

PROTESTS A U.VA. TRADITION

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ISC responds to Change.org petition

ISC executive board leaves decisions on absences for Women's March on Washington up to individual chapters

ANNA HIGGINS | ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Inter-Sorority Council has responded to the Change.org petition requesting the ISC allow sorority women to forgo the Preference round of recruitment for the Women's March on Washington. Due to individual chapters' different bylaws, the ISC said chapter leadership will ultimately decide how to handle recruitment absences due to the march.

In a statement sent to ISC members, the ISC executive board said while the march's goals align with those of the ISC, it cannot make a blanket pardon for all members.

"The ISC encourages chapter leadership and chapter members to work together towards creative solutions such as asking members who attend the march to provide service hours to the chapter in lieu of fines or find some other way for members to make up what they've missed," the statement read.

Second-year College student Claire Golladay, the creator of the

Change.org petition, said chapters such as Kappa Kappa Gamma and her own chapter, Delta Delta Delta, have allowed members to attend the march in lieu of recruitment.

"[Delta Delta Delta] said that all of its members can go without penalty," Golladay said. "I was going to go anyway, but now that they said that we can all go, I definitely am."

Chapters such as Kappa Delta and Gamma Phi Beta, however, are obliged to fine members due to their national bylaws.

Currently, the ISC has no estimate of how many members may be choosing to forgo recruitment, with or without the risk of being fined. Incoming ISC president Rory Finnegan, a third-year College student, reiterated the chapters will be responsible for member absences.

"We have no way of knowing those numbers," Finnegan said in an email statement. "Excuses for chapter members are managed by chapter nationals or chapter leadership."

As for the potential effect on rushees' interactions during recruitment, Finnegan said potential new members are not formally prohibited from talking about politics or the Women's March on Washington. She said the ISC executive board does not know what is said during recruitment conversations unless something disrespectful or rude is reported.

"There are no formal guidelines created by the ISC in regards to what women can discuss during recruitment — except men and alcohol, which [National Panhellenic Conference] policy states should not be included in our recruitment processes," Finnegan said.

The ISC finished its statement reiterating its support of women's unity, but with the reminder its stance on the march is not due to political bias.

"Our support of the March in Washington and alternative march on Grounds is not politically motivated," the statement read. "The ISC represents a diverse set of political



WYATT ECK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Individual sorority chapters are allowed to make individual decisions with whether or not their members can be fined to attend the Women's March on Washington.

perspectives, but stands in solidarity for the sisterhood of women, both now and in the future."

The ISC and several other organizations are planning to hold a separate University March for Women Jan. 24.

The chapter presidents of Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Kappa Delta and Gamma Phi Beta, the ISC's executive vice president of recruitment and Pi Chi directors did not respond to requests for comment.

Former Charlottesville vice mayor Holly Edwards dies at 56

Edwards had large impact on community, friends, professors say

KATE BELLOWS | SENIOR WRITER

Nursing doctoral student Holly Edwards, a former Charlottesville vice mayor, died Jan. 7. She was laid to rest at Holly Memorial Gardens Jan. 12.

"She could connect people to one another who might not think that they need each other or might not understand how mutually beneficial it is for them to work together," Jeanita Richardson, associate professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, said. "And [she did this] always with the eye towards social justice."

In addition to her studies, Edwards was involved in the Charlottesville community, serving as a parish nurse at the Westhaven and Crescent Hall Clinics and as the program coordinator for the Public Housing Association of Residents. She was a lifetime member of the NAACP and served on City Council from 2008-11.

At the University, Edwards both pursued a doctorate degree and served as a clinical instructor.

Nursing Prof. Susan Kools, who also served as Edwards' doctoral advisor, said Edwards researched the health outcomes of people aging in place in public housing for her dissertation.

"She took care of people wherever they were and really took that on as her calling," Kools said. "She was re-

ally very passionate about the health disparities that the African-American community in Charlottesville experiences, even in the shadow of our University."

As an instructor, Edwards influenced both students and faculty, holding both to a high standard of accountability, Richardson said.

"It was frequent that students would show up at the Westhaven Clinic ... and seek her advice and pitch ideas to her about how to improve life in the community but to learn whatever was relevant to the course they were taking," Richardson said. "She would be the person who students would go to find out who they should talk to, what the respectful way to engage with the community [was, and] what the accountability should be within the community after the work has concluded."

Kools said Westhaven served as many of the nursing students' first exposure to health inequities. The experience, Kools said, encouraged many students to become thoughtful nurses in the community.

"She was a great bridge for the School of Nursing into the community here ... [and] did this in a way that was very, very graceful and kind," Kools said. "If you've seen pictures of her, she was a very small woman with a giant heart and a giant commitment."



MARSHALL BRONFIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Edwards (center) speaking on a panel at the Batten School in 2013.

Edwards received the Drewary Brown Memorial Community Bridge Builders Award Oct. 11, an honor given to Charlottesville residents who have strengthened the sense of community within the city.

"I think that very much sums up her contributions to Charlottesville and the University," Richardson said. "She was well-respected in all quarters that she functioned — as a public servant, as a clinician, working with the University and also being a doctoral student. Because of her many spheres of influence, she was a masterful bridge builder."

Edwards was conferred her doctoral degree posthumously. She was supposed to be in Kools' class Jan. 18, the first day of the semester.

"There's going to be a hole for a long time, and it's not going to be filled with one person in the community or one person in the School of Nursing," Kools said. "There's just a hole where she had been."

Kools said Edwards lived by the philosophy of meeting people wherever they were, and led students by her example.

In one 2008 City Council meeting, Edwards advocated for town hall

style meetings and said the council needed to be "actually going into the community to find out what the actual needs are."

Kools cited a quote from Edwards about her work as a clinical instructor in the Nursing School. The quote appeared in a nursing newsletter the week Edwards' death was announced.

"My classroom may be a community center, a soup kitchen, a homeless shelter, a neighborhood clinic, someone's living room, an aisle at a grocery store, a quiet place in the back of a church after service or a cool shady spot on a summer day," Edwards once said. "I tell my students that my hope is to simply plant a seed, so that wherever they go to practice nursing, the seed will grow and they will become advocates for those that need health care the most."

Kools and Richardson both said that there is more work to be done in the community, with Richardson noting that Charlottesville will continue to need bridge builders like Edwards.

"There was no one in the wings like Dr. Edwards," Richardson said. "She's going to be missed in ways that people have yet to understand."

Edwards is survived by her husband, Ken Edwards, and four daughters.

From Wahoo to white nationalist

Richard Spencer, leader of 'alt-right,' reflects on time at U.Va.

TIM DODSON | NEWS EDITOR

During the 2016 presidential election, the white nationalist movement known as the “alt-right” and its founder, Richard Spencer, captured headlines. But two decades earlier, before he began to advocate for a “peaceful ethnic cleansing” of the United States, Spencer was just another U.Va. student, fulfilling course requirements and enjoying Grounds.

Clean-cut and articulate, Spencer has been deemed an intellectual leader of the “alt-right” — a term Spencer himself coined in 2008 — and often represents the movement in national media. He leads the innocuous-sounding National Policy Institute, a white nationalist think tank. His opponents say this polished appearance makes him dangerous.

The Southern Poverty Law Center describes him as a “suit-and-tie version of the white supremacists of old,” writing his “clean-cut appearance conceals a radical white separatist whose goal is the establishment of a white ethno-state in North America.”

University alumni have disavowed Spencer — whose movement has been associated with racism, sexism and anti-Semitism — and raised funds for refugees who they feel have been targeted by the “alt-right,” an effort Spencer condemned as “national and cultural suicide” in an interview with The Cavalier Daily.

Members of the “alt-right” were vocal supporters of President-elect Donald Trump during the recent election. Following the election, The Atlantic published a video of Spencer telling a crowd of more than 200 people, “Hail Trump, hail our people, hail victory,” which was followed by cheers and what appeared to be Nazi salutes from audience members.

Trump has tried to distance himself from the “alt-right,” saying he does not want to “energize” the group. In turn, Spencer has become more critical of the incoming administration, skeptical of whether it will follow through on campaign promises regarding immigration. During the campaign, Trump called for a ban on Muslim immigration to the United States and a wall on the southern border with Mexico.

Before there was the “alt-right,” Spencer was starting his undergraduate career at the University of Virginia — a place he warmly reflected where he “became intellectual” and “started caring about ideas more.”

A “bookish” student

After graduating from a private school in Dallas, TX, Spencer entered the University in the fall of 1997 and went on to graduate in 2001 with a B.A. with High Distinction in English Literature and Music.



COURTESY NATIONAL POLICY INSTITUTE

Richard Spencer graduated from the University in 2001 with a B.A. with High Distinction in English Literature and Music. Since his time at the University, Spencer has become a leader in the white nationalist “alt-right” movement.

“I was also a very bookish person at U.Va.,” Spencer told The Cavalier Daily. “I was very interested in Shakespeare. I was actually reading philosophy for the first time when I was at the University of Virginia, mostly on my own.”

He was involved with Shakespeare on the Lawn and individual avant-garde theater projects.

In January 2001, The Cavalier Daily interviewed Spencer for an article about a Shakespeare on the Lawn production of “Twelfth Night,” for which he worked as a costume and set designer.

The reporter described the costumes and set as “unique and bizarre,” and Spencer told the paper he envisioned an “explicitly and boldly theatrical” look in the production.

Years later, Spencer highlighted his involvement with Shakespeare on the Lawn, but said “no one should associate them with my political views which can be very controversial.”

His controversial views, however, may be why when The Cavalier Daily reached out to numerous Shakespeare on the Lawn alumni from Spencer’s time at the University, many of them either did not respond to inquiries or declined to comment.

One alumna who ran in similar

friend groups to Spencer said she was stunned to see her fellow Shakespeare on the Lawn alumnus appear in headlines last fall.

“The thing about Richard Spencer, like anybody in undergrad, you know, kids can be kind of thoughtless,” 2004 College graduate Elisabeth Seng said. “They can kind of lack empathy, they can kind of just do dumb things, but he never did anything that seemed ... like racism or any kind of hate or bigotry.”

Before he moved from his on-Grounds stage to a national political one, Spencer’s time at the University overlapped with the 2000 presidential election.

Although he has since become outspoken politically, Spencer said he was a Republican when he left high school and was not politically active on Grounds.

“I did not vote in that election,” he said. “By the election of 2000, I was not terribly excited about George W. Bush, and I would say that George W. Bush arguably created the ‘alt-right’ because he was so wrong as president that he more than anyone inspired me to create the term ‘alt-right.’”

When asked if there were any professors who influenced him, Spencer recalled taking courses with English

Prof. Mark Edmundson and History Prof. Allan Megill, but emphasized he did not have a mentor who specifically influenced the development of his “alt-right” views.

“There were no ‘alt-right’ professors at U.Va.,” Spencer said.

When contacted for this article, Edmundson said he had no recollection of Spencer.

As a citizen scholar, Spencer took a history course with Megill following his undergraduate career. Megill disavowed Spencer’s views, but said his former student “has evidently not always held them.”

“Richard’s current views ... are abhorrent to me, but one should avoid demonizing the carriers of such messages,” Megill said in an email statement. “There are failures of policy and imagination that have led the U.S. to its present situation.”

In terms of an overall impact, Spencer said the University did not specifically put him on track to where he is today, but it nurtured his academic interests, such as philosophy — a topic he independently explored instead of formally taking philosophy courses at the University.

“I think I became intellectual at the University and a lot of that was doing stuff on my own. I was more

bookish than I was a partier and so that whole environment really changed me,” Spencer said. “I started caring about ideas more.”

Spencer described his time at the University as “really great.”

Alumni react, raise funds for International Rescue Committee

Several alumni were shocked to see Spencer enter the national spotlight in recent months and started a Hoos Against Richard Spencer CrowdRise page to raise funds for the International Rescue Committee, or IRC, which has resettled refugees across the country, including in the Charlottesville community.

The group that created the page included former members of Shakespeare on the Lawn.

“His words and actions are causing real harm, so we were talking about this online, trying to figure out what could we do as people who used to know him and as fellow alumni,” Seng said. “We decided one of the best things we could do was help the very people that he’s targeting, especially the most defenseless of them — the refugees.”

The page has raised nearly \$3,400 for the IRC so far. This follows a similar fundraising effort by Spencer’s former high school classmates at St. Mark’s School of Texas, which raised \$62,500 for the same organization.

“For a lot of people like me, we feel ... at a loss for what to do in the face of what I consider to be crushing and demoralizing moral defeat in the election of Donald Trump and the validation of extreme views that his election represents,” Daniel Kirzane, a 2007 College graduate and a donor on the page, said. “And in an attempt to overcome this feeling of paralysis, I and many others I think are looking for little ways that we can try to make a difference here or there.”

The page argues Spencer’s words and actions are “violating the spirit of the University of Virginia’s Honor Code.”

Upon learning about the page in his interview with The Cavalier Daily, Spencer dismissed the page as a “hate group.”

“I find it interesting that these people disagree with me and their response to that is that they want to commit national and cultural suicide even harder than before,” Spencer said. “They claim that I’m a hater, but the fact is that they are clearly operating on hate.”

Still, the recent controversy — just one among many — hasn’t sullied Spencer’s memory of the University.

“I have nothing but fond feelings about the University and really everything about it. It was a halcyon time for me,” he said.

City Council vote to remove confederate statues ends in stalemate

In tied vote, City Council does not approve motion to remove Robert E. Lee statue

THOMAS ROADES | SENIOR WRITER

After much debate, a City Council vote to decide the fate of the downtown Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park ended in a deadlock Tuesday.

The discussion and vote came after the Blue Ribbon Commission's report on how best to "provide council with options for telling the full story of Charlottesville's history of race and for changing the City's narrative through our public spaces."

After hearing statements from concerned citizens and from each member of the council, the council members voted on Councilor Kristin Szakos's motion to remove the statue of Lee — possibly relocating it to McIntire Park — and rename Lee Park. The vote resulted in a 2-2 tie, with one abstention among the five council members.

Szakos and Vice Mayor Wes Bellamy voted in favor of the proposal, and Councilor Kathy Galvin and Mayor Mike Signer voted against it, while Councilor Bob Fenwick abstained.

The decision was met with numerous cries of criticism from the audience, which seemed to be for the most part in favor of the statue's removal. Signer was forced to remind the audience of the rules for contributing to the discussion, threatening to eject one audience member from the room for disrupting the meeting.

The discussion Tuesday was the result of a months-long project by the Blue Ribbon Commission to recommend a course of action on the city's Confederate memorials, which came under considerable scrutiny last spring when Bellamy called for the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue from Lee Park near the Downtown Mall.

Two of the options the commission proposed were to remove the statue of Lee and possibly relocate it to McIntire Park, or to add contextualization in the form of another statue or an addition to the existing one to remind viewers of the entire complicated history tied to it.

At the meeting's opening, several Charlottesville citizens spoke in favor of the statue's removal.

Riley Doherty, a Charlottesville High School student, was among those who commented.

"We must remove these statues because they are a cultural embarrassment," Doherty said.

Several others shared Doherty's point of view. Communi-

ty member Lyndsey Beutin, who also spoke out against the statue, said its message is one of "hostility and exclusion."

However, resident John Hayden spoke out in favor of the statues. He claimed the majority of the public supported the statues and took issue with the cost of their removal.

Before voting, each member of the council explained their opinions on the matter. Fenwick began the discussion.

"At its core, this discussion concerns racism," Fenwick said.

Fenwick went on to explain there are difficulties associated with each course of action laid out by the commission — including the cost associated with moving the statue — which he said could result in a tax increase for citizens.

Bellamy followed, speaking out strongly in favor of the statue's removal. He discussed his personal experiences with racism as a result of his outspoken efforts to remove the statues and improve race relations in Charlottesville.

"I have received death threats. My daughters have been mentioned by name. I have been called every kind of n-word you can imagine," Bellamy said. "If any of you believe that that is not in part because I am an African-American ... then you are mistaken."

Szakos firmly supported Bellamy's points, and recommended not only removing the statue, but also renaming the park, as suggested by the commission.

"The work of the commission is going to change the way Charlottesville tells its story and repair the harm done by past injustices," Szakos said.

Galvin, on the other hand, pointed out several challenges of the removal process.

"It has been estimated to cost \$350,000 to move the Lee statue," Galvin said, adding that she believed the estimate to be lower than the actual cost.

She went on to list several projects which would tangibly benefit from that funding, including new classrooms, parking spaces on West Main Street or the rehabilitation of houses through the Block by Block program.

She also argued the removal of the statue would represent an attempt to erase that chapter of history, rather than have members of the Charlottesville community learn from it. Instead of removing the statue, she urged



MARSHALL BRONFIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The city's Confederate memorials came under intense scrutiny after Vice Mayor Wes Bellamy called for the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue from Lee Park near the Downtown Mall.

council members to vote to contextualize it instead.

Signer then spoke, taking into account the complexity of the issue at hand.

"This is a very difficult and painful issue," Signer said. "The question we have before us is how to address memorials that were put in place several decades after the abolition of slavery to celebrate the Confederacy."

He noted the problems with removing the Lee statue, saying its relocation would only "replicate" the current issue. Instead, he supported Galvin's argument to contextualize the memorial.

He suggested adding a new,

more prominent statue to serve as a reminder of the painful racial history that accompanies Lee's memory.

The tie vote, partially a result of Fenwick's abstention, was met with considerable criticism and frustration from the audience.

"That's basically the same, Mr. Fenwick, as a 'no,' in this case," Szakos said.

Bellamy also disapproved, and although he attempted to convince Fenwick to vote in favor of the proposal, Fenwick could not be persuaded.

"Mr. Fenwick, you firmly believe that this will come around again, and you will vote on this

issue at a later time, correct?" Bellamy asked.

"If certain things happen in our city, yes," Fenwick answered.

Fenwick, Bellamy suggested, was simply tying the vote to gain leverage in negotiations over other proposals.

"It appears as if ... this decision essentially is being held hostage, because you want to see other things move forward," Bellamy said.

Fenwick refused to replace his abstention with a vote.

It remains to be seen if other recommendations by the commission will be taken up by City Council.

S SPORTS

No. 16 Virginia blows out Boston College

The No. 16 Virginia basketball team won on the road in a midweek clash with conference foe Boston College. The Cavaliers (14-3, 4-2 ACC) thrashed the Eagles (9-10, 2-4 ACC), 71-54, at Conte Forum in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Virginia never trailed as the Cavaliers jumped out to a 6-0 lead at 2:45 into the game. Boston College tied the score up once in the first half at 8-8, but Virginia stretched its lead to 23-8 with a 15-0 run later on in the half. The Cavaliers led 42-25 at intermission.

The Eagles committed 16 turnovers over the course of the game, while sophomore guard Jordan Chatman led Boston College in scoring with 16 points. Senior forward Connor Tava also reached the double

digits with 12 points. Overall, the Cavaliers were able to hold the Eagles, who score an average of 72.3 points per game, to 19 points under that number.

Meanwhile, Virginia got ahead with 51.9 percent field goal shooting. Three Cavaliers scored in double figures, as junior guard Devon Hall led the team with 13 points while recording five assists. Junior guard Darius Thompson scored 10 points, and junior forward Isaiah Wilkins recorded 11 points. Wilkins also tallied nine rebounds to lead the team.

Coach Tony Bennett got to rest Hall, Wilkins and others later in the game due to the early lead. Boston College had won its first two home ACC games before falling to Virginia.

The Cavaliers will return to Charlottesville to take on Georgia Tech Saturday at 2 p.m.

— compiled by Mariel Messier



SARAH LINDAMOOD | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Junior guard Devon Hall scored a team-high 13 points, sinking both of his attempts from behind the three-point line.

Clemson next for women's basketball

The Cavaliers (12-5, 1-3 ACC) will look to build on their first conference win when they travel to South Carolina to face Clemson (11-7, 0-5 ACC) Thursday.

After dropping the first three of its ACC matchups in close games, Virginia finally got in the win column with a victory against Boston College Sunday. Scoring balance has been key to the Cavaliers' success this season. Three starters reached double figures in scoring against the Eagles, including senior guard Breyana Mason. Catching fire, Mason went 8-for-9 from the field for 19 points.

Junior guard Aliyah Hulan El has stepped up as of late, chipping in double figures in three-straight ACC games.

After starting the season on an eight-game win streak, Clemson has scuffled in ACC play, losing its first five matches. The Tigers' most recent loss came in the form of an 86-27 lashing from Florida State. They will be looking to rebound big at home against the Cavaliers.

Virginia took down Clemson 65-48 at home last year in the only matchup between the teams.

— compiled by Alec Dougherty



RICHARD DIZON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Junior guard Aliyah Hulan El has stepped up as of late, chipping in double figures in three-straight ACC games.

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LONDON MUST SCORE

Like pretty much every other Hoo fan, I had high expectations for senior guard London Perrantes this season. Showing flashes of brilliance last year in both facilitating the ball and scoring, Perrantes seemed poised to take over the men's basketball team from departing stars Malcolm Brogdon and Anthony Gill.

Yet, so far, Perrantes has not lived up to the hype.

Whereas Perrantes averaged nearly 11.6 points per game in his first 14 games last season, he averaged nearly 10.4 points per game through the same mark this season. He failed to reach double digits in scoring in six of those games.

It is unfair to criticize Perrantes' scoring inconsistency without discussing all aspects of him. After all, as a point guard, passing is his game, and he is currently 10th best in the ACC with 4.1 assists per game. He also

is playing his role in a defense that is ranked best in the nation in points allowed.

However good Perrantes has been in other ways, Virginia has struggled offensively. Averaging 69.9 points per game, the Cavaliers are 261st in the nation in scoring. No matter how good their defense is, if they have trouble keeping up with high-scoring teams — like they did against West Virginia — then the Cavaliers will continually run into trouble.

Virginia has always had a go-to guy when it's come to situations where they just couldn't score. Whether it was Joe Harris, Justin Anderson or Brogdon, someone could always pick the Cavaliers up when the offense was stagnant. Nobody like that has emerged yet this season. Freshman Kyle Guy has shown some promise, particularly against California when he led the team

with 17 points and scored seven straight in a crucial second-half run that resulted in a 56-52 Virginia victory.

I have no doubt Guy will be the player Virginia coach Tony Bennett relies on for offensive productivity in future seasons. For now, he is still figuring out how to play college ball. It is Perrantes who must fill the shoes of his predecessors and take on the scoring mantle.

Perrantes certainly has the ability to score. Look at two of his more recent games against Wake Forest and Clemson. Against the Demon Deacons, Perrantes earned the title of being a star player, leading his team with 24 points. He went to the line six times, made all six free throws and went 4-5 from downtown. This game brought out an aggression from Perrantes unseen since the Cavaliers' thriller against Ohio State in late November.

And the aggression didn't stop there. Against a much-improved Tiger team, Perrantes took a season-high of 15 field goal attempts, which resulted in a season-high 25-point game for the Los Angeles, Calif. native. For a man who is hesitant to shoot the ball — only taking double-digit field goal attempts six times this season — Perrantes deciding to take more shots should certainly be seen as a welcoming sign for the Cavaliers.

Defense will always be the main staple of Virginia basketball — it is the main contribution to Virginia's continual success. However, the team is in big trouble if it isn't able to put up the points. Seven teams in the ACC — including Florida State, who beat the Cavaliers in Scott Stadium — have put up an average of over 80 points per game. It is a long road ahead, and Virginia needs to put points on the board to be in contention for an ACC title.

Perrantes has never had to be a scorer in his time at Virginia. Under Bennett's system, he has always been a facilitator. But the times have changed. Perrantes is the only senior on a team that has struggled as of late. He doesn't have a Brogdon or Anderson to rely on. He cannot continue scoring a meek six points like he did Wednesday night versus Boston College. If he wants his team to even have a chance of reaching the success it had last season, he must hype up his aggression, take more shots and — above all else — score the basketball.

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Swimming continues ACC competition in North Carolina

Cavaliers look for strong races against Duke, UNC

NOAH KIM | ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After a lengthy break, the Virginia swimming and diving teams returned to action this past weekend against in-state rival Virginia Tech. The No. 13 men's team (3-1, 2-0 ACC) won by a score of 199 to 154, while the No. 5 women's team (4-0, 2-0 ACC) defeated their opponents 225 to 123.

"They're our rivals, so it was great to bring that title back to Charlottesville," senior Austin Quinn said. "We were coming off some great training, so we were a little rusty since we hadn't seen any race action since the Georgia meet. To win by almost 50 points was great ... we have a really young team and very fast team top to bottom. We win races individually, but meets as a team."

At this point, the women's team typically expects a win swimming against No. 23 Virginia Tech (4-3, 1-3 ACC). The men, though, haven't had the same success against their in-state rival. Their victory over the weekend was the team's first against the No. 25 men's Hokies team (6-1, 3-1 ACC) since 2013.

"The men's team has this chip on their shoulder, which is awesome," Virginia coach Augie Busch said. "This year, it's nice to see our guys racing with urgency. The challenge for the women will ramp up this weekend, and will be even tougher next week



RICHARD DIZON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Senior Austin Quinn hopes his team can continue its momentum in North Carolina this weekend.

against NC State, which is one of the top programs in the country."

This coming weekend, the Cavaliers face off against two ACC rivals Duke and North

Carolina, and competition should pick up. Both sides feature strong swimmers in an extremely competitive league.

"January is all about back to back racing and dual meets,"

Busch said. "So far we have one under our belt. It went well — not outstanding, but well. I was pleased that our men were able to get a victory over Tech for the first time in four years. We are hoping for the same thing against Duke and North Carolina this weekend."

Heading into the meets, Virginia's coach was confident in his teams' abilities, noting their strategy doesn't necessarily change for stiffer competition.

"Our goal is always to be the loudest and most supportive team on deck," Busch said. "We try to put up the best relays we can, and are always going after our races and not sitting back. Taking an aggressive mindset and expecting all teams to be great is important for us to have our best performances and continue improving our times."

The Duke men's team (5-1, 0-1 ACC) and No. 22 women's team (5-1, 1-1 ACC) both present considerable matchups. The men have claimed wins over West Virginia and Northwestern, while the women's only loss came at the hands of NC State, one of the best programs in the entire nation.

The Cavaliers will face a North Carolina men's team (1-3, 0-1 ACC) and women's team (1-3, 0-1 ACC) Saturday with poor dual meet records. However, they had strong performances at

the NC State/GAC Invitational, where the women placed second and the men placed fourth.

Regardless of their opponents' record, the Cavaliers look at every race as preparation for both ACC finals and NCAA nationals.

"The post season is our goal the entire year," senior Ellen Thomas said. "Everything that we do, from weights, to training in the pool, to cardio, to running, is always focused on the post season. Coach's motto is 'race tough,' to remind us that every swim is important."

Members of the men's team have a similar mindset.

"Throughout the entire season, we have the post season in the back of our minds," Quinn said. "Coach always tells us to focus on the training. When it comes to meets, that's when you flip the switch. That way we are prepared for ACCs and nationals."

Both Cavalier teams will look to improve their already impressive records this weekend.

The meet against Duke is scheduled for Friday at 5 p.m. in Durham N.C., while the meet against North Carolina is scheduled for Saturday at 12 p.m. in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Wrestling set to face rivals

Streaking Cavaliers look to continue momentum against No. 5 Virginia Tech

HUNTER OSTAD | ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The No. 24 Virginia (8-3) wrestling team has gained momentum over the past few weeks. With wins against the Citadel, North Dakota State, Bucknell and — most recently — Lock Haven, the Cavaliers have achieved a national ranking and have gained a ton of confidence.

Some of their success may be attributed to the break the wrestlers had from classes, a time when they are able to really focus on their training and avoid the stress of being a student-athlete for a brief time.

“As a coach, it’s the best time of year,” head coach Steve Garland said. “The guys don’t have to worry about pressures of school, and they can set their clock from 9-3 everyday and they can get in a ton of lifting, and I think the training showed.”

Virginia’s recent run of form has certainly not occurred by accident, as the team has worked incredibly hard up and down the lineup to get into wrestling shape and to take more risks on the mat.

“[One] theme our staff tried to jam into their heads is to not get fixed on the outcome, but love the process,” Garland said. “I say guys that were pushing the pace, taking a lot of shots and taking chances. That resulted in a lot of freedom and a lot of great wrestling. The guys are also close as a group, which I

think also helps. I think we are in a good a place as a team right now.”

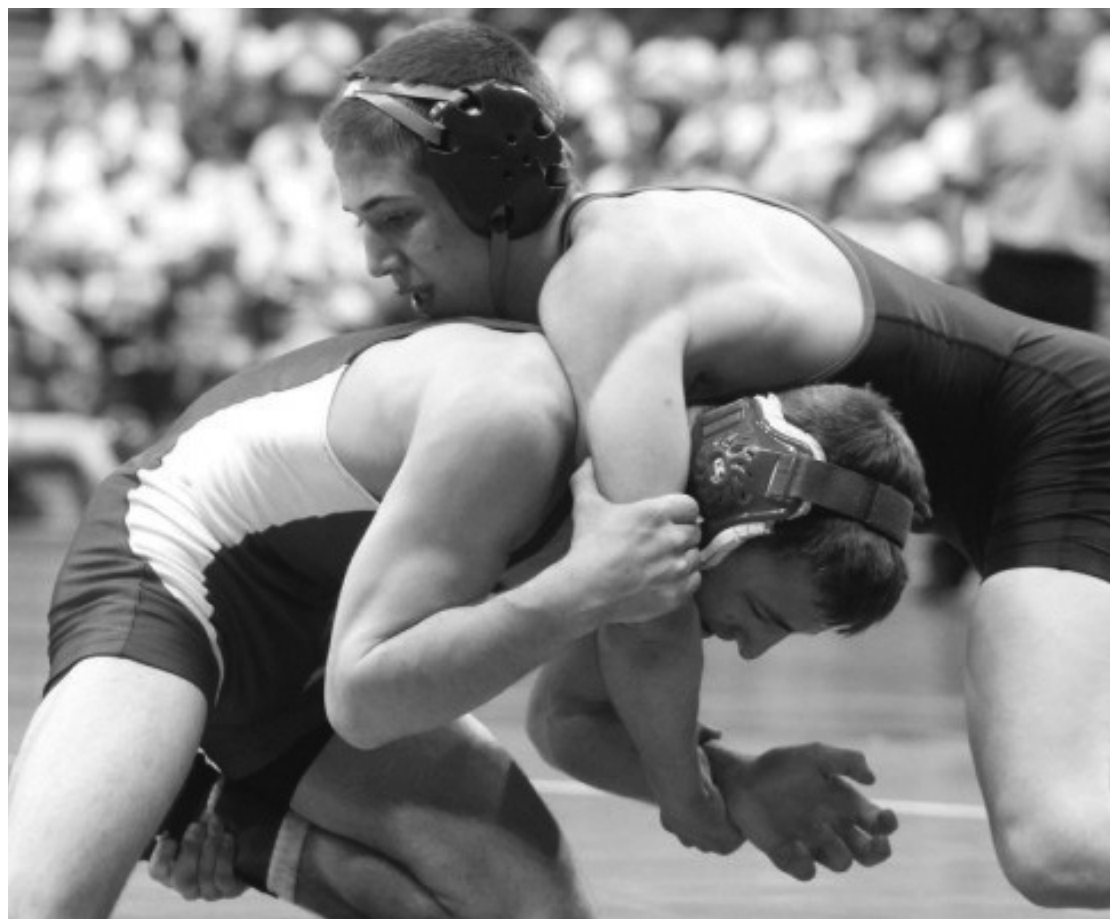
The team is gaining momentum at the right time, but the Cavaliers still have a long way to go. Building team chemistry and taking risks are one thing, but the team needs to put everything together — from their technique to their hustle — as the season progresses.

The team is set for a serious challenge this Sunday in the Commonwealth Clash. No. 5 Virginia Tech (10-1) is one of the top teams in the country and Virginia’s in-state rival. It’s going to be arguably the Cavaliers’ biggest challenge of the season, and Virginia will need to wrestle a nearly perfect match to pull off the upset.

“Tech is really good,” Garland said. “It’s one of the best teams they’ve put together. Up and down the lineup it’s going to be a really tough challenge for us. It might have a little extra emotion in it and will be a great experience for our guys.”

The fact that the match will take place in Blacksburg adds another dimension of difficulty for Virginia, as the Hokies are known for pulling in big crowds to support their team.

Virginia hopes to get the best out of their top wrestlers this season, freshman Jack Mueller, junior Andrew Atkinson and



COURTESY VIRGINIA ATHLETICS

Senior George DiCamillo will lead his Virginia wrestling team in what should be a difficult, heated match Sunday in Blacksburg.

senior George DiCamillo, who have all been essential to Virginia’s success thus far. All three are ranked seventh in their respective weight classes, and their

consistent victories have vaulted the Cavaliers to the nationally recognized position they are in now.

The showdown against Vir-

ginia Tech in the Commonwealth Clash will take place Sunday at 4 p.m. in Blacksburg.

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A recent history of protests at U.Va.

From divestment in the early 2000s to increased protests over the last three years

ALEXIS GRAVELY AND MAGGIE SERVAIS | NEWS WRITERS

The University has seen a large number of protests over the past three years, responding to topics ranging from sexual assault to divestment to the presidential election. Next week, protests will continue as the Inter-Sorority Council hosts the University March for Women, related to this weekend's Women's March on Washington. But protest at our school is not new: student activism has played a prominent role on Grounds throughout the University's history.

"Student activism, expression, assembly and protest have been a consistent part of the college and university experience — including the experience at the University — for decades," University Deputy Spokesman Matt Charles said in an email statement. "University administrators routinely engage with student leaders and student groups to hear their concerns and to facilitate constructive discourse."

In the mid-2000s, students participated in large divestment efforts against corporations doing business in Burma and Sudan. Recently, student divestment efforts have shifted focus to the fossil fuel industry, though large protests related to sexual assault, race and the nation's current political climate have also broken out on Grounds.

Divestment a decade ago

Of all protests occurring at the University since the early 2000s, demonstrations regarding divestment have occurred most frequently and with some success. Divestment refers to the withdrawal of University financial holdings from certain corporations — often those related to relevant social, political or environmental issues.

Divestment efforts in the early 2000s took the form of institutional changes, with petitions and written appeals to University administration.

In March 2001, more than 30 student organizations and close to 20 faculty members signed a resolution by the University's Free Burma Coalition, urging the administration to disclose any connections to and cut ties with corporations conducting business in Burma.

At the time, the Burmese government was under the control of the State Peace and Development Council military regime, which was known to murder, torture, rape and enslave its citizens.

The resolution stated the University owned \$2.1 million worth of investments in companies carrying out business in Burma. The large majority of those investments were in Unocal, a California-based oil company that profited from slave la-

bor in Burma.

The Board of Visitors did not address the resolution, but in March 2001, Student Council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution declaring continued support of the divestment of University funds in Unocal. Despite the resolution's popularity among student organizations, the BOV did not address the issue.

However, divestment efforts experienced success five years later, when students pushed against investments in Sudan.

In March 2006, the contracted independent organization Students Taking Action: Darfur, or STAND, laid human cut-outs across South Lawn in a "die-in" to raise awareness of the mass killings occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Since 2003, the Sudanese government had been supporting violent, ethnically-charged attacks against certain demographics of the population. The regime funding the militias carrying out the killings, known as the Janjaweed, received 90 percent of their funding from oil. Members of STAND feared the University's investments in corporations conducting business in Sudan were indirectly funding the regime and its killings.

The Board of Visitors decided to divest in Sept. 2006 from companies with business dealings in Sudan. Although University of Virginia In-



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iversity's stance against the Sudanese massacres.

Protests against sexual assault

Fall 2014 saw a particularly large number of protests following the now-retracted Rolling Stone article

In March of 2001, over 30 student organizations and close to 20 faculty members signed a resolution from the University's Free Burma Coalition urging the University to disclose any connections to corporations that conducted business in Burma. Despite the resolution's success among Student government and organizations, the BOV still did not address the issue.

Protests took on a more physical approach in March of 2006 when the CIO Students Taking Action: Darfur laid white paper human cut-outs across South Lawn in a "die-in" to raise awareness of the mass killings occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan. In September of 2006, however, the Board of Visitors decided to divest from companies with business dealings in Sudan.

2001

2006

2014

In Nov. 2014, Rolling Stone published a now-retracted article about the University titled "A Rape on Campus," bringing to light some of the mistakes University administrators had made in regards to sexual assault cases. As a result, DeHart helped to organized the "Slut Walk" in which protestors marched from the amphitheater to Mad Bowl, ending at Peabody Hall to target University Dean of Students Allen Groves and other administrators.

“A Rape on Campus.” The article discussed the alleged gang rape of a University student and called into question how University administrators respond to sexual assault cases.

“The article sort of said that the school didn’t respond in a helpful way to that sexual assault,” third-year College student Maria DeHart said. “While this was happening, U.Va. was also being investigated for non-compliance with Title IX regulations.”

In response to the article’s publication, DeHart helped organize the “Slut Walk” in which protestors marched from the Amphitheatre to Mad Bowl and ended at Peabody Hall. The walk had the hopes of making their voices heard to University Dean of Students Allen Groves and other administrators.

“We were protesting against rape culture at U.Va. and all of the toxic aspects of Greek life being protected and not being criticized,” DeHart said. “The protest was against not just U.Va.’s administration, but against the culture at U.Va., and not necessarily individuals, but individuals [who] were a part of that culture.”

DeHart said the protest opened up a dialogue about sexual assault and created a space for those who were sexually assaulted to discuss their stories. However, the protest was not without its criticisms.

“Intersectionality was something we didn’t address enough,” DeHart said. The Slut Walk “further upholds the white, cis women dominance, which [was] definitely true and I welcomed that criticism.”

Overall, DeHart said the “bad press” the University received from the article helped their voices to be heard and fostered further action in support of sexual assault victims.

“U.Va. has been doing better in terms in Title IX,” DeHart said. “Still not perfect, but doing better.”

Present-day divestment efforts

Recent divestment efforts have combined strategies of resolutions and petitions with active protests and gatherings. Two years ago, Climate Action Society started a campaign called Divest U.Va., which is dedicated to pushing the University to divest from the fossil fuels industry.

“[In 2015, our campaign] was mostly trying to get support among the student body by spreading around the petition to support fossil fuel divestment,” Brian Cameron, second-year College student and CAS treasurer, said. “Then, spring of 2016 is when we really started meeting with a couple of key players in the actual decision making process to divest.”

The group continued to meet with BOV members this past fall in an effort to get divestment on the official agenda at a board meeting. However, Divest U.Va. experienced resistance in its effort to put divestment on the table for a vote, Cameron said.

“I think a big reason why ... some of the big players on the board are hesitant about fossil fuel divestment specifically is how political of an issue it is,” Cameron said. “Climate change especially — there is such a big national debate around it.”

Divest U.Va. has responded to divestment inaction from the BOV with action of its own. This fall, students gathered outside of a BOV meeting to engage directly with members as they left for a break.

“We had a lot of students engaging with administrators, and you could tell that administrators were really thrown off by this because



CELINA HU | THE CAVALIER DAILY



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they don’t expect it and they don’t like it, frankly,” Dehart, the CAS Divest Campaign Manager, said.

First-year College student and CAS member Annie Ferguson said the action was intimidating but inspiring.

“When you’re interacting directly with the Board of Visitors, it’s such a daunting task, it’s such a daunting atmosphere [because] you know that those people have so much power over you, make such serious decisions that affect us as students at U.Va.,” Ferguson said. “It was super intimidating for me, but it was super cool to see the more senior members be able to get in their faces and ... see [from] the work that we’re doing have an impact so far.”

Divest U.Va. experienced a setback in September, when their pro-



RICHARD DIZON | THE CAVALIER DAILY



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posal for divestment from fossil fuels did not acquire enough votes from the University Presidential Senate for a Presidential Seal. The proposal would have given Divest U.Va. a stamp of approval from part of the University’s administration, but this was not their main goal, DeHart said.

DeHart said the success of past divestment efforts at the University, such as those in 2006, continue to be a motivation for current ones.

“U.Va. has divested before and we try to use that argument a lot with fossil fuels,” DeHart said. “The climate crisis does have a ton of effects on human beings so there are ... [and] human rights violations that are a concern with fossil fuels too.”

Protesting today’s political climate

This past semester saw a number of protests centered around issues in our country’s current political and social climate.

The Black Student Alliance hosted a “die-in” Sept. 25 in front of Old Cabell Hall in order to bring awareness to the issue of police brutality. The event was part of a larger National Blackout Day, in which black student alliances and black student unions participated in creative forms of direct action against police brutality across the country, third-year College student Anelle Mensah said.

“In terms of the die-in, people were very receptive,” Mensah said. “We got a lot of great news coverage from some really well-respected reporters who were really interested in ensuring the message we were trying to make through that action was [received]. It was great to see so many members of the black community at U.Va. come together for that action.”

Mensah was also a part of a Nov. 11 protest directed towards the Board of Visitors, in which approximately 25 students walked into a BOV meeting and read a list of demands, which she said included “protections for undocumented students and undocumented workers” and “increased sections and assistance in terms of reproductive help and sexual assault survivors.”

This protest was largely motivated by an incident in which members of the University Police Department used the public address system in their vehicle to shout “Make America Great Again” at students who were walking back to their dorms on election night.

“Essentially, we just wanted the Board of Visitors to understand there were a lot of student concerns regarding these issues, specifically the incident with UPD,” Mensah said. “We just wanted them to be aware because the Board of Visitors is only around for brief periods so they may not necessarily know what is happening.”

As a result of the protest, some of the students were able to meet with University President Teresa Sullivan and Executive Vice President and Provost Tom Katsouleas to discuss why they protested the meeting.

“President Sullivan was pretty interested in hearing what we had to say and what we were looking to do,” Mensah said. “We sat down with her and we had a conversation. Following that, President Sullivan hosted an open forum-town hall sort of event.”

Mensah said the climate at the BOV protest was different from what protesters experienced during the die-in.

“There were some individuals who voiced their disagreement with what we were doing, but that is to be expected and that is something we knew going into the action,” Mensah said. “We were mainly focused on doing what we came to do and getting our message across, loud and clear.”

Students are also expected to protest the day of the upcoming inauguration, with walk-outs and teach-ins planned.

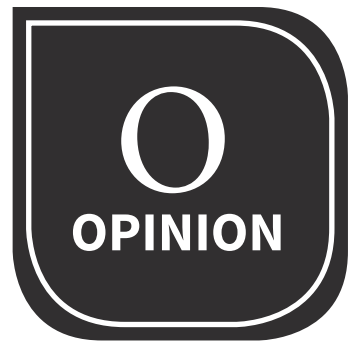
On Sept. 25, 2016 the Black Student Alliance hosted a “die-in” in front of Old Cabell Hall in order to bring awareness to the issue of police brutality. The event was a part of a larger “National Blackout Day,” in which black student alliances and black student unions participated in creative forms of direct action against police brutality across the country.

2015

2016

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CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 5 edition of The Cavalier Daily, in the article “Cavalier Daily elects 128th staff,” Arts and Entertainment editor-elect Ben Hitchcock’s year was misstated. He is a second-year student. The article also omitted the newly elected Sports editors, third-year College student Grant Gossage and third-year Batten student Mariel Messier.

LEAD EDITORIAL

Students at risk in Obamacare repeal

Republicans should work to improve the law rather than isolate its most popular provisions

With President-elect Donald Trump’s inauguration one day away, congressional Republicans are setting in motion the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. One issue particularly relevant to us — which Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) spoke of last Friday at the Medical School — is whether we will continue to remain under our parents’ health insurance coverage plans until the age of 26, a key provision under the ACA.

Fortunately, this ACA item, along with one that prevents insurers from denying coverage to those with pre-existing medical conditions, receives support across party lines, including the president-elect. However, the individual mandate, which makes the more popular provisions sustainable by insuring generally healthy individuals and introducing them to the risk pool, has stood in the crosshairs of Republican politicians and rightwing commentators for years now. Republicans

should look for ways to improve the ACA rather than trying to isolate its provisions which are unworkable by themselves.

Unfortunately, GOP leaders have not yet coalesced around a unified vision for what a reformed health care plan will look like in practice. Some have advanced a continuous coverage mandate which would prevent higher insurance premiums for individuals with pre-existing conditions, as long as they have no gaps in coverage. But with underinsurance already a problem for about 30 million Americans, and with a reduction of insurance subsidies proposed by Republican leaders, it’s hard to see how many will be able to maintain continuous coverage.

Other Republicans have proposed slashing the 10 categories of essential benefits that insurers are required to provide, ranging from maternity and newborn care to mental health care. While

this would improve profit margins for insurers, it would result in less comprehensive health insurance plans for Americans. Cost-cutting measures may support coverage of more young adults, but preserving popular ACA provisions should not come at the expense of guaranteeing basic health services that those of us in college will one day need.

There’s no silver bullet to solving health care in America. It’s hard to achieve the trifecta of lower costs, better quality and broader coverage, and it’s no secret that the ACA needs improvement. With “repeal and replace” looming, however, students should take an active role in holding our government accountable to not only letting us stay on our parents’ insurance longer, but also to ensuring continued and better coverage for everyone.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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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.



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LEAD EDITORIAL

Sororities fall short on women's rights

Waiving fees for protest attendees would signal the ISC values women's political engagement

The upcoming Women's March on Washington is expected to draw more than 200,000 attendees promoting women's "shared humanity" and a "bold message of resistance and self-determination." The protest is set to take place on Saturday, just one day after the presidential inauguration, and on the same day as the last formal round of Inter-Sorority Council chapter recruitment. After deliberating whether to accommodate those who wish to attend the march by moving one of its rounds, the ISC voted to maintain its existing schedule. This decision directly contradicts the organization's claim to empower its members.

Whether sororities actually empower female members in practice has long come under scrutiny, for rea-

sons ranging from national restrictions on Boys' Bid Night to bans on drinking in sorority houses. The march provides a unique opportunity for the ISC to defend what it believes in. The ISC rarely has an opportunity to publicly assert the importance of its members' rights outside of its own internal community building. For the ISC to throw its weight behind the march would be especially meaningful now, at a time when a rising national tide of reactionary politics threatens women's rights.

One may argue that as a University-sponsored organization, the ISC should stay out of national politics. Encouraging women to attend the protest would constitute a political statement, especially given the timing of the march. However, the ISC's

decision to hold a separate women's march at a later date indicates that it has already accepted the politics of this march, so it should coordinate its efforts to make the greatest impact possible.

One could also argue delaying recruitment events would burden Potential New Members, or PNMs, who have to manage their classes in addition to the rush process. Even if rescheduling recruitment is not logistically feasible, offering waivers for fees (which may total hundreds of dollars) for sorority members who attend the march in lieu of recruitment is a reasonable compromise. The ISC has encouraged University chapters to waive fees, but chapters are not required to adhere to this suggestion. The ISC has also given PNMs the option not to attend

recruitment during both the inauguration and march, a nice gesture that realistically would hurt PNMs' chances of getting into the sorority of their choice given the structure of the rush process.

For the largest organization of women at the University to effectively prevent its members from attending a march for women's rights is wholly inconsistent with its foundational principles. Now that the logistics are unfortunately set in stone, individual chapters should at least support their members attending the march, or risk sending the message that exercising the fundamental rights of citizenship is not valued by one of the most prominent organizations on Grounds.

CHANGING VIRGINIA'S MARIJUANA LAWS

State's crime commission should conduct a study into the penalties surrounding marijuana possession

In a Nov. 30 letter, state Senate Majority Leader Tommy Norment formally requested that the Virginia State Crime Commission "undertake a study examining a future change to the Code of Virginia regarding criminal penalties related to possession of small amounts of marijuana." Specifically, Norment asked the commission to look at the consequences of marijuana legalizations in other states, recent research about the effects of marijuana use and potential conflicts with federal law, among other things. While the commission does not have to perform the study, it should — a state-sponsored study of marijuana legalization, especially one requested by a Republican state senator, is the first step in creating smart, equitable marijuana policy for the Commonwealth.

Coming from a majority leader, Norment's request carries weight, though not enough to force the commission to undertake the study. Del. Bob Bell

(R-58), whose district includes a large portion of Albemarle County, chairs the commission. All 13 members of the commission, which includes both Bell and Norment, must vote to approve the study before it can take place.

Norment only recently

changed his stance on marijuana legalization, saying, "I think it's absolutely crazy that we continue to lock people up for possession of a modest amount of marijuana. We are tough on crime. It's a question of what crimes we want to be tough on." Previously, Norment was a strong opponent of legalization; his change

of heart, which he says is due to more education on the issue and broader cultural changes, reflects the changing sentiments of the Commonwealth and the country.

About 80 percent of Virginians are in favor of reducing the penalty for possessing a small

About 80 percent of Virginians are in favor of reducing the penalty for possessing a small amount of marijuana from a misdemeanor to a \$100 fine.

amount of marijuana from a misdemeanor to a \$100 fine, according to a Virginia Commonwealth University poll; 62 percent strongly or somewhat agreed that recreational use of marijuana should be legalized. A 2016 poll of registered voters across the country found that 54 percent are in favor of legaliza-

tion. Twenty-six states have legalized marijuana in some form. But Virginia's lawmakers should not only be concerned with favorability: Virginia's marijuana laws should change because they disproportionately affect black Virginians. Marijuana-related arrests over the last 10 years have increased sharply, but not equally across racial groups: from 2011 to 2013, marijuana possession arrests increased by 1,987 in the Commonwealth, and black Virginians accounted for 82 percent of this increase, according to report compiled using FBI data. Though black Virginians account for only about 20 percent of the state's population, they accounted for nearly 40 percent of the possession arrests in 2013.

While Bell does not represent Charlottesville, and therefore does not represent more University students, he is not the only member of the commission, which also includes several other state delegates and senators. Concerned University students

should consider making a phone call or writing a letter if they are registered to vote in the districts of any of these delegates or senators, urging their representative to support the study.

While a state-sponsored study does not guarantee marijuana will be legalized, either medically or recreationally, it does give legislators (on both sides of the issue) concrete evidence upon which to base their arguments about a potential policy change. And considering the negative effects of Virginia's current policies and the changing cultural landscape around marijuana usage, it's high time for the Commonwealth to reform its laws.

JORDAN ARNOLD is an Opinion columnist for the Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at j.arnold@cavalierdaily.com.

COLLEGE BROCHURES MISREPRESENT MINORITY STUDENTS

These outreach materials exploit minority students and are unfair to prospective applicants

Every year, colleges and universities across the nation release brochures and annual reports for the public discussing the benefits of attending their particular school. These institutions mail them to prospective students, employees and donors every year with information about how the school ranks among other institutions, upcoming alumni events or about the new projects that the university will be participating in. Although the content inside the brochures is ever changing, the photo on the front remains the same. In this picture, there are various minority faces, showing exceptional diversity. Honestly, if college campuses were as diverse as the brochures, this debate would not even be occurring. The use of these photographs is a complete misrepresentation of diversity; in actuality, the brochures are blatantly exploiting minorities for personal gain. These photos over-represent the number of minorities that are actually on campuses, which is a distortion of diversity.

A study published last year in the Journal of Marketing for Higher Education observed more than 10,000 photographs found in the recruitment brochures that institutions

craft. They analyzed 165 four-year education institutions in the United States and found that the majority of images reflected populations that were drastically different from the actual student body. In addition to this, they found that colleges that were the least diverse featured the most diverse images in their publications.

Minorities are coming into an environment where nearly everyone around them does not look like them.

Although the universities are sending out this photo as an attempt to show that their universities are diverse, this misrepresentation has caused several problems. First, colleges and universities are now exploiting their minority students, as opposed to what was done in the past, which was ignoring them and the issues related to being a minority in a university. These publications are also being broadcasted to every area of the university, including to alumni. These photos are showing minorities happily interacting in the

university, smiling in the classroom and laughing with their teachers. They are showing a positive university experience, without addressing the prolonged sense that minorities feel that they do not belong on campus because people that do not look like them surround them. Photos without action are simply exploitation.

Harvard University created a photo project called, "I, Too, Am Harvard," which is a photo campaign in which minority students make public their own image of what life is at the university. When looking at the photographs, the majority of students stared straight into the camera as opposed to the large smile people see in the brochures. They were expressing a day-to-day reality as opposed to a multicultural party that seems to be displayed on a large portion of a university's marketing materials. These brochures do not express real issues

or illustrate accurate diversity across campuses.

Currently, at our University the enrollment rate for Asian Americans is about 11.8 percent. For African Americans it is about 6 percent and for Hispanic and Latino people it is about 5.8 percent; Pacific Islander fluctuates around 1 percent. These diversity percentages are exceptionally low, yet when there is a photo released on a brochure, people would assume these numbers are much higher because of the number of ethnic faces on the cover. It would be more accurate if schools put 75 white students, six black students, six Hispanic students, 12 Asian students and one Pacific Islander on the cover. Minorities would probably blend into the background considering the outstanding number of white students at the University.

This raises the question of what actions need to be taken to increase diversity. Some universities are allotting money for the recruitment of minority students and they are attempting to implement diversity initiatives. The University has implemented several initiatives in order to increase the number of minorities. The Honor Committee has partnered

with the Black Student Alliance, Latino Student Alliance and Asian Student Union in order to create an essay-based award competition to celebrate minority communities and engagement in minority issues on grounds. There is also Spring Fling, at which prospective minority students come and tour the university. Furthermore, there are several initiatives that have been implemented that need to be mirrored by other universities in order to enhance diversity nationally, as opposed to just on brochures.

Creating initiatives and taking an interest into the very real issues that minorities face on Grounds could potentially limit the backlash that these photos are receiving. Minorities are coming into an environment where nearly everyone around them does not look like them, which can create a potentially difficult learning environment. Universities across the nation need to take initiative and fix the diversity disparity instead of publishing misrepresentations in their brochures.

JASMINE BURTON is a fourth-year Batten student.

THE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND IS ONLY HALFWAY THERE

In addition to recent funding proposals, the board should endow permanent funding for graduate student fellowships

By a vote of 14-2, the University's Board of Visitors approved the creation of a permanent endowment for AccessUVa on Friday evening. This is excellent news for three reasons.

First and foremost, it promises \$100 million in dedicated University funds over the next five years, all going to endowing financial aid for undergraduate students who need it. This is real money, and endowment for financial aid is some of the toughest to raise from private donors, making this decision particularly helpful to the University and its mission.

Second, the Board has called for the University to leverage these funds in order to raise additional endowment: they plan to use the University's \$100 million commitment to attract another \$200 million from donors, done by matching their grants with the University's contribution. What this means is that donors will have any gifts of \$100,000 or more augmented by 50 percent, (with gifts over a million greeted with a 100 percent match), so that those contributing scholarship money will have extra "buying power" for their donation (for example: Mrs. Smith gives \$500,000 in memory of her grandfather, but what will be forever named the "Smith Scholarship" will be endowed with \$750,000, the extra \$250,000 being earmarked from moneys from the University's \$100

million contribution). Aptly branded as the Bicentennial Scholars Fund, the fund will coincidentally coinciding with the University's upcoming 200th anniversary in 2019.

Third and finally, the initiative marks a crucial strategic shift in the use of the University's Strategic Investment Fund, or SIF, from where the Board has voted to draw the

Graduate students are recruited for their talent; but that costs money.

original \$100 million. Rather than using the fund exclusively for the distribution of grants, they are using it to fund endowment, as well. This is smart, because endowment lasts forever, while grants, by design, expire — the funding must be renewed yearly. It is great news that the SIF will be used to create a permanent institution that will forever serve the University community: an endowed AccessUVa.

Nevertheless, there are reasons to agree with the two Board members who voted *against* the creation of this endowment. Indeed, while the majority was right to understand this to be a wise investment in an underfunded and yet core program of the University, one dissenter, Dr. L.

D. Britt, was right in saying the SIF should be used to preserve the University's "academic edge"; the other dissenter, Frank E. Genovese, was right that it should be dedicated to "big ideas that [will] move the University forward."

In that spirit, here is another big idea that will indelibly augment the University's academic edge: The

Board should endow graduate student fellowships at the University. The commitment to graduate fellowships needn't be as large as the one to AccessUVa. The entire endowment of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences stands only at \$62 million (as of June 2016), for example. If the Board could invest roughly a third of what they have set aside for AccessUVa in graduate scholarships — \$8 million a year for a total of \$32 million over four years — they would create a resource almost 50 percent the size of the Graduate School's current total endowment. At the same time, the SIF would still have \$67 million a year to give out annually over the next four years, which remains an incredibly impressive sum.

Why endow graduate funding? First, it is purely merit aid. Graduate students are recruited for their talent; but that costs money. The University will be better positioned to compete with Harvard, Yale, Chicago and Berkeley if we can match dollar-for-dollar (or exceed) what they pay the rising intellectual stars they admit to their doctoral programs. Right now, we cannot do that. If the University had 50 percent more in resources to hand, we could.

Second and more importantly, graduate education is the lifeblood of the University's research. Excellent doctoral students make the faculty better, because they bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the intellectual community. They work with professors on research projects, and often push faculty members to think differently. Simply put, nothing is better for a professor's intellectual life and research program than a good graduate student.

Third, the University could leverage the additional endowment for graduate studies by wrapping it into funding proposals as matching funds. Grant-giving agencies are more likely to support programs that bring their own money to the table; this money could be used for just such a purpose: the new endowment could be housed in the Provost's Office and deployed strategically. And departments could be asked to apply for the added fund-

ing, to offer top-up grants to the most promising students or to earmark fellowships in grant applications.

Finally, better graduate students will improve the undergraduate educational experience, because graduate students often teach undergraduates. Why not equip the University to hire the very best among them? If the Board saw fit, they could even tie some of the new graduate fellowships to required instructional programming at the University's excellent Center for Teaching Excellence. Undergraduates would clearly benefit from the recruitment of better graduate students.

To sum up: the University is in good hands. With the establishing of a permanent endowment for AccessUVa, the Board is making judicious decisions to guide the University to a renewed and excellence. In the same spirit, isn't it worth just 8 percent of just four years of the SIF budget to fundamentally and permanently transform postgraduate education at the University? Doing so would markedly improve our research and teaching programs. Let's finish the job of endowing student aid by permanently funding graduate student merit scholarships with SIF funds.

JOHN NEMEC is an associate professor in the Religious Studies department.



He was free to touch whatever he wanted. The grandparents were OK with that. They drew the line, though, at having their affairs strewn about the house. The wax doves from the centerpiece were unceremoniously tossed over the edge of the table and had their wings snapped off upon contact with the floor, the roll of toilet paper unspooled down the hall and the spatula lay drool-covered at the bottom of the stairwell like some poor murder victim tossed into a gulch (both the spatula and the murder victim bore the

AN ATTEMPT TO THWART A BABY'S INTERFERENCES

teeth-marks of the guilty psychopath — the toddler was still teething).

So when the daughter returned home with darling 2-year-old Lucas the grandparents sat happy, watching the adorable little chunkybutt try-

that everything in their house was now nailed into place, except for the hammer, which they simply glued into their tool drawer. (The empty tube of glue, the last loose thing in the house, was left in a neighbor's trash bin.)

for snot, one for drool. (He was still teething.) And the daughter called them crazy. She vowed never to return. They were sad. Then they realized, they could no longer change the seasonal displays. Then they were distraught.

They reconsidered. Levered out the million nails. Bought molten lead from the foundry, blocks of steel from the scrapyard. Better enterprise, they decided, in simply weighing things down.

It worked like a charm. At his next visit the little tubbybutt could not disturb their decorations, but they, the adults, could move things around as they so wished. Could choose what he played with, could choose which things moved. And can still switch out the shell display for

summer.

The mother and her tiny gooey baby visited more and more often. Lucas' name filled up their calendar. While changing his diaper one day the grandmother remarked: what large muscles for a baby. Must have been working out. That day, the 50-pound pair of boots began to budge under his hand. He lifted the ladle that was twice his own weight while the family watched in horror. His tiny sleeves tore from the force within: the force of the toddler's rippling muscles, the bodybuilder of a baby they created.

DREW KISER is a Humor writer.

His tiny sleeves tore from the force within: the force of the toddlers' rippling muscles, the bodybuilder of a baby they created.

ing his hardest to pull the pots from off the range and the ceramic elk from off the mantle, marvelously ignorant of the fact

Oh, how he screamed. Screamed until the windows rattled and five rivers flowed from his face: two for tears, two

HOW TO KEEP LAUGHING AFTER THE ELECTION

Okay, it's been a few weeks. We can talk about it now, right? We've taken time to mourn, and now we all walk into the nearest bookstore and pick up our copies of, "So, Your Next President Is A Total Bigot." In your post-election turmoil, you might be wondering: What do we do now? Well, I think the first step is obvious. First, we express our gratitude that somebody wrote "So, Your Next President Is A Total Bigot." I mean, the forethought that must have required! It takes a long time to write and publish a book. Not to mention you're taking a huge gamble, because if by some miracle the country does not elect a total bigot, then your book is useless and goes in the clearance pile with all the romance novels that didn't have enough sex scenes to really get the people going.

So first, we thank that guy. Then what? Well, then we start finding a way to laugh. Hear me out, because I know you probably don't find the current state of our country funny. Hey man, me neither. When the news first broke, I cried like it was my job. I cried and cried until really it wasn't crying anymore, more like a continuous stream of water that happened to flow from my eyeballs while I went about my business.

"Ugh, I hate that I'm crying so much. My face is all puffy. I used to be pretty," I whined to my friend, for even the election of a man who threatens all that I hold dear is no obstacle for my unmatched vanity!

"Not really," he said, clearly delusional. "You were never that stunning."

"F— you," I told him. Such was the intellectual discourse that colored the days following the election.

In addition to my ongoing sadness, I was angry. And since I pride myself on irrational-

trying to destroy walls (you win this time, walls!) Eventually this led to a pretty serious existential crisis, since my last name is Walls. I had already set out on my vendetta, and since I'm too stubborn to take anything back ever, I now had to hate myself.

"WHO AM I???" I cried out.

"I don't know," answered the

I was angry at anything that even rhymed with Donald Trump, which actually worked out okay for me because it turns out there's not a lot of stuff that rhymes with Donald Trump.

ity, I took things to the next level. I was angry at Donald Trump. I was angry at anything that even rhymed with Donald Trump, which actually worked out okay for me because it turns out there's not a lot of stuff that rhymes with Donald Trump. I was even angry at walls, because of that whole 'Build a wall to keep out the Mexicans' thing he'd been spewing throughout his racism-driven campaign. You might think it a bit drastic to get angry at literally every wall that's ever been built on this planet, but I don't half-ass things, okay? I was out to get walls. All of them. I kicked the walls of my apartment. I punched a wall in Starbucks. I yelled at the walls of the hospital where I had to go because I broke all my bones

delivery man. "Please just stop ordering from College Inn. We're all so scared of you."

You get the point. In these first few weeks after the election, I've had so many questions. What can I do? Where do we go from here? Am I allowed to call our next president a douche canoe in The Cavalier Daily? (If that got censored, take your most creative guess as to what I was trying to say). But as the dust settled, I thought I'd give sincere optimism a try.

"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times if only one remembers to turn on the light," I said, pasting across my face one of those soft smiles people in the movies use when they are Being Sincere.

"That's a nice quote," said one

friend. "What's it from?"

Then I kind of lost it because that quote is obviously from Harry Potter and if people don't know that then they probably haven't read Harry Potter and if people haven't read Harry Potter then what has everybody been doing all this time, like, the character development is unreal and the plot keeps you on your toes and when Hedwig dies, I mean, not a dry eye on the planet (if I just spoiled Hedwig's death in Book Seven for you, that's your fault for not reading the greatest series of all time before now).

Anyway, that's how I learned that when it comes to uniting the people with a grand speech, I do not thrive. So where else do we look for moving forward? I think we have to laugh, even if so much of what lies before us is not funny at all. The next four years will be a long, exhausting struggle — if you go that entire time without laughter, it will eat away at you. You will frown all the time and your face will get gross and wrinkly, and you may even lose your hair and invest in an awful toupee, and soon you'll start to think that "bigly" is a cool word to use, and — oh my God, I've done it. I figured out what's wrong with Trump (besides, you know, the disgusting racism and the addiction to tweeting like a crazy old man yelling at you to get off his lawn). The man doesn't know how to laugh! Like a robot who never learned to love. Just kidding. That's Mike Pence. Pence is a robot, of this I am sure, only instead of electricity or batter-

ies or whatever, he runs on the sheer joy of controlling all the uteruses nationwide.

But let's not end up like them. I'm not saying you should let go of your anger or dismay. You can find the humor around you while you fight. You can allow yourself the occasional chuckle while you lead a movement — just ask the kids from my third grade class who led the movement to Keep Nora's Lunch Money Away From Her Because She Is Short And That Is Funny (screw you guys, by the way — I'm 5'4" now)! You can laugh while you effect change (and if you'd like to get started right this minute, go ahead and laugh at me while you donate to this organization or this one or this one or... I could go on — see what I did there? If only I'd been so tricky in third grade, I might have had money for lunch). I stand with you but I'd like to laugh with you, too. And if you're really too upset to laugh right now, I understand, but for the love of God, GO READ HARRY POTTER. IT'S BEEN OUT SINCE 1997. WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU ALL BEEN DOING THIS WHOLE TIME THAT YOU COULDN'T TAKE A FEW HOURS TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE MAGIC OF HOGWARTS?

NORA WALLS is a Humor writer.



EVENTS

Friday 1/20
UPC Presents: FRIENDS-Ship, 9pm-1am, Newcomb Game Room

Saturday 1/21
Women's Tennis vs. Boston College, 11am, Snyder Court
Men's Basketball vs. Georgia Tech, 2pm, John Paul Jones Arena
UPC Presents Snowflakes and Scarves, 9pm-1am, Newcomb PAC
Boylan Heights Presents: Welcome Back Party, 10pm-2am, Boylan Heights





Kurt Vile to visit the Jefferson

Artist talks touring, influences, plans for the future

NOAH ZEIDMAN | SENIOR EDITOR

Since his 2008 debut “Constant Hitmaker,” Kurt Vile has showcased his singular style through a string of stunningly rich and cohesive albums. From hypnotic, intricately-crafted folk songs to soulful, psychedelic rock, Vile’s music is beautiful and unmistakable. The last leg of his current tour kicks off at the Jefferson Theater Jan. 26 with backing band The Violators in support of his 2015 album “b’lieve i’m goin down...” A&E caught up with Vile to preview the upcoming show.

Arts & Entertainment: You last played the Jefferson in 2015. Are you looking forward to returning to Charlottesville?

Kurt Vile: Yeah! This is sort of our home stretch, and we’ve come into our own as a band — we can pull off the sort of soulful, raunchy thing. Never too slick, but for us, pretty slick. So I’m excited to come down there.

A&E: Have the songs evolved significantly since you started this tour?

KV: I’d say they’ve gotten kind of epic for the stage. Epic in the peaks and valleys of moods, dynamics and things, you know, it’s a well-rounded set — rock ‘n’ roll, psychedelic, sort of hypnotic-folk kinds of things.

A&E: Your catalogue is pretty extensive — do you still pull from your older material?

KV: We definitely play songs from “Childish Prodigy,” “Smoke Ring For My Halo,” “Wakin on a Pretty Daze” and “b’lieve i’m goin down...” every night. My first couple albums, “Constant Hitmaker” and “God Is Saying This To You,” I don’t always play those songs in the set with the band. I’m going to go on a solo tour soon to Australia, and I’ll definitely be whipping out the classics. People can yell out requests, especially if it’s solo. I can whip out pretty much any song. I’m not opposed to playing early stuff. Maybe I’ll make a point to try and play some more of it.

A&E: Do you write much when you’re on the road, or does that mainly happen between

tours?

KV: That mainly happens anywhere. Anytime. I could start writing a song anywhere. Usually it just takes picking up a guitar, or going over to a piano, but I’m always sort of writing things. But I don’t force it, either. I’m in no rush. I think that’s sort of the key to my writing, is to never be in a rush. Don’t force it.

A&E: What music have you been listening to lately?

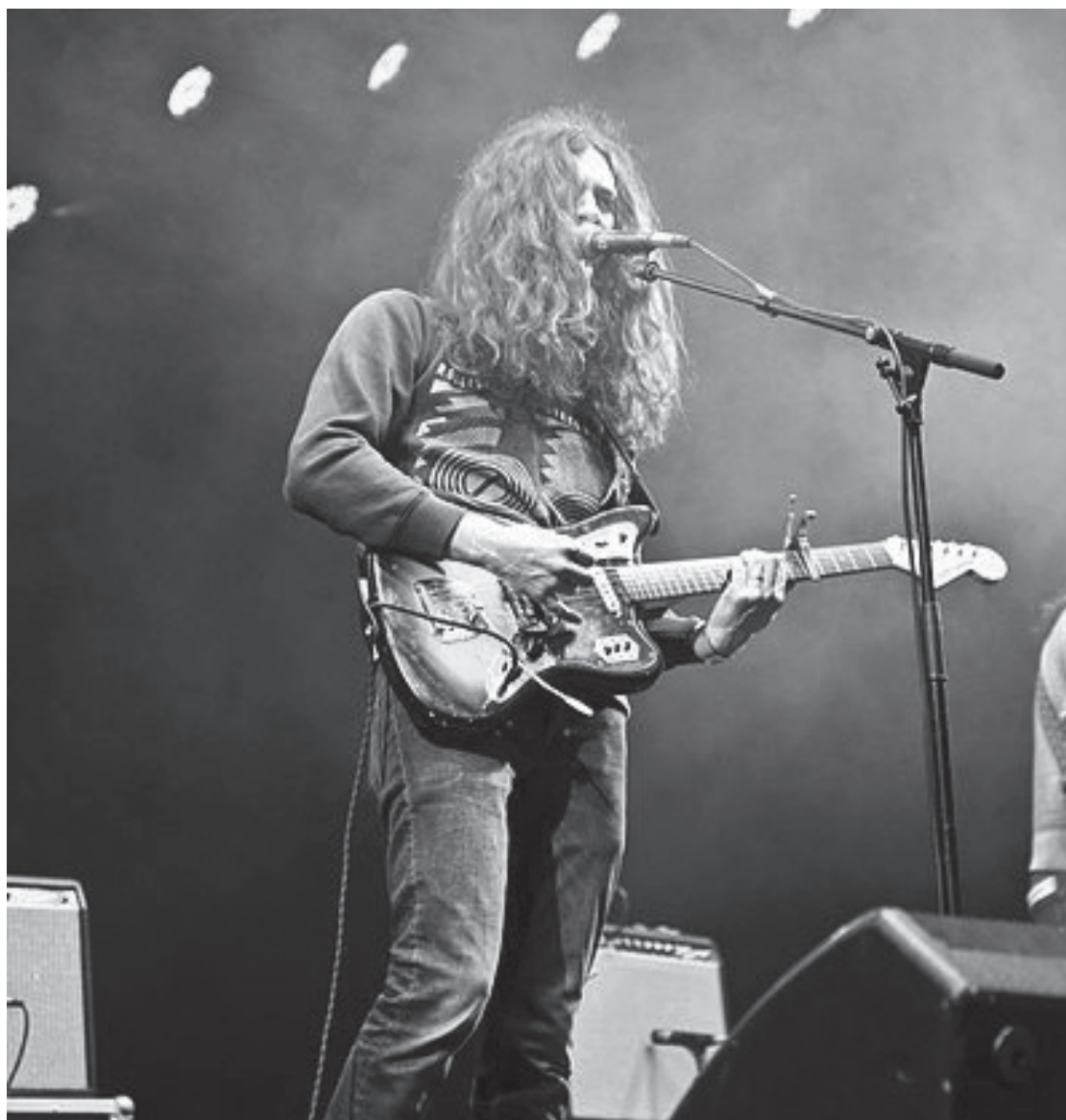
KV: For the past couple years I’ve definitely been on some kind of country-roots kick, and American roots rock ‘n’ roll, from reading Jerry Lee Lewis biographies, to George Jones autobiographies and a lot of Nick Tosches books. Me and my buddy Tom Scharpling keep talking about Kris Kristofferson. I’ve loved John Prine forever. Once you get into true, funky, roots American music, from primitive on through Nashville, really, it’s hard to get out, it’s all connected, it’s all intertwined.

A&E: Has that kind of music seeped into your own?

KV: In a classic sense. Often, when somebody asks me this I refer to when the Byrds went country, “Sweetheart of the Rodeo,” which is a good record, but it’s obviously so country, it’s just like out of nowhere, very country. [For me, it’s] more in the soul, the soulfulness. I’ve always sort of played country-influenced music, anyway, with the finger-picking and all that, so there’s just more power — to me — with subliminal influence. Just seeps in.

A&E: You had a guest appearance on “Animals” on HBO last year. How did that happen, and do you have plans to do other acting or voice work?

KV: I do like the idea of doing acting, especially if it’s funny. I thought the “Animals” thing was funny, I had a fun time doing that with them. I just didn’t like how “whiny stoner” I came off sounding, which was my own voice, but I did feel like we did a lot funnier improv on that bit. It’s nothing against them, they went for this thing and I gave it to them. I love the way they drew me, and I’m glad



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Kurt Vile will perform at the Jefferson Theater next week alongside The Violators.

to be immortalized as a squirrel — and a stoner squirrel at that — and I got to make that sort of trippy stoner song. I’m proud of all those things. It’s almost like, it’s weird to hear yourself back in general. I just did this weird thing with Tony Hale, it was like a Christmas special ... and I play a Christmased-out version of “Wakin on a Pretty Day.” That was pretty weird, too. I would definitely be into being on a funny show, but I couldn’t put all of my energy into it, it has to be sort of close to my personality. I would even be into being in some movie with a dramatic role, as long as it spoke

something of my true self. And chances are I would have to be a little stupidly funny at points. That’s the key.

A&E: What are you most looking forward to in 2017?

KV: We’re going to be on and off the road, even still, and I’ve been working on a couple projects. I’ve been working on a new record. I doubt my full-length will come out in 2017, but there will be a couple EPs or so. I’ll be working on the record a lot — I have been working on the full-length a lot.

A&E: Will the new full-length be in a similar vein as

“b’lieve i’m goin down...”?

KV: I think all my music, you see where it’s coming from. I even think “b’lieve i’m goin down...” if you look back at my earlier albums, it’s not far-fetched. There’s always new influence in there, and I’m always trying to take it further and top myself, but yeah, I can’t tell you how. I think it’ll be a little more epic. I would say in some weird way, it’s going to be a little more epic. I don’t know how.

read more at...

cavalierdaily.com

A&E staff picks winter break jams

A&E staff members compile a list of their favorite songs from winter break

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT STAFF

Twice per semester, Arts and Entertainment staffers compile a list of their favorite songs. See what songs the staff couldn't stop listening to over winter break in its first playlist of 2017.

1. "Close Your Eyes (And Count to F--k)" by Run the Jewels

"Close Your Eyes (And Count to F--k)" is far better than the sum of its parts. The incessant background chanting of "run them jewels fast" is obnoxious, the blaring siren is irritating at best and the lyrics are all but nonsensical. Yet, taken together, and coupled with Run the Jewels' killer flow, "Close Your Eyes (And Count to F--k)" somehow becomes the best song on the group's album. It's definitely one to check out.

— Flo Overfelt

2. "Saints Preservus" by Andrew Bird

Andrew Bird's concerns about the drabness of modernity pack quite the punch. This track showcases Bird's virtuosity with the violin and whistling while he reflects on an age in which he feels lost.

— Paul Rohrbach

3. "JJ" by Priests

"JJ," the first song released from the upcoming debut album of D.C.-based punk group Priest "Nothing Feels Natural," applies surf rock-tinged guitar, a wiggling bassline and lead singer Katie Alice Greer's old-

school growl to a strange yet satisfying stream-of-consciousness portrait of a relationship.

— Aline Dolinh

4. "The Answer" by Big Words

"The Answer" is the perfect groove song. Whether you were baking cookies, searching for a gift for a friend or simply spreading Christmas cheer, this was the song to listen to over winter break. With its combination of chill, swaying rhythm with guitar riffs and the singer's smooth vocals, this song deserves to be replayed many times.

— Maggie Snow

5. "Rain Clouds" by The Arcadian Wild

The Arcadian Wild captures the soothing feel of a rainy, no-obligations day. "Rain Clouds" emulates the contentedness of raindrops humming on windowpanes and the relief of relaxation. The song's initial content is a bit gloomy, but a constant, positive and underlying beat, albeit subtle at times, holds it together. A crescendo in tone and lyrics near the song's end further elevates the mood. The harmonies complement one another very well, and while the folky sound is reminiscent of other bands at times, it remains distinct.

— Anna Morgan

6. "Linger" by The Cranberries

This soft, vocal-centric tune is perfect for bonding with Mom. Gen-

tle strings and soft drums will lull anyone into easy listening.

— Ian McConaughy Williams

7. "Love on the Weekend" by John Mayer

Mayer's distinctive, glassy guitar tone and breathless, romantic modus operandi return in his latest single. "Love on the Weekend" doesn't showcase Mayer's exquisite guitar playing as much as some of his other work, but the track is subtly catchy, and its lyrics warmly lean into cliché to just the right degree. It's charming, emotional and comforting — it's classic John Mayer.

— Ben Hitchcock

8. "Hybrid Moments" by Misfits

This classic early-punk song features great chugging guitars and a memorable chorus with quality vocal energy.

— Lou Malmgren

9. "A Stutter" by Ólafur Arnalds and Arnor Dan

No artist better captures the somber yet peaceful silence of winter than Ólafur Arnalds. The Icelandic composer is well-known for his beautifully-arranged ambient music. "A Stutter" finds Arnalds pairing up with fellow Icelandic musician and vocalist Arnor Dan to deliver a masterfully-arranged song more soothing and relaxing than the thickest sheets of snow falling from the sky.

— Ben Mossholder



ANNE OWEN AND SEAN CASSAR | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Arts and Entertainment staff members create a playlist twice per semester.

10. "This Feeling" by Alabama Shakes

It's hard to find a more soothing song. This track describes a feeling of peace, supported by soft acoustics and vocals. With lyrics like, "See, I've been having me a real hard time / But it feels so nice to know I'm gonna be alright," what better post-finals tune could students have asked for?

— Dan Goff

11. "1992" by Rejjie Snow

Rejjie Snow and Loyle Carner bring Dublin and London together with heat. Both rappers flex their infectious flow over the smoothest instrumentals heard in years.

— John Trainum

Listen to the playlist on A&E's Spotify page.

'A Series of Unfortunate Events' is fortunately a hit

Netflix series based on popular books is worth watching

ELLEN ADAMS | SENIOR WRITER

"This show will wreck your evening, your whole life and your day. Every single episode is nothing but dismay," Neil Patrick Harris sings in the opening credits of "A Series of Unfortunate Events," one of the latest original series from Netflix. This statement of warning could not be further from the truth — despite the many misfortunes facing the show's characters, the show itself is a joy from start to finish.

Based on the popular children's book series, "A Series of Unfortunate Events" tells the woeful tale of the Baudelaire children — Violet, Klaus and Sunny (Malina Weissman, Louis Hynes and Presley Smith, respectively) — after the untimely death of their parents. Shuffled from guardian to guardian and pursued relentlessly by

the evil Count Olaf (Harris) who only wants their newly-inherited fortune. The Baudelaire children are also faced with a mystery surrounding their parents' demise.

Fans of the books will be satisfied by this series. The format — each book takes up two episodes of the series — allows for a very faithful adaptation, especially in comparison to the 2004 film version, which crammed three books into a nearly two-hour time span. This newer adaptation allows more time for character and plot development and a more satisfying viewing experience overall.

The performances — especially by the lead children — are also commendable. Both Weissman and Hynes carry a significant portion of the show on their shoulders. They do so impeccably

— acting as a sane foil to the absurdity that surrounds them. The Baudelaire children are forced to become adults more quickly than most, and the actors portraying them show a range of acting most adults would envy. Child actors can often be grating, but Weissman and Hynes are easy to watch.

A defining trait of the novels is their unique narration by author Lemony Snicket, and the show cleverly incorporates this trait to emulate the specific tone of the books. Patrick Warburton is perhaps an unconventional choice for the role of Lemony Snicket, but his distinctive voice works surprisingly well with the show's dry humor.

Harris makes a valiant effort as Count Olaf but falls just short of truly disappearing into his role.

While his performance is entertaining, it always seems like Harris is playing dress-up rather than actually becoming the character. It's also difficult to avoid comparing him to Jim Carrey's superior performance in the 2004 movie — Carrey's Olaf was much more menacing, and his brand of humor worked better for what the role requires.

The production design is visually intriguing and creates an immersive and dreamlike world. The novels themselves are somewhat of an oddity — darkly humorous, with absurd adventures and captivating mysteries. The setting of the show reflects this well, as seen in the juxtaposition between Count Olaf's dark, decaying mansion and his neighbor's colorful, cheerful cottage.

While the adaptation is largely faithful, there are a few deviations from the novels. Several new characters appear in the show who do not exist — or are only mentioned in passing — in the novels. It is also a bit lighter and more humorous in tone than the books. Staunch fans of the originals may disapprove of the shift, but it works well in the context of the show.

Both fans of the books and newcomers alike will enjoy "A Series of Unfortunate Events." Snicket warns the audience to stay away, and "find something more pleasant instead," but this advice is best ignored — "A Series of Unfortunate Events" is not to be missed.