

# THE CAVALIER DAILY

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LEON ARCEO, ADAIRE BURNSED & HONOR WOOD | THE CAVALIER DAILY

# Beyond the Ballot

A closer look at the people and policies that will shape the University in the year to come



# NEWS

## This week in-brief

CD News Staff

### Student Council passes legislation proposing Edgemont Road construction

Student Council voted to pass legislation proposing safety-related projects on Edgemont Road and announced a declining balance card system for dispensing funds to Contracted Independent Organizations in a meeting Tuesday. The Council also heard comments from Kenyon Bonner, new vice president and chief student affairs officer.

Following routine reports from representatives and leadership, Student Council addressed resolution SR 24-01, a proposal from Chinmay Nair, third-year Engineering doctoral candidate and Graduate School of Engineering representative.

Nair voiced concerns about street and safety conditions on Edgemont Road. The entire Edgemont Road loop connects several buildings including the Leander McCormick Observatory, the Environmental Sciences Shop Building and several laboratories, ending at the Aquatic and Fitness Center, where it intersects McCormick Road.

“Some of the turns are very blind, so you can’t see what’s approaching,” Nair said. “If there’s a car approaching, you can’t see a pedestrian if he’s walking ... and all over this passage there’s no screen lights — it’s pitch black after dark.”

The proposal included several photos and videos, partially collected by his collaborator on the resolution, Christopher Joseph, director of student life and third-year Engineering student. Nair proposed that the Parking and Transportation Office work with the Security and General Safety Office to “build a sidewalk, post traffic signs and erect more lighting and safety devices on the Edgemont Road loop,” according to the legislation.

The resolution passed 25-1, with next steps including bringing the resolution to appropriate offices, including the Parking and Transportation Office and the Security and General Safety Office.

### New committee begins meeting to create guidelines for University political statements

Amidst ongoing controversies regarding University responses to political issues, University President Jim Ryan has formed a new committee to advise him on when and how to issue social and political statements in his capacity as University president. The new Committee on Institutional Statements began meeting this month and will develop a set of advisory guidelines for Ryan throughout the course of the semester.

Last semester, Ryan voiced concerns about the lack of protocol for University responses to social and political issues at a Board of Visitors meeting, where he expressed the need for a set of institutional guidelines. According to Ryan, who faced some backlash from students for his initial response to Hamas’s attack on Israel Oct. 7, the lack of formal guidance on when and how socio-political speech should be conducted by the University has made issuing statements a challenge.

According to Lillian Rojas, the Committee’s student representative and fourth-year Batten student, Ryan invited individuals to join the Committee early in the semester. Rojas, who also serves as the BOV’s student member, said University statements should not be taken lightly due to potential impacts on student and community morale.

“I definitely think [University statements] need to be carefully crafted, thought through and only instituted in absolutely necessary situations rather than just being loosely thrown around,” Rojas said. “They do have an impact on students, and it has the power to either uplift the student or tear them down.”

In addition to Rojas, the Committee consists of eleven other members including professors, donors, alumni, BOV members and others.

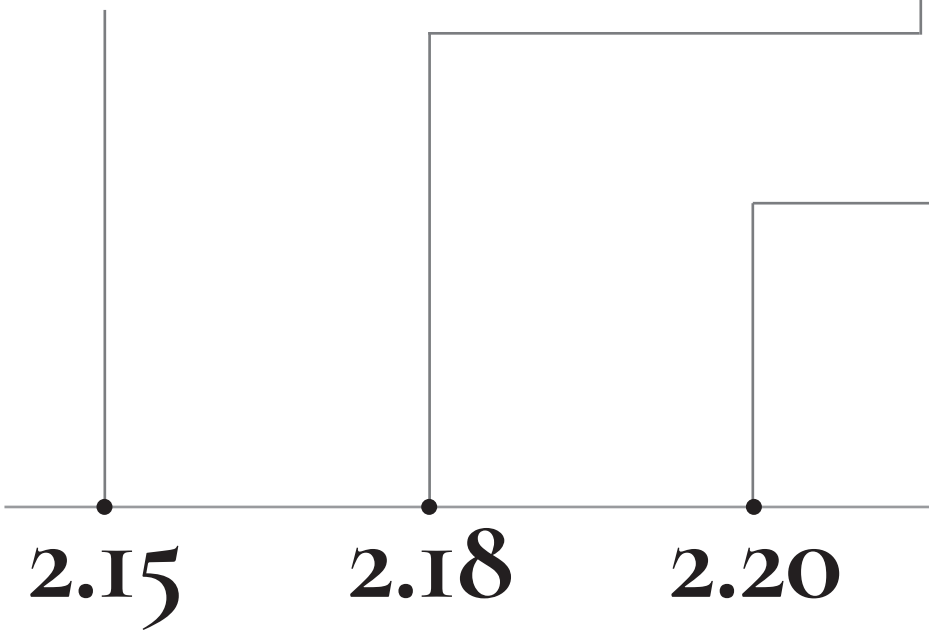
### Gov. Youngkin awards \$12 million in grants to Virginia Housing Trust Fund

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced a contribution of \$12 million to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, a program established by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development that specifically provides funding to organizations focused on reducing homelessness in Virginia. Among the 55 organizations across the Commonwealth which will receive funding from these recent grants are Virginia Supportive Housing and The Haven at First & Market Inc., two Charlottesville-based organizations working to address homelessness in the area.

Virginia Supportive Housing is an organization which aims to provide permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless adults across the Commonwealth, according to communications officer Kate McCarthy. Supportive housing combines affordable housing with services such as counseling programs, according to VSH’s website. VSH’s Charlottesville location, an apartment complex called The Crossings, will receive \$110,000 in funding out of the \$12 million recently allocated to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund.

McCarthy said VSH will use the grant funding to pay the salaries of employees at The Crossings. Employees at the apartment complex provide services such as connecting residents with primary health care providers and identifying resources to help address substance abuse disorder, as well as providing job training to residents and helping them become self-sufficient to avoid returning to homelessness.

“This money allows us to pay the people who do that really, really important, human interaction-based work, to help someone restabilize and grow on their journey back to independence,” McCarthy said.





# New zoning ordinance garners mixed reactions

The code will allow for higher density housing in the city as well as more units of affordable housing

Brandon Kile | Staff Writer



TESS GINSBURG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

A lawsuit filed in January by nine Charlottesville residents claims that the City went against Virginia state law in adopting the code, and that it should thus be voided.

The Charlottesville City Council unanimously passed a new zoning ordinance at a meeting last December that will allow for greater diversity in types of housing as well as require the inclusion of affordable housing in some future developments. Although multiple organizations supported the ordinance when it was passed at a Council meeting in December, the new code has since faced opposition from some residents concerned that the Council did not properly prepare for the implementation of the code before approving it.

Council Member Michael Payne said that the ordinance will allow for more variety in the types of housing that is permitted to be built around the City.

“There are some areas in the city where it would now be allowed to build more mixed use development — something that may have commercial uses on the ground floor and several 100 units as part of a five or six story development,” Payne said.

The ordinance also calls for higher density housing around the City, particularly around major roads, such as Fontaine Ave.

and 5th St. Payne said that a major part of the new code is the mandatory reservation of space for affordable housing in larger developments.

“Our commercial corridors were where we allowed the highest increase in height and density. In some areas along Preston [Avenue], 10 story [buildings] could be allowed,” Payne said. “For any development that’s ten or more units, at least 10 percent of units will have to be affordable as defined at 60 percent of area median income.”

As of 2022, the Charlottesville area median income is \$67,177 according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

In allowing for higher density housing, Council Member Natalie Oschrein said the ordinance also will help combat some other issues that the city faces.

“By building more homes within city limits, we can make progress on our goals of bringing down housing costs, shortening commutes, reducing car dependency and helping the environment,” Oschrein said in an email statement to The Cavalier Daily.

Payne said that he did have

some concerns about the code, but his reservations were not enough for him to vote against the ordinance. He said he worries that renters in certain areas of the city will face gentrification that will price out current residents.

“One of the concerns is still there are areas that we missed in places like Rose Hill, 10th and Paige and Belmont,” Payne said. “By significantly increasing [maximum building] height and density, you may be creating a flood of capital investment that, particularly for renters, may accelerate the likelihood that they’re displaced from where they live.”

Beyond these concerns, some Charlottesville residents even question the legality of the ordinance. A 52-page lawsuit filed in January by nine Charlottesville residents claims that the City did not adequately consider the effects of the ordinance before adopting it. The plaintiffs say that this failure violates Virginia law and renders the zoning code null. Plaintiffs in the case include School of Law Profs. G. Edward White and Lillian BeVier. White declined an interview request and referred The Cavalier Daily to at-

torney Michael Derdeyn, who is representing the plaintiffs in the case.

“City Council failed to conduct any studies about the impact of the NZO on the City’s transportation, schools, water, sewer, public services or infrastructure, among other things,” the suit reads. “City Council failed to comply with these statutory requirements, thereby rendering the NZO void and otherwise invalid.”

History Prof. and author Brian Balogh, who has written extensively on the “Not In My Backyard” movement, explained how understanding the NIMBY movement can shed light on some of the discontent surrounding the City’s new zoning ordinance. According to Balogh, the NIMBY movement started in the 1970s and 80s over several issues including historic preservation, preserving open spaces and stopping large scale developments.

“You’re going to get people who are not happy about having a beautiful view... that [is] going to be blocked by a high rise building,” Balogh said. “A lot of this comes down to people’s political clout ... a lot of the development

in the past that people don’t want ... ends up being put in poorer areas.”

Oschrein said in an email statement to The Cavalier Daily that she may like to revisit some aspects of the code in the future, such as a clause that would require commercial businesses, including coffee shops and bodegas, to obtain costly permits to operate in residential neighborhoods. However, Oschrein said this ordinance is something that was written to bring positive change to the Charlottesville community and correct historical injustices that continue to harm some residents.

“I understand that people can be afraid of changes, but this is a historical correction to housing policies that were founded in racism and designed to perpetuate economic inequity,” Oschrein said. “Rising prices are driving out residents, neighborhoods are becoming less diverse [and] sprawl is creeping into the surrounding counties. We have the power to ameliorate those issues, and I think we should be excited about the future.”

The next City Council meeting is set for March 5.



# Student Council presidential candidates share their platforms

Voting opens Feb. 26 and closes Feb. 28

Thomas Baxter | News Editor

This year's race for Student Council President sees two candidates, third-year College student Valentina Mendoza Gonzalez and third-year Engineering student Tyler Jones, compete for the esteemed position. The campaigning window began Monday, and the two candidates have since shared their very different platforms and opinions with students.

Both candidates met the required 100 signature threshold to appear on the ballot, with Jones doing so in the late afternoon Tuesday, which was the last possible day to collect the required signatures.

Voting will run until 11:59 p.m. Feb. 28 and will use a single-choice preferential voting system rather than a ranked-choice system.

**"Justice, community and transparency" — Valentina Mendoza Gonzalez**

Mendoza Gonzalez, the current Student Council director for coalition engagement, is the

more conventional choice in the election, as current Student Council leadership members have already expressed support for her campaign on social media. Mendoza Gonzalez runs on a ticket with two fellow Student Council leaders who both run unopposed for their positions — third-year College student Brookelyn Mitchell for Vice President for Administration and third-year Commerce student Ryan Bowers for Vice President for Organizations. The group calls itself "The Voice Movement."

Mendoza Gonzalez said that as president, she would work to better welcome first-year students, especially those from minority or underrepresented backgrounds. Mendoza Gonzalez said that in her time at the University, she has helped ease the transition of incoming first-year students through her work in peer mentorship programs such as the Latinx Leadership Institute.

"I've dedicated myself to those incoming first years, showing

them 'this is what U.Va. looks like, [this] is the bad, this is the good,' Gonzalez said. "That organic mentorship has not only taught me so much, but I think empowers the future student leaders."

She added that as president, she would aim to expand visitation programs for minority or underrepresented high school seniors so that they could get a better idea of the diversity of the student body. Additionally, she proposed having an institutional review of the Support and Access Services branch to increase cultural competency and ensure that products and services made available to students reflect the diversity of their needs.

Mendoza Gonzalez said that the biggest challenge facing the student body is a lack of collaboration and coalition building that has existed since the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that she is concerned about the relationship between the University and the Charlottesville community,

and hopes to make a community outreach team to foster a better relationship between the Student Council and local citizens.

"I am a potential candidate for Student Council President, but I am still a community member," Mendoza Gonzalez said. "People seeing that I am an active member and still invested in student leadership and student life is how I'm going to hold myself accountable to making sure that I'm serving all students and being present and active as [an] individual."

**"Opportunities for relaxation" — Tyler Jones**

While Mendoza Gonzalez laid out more specific goals and intentions, Jones said more generally that he wants to be Student Council President to serve as a "voice for the people."

"I think I'm pretty in tune with what the people [at the University] want," Jones said. "I think I can be the mouthpiece for the people to speak through."

Jones said that he thinks the

biggest challenge facing the student body is a lack of enjoyment and too much anxiety among students and said that he aims to provide them with more "opportunities for relaxation."

"I think the biggest challenge is that people aren't having as fun a time in college as I think they should," Jones said. "[I would] hopefully put a smile on their face[s]."

Jones outlined no other specific campaign initiatives during his interview with The Cavalier Daily.

Prior to voting opening Feb. 26, The Cavalier Daily and the University Board of Elections will host a debate between the candidates Sunday Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Newcomb Ballroom. Questions can be submitted by email to news@cavalierdaily.com.

A more detailed calendar with dates concerning student elections is available on the University Board of Elections website.

## Lawn rooms offered to 26.6 percent of applicants

The Committee received 177 applications, a 16 percent increase from last year

Finn Trainer | News Editor

The Lawn Selection Committee provided 47 students offers to live on the Lawn for the 2024-25 academic year, receiving a total of 177 applications. The Committee received 25 more applications than it did last year — dropping the acceptance rate from 37.5 percent to 26.6 percent.

While there are 54 Lawn rooms in total, the additional seven Lawn rooms are reserved either for specific clubs and organizations — such as the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society and Kappa Sigma fraternity — or for students with specific accolades who are selected independently from the Committee. Because residents of these rooms are chosen by separate organizations rather than the Lawn Selection Committee, they are not included in reported statistics about the students who received offers to live on the Lawn.

According to University Student Affairs, the Lawn Selection Committee chooses students to live on the Lawn based on their contributions to the University

and Charlottesville-area communities, as well as their academic and extracurricular accomplishments. During their time on the Lawn, students are expected to embody University ideals of service and involvement and continue to foster a sense of community.

The Lawn Selection Committee is entirely student-run and comprises approximately 60 fourth-year students, half representing the University's undergraduate schools and select student organizations and half being randomly selected from the fourth-year class. Fourth-year College student Cyrena Matingou, who serves as Lawn senior resident and a non-voting member of the Lawn Selection Committee, said the Committee looks for students whose leadership has had a major impact on Grounds, regardless of whether they hold a formal leadership position.

"We still recognize the importance of [leading an organization]," Matingou said. "But [we also want] to highlight experi-

ences that don't have the same title associated with [them], but [are] still having really strong impacts within their communities."

Third-year College student Nick Witkowski was selected to live on the Lawn for the 2024-25 academic year. He said that he first became interested in living on the Lawn during his second year at the University, and that he looks forward to meeting other Lawn residents and having people visit his room.

"I've always felt a great sense of community on the Lawn, even just sitting there with friends having a picnic," Witkowski said. "I knew I wanted to participate in making that space what it was — a community of really cool people."

James Edwards, Third-Year Council president and third-year Nursing student, also said he was excited for the opportunity to meet new people, whether students or otherwise.

"I'm excited to interact with all the visitors to the Lawn, whether that be tourists, students [or]

whoever happens to stumble into your room," Edwards said. "I'm really looking forward to being able to represent the University to them."

Despite an increase in applications from last year, the number of applicants has not returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. While the Lawn Selection Committee received 221 applications in 2020, the highest number of applications received since the beginning of the pandemic was 189 for the 2021-22 academic year.

The Committee offered 70 percent of Lawn rooms to women, a 10 percent increase from the previous year. The mean grade point average was 3.754, a 2 percent increase from 3.734 the previous year. Unlike in previous years, the University did not provide data on the race and ethnicity of students accepted to live on the Lawn for the 2024-25 academic year.

Students in the College of Arts and Sciences make up 60 percent of the accepted applicants, a six percent decrease from

the year prior. The School of Engineering and Applied Science and School of Education and Human Development tied for the second most offers, with each comprising 9 percent of accepted applicants. The most common major among those offered Lawn rooms was global studies, making up 11 percent of accepted applicants. Computer science was the second most common at 9 percent.

All application decisions were released by Feb. 16, and accepted students have until 5 p.m. Feb. 23 to accept or decline their offer.



# Previewing the Spring 2024 Elections

Voting will begin at 9 a.m. Feb. 26 and be open until 11:59 p.m. Feb. 28

Thomas Baxter and Finn Trainer | News Editors

University students can vote on a number of elected positions within student self-governance organizations, beginning Monday morning. The University Board of Elections organized and will hold the University-wide election, which also includes a referendum sponsored by seven student organizations. The referendum demands that the University audit its investment portfolio to identify any connections to companies engaging in or profiting from what the sponsors call “the State of Israel’s apartheid regime and acute violence against Palestinians.”

## Voting

Voting will be carried out electronically, and the form will be sent to students’ University emails once the polls open. The form will be personalized to students to only include the school- and year-specific elections they are eligible to vote in, and the entire process should take no more than five minutes. Voting for elections with only one winner will be carried out in a ranked-choice system, while voting in elections with multiple winners will allow for multiple unranked selections. The referendum on this year’s ballot will be a simple yes or no vote.

Last year’s elections saw a slight increase in voter turnout across the board. That election also included the referendum proposing the Honor Committee’s adoption of a multi-sanction system, of which 88.7 percent of voters voted in favor.

Luke Lamberson, UBE chair and fourth-year Commerce student, said that the UBE plans to spend over \$2,000 on a number of initiatives to encourage voting next week. This will include handing out donuts and a raffle system where simply voting makes one eligible to win prizes including TVs, gift cards or customized basketball jerseys. Lamberson said that while he thinks that the referendum will motivate a lot of people to vote, it is also important to vote for the elected positions too.

“Everyone, no matter what school they’re in, has a bunch of different things that they can vote on,” Lamberson said. “The referendum is very important, but also who represents you in your class council, who represents you in your student council and who represents you in your school council are all really important ... as well.”

## The Referendum

The U.Va. Apartheid Divest Referendum, the only referendum in this year’s elections, was announced at a Students for Justice in Palestine teach-in event Feb. 6. The referendum calls on the University’s Investment Management Company, which oversees how the University’s \$13.6 billion endowment is invested, to submit itself to an external auditing process to determine the extent of University’s financial involvement with companies engaged in human rights violations and, should they find any such investments, to divest from them. The referendum also calls for “the acknowledgment and increased support of Palestinian students on Grounds.”

In a written statement to The Cavalier Daily, U.Va. Apartheid Divest said the University is morally obligated to divest from companies contributing to human rights violations.

“We, as students, demand a university financial portfolio that helps the communities it serves and has a positive societal impact,” the organization said. “The student body voting yes on this referendum will emphasize to President Jim Ryan and the Board of Visitors that the time to act is now, and that their students will not tolerate U.Va.’s complicity any longer.”

The coalition first introduced the referendum with the goal of obtaining 950 student signatures on a petition, which would allow the referendum to be posed to the University’s student body as a “non-binding question of opinion,” per UBE policy. The petition obtained the required number of signatures within 48 hours of announcing the referendum, officially placing it on the ballot for the spring’s elections.

The referendum has also received pushback, with the Brody Jewish Center, Hillel and Chabad House releasing a shared statement encouraging University community members to vote against it. In the statement, the authors said the referendum encourages divestment from companies providing critical goods and services. They wrote that applying terms such as “apartheid” and “settler colonialism” to describe the ongoing conflict increases acts of antisemitism on college campuses. According to their statement, the organizations represent over 700 members of the University’s Jewish community who oppose the referendum.

“The allegations that Referendum 1 sets forth are not only baseless, but they also strip the

Jewish people of their right to self-determination on land to which they have deep ancestral ties,” the statement read. “Our community stands strongly in opposition to any efforts aimed at threatening Jewish life on Grounds.”

If passed, the referendum will not have the authority to force the University to do anything. It instead would represent a call for action on behalf of a large portion of the student body.

## Student Council: The Endowment Question

In November, Student Council announced the creation of a \$750,000 endowment to be used over three years, which dramatically increased the Student Council’s annual budget. Additional funds have already been made available to support student organizations, as well as to increase the scale and sustainability of the Support and Access Services branch.

Voters can expect Student Council candidates to address the endowment in their campaign platforms. Many of the candidates for representative positions have differing opinions over where and when to allocate

the incoming endowment funds. Some would prefer to let the money build up to be spent at a later date, while others remain focused on providing additional funds to Contracted Independent Organizations and the Support and Access Services branch.

## UJC: Public Safety and Transparency

A pertinent topic to candidates running for UJC positions is that the newly-elected UJC leadership will inherit an organization that has seen major change in case numbers and types.

This year, the UJC has received a significant increase in the number of reported violations of Standard 2, which pertains to conduct that intentionally threatens a person’s health or safety. The organization is also seeing fewer cases than it has in the past, with last semester’s statistics report showing a decrease in the number of cases from the semester prior.

The UJC is also currently focusing on improving transparency and awareness of their operations. Next month’s UJC week aims to increase engagement with the organization, and a new hazing subcommittee was staffed last semester to educate organizations about what UJC hazing trials look like.

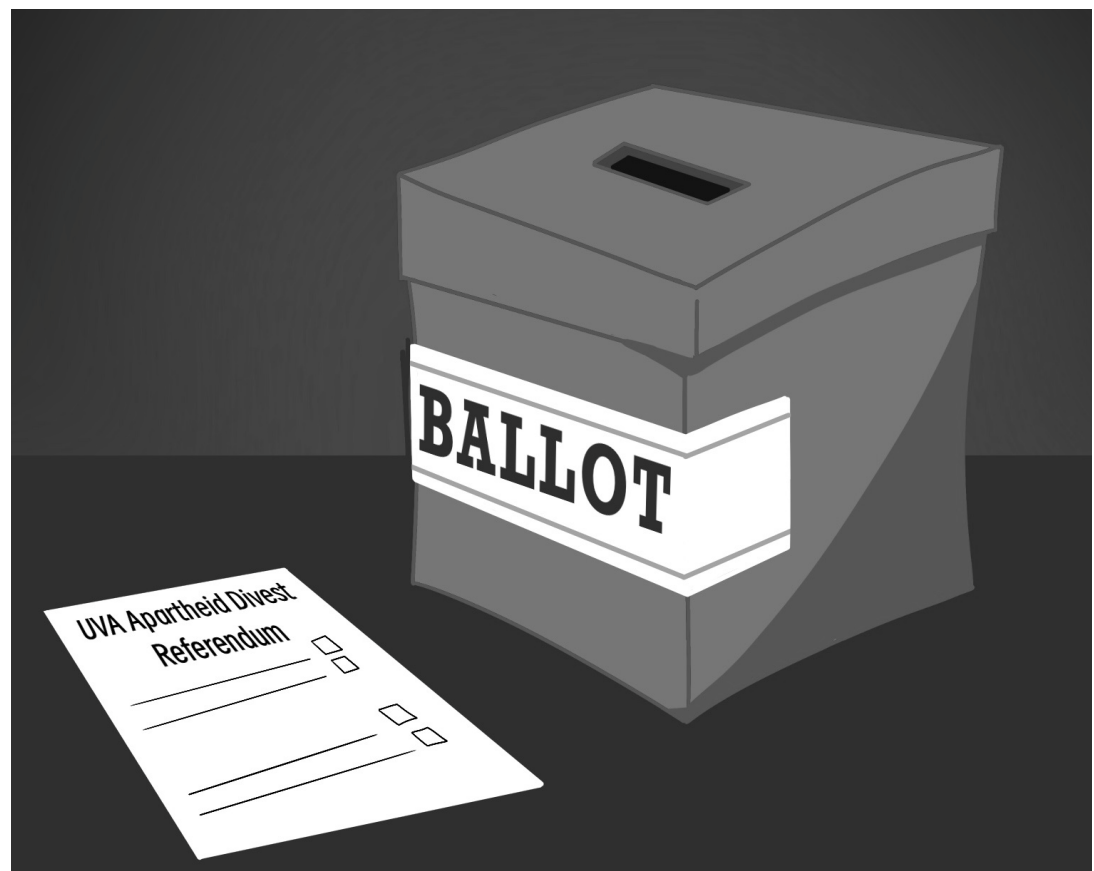
Voters can expect candidates to explore these issues within their statements on the ballot.

## Honor: The New Multi-Sanction System

Last year’s elections saw a landslide result that led to the adoption of the new multi-sanction system, marking the most significant change to the University’s Honor system. The new system allows for more proportional responses to Honor violations, as opposed to the single-sanction system’s only option of expulsion.

Like with the UJC, the Honor Committee has also demonstrated a commitment to transparency this year. The Committee organized Honor Week to improve student engagement with Honor and educate students on the multi-sanction system. A post-semester survey indicated some mixed feelings towards the Honor system, with a large number of students saying that they do not report offenses, something Honor leadership said could explain their reduced number of cases.

As the Committee continues to adjust to the multi-sanction system, the leaders that the student body elects for the upcoming year will have to continue overseeing the implementation of this brand new system.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## William Dozier's love for books has given him internet fame

The University alumnus has also recently published a novella of his own

Thomas Hodgkins | Senior Writer

Those who have recently turned to social media, especially “BookTok,” for book recommendations might recognize the face of William Dozier. A Charlottesville resident and class of 2018 alumnus, Dozier has amassed a substantial following on “BookTok,” a subcommunity on TikTok dedicated to talking about books, authors and literature. In addition to his more than 115,000 TikTok followers, Dozier boasts over 164,000 followers on Instagram and over 17,000 subscribers on YouTube.

On his social media accounts, Dozier recommends books he has enjoyed reading, like the works of Cormac McCarthy and Toni Morrison. Dozier said he feels he has successfully filled a void on TikTok with his platform. According to Dozier, many “BookTokers” focus on recommending older classics. Dozier said that his platform takes a different approach and is a space where he

recommends more modern literary works, such as “The Overstory” by Richard Powers and “Birnam Wood” by Eleanor Catton, in addition to classic works.

“I was recommending a lot of books that are fun to read, have literary merit and are more modern in some way,” Dozier said. “There are a lot of people who are looking for those sorts of books.”

On YouTube, Dozier posts longer videos for his viewers, such as a tour of his personal bookshelf or thorough reviews of famous novels, like “The Stranger” by Albert Camus or “The Goldfinch” by Donna Tartt. As an avid reader, he said he finds it important and meaningful to share book recommendations.

“There’s so much content on the internet, and it feels good to be posting about something that feels like it’s got some merit to it,” Dozier said. “I’m teaching people something

at the end of the day.”

When asked what advice he would give someone trying to discover and fall in love with more books, Dozier said to not be afraid to put a book down or change courses if you find a story unsatisfying. He also emphasized the importance of stepping outside of comfort zones when choosing books.

“Don’t be afraid to try things that you think are going to be stupid,” Dozier said, “because sometimes a book you think might be stupid, you’ll actually end up loving.”

In addition to reviewing and recommending books, Dozier has also recently published a novella of his own. The story, which was entirely self-published, is entitled “FUMES” and tells the thrilling and violent tale of a man seeking revenge in a small town in North Carolina. Dozier’s keen attention to detail, layered characters and subtle storytelling al-

low the brief yet action-packed story to sustain intrigue and pose puzzling questions.

Dozier said he started his social media accounts with the goal of building a following to promote his writing.

“I started out posting just because I knew that I wanted to self-publish a story at some point in the not-too-distant future,” Dozier said. “I knew I was going to be trying to put that story out there, and I wanted to have platforms to do that with.”

Dozier said the journey of publishing his work has been exhilarating for him, with people from all stages of his life reaching out to congratulate him. He posts on social media and writes stories on top of working a full-time job, but publishing his first novella was a step toward his lifelong dream of being a published writer.

“You could liken [publishing ‘FUMES’] to a rapper putting out a mixtape,” Dozier said. “‘FUMES’ was a project that I worked on mostly by myself.”

Dozier’s next goal is to publish a full-length novel, which would fulfill another one of his dreams — making a living from his written work.

Dozier plans to continue reading, writing and publishing content, and he says he rarely goes more than one or two days without dedicating time to writing. For Dozier, reading and writing go hand-in-hand and, because he loves to talk to people, he says he sees his reading and writing as a series of conversations.

“When I’m reading, I feel as though I’m just listening very intensely to something,” Dozier said. “The effect of that — because I’m a chatterbox — is that, over time, I have to say something back.”

## Radio Music Society blends pop melodies with strings

The student ensemble arranges and performs pop music with a classical string quartet flair

Kenneth Do | Staff Writer

As thousands packed in front of the Rotunda for the treasured Lighting of the Lawn ceremony, a festive tune began to permeate students’ chatter. It was Kelly Clarkson’s “Underneath the Tree,” but instead of brass or voice driving the song, it was a string quartet — a four-person ensemble consisting of two violinists, a violist and a cellist. Playfully bouncing their bows and sliding along their strings, the Radio Music Society was right at home, employing instruments found in the classical genre to reinterpret a contemporary pop song.

The first iteration of the Radio Music Society emerged when, in an effort to make music in a casual setting, four University students — class of 2015 alumni Alyssa Brown, Chris Lumain, Alex Lumain, and Brendan Rijke — met in 2011 to practice pop music they had arranged for a string ensemble. According to the organization’s website, the sessions were largely informal, as the friends played occasionally for audiences of a few friends or the maintenance guy.

With encouragement from their peers, the quartet delivered their first formal performance as part of a benefit concert hosted by the Organization of Young Filipino Americans. Spurred by the success of this gig, the four friends decided to expand their group, and in the fall of 2012, the Radio Music Society officially became a Contracted Independent Organization.

The distinctiveness of the Radio Music Society lies in their unconventional blend of genre and instrumentation. Though their music consists of string instruments traditionally found in a classical orchestra, the group plays music that dates back at most a few decades. According to Elizabeth Berman, president of the organization and fourth-year College student, this unlikely combination is precisely what makes listeners gravitate to the group.

“I think when [audiences] see violin, viola, cello, they generally expect it to be classical music and will maybe be disengaged or not really relate to it,” Berman

said. “But then we bust out these tunes that they definitely know, so that might be Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande or Shawn Mendes ... I think that that makes it more relatable for our audience.”

Since pop music is not typically written for the string quartet, the Radio Music Society arranges all of the music it performs, adapting it to fit the range and style of each instrument. Effective arrangement involves a number of factors, according to Berman, from concrete elements including playability and piece selection to more abstract details like musical interpretation and part distribution.

For Dylan Myaing, the organization’s vice president and third-year Education student, the best arrangements enable the quartet’s sound to shine while retaining the integrity of the original pop song. Myaing said he feels that his preparation of Sia’s “Elastic Heart” struck this balance particularly well.

“We took the pop side of it, but I also added some orchestral embellishments ... so that it didn’t

adhere traditionally to one style or the other,” Myaing said. “It is a really nice middle ground, and I think that really accentuates our instruments — showing off the talents that they have as well as giving credit to the actual song itself.”

The organization’s approach of emphasizing relatability and originality has enabled the group to flourish since its founding. The group now consists of four unique quartets that each deliver a number of performances each year, including annual fall and spring concerts, gigs at the Dairy Market and farmers’ markets and performances at the Fralin Museum and weddings.

The past few months have been particularly eventful for the Radio Music Society. First, in December, the University’s Office of Advancement invited the ensemble to play at Capitol Hill. Then, their performance of “Underneath the Tree” was the group’s Lighting of the Lawn debut. Finally, before the close of the fall semester, the organization performed a mashup of “Simple Gifts” and “The Good

Old Song” for a holiday Instagram video by University President Jim Ryan — a video which currently boasts nearly 80,000 views.

While contributions to the University and Charlottesville communities through performance are central to Radio Music Society, Berman asserts that equally important is the creative fulfillment that members are able to obtain via the group’s unique style. She explained that the society enables members to bridge elements of their musical identity that might otherwise remain separate.

“What [RMS] offers is a way to practice the skill that you love doing, so playing your instrument, and ... relate it to something that feels more present-day and more part of your experience as a 20-year-old or 18-year-old — and that’s pop music,” Berman said.

For more information about Radio Music Society, visit their website at <https://www.rmsuva.com/> or hear their spring concert April 12 at 7 p.m. in the University Baptist Church.



# LIFE

## Top 10 ways to transform dining hall food

Everyday, realistic dorm snacks for first-year students trying to supplement their meal swipes

Lizzy Goldstein | Top 10 Writer

One of the most challenging non-academic feats for first-year students is learning to fashion dining hall food into delectable meals. If you're struggling on this front, these dorm snacks make the perfect solution. Here is a compilation of sweet and salty inventions that my friends and I enjoy — all from the comfort of our dorms.

### 1. Morning oats — with some O'Hill add-ons

This nutritious oatmeal recipe is a perfect combination of store-bought food and dining hall ingredients. In pre-packaged cups featuring a variety of flavors, Kodiak Cakes provides balanced, energizing and, above all else, delicious oatmeal that can be paired with peanut butter and bananas from the dining hall. Top it off with frozen berries from your freezer, and you have a flavorful, protein-packed breakfast to start your day.



MARIAM SESHAN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

### 2. A spoonful of sugar makes the Newcomb yogurt go down

Nothing combats an afternoon slump quite like a loaded yogurt bowl. While my favorite base is Chobani Greek yogurt — available at Crossroads convenience store — dining hall yogurt makes for a great alternative. I often scoop yogurt into a takeout cup and bring it back to my dorm, where I can add sweet toppings such as frozen berries, bananas and granola. The berries thaw quickly in the yogurt, creating an unparalleled fusion of sweet granola and sour fruit. This chilled snack will boost your energy and leave you feeling refreshed in the middle of the day.

### 3. Ultimate apple nachos

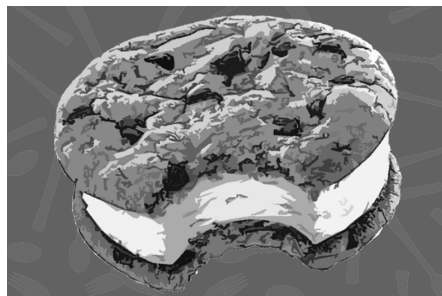
One of my pandemic staples from 2020, this TikTok recipe taught me how to make do with the ingredients you have. After slicing apples from the dining hall, I melt peanut butter in the microwave and drizzle it over the fresh slices. Sprinkle on some toppings from the O'Hill soft-serve station, such as chocolate chips and crushed Oreos, and you have a treat that will undoubtedly satisfy a sweet tooth.

### 4. Mix and match with a mezze plate

This snack calls for some creativity. An assembly of Mediterranean foods and vegetables, a mezze plate makes snacking as nutritious as it is satiating. To create your own mezze plate, make use of the O'Hill salad bar and assemble carrots, celery, olives, pita slices and a scoop of hummus. You can elevate your plate by adding bell peppers, pickles and an olive oil or balsamic vinaigrette dipping. This dish may even encourage you to continue experimenting with the large variety of produce and toppings the salad bar offers.

### 5. Trail mix, featuring Catalina Crunch

One thing about us college students is that we're always on the go — which means our snacks have to be as well. When I don't have time to return to my dorm during the day, a Ziploc bag of trail mix is an ideal portable option. In my preferred mix, the star of the show is Catalina Crunch, a vegan protein cereal that can be purchased on Amazon or at a local grocery store. Granola can also substitute this cereal for anyone sensitive to its stevia taste. To top the trail mix off, I add almonds and peanuts from my dorm, as well as raisins from the dining hall. With a variety of cereal, nuts and dried fruit, this mix will become a staple to keep in your backpack.



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### 6. Imitation Insomnia

For first-year students daunted by the long trek to the Corner, the dining halls can bring Insomnia-like cookies to you. If you sandwich a thick slab of vanilla ice cream between two chocolate chip cookies, you can recreate Insomnia's decadent "Cookie'wich" nearly perfectly. A bonus to concocting this dining hall delicacy is that you can add the toppings of your choice, from chocolate chips to sprinkles. This ice cream sandwich is the perfect way to end a long day of classes.

### 7. One-minute nuked nachos

Heating up nachos only takes one minute, but the assembly of this customizable recipe requires two trips. The first is a visit to Crossroads to get tortilla chips and salsa. The second is a visit to the dining hall salad bar to load your desired toppings — shredded cheese, peppers and olives — into a takeout box. Back in your dorm, lay the chips flat on a paper plate, sprinkle on the toppings and microwave on high for 60 seconds. All the walking might seem costly, but the end result is worth it.

### 8. A protein plate a day keeps the study slumps away

Whether plant-based or meat, a savory protein snack should be a priority in your diet. I function best when I am fueled by the long-lasting energy derived from protein sources. From the Newcomb salad bar, I like to gather chickpeas, black beans and balsamic vinegar in a cup, then add frozen edamame from my dorm to build my own hearty, handheld salad. You can find other protein sources at the burger and stir fry stations in the dining halls. Newcomb's Wing Wednesdays and Rib Fridays are especially helpful when you need something to tide you over in between classes.



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### 9. Indecisive dessert

If you are as indecisive as me when it comes to choosing a dessert, this bowl ensures you can taste a little bit of everything. For your next movie night snack, fill a dining hall takeout box with your favorite sweets, such as chocolate chips, Golden Grahams cereal and crushed-up cookies. While not offered in dining halls, popcorn from Crossroads is also a hidden gem, adding a salty base to balance out the sugary components.

### 10. A college kid's comfort food

I firmly believe that no matter how old you are, you can always enjoy a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Portable peanut butter cups and jelly packets from the ever-reliable Runk allow you to make this nostalgic meal on the go. Elevate the classic sandwich in a few simple steps — I like to use store-bought chocolate rice cakes as the base, smothering one cake with peanut butter and the other with jelly before layering slices of banana in between. While you can get creative with this sandwich, there is also nothing wrong with sticking to the basics. As you try new foods in college, it is important to listen to your cravings, fueling your body with the food that brings you comfort.

# 7 Day Harry is for the people

A spotlight on the iconic Corner business owner and the importance of good company

Lindsay Lian | Feature Writer

Most transactions on the Corner are simply monetary exchanges between buyer and seller. But to Hiren Patel, business partner at the 14th Street 7 Day Junior convenience store, check-out means more than over-the-counter small talk. Known fondly as “Harry,” Patel greets passersby on the Corner with lively conversation and a familiar smile, nurturing a sense of community with students that extends far beyond his store.

Since he moved to Charlottesville in 2020, Patel has supplied students and local residents with snacks, beverages and everyday items. Upbeat music can be heard pumping from his store up and down 14th Street. Originally from India, Patel took up a manufacturing job at Tesla’s Gigafactory Nevada before working at a gas station in Midlothian, Va. After a professional journey that brought him halfway around the world, he now calls Charlottesville home, attributing his love of the city to the students who frequent his store.

“I got my anchor in Charlottesville,” Patel said. “I cannot think of leaving Charlottesville and leaving the students. They make me feel special around here, and nobody has made me feel like that in my entire life.”

Patel goes above and beyond in his business mission. As seen on his Instagram account, he has fostered friendships with many University students. If customers feel unsafe on the Corner, he welcomes them inside his store. He also takes time to identify what students want in a college town, regularly

strolling down the Corner to survey everyday student life.

“People see me walking around, but it’s not my normal walk. It’s an observational walk,” Patel said. “I observe what people are doing, what people want, when people want.”

For Patel, listening to students’ needs is fundamental to his service. 7 Day Junior used to primarily sell alcohol, but Patel noticed that many students came to his store seeking milk. He now keeps milk consistently in stock, even if the cartons spoil before they are purchased.

“I try to keep in touch with the students,” Patel said. “I try to talk to them and make them comfortable so they tell me what they want on a regular routine day.”

According to Patel, showing humility is just as important to his business as gauging customer needs. He described multiple ways in which 7 Day Junior provides selfless, unseen service to the community.

“A lot of people don’t know we donate every year to communities who do fundraising events for the [University] hospital, breast cancer and orphan housing,” Patel said. “We don’t advertise that we’re doing this for the community.”

Within Patel’s customer base, University students are his most animated patrons. He explained how students bring a special energy to his store.

“Working with the students is more joyful for me because I enjoy [their] company,” Patel said. “The environment that students create here — I

don’t get that with the neighborhood.”

The admiration is mutual for students. According to second-year College student Sofia Todaro, trips to 7 Day Junior create a sense of community that feels like home.

“Whenever I see Harry, he greets me with a smile and a hug and just brightens my day,” Todaro said. “Most of us [students] may be from Virginia, but we’re a few hours away from home. 7 Day feels like home in such a big environment.”

In the spirit of friendship, Patel is not afraid to withhold items in the interest of his customers. He has refused to sell products to students whom he believed might fall down dangerous paths. For instance, when one student sought out nicotine to cope with a bad grade, Patel put his foot down.

“I told [the student], ‘You never buy this. You never buy cigarettes. You don’t need it,’” Patel said. “After three days, [the student] told me, ‘Thank God. You just saved me from smoking those cigarettes.’”

Patel’s interaction with this student motivated him to intervene if he felt that other students were relying too heavily on substances. In his eyes, a profitable life is not one marked by sales, but by compassion.

“I decided I have to stay here to see if I could help two or three students a year. If I help them avoid something, I’d think my life is a success,” Patel said.

This compassion is reciprocated by students — whenever Patel faces difficulties as a store owner, he said



ROBBIE FAVARO | THE CAVALIER DAILY

As long as 7 Day Junior remains open, Patel will continue to spread kindness and encourage people to do good deeds for each other.

students have helped alleviate these challenges. For instance, when a few 7 Day Junior employees faced language barriers with customers, students treated them with respect — a gesture that did not go unnoticed by Patel.

“I think that students and the gratitude they have is better than [other customers in] the neighborhood,” Patel said. “One of my [employees] doesn’t speak English that much, but [students] still treat him the same way as they treat me — with respect.”

Whether offering a simple smile, shelter or a friend in a time of need, Patel’s presence on the Corner fosters joy and respect in the Charlottesville community. As long as 7 Day Junior remains open, Patel will continue to spread kindness and encourage people to do good deeds for each other.

“When you do something good to somebody, they keep it in their head,” Patel said. “And when somebody else needs help, they try to help them too. Just try to make that cycle.”

# Discovering mindfulness between my two pedals

Biking around Grounds is hard, but being mindful about our habits is harder

Cecy Juárez | Life Columnist

If you ever see me around Grounds, you probably don’t see me for long. I’m often zooming on my blue electric beach cruiser bike, riding from one place to another. You may have even had the displeasure of hearing me sing off-tune to the music in my headphones as I ride on by. I’ve been biking around Grounds for about two years now, and I’ve learned a lot about bike maintenance, bike accessibility and how steep that hill in front of Clark Library really is. But after all this time, the most important lesson I’ve learned from biking is how to be more mindful.

Walking is great — it gets the job done. It gets your blood flowing and gets those steps in. I used to walk to class or even take a convenient, quick bus ride to my destination, but I would find myself doing both mind-

lessly. Especially when I am on the bus, I turn off my brain even more by scrolling aimlessly through my phone. Walking and riding the bus are the types of tasks where you can rely a lot on your automatic thinking to move your body and allow your brain to become thoughtless mush.

I can sense how, sometimes, my peers also walk without purpose. We are all on our phones or have a certain glassy-eyed look on our faces that indicates that our heads aren’t really in the moment. Many times I’ve been completely oblivious, walking past my friends without recognizing them.

Biking fixed that bad habit. When I started biking, I had to start thinking — a lot. At first, I mostly thought about how much my legs hurt. No matter where I traveled on Grounds, I seemed to always be biking uphill. I

would think about how much exertion I had to put into pedaling, how I could ride to my destination to avoid encountering stairs and how I could avoid getting clipped by unaware drivers. Biking took more mental and physical exertion than I’d ever put into my daily commute. I’d often arrive breathless and sweaty to my classes to the distaste of whoever sat next to me.

Over time, though, biking did get easier. My quad muscles finally came in and I could conquer a hill without seeing stars. I began memorizing the most optimal bike routes — I became an expert biker. At first, I thought I had just gained muscles and the ability to get to places faster. But now as I reflect more on my experiences of biking around Grounds, I think I’ve developed a much more meaningful virtue — mindfulness.

Mindfulness, in its most basic form, is a sense of awareness both within yourself and your surroundings. When I would merely walk to places on Grounds, I was nothing short of mindless. Now, I’ve developed a mindful muscle.

I notice each crack and pothole in the street to avoid. I take note of each pedestrian — where they are going and how fast they are crossing. I’m aware of the cars around me, and I’m thinking about measuring my breathing and exertion. I’ve noticed the subtle changes in the seasons too, the ebb and flow of leaves on the trees. Even when I’m not biking, I’ve become more cognizant of my surroundings and appreciate the little beauties everywhere.

Getting to my destination doesn’t have to be a meaningless task. Biking made me realize how even silly com-

mites to class are filled with things that make everyday life more interesting.

I know I won’t be riding on my epic, mint blue electric beach cruiser with a brown basket forever. One day, people will only have the misfortune of sharing the road with me as a driver instead of hearing me belt out Taylor Swift lyrics as I whizz past them on my bike. But I hope to carry this lesson for longer than it took me to learn it. I hope to remain mindful in my actions and chores to stay connected to my surroundings.

**CECY JUÁREZ** is a Life Columnist for The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at [life@cavalierdaily.com](mailto:life@cavalierdaily.com).



## SPORTS

## Trust the process — trust superstar Kymora Johnson

The Virginia women's basketball star is arguably one of the best freshmen in the nation

Caroline Connor | Staff Writer



TESS GINSBERG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Kymora Johnson slashes to the rim for a dynamic layup.

When Coach Amaka Agugua-Hamilton was announced as the sixth head coach in Virginia women's basketball history, it was known that the program had a long road ahead in its rebuild — losing seasons had been the standard for the past decade. The Cavaliers were coming off of a 2021-22 season that only resulted in five wins out of 27 games, in addition to two forfeited games.

The phrase “trust the process” comes to mind — a quote that has become synonymous with every struggling sports team in North America ever since it was popularized by the Philadelphia 76ers in the early 2010s. While the current season has been full of ups and downs, freshman guard Kymora Johnson is proving to be evidence of a working rebuild and proof of the effectiveness of “trusting the process.”

Ranked as a five-star recruit coming out of local St. Anne's-Belfield School, Johnson got off to a decent start in her first 13 games for the Cavaliers by averaging just over

11.5 points per game. This includes a 26-point game against Fordham and a near-upset over LSU — the reigning National Champion — early in the season. The five-foot-seven guard had arguably her worst game of the season Jan. 4, putting up just six points in a 63-60 loss against Georgia Tech.

However, something must have clicked after the loss — Johnson has since been absolutely dominant on the court. Since the Georgia Tech game, Johnson has been averaging 18 points per game, and as of Thursday, Johnson's season averages are 15.1 points, 4.6 rebounds and 5.5 assists per game. Statistically, these numbers put the Charlottesville native in the conversation as one of the best freshmen in the country.

Johnson is currently 7th out of all Division I freshmen in points per game, which on its own is already impressive. However, the statistic that really shows how the Virginia guard has solidified herself as a star is her 5.5 assists per game — putting her first in the nation out of her class.

For even more perspective, Johnson is averaging more points, assists and rebounds per game than LSU senior guard Hailey Van Lith — who was named as an All-American last season. Johnson's insane January run also coincided with Virginia pulling off two of the biggest upsets in women's college basketball this season.

The first of these upsets was the Jan. 21 game against No. 15 Florida State. Johnson led the team to the program's first win over an AP top-15 team since Feb. 16, 2017, when the Cavaliers beat then-No. 4 team in the nation — also Florida State. In that game, Virginia was led by freshmen guards Dominique Toussaint and Jocelyn Willoughby, a future WNBA player, who both combined for 22 points in the upset. Johnson scored a whopping 35 points in this year's matchup. The guard also went 14 for 20 on field goals and finished with seven rebounds and six assists. While four of the other Cavaliers finished with at least 10 points, the whole

night was the Kymora Johnson show.

The huge Florida State win is arguably Johnson's best game to date, but the Cinderella story wasn't quite over after their first upset this season. Two games later, Virginia beat No. 20 North Carolina Jan. 28. Just like against Florida State, Johnson led the team in scoring, this time with 25 points.

Ironically enough, the upsets over Florida State and North Carolina account for half of Virginia's ACC wins. Watching those games, fans couldn't help but feel as if the Cavaliers were so close to finally contending in the ACC. However, it's easy to forget that Virginia is not even two seasons through a complete rebuild. The fact that the Cavaliers have been able to beat two ranked teams so far this season signals that the process is working — and that the process will continue to be centered around Johnson.

The freshman leads Virginia this season in points per game, assists per game and steals per game, while having the third-most rebounds per

game. It is not crazy to say that Johnson's freshman season is a contender for the best in Virginia history, challenging Cavalier legend Dawn Staley's debut. Johnson is only averaging 3.5 points less than Staley's freshman season and is already averaging more assists per game.

The scary thing is that Johnson keeps getting better. Cathy Grimes-Miller, another Virginia legend who has her number retired, ranks second all-time in Virginia women's basketball history with an average of 15.3 points per game over her entire Virginia career. Johnson is only .2 points per game away from that milestone in only her freshman year.

Barring any program-changing transfer additions, the team will be Johnson's to command next year. While rebuilding can be daunting for many programs, it is much easier to trust the process when your team boasts one of the best freshmen in the nation — something Johnson is clearly proving to be.



# Virginia men's tennis — a dynasty in Charlottesville

A look into how Coach Andres Pedroso turns losses into championships and prepares his players for the road ahead

Will Krehmeyer | Staff Writer

For the Virginia men's tennis team, the month of February has yielded a similar pattern as the past couple of seasons. It is a period highlighted by the ITA National Men's Team Indoor Championships, a 16-team tournament featuring some of the best teams in the country, as well as an incredibly difficult non-conference schedule to boot — this season, Coach Andres Pedroso's team matched up against No. 1 Ohio State, No. 16 Kentucky and No. 24 Georgia before the tournament.

With the team winning only three of its six matches this month — which follows a 2-4 February record in 2023 and a 1-5 mark in 2022 — the Cavaliers have now put together a combined 6-12 record during February in their past three spring campaigns. One flip of the calendar page, however, and Virginia was able to boast a 44-0 record in the months of March, April and May during the 2022 and 2023 seasons. That led to the team winning the ACC regular season, the ACC tournament and the NCAA tournament titles in both campaigns.

The Cavaliers have been a team marked by resiliency and an ability to completely turn a season around on their path to the top of the college tennis world. Coach Andres Pedroso believes that the lessons his team learns from early season losses play a significant role in his players' development on and off the court, so he doesn't stray from continuing to schedule quality opponents every year.

"If we've got room in the schedule for a non-conference group of matches, we're going to try and make them the toughest ones possible," Pedroso said. "Because unfortunately for human beings, it takes losing for us to really learn and for us to really react — we don't learn as much from the wins."

Virginia's unmatched ability to respond after regular season defeats didn't come about by chance. Dynasties are created and sustained by a multitude of factors, and perhaps most important to a team's ability to attain dynasty status is the leadership it has on the court.

For Virginia, it is the current senior class that Pedroso cites as the primary source of leadership. This is in part because they are the only members of the team who were freshmen for the Cavaliers' upset loss to 12th-seeded



ALBERT TANG | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Behind inspiring leadership, Coach Andres Pedroso has built the Cavaliers into a powerhouse.

Southern California in the 2021 NCAA Tournament — the program's most recent postseason loss.

"They were kind of shell-shocked when it came to the experience. They didn't know what to expect," Pedroso said. "And the next year before the postseason, all of them said 'Coach this year, we're going to be ready. We know what it is this year, we're going to be ready.'"

Senior Iñaki Montes de la Torre was the only one of that class to win his singles match in the loss to the Trojans. However, last year, Montes, senior Jeffrey von der Schulenburg and senior Chris Rodesch fittingly claimed the three singles points needed to clinch the National Championship against Ohio State. This class of 2024 is looking to go out on their third title in a row.

However, the future of the program is in good hands despite the impending loss of the team's beloved seniors. It was recent-

ly announced that the Cavaliers have signed what was almost unanimously voted as the top recruiting class for the 2024-25 season. It is a class that includes incoming freshman Joao Fonseca, the top-ranked boy in the ITF Junior Rankings. Pedroso attributes this impressive recruiting class to the culture that everyone at Virginia has been involved in building.

"I think the most powerful moment of the recruiting process is the official visit," Pedroso said. "And I think once these recruits show up to Charlottesville and they see what practices are like, and they see what the coaches are like, and how invested they are and how invested the entire university is behind athletics ... I think Virginia stands out."

The Cavaliers' coaching staff is incredibly invested in the success of their players, not just as tennis players, but as people. The lessons that the coaches have worked hard to impart on their

players are meant to be applicable to a wide range of life situations. Whether the alumni of this program elect to continue their tennis careers or not, the hope for Pedroso and the rest of his coaching staff is that their player's develop into better people than they were before they joined the program.

"Nobody comes back to Virginia and talks about the national titles or the ACC titles, they talk about the stories, they talk about the lessons, they talk about the tough days, the honest conversations and how they remember them down the road when they're going through a tough situation," Pedroso said.

While Pedroso's program hopes to provide long-term benefits to its players, the Cavaliers are still focused on the present moment. So far this season, they have suffered losses to No. 5 South Carolina, No. 1 Ohio State and No. 16 Kentucky, but there is no panic in this team, and there

shouldn't be. They have been in this situation before and ended up emerging as champions. The roads to those championships have never been smooth for Virginia, but the bumps along the way are a critical part of the team's success.

"To win it three times in a row, it's going to take exceptional leadership. So this experience is going to force them to grow as leaders and do even better than they have the last two years," Pedroso said. "But again, that's why they chose Virginia."

Pedroso is right — three consecutive National Championships would be an exceptional, almost unfathomable accomplishment. But if there's one program built to pull off the unfathomable, it's the Cavaliers.



# Smashing expectations, Virginia pickleball has risen to the top

The team clinched a National Championship last semester, and they aren't stopping now

Max Jensen | Staff Writer

The Virginia pickleball club is one of the most popular and fastest growing clubs on Grounds. With over 500 members and a tournament team that is entering the semester on the heels of a National Championship win, the team is a national sensation. The president and vice president of the club discussed their experiences with the club in a recent interview with The Cavalier Daily.

The president of the club is third-year Commerce student Conor Burns. He only began playing pickleball relatively recently, having gotten into the sport during the COVID-19 pandemic. Burns played soccer in high school and, like several others on the team, has a tennis background.

The club's vice president, second-year College student Braden Ciszek, has been playing the sport for over 10 years. He was born and raised in New York, but his mom is from Seattle — where pickleball was invented — and he learned about the game from her. She has been playing pickleball since the 1980s, and the two still play on their backyard basketball court.

When Burns first became involved with the club during his second year, there were only about 60 members and it was largely informal, with few collegiate pickleball teams to compete against. Entering this year, however, the collegiate pickleball landscape has changed dramatically.

"Now tryouts are extremely competitive, especially for the tournament team," Burns said.

The club's spike in numbers underscore pickleball's ever-growing popularity. Pickleball is the United States' fastest growing sport for the fifth year in a row, with 48.3 million adults having played at least one game in the past year according to the Association of Pickleball Professionals. The sport's accessibility makes it appealing for everyone. Pickleball can be played by people of all ages, allowing students to play with their younger siblings, parents and even grandparents. One big contributor to the broad appeal, Burns says, is its flexibility.

"You can play the sport however you want to play it," Burns said. "If you want to just play around, if you want to play with friends, if you want to play at the super competitive level, it has all those levels available."

With the sport's quick rise, and similarly to other collegiate sports, the impact and importance of Name, Image and Likeness deals is growing. NIL deals are agreements between student-athletes and third-parties, such as sporting brands, and Virginia pickleball has struck two of these deals, which Burns said has contributed to the club's continued growth.

The first partnership is with



COURTESY VIRGINIA CLUB PICKLEBALL

The defending national champions, Virginia club pickleball is on the rise.

ProXR, a major company in the pickleball equipment industry. The club has committed to an exclusive sponsorship deal, with the entire 24-person tournament team exclusively using ProXR paddles. Additionally, the club is set to sign an exclusive deal with Head Pickleball — another major company in the pickleball world — and will exclusively wear the company's shoes.

"I think that's a big milestone for our teams," Burns said. "In terms of where the money is in pickleball, and for our success."

On top of these corporate sponsorships, the team is also talking with the Professional Pickleball Association — one of the most prominent professional pickleball leagues in the country — about participating in one of their tournaments in North Carolina. This would be the first time the PPA would have a college team at one of their events.

Beyond the flashy brand deals, the club has also found a way to balance competition with camaraderie. This semester, the club's two competition teams have grown to 175 members, with the rest of the club's 500 members comprising the social club. The two sets of teams practice together multiple times a week, allowing those on the social team to face tough competition while letting those on the tournament team embrace the social component.

"It's a very nice wake-up moment for me," Ciszek said. "To step back and be like, yeah, this is great, playing pickleball with a bunch of people who are here to have a good time. I don't have

to stress about every point."

After placing fifth at the 2022 National Championships — and after a year's worth of practices and tournaments — the team pulled out the title-match win over North Carolina in November 2023 to bring home the Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating National Championship. Few believed that Virginia had a chance against the consensus top team in the country, but the Cavaliers pulled off the upset.

"I think we played more tournaments than any other college, and so I think that practice, all those weekends we were away, really paid off," Burns said. "In the end when we won, I was just like 'This was all worth it.'"

With the sport's massive rise in popularity, combined with the amount of talent on the team, the

pickleball club makes an effort to provide resources for players who want to continue playing after graduation. Although Ciszek said that there aren't a ton of players on the team with ambitions to become professionals, he made the comparison to golf, emphasizing the networking opportunities within the sport.

"We've talked with professional organizations," Ciszek said. "We've actually had people come in and talk to us about what the path looks like for going pro."

Focusing more on the present, however, Virginia has big plans for the upcoming semester and will be hitting the road even more than they are used to. The Cavaliers are heading to tournaments in North Carolina, Cincinnati, Ohio and even as far as San Die-

go, Calif. The San Diego tournament, in particular, stands out as a promising opportunity.

"I'm really excited for that one," Ciszek said. "It's the first collegiate tournament for a new organization [Association of Pickleball Players] that is trying to set up in the collegiate space, and they're opening up with this massive San Diego tournament."

Leading all of college pickleball, the Virginia pickleball club is smashing expectations and has no intention of slowing down. With a number of high-stakes tournaments coming up this semester, they have an opportunity to solidify their status atop of the collegiate pickleball world and continue their growth as one of Virginia's most unique club sports.

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# OPINION

## LEAD EDITORIALS

# Choose Student Council representatives committed to change

*The Editorial Board endorses three candidates running for Student Council representative*

This year, The Cavalier Daily Editorial Board endorses three candidates running for College of Arts and Science Student Council representative — first-year student Jackson Sleadd, first-year student Dalton Haydel and first-year student Brian Ng. In their brief but impactful time at the University, these candidates have demonstrated a fresh and informed approach to student self-governance. These candidates are prepared to take advantage of the unprecedented \$5 million Student Council endowment in a practical way that advances student interests. Additionally, they each articulated a need for concrete initiatives to increase both the accessibility of student services and the transparency of Student Council. Above all, the Editorial Board was impressed by their compelling visions for how Student Council can realistically bargain with University administration to drive positive change for the student body.

Sleadd currently serves as the first-year class council president and first-year representative on Student

Council, positions that prepared him to navigate the intricacies of Student Council. Sleadd hopes to transform what he believes is a problematic Student Council culture in which representatives approve Contracted Independent Organizations bills en masse without critical consideration. He proposes that voting be mandatory to encourage thorough reading of bills and so that public comment can be devoted to constructive conversation as opposed to default approval. Sleadd's tangible vision for more engaged student self-governance extends to the University at large. He aims to make endowment funding accessible to CIOs and promote cooperation between Student Council and class councils. He also appreciates the role DEI initiatives play in bridging the gap between Student Council and Charlottesville. The Editorial Board believes in Sleadd's potential to construct a more accessible Student Council that intentionally empowers student initiatives.

Haydel's vision for Student Coun-

cil centers around transparent initiatives driven by the imperative for accessible student services and engagement. Haydel advocates using the endowment to alleviate disproportionate financial burdens on CIOs and students. The endowment, to Haydel, will help Student Council provide funds that CIOs need for things like travel to and from competitions. With Haydel as a representative, students can also expect to know about these initiatives. From leveraging dorm building bulletin boards to posting social media updates, Haydel articulated a clear vision for greater transparency. The Editorial Board hopes that Haydel will leverage his tangible initiatives — both for the endowment and transparency — to ensure that Student Council continues to serve all students.

Ng currently serves as a first-year representative on Student Council. For Ng, running for representative is a means to concretely elevate student voices. Over his short tenure on Student Council, Ng has demonstrated a commitment to bringing student

body concerns straight to administration — he spearheaded a resolution to allow pepper spray on Grounds, a policy common at other colleges. Despite the resolution being repeatedly tabled, he reached out to Timothy Longo, chief of the University Police Department and vice president for safety and security, to better understand barriers to implementation. As this instance demonstrates, Ng respects the relationship between Student Council and administration. He is truly a model for how Student Council should continue to engage in bargaining — through collective, productive and nuanced conversation with knowledgeable University leaders. Ng understands that such conversations are essential in persistently protecting student interests against administrative overreach. The Editorial Board is greatly impressed by Ng's wealth of knowledge and is excited for him to advocate for causes that the student body cares about.

Radical change does not always call for overtly radical leadership.

These candidates, while pragmatic and solution-oriented, embody the creative and realistic outlook necessary to support students. Moreover, all three are prepared to build Student Council into a bargaining power that relentlessly stands for student interests. We envision these candidates taking advantage of the transformative potential of the endowment to advance their practical and creative ambitions for the student body. As first-years, all three candidates will bring a novel yet exceptionally well-informed perspective to Student Council. The Editorial Board is confident that Sleadd, Haydel and Ng will strive to enhance the accessibility and transparency of Student Council

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# Elect UJC representatives dedicated to improving transparency

*The Editorial Board endorses five candidates running for University Judiciary Committee representative*

This year, The Cavalier Daily Editorial Board endorses five candidates, each of whom are running for College of Arts and Sciences representative for the University Judiciary Committee — third-year Harper Jones, third-year Lisa Kopelnik, second-year Allison McVey, third-year Campbell Coleman and third-year Anna Prillaman. Each candidate demonstrated a commitment to UJC's values of respect, safety and freedom. Beyond this, all five emphasized organizational transparency and a commitment to restorative justice. We are confident that these candidates will advance innovative solutions to the problems UJC faces.

Jones is currently serving as a senior counselor, a position which has enabled her to gain insight into the intricacies of UJC policies and procedures. She described how UJC does not operate on precedence and explained that this is not a handicap. Rather, by operating without precedence, UJC is able to tailor sanctions and promote a more restorative sense of justice. She

articulated a vision for UJC in which representatives are active members of the community and focus on rehabilitative solutions. Jones had clear steps to achieve these goals. She cited reflective essays as a key tool and expressed a desire to establish engagement events beyond election season. Her commitment to the student body and her experience give us confidence that Jones will promote community buy-in.

Kopelnik has served in many capacities at UJC. As the current chair, she focused on recruiting diverse members because of how diversity allows for a more empathetic system, one that is demographically representative of our community. Her work with UJC is impressive, and her vision for the future is similarly compelling. Kopelnik was keenly aware of threats to freedom on Grounds, including freedom of speech. She believes that as a student self-governance organization dedicated to upholding freedom, UJC will be able to work with different groups and leaders on Grounds to better protect this freedom against future

administrative overreach.

McVey, currently a UJC representative, considers transparency to be one of the top items on UJC's agenda. Therein, she suggested an anonymous feedback form to address concerns about UJC's presence on Grounds. While Kopelnik seeks to uphold freedom in a novel way, McVey has a unique understanding of safety, especially related to hazing. As chair of the hazing subcommittee, McVey sees the rise in cases featuring Greek Life organizations and Contracted Independent Organizations as a challenge UJC must confront. She recognizes many students only hear about UJC through these cases and believes public mock trials will increase understanding of UJC processes. Through her initiatives, UJC will hopefully become a more transparent system that responds thoughtfully to safety concerns.

Coleman has been part of UJC for three years, most recently in the role of senior investigator. He, like others, underscored that transparency must be a

priority for UJC. He also emphasized the importance of reviewing internal procedures to ensure that trials are run with efficiency and empathy. Additionally, Coleman seeks to improve community outreach and make UJC a more active participant in the University community. He hopes to improve the organization's partnerships with CIOs and the student body. This Editorial Board believes that improved relationships between UJC and other organizations will help make UJC more accessible to students.

Prillaman is the current Vice Chair for Sanctions, and transparency has been a focus throughout her career in UJC. Last year, she implemented office hours which allowed her to address problems preemptively and transparently. Prillaman believes that reflective essays play a key role in getting students to actively engage with the restorative justice process. For Prillaman, when an offense has been committed, UJC must do more than restore an individual to the community — UJC must also restore the com-

munity itself. This is a novel approach to understanding conduct violations, and one which the Editorial Board found to be impressively holistic.

The Editorial Board is confident in these candidates' abilities to help UJC promote safety, respect and freedom. All five demonstrated interest in improving transparency — both externally by advocating for educational initiatives and internally with office hours and diversity-oriented recruitment strategies. Moreover, each candidate had clearly given thought to what restorative justice means. To them, it is not a phrase to throw around, but an active process with which students must engage. Given their experience, dedication and values, we firmly believe that they will make UJC more accountable and restorative.

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# Someone has stolen Honor's ingenuity

*The Editorial Board endorses Laura Howard for Honor Committee Representative*

For the past few years, the Honor Committee has had a snazzy idea around which to center their initiatives — multi-sanction. This was emphatically not the case this year. Rather, less than a year after the multi-sanction referendum, most Committee candidates seem to have become complacent, neglecting to adopt the necessary historicized approach to understanding the damage the Committee has perpetrated against our community. In the eyes of the Editorial Board, this complacency is unacceptable and at odds with the mandate the Committee has been given. So today, The Cavalier Daily Editorial Board endorses only one candidate running for College of Arts and Sciences Honor representative — third-year student Laura Howard. We hope that she will continue working to transform the Committee into an institution that is truly humanistic, restorative and intentional in its approach to upholding the community of trust.

Howard was endorsed by the previous Editorial Board for her commitment to rehabilitation and transparency. This year, recognizing that the Committee encounters students on their worst days, she emphasized compassion for every individual who interacts with the Committee. She articulated a tangible platform informed by this value. Howard proposed an addendum which — instead of being

written by internal officials — will be informed by the perspectives of randomly selected students. We applaud this idea for understanding the imperative to incorporate diverse voices. Additionally, she expressed desire to explore a data and research subcommittee to direct feedback efforts. Given the overwhelming responses the Committee receives, this is an innovative solution. Finally, Howard emphasized the importance of addressing root causes of honor offenses. In the age of artificial intelligence, addressing these causes instead of dealing with fallout is vital. In short, we are confident that Howard will be an excellent representative who engages critically with the Committee's mission.

While Howard understands the historical complexities of honor, the Editorial Board was not convinced that any other candidate did. When asked to define what honor meant to them, many fell back upon clichés — such as the oft-employed, short-sighted backpack hypothetical — which are simplistic and ahistorical. These explanations suggested that honor can be reduced to stagnant, neutral rules as opposed to evolving values that guide our community. Honor is not and has never been neutral. Rather, it has always been intertwined with values based in misogynistic chivalry, racism and Southern aris-

tocracy. Failure to do anything but acknowledge this evolution endangers the future of honor.

The multi-sanction system, passed last spring, was meant to be a step towards a more inclusive version of honor. However, the latitude provided by and responsibility enshrined in the multi-sanction system seems to have not fully sunk in. Many candidates explained that the Committee is struggling to find a balance between harsh sanctions such as suspension and more lenient sanctions such as education. The candidates astutely identified this problem but did not articulate a clear way in which they could leverage multi-sanction to remedy it. Multi-sanction has the potential to redefine what constitutes a sanction, and the Editorial Board believes that this potential has yet to be fully realized.

Despite general ambivalence, we do commend a few representatives for their innovative ideas. Fourth-year College student Jonathan Swap proposed tailoring generative AI guidelines to each school in order to accommodate diverse disciplines. Given that generative AI will only become more disquieting, the Editorial Board applauds his approach to tackling this issue. Similarly, second-year College student Mary Holland Mason talked about continuing to translate the Committee's bylaws and instituting

a system for requesting a translator. International students have historically been an overrepresented demographic in Honor case reporting statistics because of spotlighting, a phenomenon in which racial prejudices engender more reports of minority students. Mason's proposal will not address root causes, but it will ensure that processes which are inundated with obscure jargon are more accessible to international students. While the Editorial Board commends these innovative ideas, ultimately, they were not coupled with a vision for leveraging the Committee's resources to redress its legacy of harm.

Perhaps other candidates also had well-crafted solutions to the problems they identified. After all, one of the Committee's favorite rejoinders to criticism is that their critics have simply misunderstood the work that the Committee is doing. But what the Committee has fundamentally misunderstood is that it is not our responsibility to seek out information about the Committee's inner workings. Rather, it is the Committee's institutional duty to effectively and consistently disseminate this information to the student body. A singular week of largely performative engagements is not sufficient, something which would not have been immediately clear from how thoroughly candidates praised Honor

Week during their interviews. If we, the student body, have misunderstood Honor, that is because Honor has not done nearly enough to be adequately understood.

Student self-governance is a privilege for which Laura Howard is thoroughly prepared to take on in a truly innovative and solution-oriented manner. Other than Howard, however, candidates demonstrated an inability to move beyond cookie-cutter solutions — if they proposed solutions at all. Moreover, they generally failed to engage critically and creatively with the radical potential of the multi-sanction system. The Editorial Board hopes that in the future we will have positive things to write about the Committee. But until then, we ask that future candidates leverage a more nuanced understanding of honor, its history and its role at the University in order to propose a radical vision for how the Committee can become a force for good within our community.

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# U.Va. must rename Alderman Library

*The Board of Visitors must consider the damage done by keeping Alderman's legacy alive*

The completion of Alderman Library's renovation project has revived library life at the University. Now that Alderman has come to the forefront of student life, students must reconsider Edwin Alderman's legacy. Alderman was a eugenicist — a proponent of an immoral pseudoscience that argued for the genetic superiority of white Europeans. The very goal of eugenics was to enact legislation that enshrined these racist conclusions. The library, his living legacy, forces students to pay homage to this evil ideology every time we say the name. In memorializing Alderman's name, we are upholding values to which we no longer institutionally subscribe. Our namesakes should reflect the values of our time. Therefore, the library must be renamed, not only to properly honor the University's history, but also to reflect our changing values.

Calls to rename Alderman Library are not new, but it was not until last semester that they caught the attention of the Board of Visitors — the body with power to make such a change. Despite receiving a formal recommendation in September 2023, the Board voted in December to table the issue

until March. The Board's decision to revisit the subject demonstrates their lack of concern for the issue. But this is not going away — as long as the library hangs on to Alderman's name, the ideas he stood for persist. The Board's paradoxical balancing act — claiming integrity and collaboration as core values while elevating an eugenicist — is disingenuous at best.



**We cannot move towards a more inclusive environment until we dismantle the visible legacy of racist figures in the University landscape.”**

Whether consciously or not, whenever a student mentions the library, they pay homage to an eugenicist. We name buildings after people we intend to honor. By honoring a man who stood for dangerous and outdated values, we contradict the purpose of the building. Libraries were built on the premise of facilitating learning in an effort to shape the knowledge of future generations. For this reason, Alderman Library's reopening has

tied Alderman's name to student education, concealing his ugly past. Instead of recognizing Alderman for the damage he did, the new library buries the truth by perverting his legacy into something worth memorializing.

Changing the name may appear to have no tangible impact. However, aesthetic changes are a manifestation of our values. We cannot move towards a more inclusive environment

It is imperative that the structures that we build are reflective of our values today. A part of the proposal before the Board is to replace Alderman's name with President Edgar Shannon's name. Shannon is most notable for expanding educational opportunities for women and African Americans. He has done more to shape the tenets we stand for today than any other University president. While Alderman may

who opposed the values we stand for today. Just as the University has done in the past, it must continue to update our landscape to ensure that our present values are accurately represented

Alderman's name undermines the projects that the University has undertaken in its attempt to rectify its racist past. While renaming the library is a necessary step, we must not forget our history. To ensure that we never forget the lessons we learned from the past, the University should install a plaque explaining why the building was renamed. In learning from our past mistakes, we uphold our commitment to expanding education and cultivating a community in which everyone can thrive. As such, the Board has a moral and educational obligation to rename Alderman in order to promote inclusion and to firmly oppose a history of racism and exclusion.

**FARAH ELJAZZAR** is an opinion columnist who writes about identity and culture for *The Cavalier Daily*. She can be reached at [opinion@cavalierdaily.com](mailto:opinion@cavalierdaily.com).

## Keep the Alderman name, remember our history

*Memorializing names can help us build awareness of our University's history so that we can aspire towards a better future*

Alderman Library reopened this January and has become a prominent marker of the University landscape. Arguably more important than its architectural allure is the name behind the building which commemorates Edwin Alderman, the first president of the University. The Board of Visitors will soon consider whether to rename this place of learning. Some argue that Alderman's support of eugenics and racist beliefs mean that he is an unsuitable namesake for a campus building. Such criticisms ignore the important contributions Alderman imparted on the University. In order for us to truly reckon with our history, both good and bad, the Board should refrain from erasing Alderman's name and instead work to critically communicate the complex person Alderman was.

To be clear — views relating to eugenics are reprehensible and should not be accepted today. Yet, for the first half of the twentieth century, these eugenic views were prevalent. Similarly, our founder Thomas Jefferson's views on slavery were endemic in the United States during his lifetime. If we do not accommodate past figures having different views than our

own, we would also need to tear down the statue of Jefferson that stands at the front of the Rotunda. Standards of morality change over time. Expecting our morals and political priorities to align with those from the past would be illogical and revisionist.



**To remove Alderman's name would be to bury the shameful aspects of our past from which we should instead learn.”**

When explaining why the University should impose our present morals on naming customs, many have noted that the University has renamed buildings representing racists before. Maury Hall, for example, was renamed to Warner Hall in 2022 because Maury was an outspoken proponent of slavery in the United States. Similarly, the name Curry was dropped from the School of Education and Human Development because Curry was a slave owner. But both these instances share a lack of connection to the University.

Alderman, in contrast, played a vital role in our history. He grew the University's endowment from

\$350,000 in 1904 to \$10 million in 1929, demonstrated a commitment to social sciences and established the University as a leading school in the South and country at large. Because Alderman was crucial to building the University into the public ivy it is today, his

history, unlike Maury's or Curry's, is intrinsically linked to that of the University. It would be irresponsible to censor the history of someone so critical to our development as an institution.

Critics argue that irrespective of Alderman's importance, representing him is problematic. In this view, by memorializing people like Alderman, we amplify their views. Indeed, the University's Naming and Memorials Committee has stated that names are a mark of the University's values. But this fails to recognize the usefulness of names. In reality, names are a reminder of our history. By keeping history present around us, we can become better

acquainted with the complicated past of our University. Names are tools that challenge us to progressively build a more diverse and inclusive future. To remove Alderman's name would be to bury the shameful aspects of our past from which we should instead learn.

The Naming and Memorials Committee's contextualization initiative recognizes the importance of creating digital spaces to inform viewers about the legacy of our predecessors. Digital databases have provided context for sites around Grounds, such as the Whispering Wall. Integrating the history of Alderman Library into this framework would allow students to explore his significance to the University, in a way more robust than just a plaque. Efforts like this preserve our history, whilst providing context on loathsome views. For these efforts to truly be successful, however, digital databases are insufficient.

Alderman's name must be seen and heard resolutely in order for his legacy to be contextualized appropriately.

The names of the University's past are emblematic of a shared history that is complex and checkered. Our institution, from its founding, has been a combination of an idealistic promise and a racist reality — we must continuously remember this dichotomy as we aim to move towards the former. It has been said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. By having all parts of our history constantly around us, we can ensure that we remember our community's past failures and learn from them in our attempts to move forward. The Board should recognize the instructive importance that names have and reject the proposal to rename Alderman Library.

**WYLIE BRUNMAN** is an opinion columnist who writes about politics for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at [opinion@cavalierdaily.com](mailto:opinion@cavalierdaily.com).



# HUMOR

## Class of 2024 to celebrate Final Exercises with physical activity

*Editor's Note: This article is a humor column.*

Grades and attendance will no longer be enough to qualify for graduation. This year, students will have to go to town for their caps and gowns.

As announced by the University Registrar, students closing out the University's 195th academic term will be required to compete in a series of athletic events before Valedictory Exercises. Though the specific activities will be tailored to each student's studies, they are certain to include running, swimming, weight lifting, biking and team ball sports.

Parts of the preliminary department-specific exercise tasks have been leaked online. Economics majors have been ordered to do 100,000 gold-bar curls. Physics students are tasked with 20 perfectly elastic jumping jacks. Environmental science pre-graduates must swim five miles in water untouched by man. And all engineering students must walk for five minutes with a romantic interest.

While the department-specific tasks will have more weight in assess-

ing graduates' fitness for degree conferral, all students will be expected to engage in certain general education tasks. Among these general requirements is climbing to the tippy top of the Rotunda, army crawling across Madison Bowl, climbing all the stairs in New Cabell Hall and eating five pounds of O'Hill food.

Some students have hypothesized that the change may be retribution for recent lapses in academic integrity on grounds. The Ryan administration, however, insists that the physical activity is meant to benefit students, not punish them.

"This graduating class, I have no doubt, will go on to represent the very best of the world it comes to lead," President Jim Ryan said in a meeting with the University's Board of Visitors. "Many can climb up the stairs of greatness, but very few can do so without being winded at the top."

In a private interview, Ryan — shirtless and running his daily 5k — rehashed his passion for the new graduation requirement.

"I believe that we should strive to

be great and good in mind, body and life. I think that if we have succeeded as Wahoos, 10 years from now, we will all make six figures with six packs."

Ryan has famously lived by these sentiments, maintaining a six-pack physique throughout his tenure as the University's president. His resolution this year was to increase his ab count to match his eight-figure salary.

Though the change in Final Exercises procedures is spearheaded by a chiseled role model with good intentions, legitimate pushback remains. The well-endowed Council for Helping Unheard Ballooned and Braggadocious Youth — CHUBBY — is unambiguously opposed to the initiative.

Putting up posters at local eateries, CHUBBY decried the shift in graduation procedure as "a repugnant exercise in body recomposition meant to categorically eliminate a marginalized group."

CHUBBY's initiative has had a beefy impact on restaurant frequenters, swaying the lion's share of undergraduates. Students individually have been shocked and appalled by the

news for various reasons.

"I usually just sit in my dorm and eat and game after classes. I don't think I've even run since high school gym class," said Charlie "Chunky Munky" Mayweather, Jefferson Council student member and fourth-year Engineering student. "But I have really poor media literacy, so I won't be looking into the subject anymore and instead will complain."

Mayweather's comments were officially endorsed by the Jefferson Council. They were also supported by the University's "Computer Scientists" who described the expected exercise as "icky" and without "sufficient RGB lights."

In an unusual display of interdisciplinary solidarity, Political Philosophy, Politics and Law undergraduate students agreed with the Computer Science department's attitude in a written statement of their own. The 190-page circuitously-argued legal memorandum decries the changes as paramount to cruel and unusual punishment. Law school faculty were told to expect an 8th Amendment case on the local court docket soon enough.

Yet, not all are opposed. In a letter co-signed by all 25 Division I sports teams, Virginia Athletics representative Offlee Buff praised the addition of exercise to the list of graduation requirements.

"The university that insists on dividing the swole man and the smart man is liable to find its fighting done by zanies and its thinking by scrawny wimps," said Buff.

All in all, the Ryan administration remains committed to its stated goals and is set to move forward with the changes pending approval by the Board in March.

"I'm enormously grateful to give back to and serve this institution. This is a place that has given me and my family an awful lot," said Ryan. "I will not let detractors derail my mission, no matter how large they might be."

**SEBASTIAN GHERSI** is a humor columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at [humor@cavalierdaily.com](mailto:humor@cavalierdaily.com)

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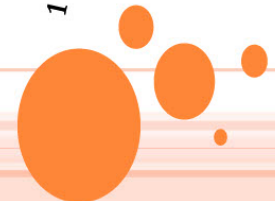
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