game win since 2013, Coach Mack Brown

has used strong regional recruiting to build an up-and-coming powerhouse in Chapel Hill. The Tar Heels reached No. 5 in the AP Poll this season for the first time since 1997, and while North Carolina was subsequently upset by Florida State, it handily defeated in-state rival NC State last Saturday to get back in the win column.

Last year, when the two teams faced off, the game featured a confident Cavalier squad visiting a Tar Heel team still trying to find its identity. This year, Virginia has looked unconfident and lackadaisical, but showed flashes of strength against Miami that have given fans hope that something can be salvaged from a difficult 2020 season. North Carolina, on the other hand, will stroll into Charlottesville with immense confidence and a clear talent advantage. If Virginia wants to have a

shot at dethroning their southern neighbor, the Cavaliers will have to play an outstanding game on both sides of the ball.

Players to watch:

Virginia senior wide receiver Terrell Jana

After a strong 2019 campaign that saw Jana emerge as a leader out wide for the Cavaliers, the Woodberry Forest product has been quiet in Virginia's last two games, hauling in just seven passes for 108 yards. A disciplined route-runner — especially on the slant — Jana is most effective as a quick first read, particularly early in the game in order to help sophomore quarterback Brennan Armstrong get into a rhythm. Jana will most likely be lining up against North Carolina fan-favorite sophomore cornerback Storm Duck, who will cer-

tainly make life difficult for Jana. The Vancouver native must use his football IQ and sharp cuts to make up for what he lacks in speed and help him get open early and often and to catalyze a sometimes anemic Cavalier offense.

North Carolina running backs junior Javonte Williams and senior Michael Carter

While Howell has torched opponents in the air, Williams and Carter have put together one of the most impressive seasons for an ACC two-back backfield in recent history. The duo have combined for 1146 yards and 13 touchdowns in just five games, with Carter providing speed and elusiveness and Williams bringing hard-nosed running to the table. Against Wake Forest, Virginia struggled with the two-back system, allowing 174 yards and three touchdowns on the ground, and given the Tar Heels' advantage in talent over the Demon Deacons, it's safe to say that the Cavalier front seven will have their hands full with Williams and Carter. If Carter can break off on big runs early and Williams can end drives with tough running in the red zone, North Carolina will have a clear path to run up the score. However, if Virginia repeats their strong defensive effort from last week's narrow loss — where it allowed just 2.5 yards per carry — the Cavaliers will have a shot at taking down Carter, Williams and the surging Tar Heels.

Keys to the game:

Keep pace with North Carolina's offense

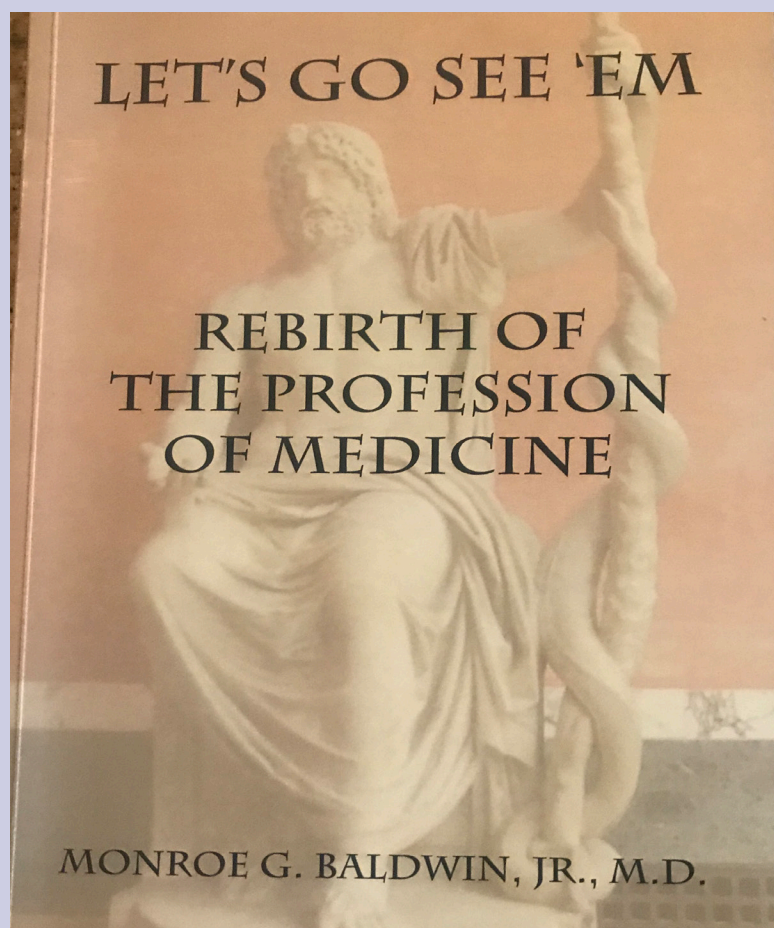
While Virginia was able to tame Miami's high-octane offense last weekend, the Tar Heels are at another level of offensive prowess, featuring a bonafide NFL prospect in Howell, two running backs with a diverse set of skills in Carter and Williams and reliable wide receivers in junior Dyami Brown and Virginia native senior Dazz Newsome. As such, the game will be dictated not by the Cavaliers' ability to halt the North Carolina offense, but rather Virginia's ability to keep up. The story of the Virginia offense this season has been its slow starts, but the Cavaliers showed an improved ability to start quick against Miami, scoring a touchdown on their first drive. In particular, rotating Armstrong with junior quarterback Keytaon Thompson and freshman quarterback Ira Armstead early is crucial in getting the offense firing on all six cylinders. If the Cavaliers' quarterback trio gets in rhythm at the start, Virginia can stay tit-for-tat with North Carolina all evening.

Limit missed tackles

One of the reasons for the Cavaliers' defensive woes is their struggles to wrap opponents up. Carter and Williams are known for their ability to make defenders miss due to their speed and strength, respectively, and are sure to give the Virginia defense issues. To bring opponents down, the Cavaliers will have to stay disciplined and wrap them up rather than look for big hits. Furthermore, while Howell is shorter for a quarterback at 6-foot-1, he packs a punch at 225 lbs. The Indian Trail, N.C. native has proven to be tough to take down, even for the most athletic defensive lineman, demonstrating an ability to escape the pocket when under duress and look for a big play downfield. Overall, to put a dent in North Carolina's offensive production, the Virginia defense will have to stay strong in the open field and make tackles the first time around.

Kick-off at Scott Stadium is slated for 8 p.m. Saturday. The game will be broadcast live on the ACC Network.

ADVERTISEMENT



A thoughtful provocative penetrating analysis of the medical profession and its role today.

Pick up at the U.Va. Bookstore for \$18

<https://bit.ly/2GCopLi>

ADVERTISEMENT

FREE ENGRAVING

November and December ONLY

Name or Initial, or Date will be engraved on any item purchased at Tuel Jewelers from now until Christmas!



Silverplated
Christmas Bell
\$30.00

Accutron, Bulova, & Caravelle
Precisionist Watches

Locket
Diamonds
Wedding Bands



\$30.00

Virginia Cups in Five
Different Sizes

"Never Too Late To Have
Any Item Engraved If
Purchased At Tuels!"

TUEL JEWELERS

— ON THE DOWNTOWN MALL —

319 EAST MAIN STREET

"Your Friendly Jewelry Store Since 1945" 434-295-4258

Twins empower social change through @athletes4blm

Two Virginia student-athletes use their platform to talk about social injustice and to encourage and influence change

By: Andrew Cho | Associate Writer



EMMA HITCHCOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

In the year 2020, it seems as though everything anyone is talking about is the global pandemic COVID-19, and rightfully so. However, in the United States, themes of racial injustice and prejudice attracted many headlines after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, giving people of color a large platform to advocate and raise awareness about the atrocities being committed in this country day in and day out. Two Virginia student-athletes — twin sisters Myla Grace Barnett of women's lacrosse and Hailey Grace Barnett of rowing — have used this time to use their platform to advocate for what they believe in.

At the beginning of the summer, in the midst of national uproar over the murder of George Floyd, the twins' mother Jacqueline Barnett was on her way to a Black Lives Matter march and had an idea. She went to the twins and brought up their platforms as student-athletes — and the platforms that athletes have in general — as a way to effectively spread their messages and

stories.

Right away, the twins filmed a video showing their support for the Black Lives Matter movement then posted it to Instagram under an account they created for the project — @athletes4blm. Their first video now has over 8,000 views while the account has nearly 2,500 followers. As a former NFL wide receiver, the twins' father Fred Barnett also understands the power that athletes have to stimulate change and helped create the second video on the account, which touched on what it is like to be an African American in America today.

Over time, there have been over 80 athletes that have used this platform to show their support for the Black Lives Matter movement and share their personal stories and experiences with racism. Myla Barnett discussed the mission of @athletes4blm, along with the impact it has had so far on the college athletics community and beyond.

“Our mission, above all else, is to maximize athlete's platforms to talk about their experiences and support for the Black Lives

Matter movement,” Myla said. “It can really influence the youth and society [as a whole].”

As for which athletes and coaches have been featured, they range from collegiate to professional and male to female, and had athletes featured of all different ethnicities. The @athletes4blm Instagram has videos featuring a variety of current and former lacrosse stars, including Kyle Harrison, Taylor Cummings, Kayla Treanor and Chazz Woodson, but given the sisters' affiliation with the University, there is a large presence of Virginia-affiliated figures on the page — twelve in total.

“We are both so thankful for the videos and participation, especially from a place we call home and our school,” Myla said. “It is so comforting to have people support us and offer their voices. Regardless of how many likes or views it gets, it's great to know that we have support from notable people at our University.”

Just some of these Virginia athletes include senior football players Charles Snowden and

Terrell Jana, senior rower Abbie Bird, and junior Jayden Nixon and sophomore Justin McKoy of the men's basketball team. A few Virginia coaches were featured as well, including men's lacrosse Coach Lars Tiffany and women's rowing Coach Kevin Sauer.

In his post, Tiffany shared his thoughts on the importance of advocating for change in society and how his thoughts on the American flag have changed over the years. Additionally, he brought up New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees and his comments about how he would never agree with anybody disrespecting the American flag, which drew criticism from some activists.

“[Brees] gave us an apology, and he truly understood,” Tiffany said. “Many Americans have had that opinion because we hold the flag so sacred, but the reality is that that flag gives all of us the right to protest, even the right to protest the flag itself.”

Tiffany also mentions three key ideas that many Americans do not get to live and experience — justice, opportunity and

social equity. In a sport such as lacrosse with very low levels of racial diversity — in 2019, only 3 percent of all NCAA Division I lacrosse players were African-American compared to 32 percent across all sports — having one of the greatest coaches in the game today share his message meant a lot to the lacrosse community.

Myla had always been a minority on every one of her teams growing up, and looked at Athletes4BLM as a great opportunity for notable and well-known athletes in the world of lacrosse to recognize and respond to the prevalent racial disparity in lacrosse. While racial diversity is still not prominent across the NCAA lacrosse landscape, including in Virginia's own teams, Barnett recognizes her teammates and coaches' support for her and the movement that she has created.

“They've definitely all shown support, including [Coach] Julie [Myers], [assistant coach] Colleen [McCaffrey], and [assistant coach] Lindsay [Magro],” Myla said.

In addition, the women's lacrosse team as a whole has taken steps towards advocating for change. The team posted a video to their official Instagram account in support of the Groundskeepers Initiative, which garnered nearly 2,500 views in just over a day. Started by a group of Virginia football players, the Groundskeepers Initiative is a new community initiative in which players and coaches alike commit to an individual goal to advocate against racial injustice. The women's lacrosse team committed to a variety of different subjects, such as holding oneself accountable, voting, educating oneself and speaking up and taking action.

As the community moves forward each day, the mission and goals of this social media campaign remain unchanged. The Barnett sisters truly believe that there is a need for change in this world and their platform has had a direct impression on the lives and opinions of tens of thousands of people, and a countless number of people indirectly.

“It's so much bigger than us and we want to make steps toward change,” Myla said. “We're not only just athletes that can perform and be great aides to winning competition, but we're people and we matter outside of our uniforms.”

HEALTH & SCIENCE

U.Va. Health sees shortages in personnel and testing space

Amidst a rise in COVID-19 testing demand, a variety of testing supplies has mitigated supply shortages, though other shortages remain

Astha Kulshrestha | Staff Writer

With the recent outbreaks in the University's dorms and new cases every day, COVID-19 testing remains extremely important. Testing provided by the University is at an all-time high with 50 to 150 asymptomatic students chosen randomly every day to receive tests, alongside prevalence testing occurring every weekday for several on-Grounds dormitories, in addition to the symptomatic students tested daily. The University's efforts to expand testing of asymptomatic students and provide testing to all on-Grounds residents has led to an increase in the number of tests conducted by U.Va. Health, Student Health and affiliated clinics — from 1,630 tests administered over the week of Sept. 6 to 12 to 5,041 tests administered Oct. 18 to 24, according to the University COVID-19 tracker.

The University has managed this increasing demand for testing supplies by utilizing multiple forms of testing that require different materials, including saliva tests. However, shortages at U.Va. Health still remain according to physicians in the U.Va. Health System. The influx of patients looking to get tested for COVID-19 in primary care offices has led to a

shortage of personnel and testing space — an issue that is expected to worsen as we enter flu season.

Last spring, the University experienced its first shortage in testing materials — mainly swabs and mediums, substances on which cells and tissues can be cultured — as a large influx of Charlottesville residents overwhelmed its primary care centers and hospitals. In response, the University developed their own method for 3D printing nasopharyngeal swabs — the swabs used for a majority of testing as they can collect samples from deep within the nasal cavity — diminishing the shortage. Since the return of the University students, U.Va. has employed a variety of testing options including mid-nasal, saliva and nasopharyngeal.

Jessica Simmons, director of medical services at Student Health and Wellness, speaks to the increased breadth of testing among U.Va. students because of the variety of testing options.

“Using a variety of testing methods has allowed U.Va. to broaden testing to include consistent prevalence testing, testing for exposures and symptomatic testing,” Simmons

said in an email to The Cavalier Daily.

Robert Boler — a physician assistant at U.Va. Primary Care Riverside, a University location where students may get directed to for nasal swab testing — says he has never faced a supply shortage since the return of University students and that U.Va. regularly monitors where it's having shortages in order to address them right away. Similar sentiments were echoed by John Davison, a family physician at U.Va. Primary Care Riverside.

“The entire system at U.Va. sort of directed their COVID-19 testing to [the Riverside] facility,” Davison said. “The reagents and the supplies are not an issue at this point ... If somebody comes in and needs to be tested, whether they're asymptomatic or symptomatic, they get tested.”

Boler and Davison's confidence in testing availability is seen through the experience of second-year Nursing student Neha Jain, who recalls her first time receiving a COVID-19 test at Student Health in mid-October as “fast and efficient.” Even as an asymptomatic patient, she received her results within 20 hours, faster than the University's advertised response

time of 24 to 48 hours. However, while Jain's testing experience went smoothly, students reported issues with scheduling tests at the beginning of the semester.

Davison credits a large part of the consistent supply of testing swabs to the University's novel process of using 3D printers to make their own swabs for nasopharyngeal tests. Additionally, the University has continued to implement efficient and innovative ways to conduct tests, including testing the wastewater from University dorms. Boler also sees the benefits of wastewater testing in a University setting.

“Wastewater testing is pretty interesting because [it allows the University to] extrapolate data about a group of people who are living in a communal setting ... and not necessarily have to individually test every person in there,” Boler said.

Although testing supply demands are being met, another kind of deficiency is presenting itself — a shortage in health personnel and space in the primary care facilities. As expenditures for personal protective equipment and testing supplies increase at Riverside Primary Care,

Davison has experienced a freeze of sufficient manpower.

“Where we run into a problem is ... just the overwhelming number of people who want to be evaluated for testing,” Davison said. “There have been more people that come to our office most days than we can possibly see.”

The shortage in personnel and space in testing centers like Riverside gives rise to worries about the center's ability to treat patients during the upcoming flu season. An increase in mild viral illnesses, such as a cough, a cold or the flu, is inevitable and is expected to peak in January 2021. With Riverside already running at above 100 percent capacity since the summer, Davison says there is no buffer zone.

“Our office is not going to be able to see essentially any more people than we already do,” Davison said.

Now more than ever, it is important to follow the limitations on the number of students allowed in one space at a time in order to prevent overwhelming our health system.

Virtual platforms open opportunities for student interns

The U.Va. Career Center offers students options to gain experience in their preferred subject while online for the semester

Camille Owen | Staff Writer

As coronavirus continues to spread across the country, students are placed in the unprecedented position of taking classes and finding other opportunities online. For many students, that means finding and applying to health and science positions online.

Kim Sauerwein, director of pre-health and law advising at the U.Va. Career Center, noted that the Career Center was open and offering many programs to help students find careers during the pandemic. In fact, over the previous summer, it was able to bolster many of its programs and saw almost double the number of students and graduates as usual, despite operations being virtual.

“We continue to connect students with employers and alumni in various career fields,” Sauerwein said in an email to The Cavalier Daily. “In fact, due to the virtual nature of our

programming, we have an extended network of alumni and employers who can ‘Zoom’ into our events.”

These events by the Career Center include career fairs, on-Grounds interviewing and other networking opportunities hosted throughout the year. Sauerwein noted that students interested in pursuing a specific career could reach out to the center for connections to mentors, employers, career advisors and professionals in the field. Even just completing small steps towards a career goal can be beneficial for future success.

“Pre-health students have been challenged by far fewer in-person opportunities for shadowing, volunteering and research in a clinical or lab setting,” Sauerwein said in reference to the coronavirus restrictions. “However, new opportunities such as the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps [positions] for Student Vol-

unteers and COVID-19 Volunteers, have arisen. Since March, over 5,000 Virginians have joined the MRC and become deployable volunteers.”

Before coming to Grounds, first-year College student Lexie-Anne Cantrell worked as a certified nursing assistant and is currently looking for CNA positions in Charlottesville. According to Cantrell, there is a greater demand for CNA positions now than at the start of the pandemic.

“Many CNAs quit their jobs, causing a large influx of need because of COVID,” Cantrell said. “I am applying to more positions to see what benefits, in regards to pay and hours, I could receive and compare them as well.”

When the coronavirus began to spread rapidly in the U.S., the nursing home she worked at underwent many changes to protect the patients who lived there.

“For a long while, they were locked down — there were no visitors allowed,” Cantrell said. “Then everyone that came into work had to go through a series of steps with PPE, which is personal protective equipment, that they had to put on.”

Another program in the Career Center that students can utilize to find health and science related internships — such as healthcare and clinical research, data analysis and software development positions — is the Internship Placement Program. Though students must pay \$90 to apply and are not guaranteed an internship placement, Associate Director of IPP Rebecca Coulter said that the program lets students use one application to apply to multiple internships. With new coronavirus restrictions, IPP has become entirely virtual, which has opened more opportunities for students.

“As a program, being virtual has

allowed us to partner with new organizations and offer students virtual internships with organizations across the U.S.,” Coulter said in an email to The Cavalier Daily. “This has enhanced our relationships with alumni who are interested in hosting interns and created new opportunities in industries that weren't accessible in Charlottesville.”

The new virtual positions also make it easier for students to work in positions that now have flexible hours and no commuting time. The IPP spring application opened Oct. 15 and is available for second, third and fourth years. For science and pre-health students, clinical research positions are open for the upcoming semester through the School of Medicine Clinical Trials Office.

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

We are once again asking — cancel class on Election Day

The University should not infringe on our most fundamental right as democratic citizens

As the nation prepares for a monumental election, it is critical that all citizens have equitable access — and time — to vote. Holding classes and exams on Election Day poses a nearly insurmountable challenge to early and in-person voting for many students, faculty and staff at the University. Marginalized and low-income students and workers face systemic barriers to casting their ballots — transportation to and from the polls, hours-long wait times and risks associated with the ongoing pandemic, among others.

While early and absentee voting provide flexibility in casting ballots, analysis shows that they don't actually eliminate barriers to voting. These methods of voting only spread out the already existing pool of voters — they don't expand access to people prevented from voting by systemic barriers. For example, someone hindered from getting to the polls Nov. 3 is equally as likely to be unable to vote at other times — despite increased opportunities in early voting. Well-founded

concerns about postal delays for mail-in ballots have also caused some to commit exclusively to voting in person. Making it easier for people to vote — expanding their fundamental democratic right — requires systemic change.

Between schoolwork, class attendance, employment and extracurricular activities, there is little free time left in the day for students to transport themselves to the polls and wait in line to cast a ballot. Similarly, faculty and staff spend their days teaching courses, grading assignments, planning lessons or otherwise supporting the University's general operations. As long as the University is holding classes, its community members will experience difficulty getting to the polls and be disincentivized from voting.

These barriers become even clearer when factoring in transportation to and from the polls. While students living on Grounds most often vote at on-Grounds precincts, students living off Grounds in the City of Charlottesville must find transportation to and from one of the City's

polling locations — sometimes miles away from Grounds. For students without access to cars or ride-hailing services, this can mean an hours-long trip on the Charlottesville public transportation network, which many consider unreliable. Moreover, using ride-hailing services or public transportation poses significant public health risks as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

Accordingly, students at the University continue their years-long fight for the cancelation of classes and exams on Election Day. Most recently, for the 2018 midterm elections, students lobbied administration and circulated a faculty pledge to cancel classes and exams. Even with Virginia's recent pro-democracy legislative reforms — including declaring Election Day a state holiday — the University administration has remained idle.

This conversation isn't new — it's the same story every year. And nothing has changed.

The University has no excuse not to institute a blanket policy canceling classes and exams on

Election Day. With Election Day now a Virginia state holiday, it is nonsensical for the University — not only a state institution, but the Commonwealth's flagship university — to continue normal operations.

The University is already acknowledging and accounting for some of the impediments to voting for faculty and staff. In a recent email, it asked managers to "provide employees who wish to vote in person a reasonable period of time to do so — about two hours." Despite obviously recognizing the need for systemic policy change, the University refuses to afford students the same opportunity it does for faculty and staff. Student votes are of equal importance, and students must be given an equal opportunity to vote.

In its "Great and Good" strategic plan, the University proclaims its "overriding purpose" to serve American democracy. It is strikingly hypocritical of the University to declare such a purpose, and then abandon the sentiment as soon as free and fair democra-

cy demands systemic change to the University's operations. The University must cancel classes on Election Day to make it easier — and fully encourage — student, faculty and staff electoral engagement. If the University refuses to enact systemic changes, faculty must make accommodations which allow students to vote without penalty. The health and continuity of our democracy demands it.

We can't afford to sit this election out. And the University shouldn't make us.

THE CAVALIER DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD is composed of the Executive Editor, the Editor-in-Chief, the two Opinion Editors, their Senior Associate and an Opinion Columnist. The board can be reached at eb@cavalierdaily.com.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Cavalier Daily is a financially and editorially independent news organization staffed and managed entirely by students of the University of Virginia.

The opinions expressed in The Cavalier Daily are not necessarily those of the students, faculty, staff or administration of the University of Virginia. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial board. Cartoons and columns represent the views of the authors. The managing board of The Cavalier Daily has sole authority over and responsibility for all content.

No part of The Cavalier Daily or The Cavalier Daily online edition may be reproduced in any form, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the editor-in-chief.

The Cavalier Daily is published Thursdays in print and daily online at cavalierdaily.com. It is printed on at least 40 percent recycled paper. 2020 The Cavalier Daily Inc.

HAVE AN OPINION?

The Cavalier Daily welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns. Writers must provide full name, telephone number and University affiliation, if appropriate. Letters should not exceed 250 words in length and columns should not exceed 700. The Cavalier Daily does not guarantee publication of submissions and may edit all material for content and grammar. Submit to opinion@cavalierdaily.com or P.O. Box 400703, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4703

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

To better serve readers, The Cavalier Daily has a public editor to respond to questions and concerns regarding its practices. The public editor writes a column published every week on the opinion pages based on reader feedback and his independent observations. He also welcomes queries pertaining to journalism and the newspaper industry in general. The public editor is available at publiceditor@cavalierdaily.com.



FOLLOW US @CAVALIERDAILY
WWW.CAVALLIERDAILY.COM

THE CAVALIER DAILY

MANAGING BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Nik Popli
Managing Editor
Jenn Brice
Executive Editor
Victoria McKelvey
Operations Manager
Ankit Agrawal
Chief Financial Officer
Malcolm Mashig

EDITORIAL BOARD

Victoria McKelvey
Nik Popli
Zack Pasciak
Hailey Yowell
Neil Kothari
Noah Strike

JUNIOR BOARD

Assistant Managing Editors
Carolyn Lane
Abby Sacks
(SA) Hanna Preston
(SA) Ellie Prober
(SA) Joitree Alam
(SA) Nicole Freeman
(SA) Isabel Barney

News Editors

Ali Sullivan
Eva Surovell
(SA) Zach Rosenthal

Sports Editors

Vignesh Mulay
Akhil Rekulapelli
(SA) Caroline Lund

Life Editors

Pauline Povitsky
Elise Kim

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Robin Schwartzkopf
Caitlin Woodford
(SA) Anna Miller

Health & Science Editors

Callie Freeman
Lucie Rutherford
Magazine Editor

Jacquelyn Kim

Opinion Editors

Zack Pasciak
Hailey Yowell
(SA) Neil Kothari

Humor Editor

Eshaan Sarup
Cartoon Editor
Audrey Lewis

Production Editors

Ethan Fingerhut
Noah Holloway
Flora Kim

Graphics Editors

Angela Chen
Emma Hitchcock

Photography Editors

Ariana Guernamayeh
Emma Klein
(SA) Tapley Borucke
(SA) Khuyen Dinh
(SA) Sophie Roehse

Video Editor

Max Patten

Social Media Managers

Darryle Aldridge
Peyton Guthrie

Translation Editors

Maria Aguilar
Lily Lin
(SA) Aldo Barriente
(SA) Xi Chen
(SA) Ziqin Lin

Finance Manager

Victoria Li

Advertising Manager

Katrina Yankovich

To limit abortions, vote Democrat

Democratic policies prevent unplanned pregnancy and embrace a social safety net

As the presidential election grows nearer, an increasingly powerful group of pro-life single-issue voters face the possibility of supporting a candidate who openly violates many basic ethical standards — avoiding taxes, bungling a pandemic, openly cheating on his spouse, among others. For many pro-life voters, President Donald Trump's adamantly anti-abortion stance outweighs his other policies and makes him the obvious choice when compared to pro-choice Joe Biden. However, when examining the two candidates' policies, one conclusion becomes clear. For pro-life single-issue voters, voting Democrat is the obvious choice to limiting abortions. Democratic policies not only prevent unplanned pregnancies, but also make carrying such a pregnancy to term financially feasible.

While I am fiercely pro-choice, I also think it is important to understand pro-life argumentation. A pro-life ideology that spurns all forms of contraception on the logic that extramarital or protected sex is morally wrong is fundamentally an ideology founded primarily in controlling women's bodies and sexualities, not in purportedly saving fetus' lives. This article is not for the pro-life logic that

involves privileging a restrictive and unrealistic sexual ethic — for example, arguing that if women don't want to get pregnant, they should simply "keep their legs closed."

Instead, it is attempting to persuade the pro-life individuals who want to prevent pregnancy termination. In such case, the most effective way to achieve their goals is to make contraception accessible, make scientifically accurate sex education mandatory and have a reliable social safety

net. However, as noted by the Guttmacher Institute, this was largely due to greater contraceptive access granted by the Affordable Care Act, a Democratic policy. Further, a pro-choice ideology importantly places emphasis on choice. Pro-choice is not pro-abortion — instead, it is a belief which privileges a pregnant person's ability to decide what to do about their pregnancy and their body. Importantly, if a person wants to carry their pregnancy to term, then pro-choice beliefs must

rental leave, affordable healthcare and affordable childcare, it becomes clear why these policies result in fewer abortions than their Republican counterparts. No matter their official stance, a party whose policies make carrying an unplanned pregnancy to term unaffordable is not pro-life by any stretch of the imagination.

While Trump's recent appointee to the Supreme Court — adamantly anti-ACA, anti-accessible birth control Justice Amy Coney Barrett — will

more damning, when abortion is harder to legally obtain, the number of abortions actually increase. This is for many reasons, not least of which is that administrations that restrict abortion generally also restrict reproductive care.

Ultimately, if pro-life advocates truly want the maximum number of pregnancies to be carried to term, Democratic policies have shown to achieve that goal most successfully. Further, most pro-life advocates' ultimate goal is to eliminate abortions entirely — factually speaking, this is impossible. No nation, society or period throughout history has ever been without abortions. Unplanned pregnancies will continue to happen, and women will continue to want to end them. However, we can get the closest to a world without abortion not by ending legal abortion, but by combining legal abortion with a rigorous social safety net and a clear commitment to reproductive healthcare — something only the Democrats currently promise.

EMMA CAMP is an Opinion Columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

“Democratic policies not only prevent unplanned pregnancies, but also make carrying such a pregnancy to term financially feasible.”

net that makes keeping an unplanned pregnancy possible.

The Democratic party's pro-choice policies ultimately work to decrease the abortion rate. While this may at first seem counterintuitive, the emphasis on education and contraceptive access — as well as strengthening the social safety net — makes unplanned pregnancies less likely, and makes them more likely to be carried to term when they do occur. For example, last year had the lowest U.S. abortion rate since

involve making that choice an accessible one.

According to one study, almost 60 percent of individuals seeking abortions already have children. An additional 73 percent cited “I can't afford a baby right now” as a reason for terminating their pregnancy. This indicates that many women would be willing — and would even want — to keep their pregnancies but simply cannot afford to. Thus, when Democrats' policies advocate for guaranteed paid pa-

likely result in the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, the logical leap that abortions do not occur in places where it is illegal is simply factually incorrect. For the entirety of human history, women have sought to end their pregnancies. Just as abortion existed before *Roe v. Wade*, it will exist after it is gone — with the added change of it becoming much more dangerous for those who seek them. As the pro-life logic goes, women seeking abortions have lives that are worth protecting, too. Even

Why I'm a Republican voter against Donald Trump

In a political desert between thriving extremism, I choose leadership

I've always voted Republican, but last week I voted absentee for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

I was raised in a loving family with moderately conservative values in a suburban neighborhood on the outskirts of our nation's capital. In good ole D.C. fashion, my neighborhood is one where a former Republican senator lives down the street from someone who worked for the Obama administration, whose kids play with the kids of a lobbyist for the National Rifle Association. As I drive our streets, red and blue plastic signs stick out proudly from neighbors' lawns with messages of “ByeDon” and “Make America Great Again.” Nevertheless, we all march in the same Fourth of July parades, serve the same citizen's association, complain in the same neighborhood Facebook group and suffer the same power outages when strong winds prove too much for our decades-old power lines. Growing up, I learned to appreciate political opinions from neighbors to my left and right.

In 2012, I sat eagerly in front of the TV with my dad as we watched electoral votes roll in and shared disappointment when we realized that the Romney-Ryan ticket would fall short. In that same election year, my mom took me into the voting booth with

her to re-elect our nation's first Black president. One of my grandmothers is an immigrant. My great-grandparents were small business owners in rural parts of the U.S., and both grandfathers Army soldiers. I heard well-reasoned and well-articulated points of view from people who disagreed about how to lead our country but loved it equally.

Ever since I have been eligible to vote, I have voted Republican. I have also volunteered for Republican

I sit anxiously in a moderate limbo, a political desert between thriving extremism.

Admittedly, I disagree with many of Biden's policies. However, this election is less about which candidate proposes better policies and more about who demonstrates better leadership. As I have learned in my public policy classes, the psychological phenomenon “social proof” explains the human tendency to follow the lead of others because we deem certain behaviors

ards for the Republican Party that I only hope will eventually recover. His hateful rhetoric and Twitter attacks have also cultivated a harmful “cancel culture” on social media, as well as more divisiveness among politicians and citizens.

A president who inspires the growth in prominence of neo-Nazi and white nationalist groups and gains their unwavering support around the country is unacceptable for the United States. A president who ignores his

re-election with Twitter bullying is unacceptable for the United States and its constitutional values.

I have my bipartisan upbringing to thank in part for my courage to cross party lines and vote against Trump and for America this upcoming election. To my fellow young Republicans, there are many others who fear a future with Trump. I have sought comfort in those who have spoken up in the Former Republican National Security Officials for Biden and Republicans Voters Against Trump campaigns, as well as many individual Republican officials against Trump's re-election.

Vote for the leader who is willing to reach across the aisle to bring us together — not push us further away from one another. Vote for the leader who will listen to his expert advisors to protect Americans. Vote for the leader who will work proudly on behalf of your BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and female friends and family. Vote for the leader who will set a good example for America, at home and abroad, because the future of our health, country and planet depends on it. Vote for Joe Biden.

MARTHA GALLAGHER is a fourth-year in the Batten School.

“To my fellow young Republicans, there are many others who fear a future with Trump.”

campaigns and worked for Republican elected officials. While I was too young to vote in 2016, I did not support President Donald Trump. Since his inauguration, I have felt somewhat politically homeless. Trump does not embody the Republican party's values of freedom, liberty and security that inspired me to get involved in politics, and his nomination makes me question whether the Republican party prioritizes those values anymore. His divisiveness has also shifted the Democratic Party further left. Today

acceptable after seeing someone else exhibit them. Even behaviors we know are wrong are normalized once we see, read and hear about them.

Our president, the most powerful leader in our nation and world, should exhibit positive behaviors for Americans to repeat throughout their communities. That is how you ignite positive change — by bringing people together. Instead, Trump's behavior has not only set a destructive precedent for our government's highest office but has lowered the set of stand-

national security advisors and makes impulsive decisions that threaten our safety is unacceptable for the United States. A president who dismisses facts and advice from public health experts on his own coronavirus task force, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, because they contradict his own opinions and political goals, is unacceptable for the United States. A president who intimidates fellow Republican elected officials by threatening to compromise their

HUMOR

Dorm living is not for the faint of heart

As I enter my second year at the University, after reflecting on my living situation last year, I'm eager to offer advice to incoming first years who might feel wary about what's in store for them as they make their new home in Page, Gibbons or — god-forbid — Johnson or Malone. As a Gooch-Dillard survivor myself, I feel as if I possess some authority on the subject.

First, dorm living requires a combination of physical and mental stamina you may not have tapped into yet as a mere 18-year-old. If you're assigned anything on the third floor of Fitzhugh, start training now. I would recommend a minimum of three miles per day in the weeks leading up to your move-in, along with some heavy-weight lifting. Is there a dusty stairmaster in your parents' basement?

Use it. Move-in day will not be for the faint of heart, and you might want to encourage your parents to drive with a fury and arrive early as parking can get competitive. If you want a better idea of some of what you might witness during move-in or at the activities fair that's close to follow, the blood bath scene in the first Hunger Games movie will give you some comparable insight, although there are some minute differences.

Once you're moved in, I would give it about two hours before you'll need to start drafting a list of things you forgot at home or just didn't think to bring in the first place. Am I going to tell you that bringing a Brita water filter is a matter of life or death? No, not explicitly, but please, no matter what, invest in a trustworthy pair of shower shoes — for your

own personal well-being as well as the protection of your hall-mates. If neither of these are reason enough for you to spend the \$14.99 at Bed Bath and Beyond, do it for me, so I can sleep well in my off-Grounds apartment with its private bath knowing you are safe. I'm begging.

The next thing to consider is how you plan to share the new space with a roommate. Whether you met after weeding through the redundant and somewhat agonizing Facebook posts or you took a chance on rooming with a friend from high school, my biggest piece of advice is this — expect the worst. I don't say this to be pessimistic but rather realistic. No matter how much you love your roommate, 130 square feet of living space does not make the heart grow fonder. If you're anything like me and have diag-

nosed yourself with misophonia — which is a strong reaction to specific sounds including the chewing and breathing of another person — I would try and plan a lunch date with your roomie before committing. This way, you can gauge how aggressive their chewing is and jump ship if necessary. There's nothing worse than listening to your roommate relentlessly crunch on Pringles while you're trying to finish your reading for ENWR. Trust me on this.

The last and possibly best advice I can throw your way is simple — learn how to put a fitted sheet on a mattress BEFORE arriving on Grounds. Growing up, I was reluctant to learn this skill myself as one of my parents — okay, my mom — was always there to pick up my slack. It felt like something she'd be able to do

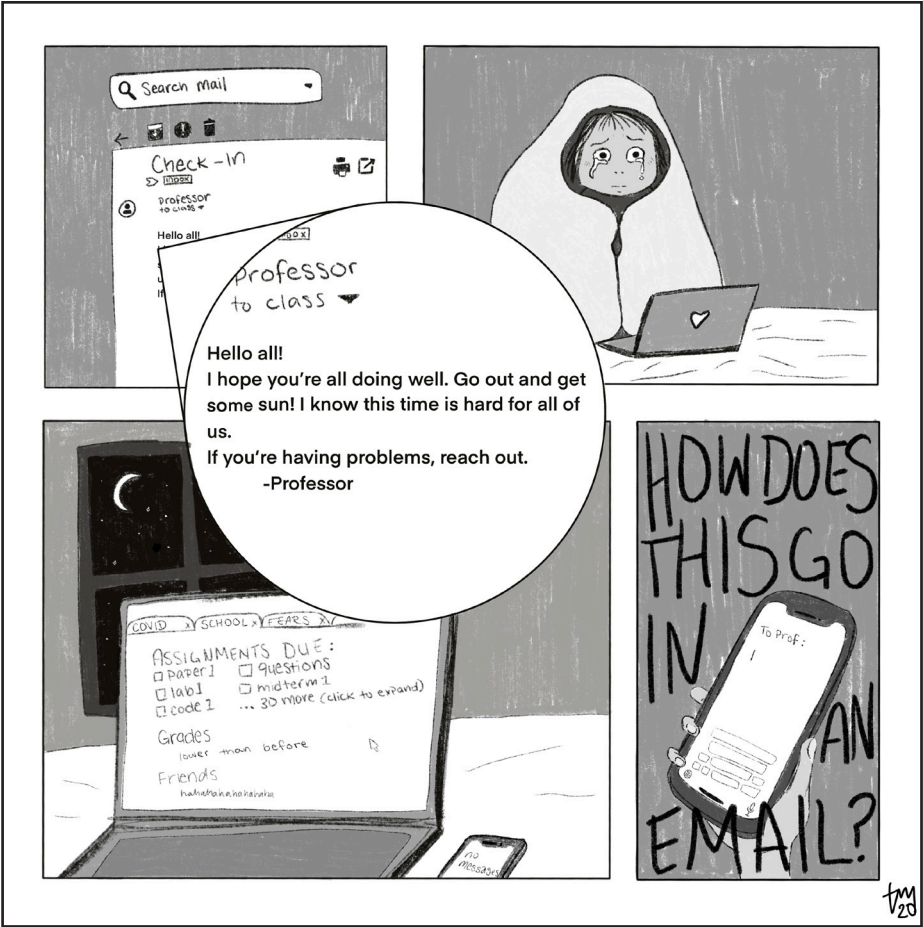
for me forever. Now, even when I think the trauma has finally left me, I'll sometimes get a quick yet powerful flashback to nights alone in my dorm, wrestling with a fitted sheet on my lofted bed, trying to stretch my whole body across a twin XL. The vicious cycle of false hope, short-lived celebration and, finally, defeat is something I want to spare you. If, however, you make the same mistake I did and arrive at the university without perfecting the art of wrangling a fitted sheet, be prepared for many restless nights on a bare mattress pad.

MARGARET DONALDSON is a Humor columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at humor@cavalierdaily.com.

CARTOON

COVID era check-ins

Teresa Michael | Cartoonist



PUZZLES

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Aaron Rose | Puzzle Master

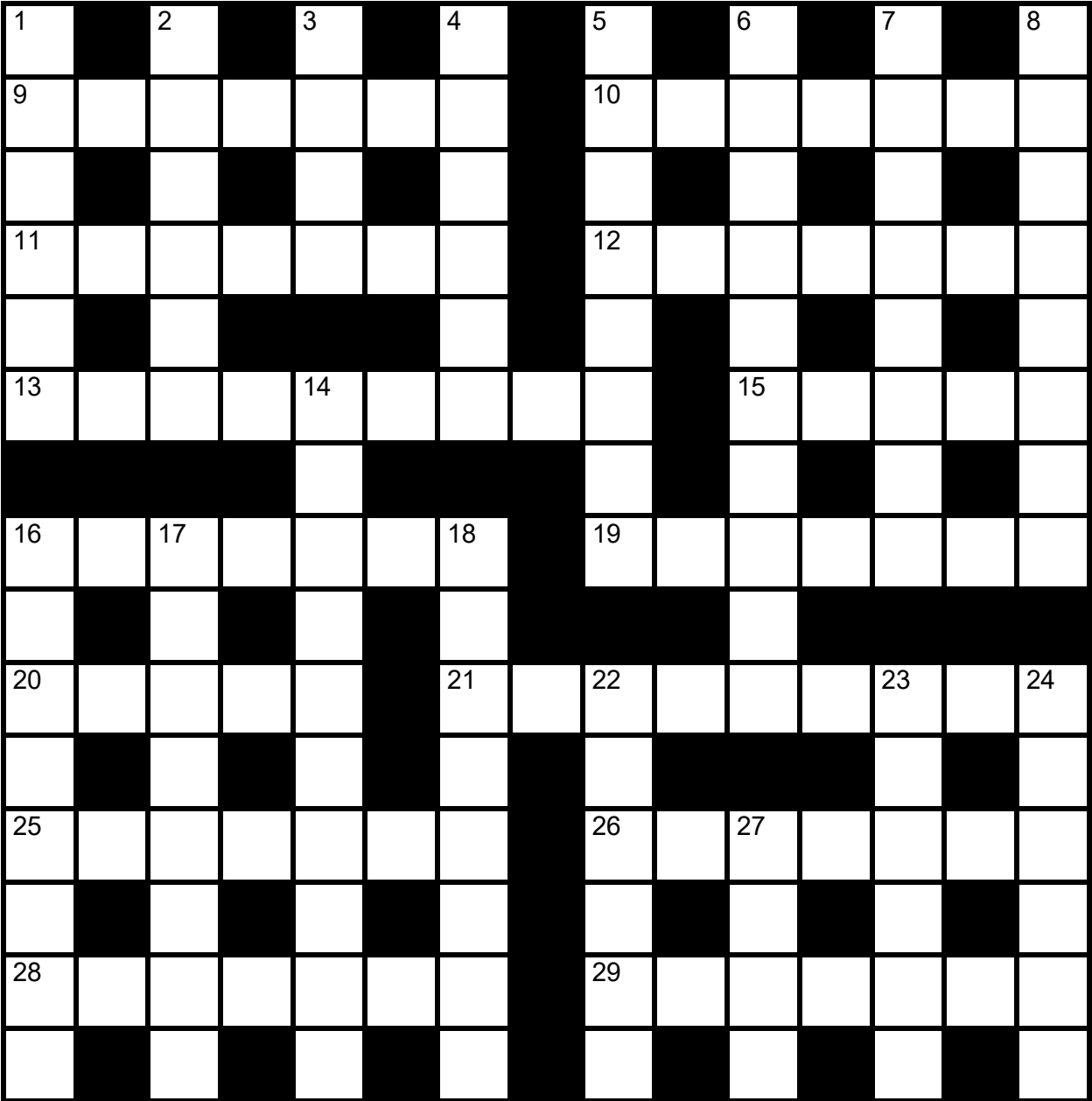
* THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Across

- 9. A professional who sells real estate.
- 10. Flatbread made of dried corn, originally developed in the U.S.; also known as johnny bread.
- 11. Perhaps the most quintessential swing state in modern American political history; narrowly handed George W. Bush victory in 2000.
- 12. To take back ownership.
- 13. Refers to a specific product sold by a company; for example, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, or Mountain Dew. (two words)
- 15. The part of a sink through which used water exits the bowl.
- 16. Degraded, lowered in moral stature.
- 19. To negate, to make invalid.
- 20. Mayonnaise, for example.
- 21. A young male attendee of a primary or secondary school.
- 25. Describes someone that is more rambunctious than someone else.
- 26. Shallower, fast-moving sections of a river or stream.
- 28. Major city in Israel; located on the Mediterranean coast.
- 29. Rocks from which the element ‘Fe’ can be extracted. (Two words)

Down

- 1. A type of home that is manufactured in component parts; makes building cheaper.
- 2. Multi-tiered tower typically found in East and Southeast Asia.
- 3. A needlecase, but make it French.
- 4. Errors, mistakes in printed material.
- 5. Number of electoral votes assigned to Virginia in the Electoral College. (spelled out)
- 6. When translated from the Spanish, a small sin.
- 7. Title given to the wife of an Indian king.
- 8. Traditionally, the collection of small-estate farmers that mostly associated with the middle class in European society; beneath the aristocracy.
- 14. To be unable to accept something as truth.
- 16. Secretive, without fuss and inconspicuous; also, a form of math.
- 17. Nickname given to the collection of states that have historically backed Democratic presidential candidates since the 1990s.
- 18. To demonstrate the falsity of something.
- 22. U.S. Senator from California running as Vice President on the 2020 Democratic Party ticket. (last name)
- 23. The piece of paper on which a vote is cast.
- 24. Name given to people consistently affirm your decisions and actions, even if they may ultimately be detrimental or morally wrong. (hyphenated)
- 27. A clown or jester, for example.



* SOLUTION FROM OCT. 29 ISSUE



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Jamming at a distance with the Wertland Street Band

How one student band is finding a creative way to share their music

Will Gunderson | Staff Writer



WILL GUNDERSON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Wertland Street Band began playing together with first-year jam sessions.

Anyone walking near the 1200 block of Wertland Street on Friday evening would've been privy to a rare instance of live music during the pandemic, courtesy of the Wertland Street Band. Fourth-year Batten Student Nikki Gerszten, fourth-year Commerce student Chris Benedetti, second-year Engineering student Alex Hails and fourth-year College student Caroline Strickland have been playing pop-up concerts on the front porch of Gerszten's Wertland Street home to a socially distanced crowd since the beginning of the semester. Often announced with little notice on the band's Instagram, they have given their neighbors and the University community something to look forward to in a time when live music is hard to come by.

"It just means a lot that we can play music," Strickland said. "And it means a lot to me that people still want to listen."

The Wertland Street Band grew out of first-year jam sessions

between Strickland and Gerszten, adding Benedetti and Hails over the course of two years to form a full band. They started playing at functions for Gerszten's fraternity in the fall of 2019 before graduating to the Corner bar scene. By the time the spring semester of 2020 came around, they were playing almost every weekend at bars like Coupes and Crozet. When students were sent home after Spring Break, the band was devastated. They were planning shows after Spring Break that they were really excited about, and weren't sure how quarantine would impact live shows for Gerszten, Strickland and Benedetti's fourth year. Their pop-up concerts on Wertland Street, and their band name, grew out of this frustration.

This Friday's concert was scheduled to start at five, but — like any good show — the band came on late and gave people time to get excited. By the time the soundcheck started, people had brought out blankets to sit along

the curb and neighbors dotted the roofs and patios all along Wertland Street.

"It's fun because with the pandemic going on, a lot of our social activities have been restricted," said Benedetti, who plays guitar for the band, in a brief interview before the concert. "I know the whole band has a lot of fun playing at Coupes and Crozet and stuff. So this is an opportunity to still play together and have people watch us and, hopefully, entertain some people."

If the goal was simply to entertain, then the Wertland Street Band accomplished their mission. Many people camped to watch the whole show, but many more passersby also stopped to enjoy just a part of the 39-song set before getting on with their night. The crowd, though imperfect, largely stuck to the band's request to observe the social-distancing guidelines set forth by the school. With frequent urgings on Instagram to "mask up," the crowd did

their best to get involved. Songs like Elton John's "Tiny Dancer" and Børns's "Electric Love" kept the audience on their feet, and a slowed down cover of Kanye West's "Runaway" was met with great enthusiasm as a friend of the band stepped in on Kanye's rap verse. The two untitled Wertland Street Band originals were a surprise to the crowd and were met with genuine interest, despite being sandwiched between covers.

This was among the first few pop-up shows the Wertland Street Band has done, and the first after a nearly month-long hiatus due to the five-person limit imposed for parts of September and October. It was also the first show they have actively advertised, having a fellow fourth-year College student, Blythe Engel, create a graphic to spread the word. As they begin sharing some of their own original music, as well as sticking to the covers the audience loved, the band hopes to continue playing spontaneous shows on Gersz-

ten's front porch.

"[If] people keep showing up, we'll keep doing it," drummer Hails said just before the show.

Live music has long been a part of the U.Va. social scene, with bars and local venues drawing large crowds of students every weekend. Despite many of these spaces being unsafe during the pandemic, the Wertland Street Band threw a great show. Live music is a rare commodity this semester, and so long as the crowd remains safe, the band is excited to continue giving the University community free concerts.

"Hopefully, we can keep doing it," pianist Gerszten said. "But that's mostly up to the people watching."

As this semester begins to wrap up and the pandemic continues, it's refreshing to see the creative ways students like the members of the Wertland Street Band adapt to these unusual times and bring joy to others.

‘Feels Good Man’ explores the politics of a meme

Documentary presented by the Virginia Film Festival chronicles an artist as he watches his creation progressively become a symbol of the “alt-right”

Omega Ilijevich | Staff Writer

“What do you think people get wrong about Pepe?” asks director Arthur Jones, as the camera watches artist Matt Furie draw a happy-looking frog cartoon.

“Probably when they put Pepe on the internet saying things like, ‘Kill Jews,’” Furie responds.

Pepe is a chill, fun-loving frog character in a nostalgic comic strip. Pepe is a communal symbol of sadness and online loneliness. Pepe is a joke that can be passed around with friends. Pepe is a reactionary tool used to dispel hate speech under the guise of irony. All of these truths exist together, as they represent Pepe — a cartoon frog character — through the evolutionary stages of its internet life. The absurd way this simple image became so distorted from its original purpose over time that it eventually became an explicit symbol of neo-Nazis is explored in “Feels Good Man,” the debut project of director Jones and producer Giorgio Angelini, presented in virtual format by the Virginia Film Festival last week.

At the center of this story is Furie — a laid-back cartoonist who originated the image of Pepe the frog as a character for his 90s-style slacker comedy comic strip “Boy’s Club” in 2005. The character’s relationship with the internet began innocently, when Furie posted a comic strip to MySpace. In the comic, Pepe defends the practice of pulling his pants all the way down to pee because it “feels good, man.” This image and catchphrase became co-opted by different niche subgroups for years and was moved further and further from its original context, until it eventually landed in the hands of various reactionary, neo-Nazi political groups.

Through the eyes of Furie, the audience can see how disorienting and deeply upsetting it can be to have an artistic work snowball so far out of one’s control. Early in the film, Furie’s partner Aiyana Udesen says that Pepe has been his “go-to thing to draw” for as long as she has known him. One of his friends even says that the frog “kinda looks like Matt.” The journey of having something that is so essentially linked to your identity perverted into something unrecognizable is the tragedy of Furie’s tale, and it anchors the documentary in a moving way.

One unique component of the film is the way it electrifies classic documentary formats with vibrant, almost psychedelic an-



COURTESY VIRGINIA FILM FESTIVAL

The meme of Pepe the frog has been co-opted by many different groups throughout its history.

imated sequences. These scenes are clearly visually stunning, but they also get at the core of the film’s themes in a fascinating visual manner. The beautiful sequences of Furie’s Boy’s Club characters hanging out and going on adventures breathes new life into the art that was ripped away from him. These fun pieces that are seen throughout the film exist in stark contrast to the strange visuals that showcase Pepe’s existence on the internet, which are glitchy and even akin to a kind of cyber-horror. Placing Furie’s Pepe in juxtaposition to the strange force he has become online is how the documentary presents Furie’s work as corrupted by the alien and often menacing force of the Internet.

Something that cannot be ignored in this film is its political immediacy. The symbolism surrounding Pepe and other reactionary in-jokes have seen a lot of public attention lately, but they can seem confusing upon first glance. Why should someone worry about President Trump

posting a picture of himself as a strange frog meme? Because these images are so layered in “ironic” crypticism, most onlookers do not understand the implications of them. This creates an in-group language amongst the self-described “alt-right” that enforces their connections to one another, while also shielding their violent intentions under the guise of everything being “just a joke.”

Many of the talking heads of the film are political commentators and journalists who cover the white supremacist groups, and they emphasize the ways that these groups utilize memes and goofy-sounding phraseology to cover up the severity of what they are trying to do. The way Pepe was hijacked is a huge part of what modern political radicalization looks like. It starts as an “edgy” way to make fun of the “mainstream” and quickly diverges into disturbing territory. As a documentary, “Feels Good Man” brings a beneficial level of accessibility to these political discussions, explaining internet

phenomena like “memes” and “4chan” in ways that are engaging for older audience members and younger internet natives alike.

The level of humor in this film is in some ways to be expected — it’s about a cartoon frog. The absurdity of its concept mostly goes without saying. But amongst all of the darker elements of Furie’s story, this levity is a refreshing component of the film. Some of the funniest moments come when Furie suits up to take on notorious right-wing conspirator Alex Jones in court for using Pepe the frog on merchandise. Furie is shown being questioned by investigators in a rather aggressive manner, but he maintains a sense of humor through it all — such as when he’s asked to explain the origins of the name Pepe and has to respond that he liked how it “sounded like Pee-Pee” under oath. In a movie that so terrifyingly shows the way so-called humor is used as a masquerade for messages of hate, seeing someone like Furie — whose work has been so misconstrued by the “alt-

right” — reminds the audience how genuinely uplifting humor can be when used for good.

The screening of “Feels Good Man” at the Virginia Film Festival was followed by a panel discussion with Arthur Jones and Giorgio Angelini, moderated by University media studies professor Siva Vaidhyanathan, whose research concerns the various impacts of social media on our democracy. The most telling message of the short panel conversation came in Angelini’s closing remarks.

“This film is really about love and empathy, and that people don’t have to feel like the Internet is controlling or shaming them out of their capacity for empathy and understanding,” Angelini said.

The hope of this message materializes in the film’s ending, which brings a surprisingly celebratory conclusion to this tale — guaranteed to leave anyone who sees it awe-struck.

UVA



FOR ALL OF US