

## FORWARD THINKING

*Arrival of Wilkins, emergence of depth at post positions drives men's basketball to best start to season since 1980-81*



**Daniel Weltz**  
Senior Writer

It was Feb. 2013. Then-sophomore forward Darion Atkins was sidelined with a shin injury. Then-freshman center Mike Tobey came down with mononucleosis. Then-freshman guard Justin Anderson, the team's 6-foot-6 shooting guard, was forced to play power forward down the stretch in ACC play.

Of the four scholarship players left on the Cavalier bench, only one — then-freshman swingman Evan Nolte — was taller than 6-foot-3.

Virginia's post depth was not weak. It was essentially non-existent.

Two years later, as Virginia has transformed from an ACC also-ran into the second-ranked team in the nation, the team has benefited from a much-improved stable of capable big men. The additions of now-junior transfer Anthony Gill and freshman Isaiah Wilkins along with the development of Atkins and Tobey have given the Cavaliers their most talented post rotation in years.

With Virginia (17-0, 5-0 ACC) off to its best start in 34 years and Gill and Atkins thriving in the starting lineup, both Tobey and Wilkins have fully embraced their reserve roles.

Tobey has been the odd man out of the starting lineup in recent weeks. After starting 30 games in his first two seasons, the 7-footer has made just seven starts this season. But his presence on the second unit has presented opposing squads with a matchup nightmare. Few teams possess a post player on their bench capable of matching Tobey's physicality and finesse on the low block.

Anderson, the reigning ACC

Sixth Player of the Year, has challenged Tobey to bring the award back to Charlottesville this season.

"I think [Tobey's] definitely one of the toughest guys to guard as a sixth man, so I think he definitely has potential to do what I did — probably more than I did last year," Anderson said.

Following Virginia's 62-56 win against then-No. 13 Notre Dame, Anderson said he tried to encourage Tobey to embrace a bench role. According to Anderson, Tobey cut him off, replying, "You don't understand. I'm just so happy we're playing so well as a unit and whatever [coach Tony Bennett] wants me to do, I'm willing to do for our team."

Gill, Atkins and Tobey are each playing at least 18 minutes per game, averaging six or more rebounds and shooting better than 55 percent from the floor. That trio has helped anchor a defense that ranks 12th in the nation in rebounding and first in points allowed, and has provided interior scoring for one of the most efficient offenses in college basketball.

"Really Mike, Anthony and Darion ... any of those three can really start," Bennett said. "I look at Mike as kind of a sixth starter."

Tobey is not the only backup big man providing key minutes off the bench. Wilkins, a 6-foot-7 forward from right outside of Atlanta — his hometown of Norcross, Georgia is just 20 miles from the campus of Georgia Tech, the Cavaliers' Thursday opponent — has blossomed during his first season in Charlottesville.

Though his playing time has been inconsistent, Wilkins has

see WELTZ, page 7

Ryan O'Connor | The Cavalier Daily



Coach Tony Bennett and the Cavaliers are approaching history with the longest undefeated streak to start a season in more than three decades.

Photos left to right: Ryan O'Connor, Marshall Bronfin, Marshall Bronfin, Kelsey Grant

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# Sororities will not join Boy's Bid Night activities

*National sororities request University chapters not participate in event, threaten consequences*

**Owen Robinson**  
Senior Associate Editor

## Corrections

In a Jan. 12 issue of The Cavalier Daily, an article on page 5 titled "A Look Into: Resident Advisors" incorrectly identified the deadline for applications. Applications for First Year and Upperclass Area RA positions is Jan. 27, not Jan. 17.

In a Jan. 20 issue of The Cavalier Daily, a photo on page 8 misspelled the name of the photographer. Her name is Vartika Kapoor.

Chapter presidents of all National Panhellenic Conference sororities with University charters received a letter on behalf of their national and international sorority presidents requesting the chapters refrain from participating in the 2015 fraternity Boy's Bid Night on Jan. 20.

Tammie Pinkston, international president of Alpha Delta Pi, cited potential safety issues on bid night as the reason for asking sororities to abstain from the night's fraternity events.

"We believe the activities on Men's Bid Night present significant safety concerns for all of our mem-

bers and we are united in our request that the 16 NPC sororities not participate," Pinkston said.

Pinkston said that following a "tumultuous" fall semester, it was important to use the Greek system as a springboard for change — a transition she said she believed should start with bid night.

"The Inter/National Presidents are committed to taking steps to educate and reinforce our standards and risk management policies with our chapters," Pinkston said. "We will also be working with the Inter-Sorority Council through their NPC area advisor, Beth Searcy, to reinforce the necessity of being a collaborative partner with the university to address unacceptable behaviors in the community. We want to begin with

the 2015 Men's Bid Night activity."

Pinkston also said she thought it was not the place of sororities to become involved in bid night, just as it is not their place to participate in fraternity recruitment and rush.

"The NPC has a policy stating that our organizations will not participate in Men's Recruitment, which includes marketing (for example, T-shirts)," she said. "We think it is up to the men's group to recruit their members and celebrate those new members on their Bid Night, just as all NPC Sororities do."

Incoming Inter-Fraternity Council President Ben Gorman, a third-year College student, said Boy's Bid Night has never been an official fraternity-sorority event.

"One thing to clarify is that girls' sororities have never participated officially in Boy's Bid Night," Gorman said. "This is not a fraternity-sorority night. Rather, it is a night where fraternities celebrate the wrapping up of rush, and invite their friends to come celebrate."

In subsequent emails relaying the news to University sorority members, Inter-Sorority-Council chapter presidents said all sorority-affiliated clothing will be prohibited and the night will be treated by the ISC like any other weekend night. Failure to follow the NPC's guidelines for the night will be met with consequences. The NPC did not specify what these consequences would entail.

Gorman affirmed that any parties taking place on Boy's Bid Night will comply with the revised Fraternal Organization Agreement imple-

mented Jan. 16.

"As Tier I events, you're not going to see people in droves walking house to house," Gorman said. "You are going to see strict enforcement of a guest list, and security at every door."

Pinkston said she and other sorority presidents hope University chapters would use additional measures to prevent members from participating in bid night occasions, suggesting they organize alternative events with full sisterhood participation.

"We encourage you to plan alternative sisterhood events with expectations of full chapter participation," Pinkston said. "It will be very important for the 16 groups at U.Va. to stand united in this."

The Inter-Sorority Council has not released a statement regarding the request. Because the Inter-Sorority Council organizes and regulates University chapters but does not report to sorority nationals — which is the responsibility of individual chapters — news of this request was sent to chapter presidents and not the ISC.

National Panhellenic Conference sororities with university chapters include: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Phi, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma, Delta Zeta, Gamma Phi Beta, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Delta Tau; Sigma Kappa, Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Zeta Tau Alpha.

— Julia Horowitz contributed to reporting for this article.



Kelsey Grant | The Cavalier Daily

A letter sent from the National Panhellenic Conference says sororities may not participate in Boy's Bid Day because the event is part of the fraternity recruitment process.

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## Questions/Comments

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

# Board of Visitors hires sexual assault counsel

*O'Melveny & Myers, Pepper Hamilton LLP to give University legal, consulting services, supplement ad hoc safety committee review*

**Louisa Luranc**  
Senior Writer

The Board of Visitors and University officials recently hired two law firms to serve as consultants and to conduct an internal investigation and review of its handling of sexual assault cases.

Following a Nov. 19 article in Rolling Stone which detailed an alleged gang rape at a fraternity party in 2012 — the facts of which have been called into question and disputed in the intervening weeks — the University began an internal investigation into the claims.

The Board of Visitors hired counsel from O'Melveny & Myers, in addition to consulting from Pepper Hamilton LLP, University spokesperson Anthony de Bruyn said.

"At the Board's request, the Office of the Attorney General

announced the appointment of O'Melveny & Myers as special counsel to the Commonwealth and the Board of Visitors," de Bruyn said in an email. "O'Melveny & Myers will conduct a full and independent review of the University's response to the report of sexual assault and violence attributed to 'Jackie' in the Rolling Stone article."

The services will cost \$500,000 according to the contract between the University and O'Melveny and Myers.

"The firm will present a comprehensive report of its findings and recommendations based on its independent review," de Bruyn said. "[It will offer] guidance regarding the University's response to and handling of sexual and gender-based harassment and violence complaints."

Brian Dolan, director of marketing for Pepper Hamilton, said the firm will review compliance with Title IX reports and assist in

compliance reviews conducted by both the Office for Civil Rights and the U.S. Department of Education.

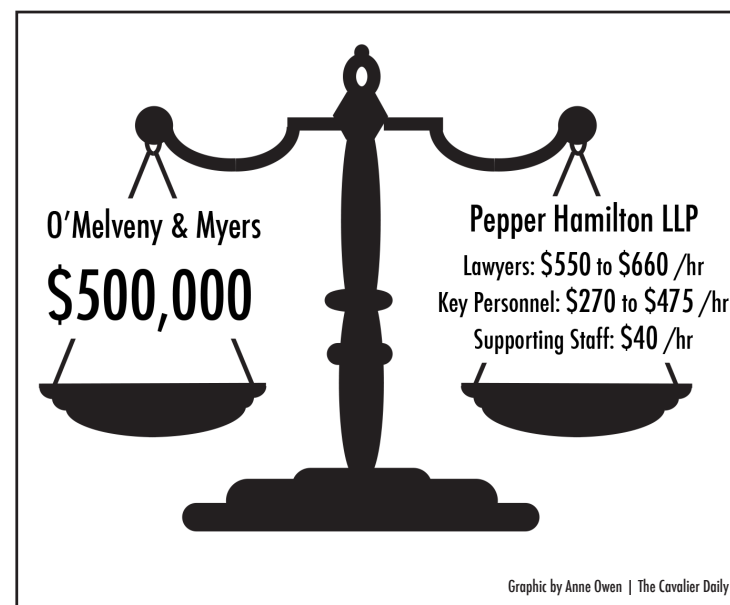
The payment for Pepper Hamilton will be based on hourly fees ranging from \$550 to \$660 per hour for lawyers, from \$270 to \$475 per hour for key personnel, and \$40 per hour for supporting staff, according to the consulting agreement between Pepper Hamilton and the University.

Additionally, de Bruyn said the University is working to take more initiative to make Grounds safer for students, largely through the creation of an ad hoc committee.

"[The] University formed an Ad Hoc Group on University Climate and Culture to explore policies, practices and organizational structure, as well as the resources necessary to support the ultimate goal of providing an outstanding education while ensuring the safety and well-being of students," de Bruyn said.

The ad hoc group will be composed of three working groups on prevention, response and culture, de Bruyn said, and the

groups' progress will be tracked in the short-, medium- and long-term. The group is expected to hold its third meeting next week.



## Va. Senate fails to advance minimum wage bills

*Sen. Puller bill would raise minimum wage to \$10.10, Sen. Marsden would raise wage level more slowly, legislature leaves \$7.25 level*

**Hannah Mezzacappa**  
Senior Writer

The Virginia Senate Commerce and Labor Subcommittee failed to advance two minimum wage bills to the floor Monday, stalling a fight in the legislature to increase the incomes of the poorest Virginians.

One of the bills, proposed by Sen. Linda "Toddy" Puller, D-Prince William, would have raised the state's minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. The bill, however, was pulled before it could be voted on after a similar bill was defeated.

"This was basically suicide instead of homicide," said Carrie Ann Alford, a legislative assistant for Puller. "If you know the bill isn't going to pass, but you stand by the idea [of the bill], you'll do whatever possible to keep it from getting killed on the floor [in case it is reintroduced]. We knew the vote total wasn't going to change."

Alford said after correcting for inflation, minimum wage workers in Virginia are earning \$2 less per hour than they were in the 1960s.

The Democratic Caucus of the Virginia State Senate has been fighting for a state minimum wage increase for a while, said Alford. A number of liberal groups spoke on behalf of the bill.

"It's not possible to live on minimum wage," Alford said.

"Most [minimum wage workers] can't get 40 hours [of work] per week on minimum wage because then the employer would have to give them health benefits, so most work two to three part time jobs to try to make 40 hours a week. They end up earning about \$15,000 a year."

year after that.

"I think Virginia needs a raise," Marsden said. "We haven't raised the minimum wage in some time. [Raising the minimum wage] puts money in the hands of people who will spend it. It stimulates the economy."

Economics Prof. William

they don't need a law to tell them to pay an employee more money," Johnson said. "If a business thought it would be better to pay [an employee] \$10 instead of seven, they would."

Johnson added that many minimum wage workers are not the only earners in their households, and that evidence points to some reduction in employment as a result of higher minimum wages.

"It's a tradeoff," Johnson said. "There's less employment, but those employed have higher wages."

Virginia does not currently have a state minimum wage. Instead, the state adheres to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

"Some states and cities have passed laws that enact higher minimum wage than the federal minimum, [and] that's what was proposed here," Johnson said. "[But] I'm not convinced that a higher minimum wage is a good way to raise the incomes of low-income households."

Keith Martin, vice president of public policy and general counsel for the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, echoed Johnson's concerns.

"Raising the minimum wage would increase the total labor cost for small businesses, and they would have to reduce employees' hours or the number

of employees," Johnson said. "It may prevent them from hiring new employees. [The bill] would hurt the same people it's trying to help."

Martin said the Chamber of Commerce wants to focus instead on education and workforce development in areas like health care, information technology and advanced manufacturing.

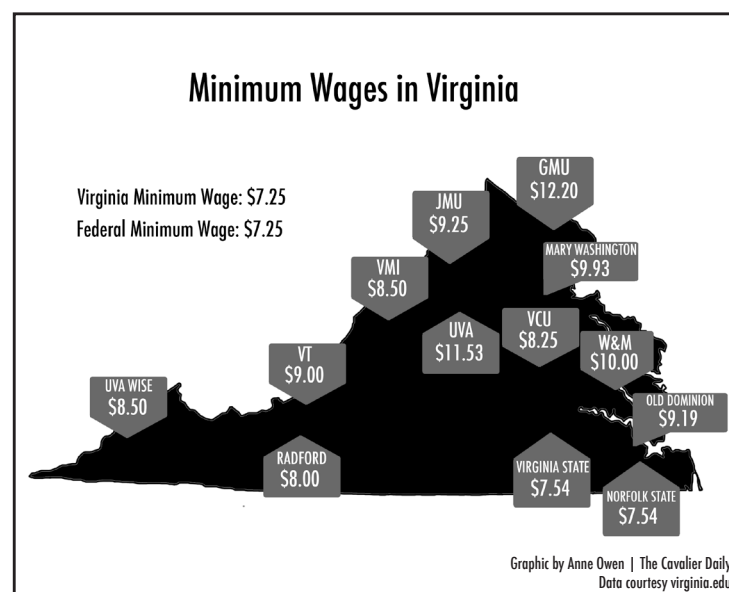
"We're working with the General Assembly and the governor to improve workforce development," Martin said. "There are [job] vacancies that we need employees with certain skill sets to fill."

Martin added that the Chamber wants to see better career advancement opportunities for people at or below the poverty line.

"Most minimum wage employees are in entry level positions," he said. "Increasing the minimum wage may create a barrier for employees who want to move beyond those positions."

Marsden does not plan on introducing any further minimum wage legislation this year, and doesn't expect to see any unless Gov. Terry McAuliffe sends down a bill. Puller is retiring after this term.

"Sometimes you have to put the bill through because it's the right thing to do," Alford said. "We were hopeful it would go further."



Sen. David Marsden, D-Fairfax, also proposed a minimum wage bill that was voted down 11 to 3 in subcommittee Monday. Marsden's bill proposed raising the state minimum wage to \$8 per hour this year, \$9 per hour in 2016, and then \$10.10 the

Johnson, who specializes in labor economics, said an increased minimum wage may not be that beneficial, especially for employers.

"It's hard to imagine a situation in which businesses are better off with a higher minimum wage —



# University will not grant Buddies special status

*Interim Director of Student Activities says upcoming ambassador program will serve safety function, student program imposes high liability*

**Kayla Eanes**  
Associate Editor

The fate of two student safety initiatives — the subject of much debate and discussion throughout last semester among members of Student Council — is uncertain, Council members were told at their General Body meeting Tuesday.

Interim Director of Student Activities Emily Miles said she was involved in background discussions involving both Buddies on Call and Student Watch and that Council's attempt to grant the groups a special status agreement with the University was unlikely to materialize.

Buddies on Call is a proposed student safety initiative that would allow students walking home at night to find another student — a “buddy” — to travel with. Student Watch would position students around Grounds at night — mainly the Corner — to respond to fellow students that appear in danger.

Originally proposed as contracted independent organizations, Council tried to adopt the initiatives as special status organizations to fall

within its governance.

“By putting [the organizations] in, there's duplication of what's happening with the University's ambassador program,” Miles said, referring to an upcoming safety initiative which will position unarmed, uniformed personnel around Grounds and popular off-Grounds during weekend evenings. “There's also a tremendous concern that if they

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**“By putting [the organizations] in, there's duplication of what's happening with the University's ambassador program,” Miles said.**

become part of the special status [agreement], they are essentially becoming volunteers with the University.”

An agreement with the University would require the volunteers be considered security agents, Miles said, which would require upwards

of 100 hours of training. Miles also said granting the organizations special status posed liability concerns, as student volunteers would not be covered under worker's compensation, creating a gray area for the University should they be harmed while volunteering.

Representative Body Chair Abe Axler, a second-year College student, said he is disappointed in the unilateral approach the University took to address student safety.

“These organizations were in ways ready to launch and captured a lot of student interest,” he said. “I'm thrilled that University students will be safer than they were in the fall, but I'm deeply concerned about the lack of student involvement in the program's creation.”

Miles said the organizations could only be approved as CIOs.

“The general train of thought for Buddies on Call and Student Watch

is to go through a CIO process,” she said. “In becoming CIOs, they do take the liability on themselves.”

Miles said if the organizations became CIOs, they would be able to purchase liability insurance like some other CIOs currently do.

“There have been a lot of really wonderful and positive conversations,” she said. “There needs to be a student voice.”

At their meeting, Council also considered a bill to amend their bylaws in response to a letter from the Graduate Affairs Committee, which stated there was too little time between when the Representative Body receives proposed legislation and the subsequent meeting.

“The Graduate Affairs Committee has felt a little pressure on the time length we have to look at the bills,” Batten School Representative Alex Gregorio said.

The proposed changes would require any legislation to be due to the Representative Body Chair at least 72 hours before the Representative Body meeting. It would also require legislation to be sent to the Representative Body itself at least 48 hours before the meeting, instead of the

current requirement of 24 hours.

“This solves the problem of getting the bill Monday night, and [not having] time to really look at them [and] to think about them critically,” Gregorio said. “You don't really have time to talk to constituents, to get a feeling for what they want.”

Law School Representative Morgan Lingar said the proposed period was still too short for proper evaluation of bills.

“My recommendation was to actually make the period longer by a day or two,” she said. “I still think this is very quick if you want to reach out to constituents.”

Council tabled the bill so that its time frame would not affect any currently proposed legislation.

The Community Affairs Committee also passed a bill to send a student liaison to Charlottesville City Council.

According to the proposal, the non-voting student will act as a liaison for City Council to communicate with the University student body and will also be able to participate in City Council work sessions related to interests of the student body.

# Miller Center commission offers War Powers advice

*Kaine, McCain, King propose War Powers Consultation Act, helps to revise Congressional, Executive military authorities*

**Lee Williams**  
Senior Writer

For several years, the Miller Center has partnered with Sen. Tim Kaine, D-VA, to pass legislation in Congress which would more narrowly define war powers.

Kaine, with co-sponsors Sen. John McCain, R-AZ, and Angus King, I-ME, proposed the War Powers Consultation Act, primarily based upon the work of the Miller Center's National War Powers Commission, to the U.S. Senate on Jan. 16 of last year.

Constitutionally, Congress is the sole branch of government that can declare war. However, over time the executive branch has gained some leeway in engaging in acts of war without congressional approval. The War Powers Consultation Act seeks to limit this.

The act proposes two significant alterations to the current legislation while defining “significant military action” as combat which is expected to last seven days or longer. The first provision establishes a permanent consultation committee made up of majority and minority leaders of both houses of Congress, as well as ranking officials of the war-related congressional committees: Intel,

Armed Services, Foreign Relations and Appropriations.

“This act would normalize and regularize what consultation with Congress means,” Kaine said in a statement.

The second major change would require a vote from both congressional bodies once significant military action is underway. This would ensure, Kaine said, an agreement between both branches to “reach a consensus behind the mission,” which could endanger the lives of American military personnel.

The proposed legislation gained relevance in light of the United States government's continued engagement in military action with ISIL in the Middle East — action which lacks Congressional approval.

“Today we enter the sixth month of war against ISIL without congressional authorization,” Kaine said in a press release from earlier this month. “Until December, when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee took the important first step of debating and approving a specific Authorization For Use of Military Force against ISIL, Congress was silent — an unacceptable abdication of our most solemn responsibility as legislators. Now it's time to finish

what we started and not shy away from what's required to reach a political consensus on the serious threat ISIL poses and the scope of this critical mission.”

Former Virginia Gov. Gerald Baliles, who served on the War Powers Commission and conferred with Kaine on the legislation, said recently there is a mounting desire in both the Senate and the public to determine a more concise war powers agreement.

“The interest in the subject matter and in the legislation is increasing,” Baliles said. “There is growing bipartisan support for Sen. Kaine's and Sen. McCain's proposal.”

Baliles said the ISIL conflict shows how the nature of war is changing, leading to “tiny wars and micro conflicts.” With the United States' advanced technology and military power, unconventional military engagements have the capacity to destroy whole regions, creating an even more urgent need for clearly defined war processes, he said.

“The purpose of the Miller Center's report [on War Powers] is to develop a pragmatic, realistic, clearly defined consultative process before military force is applied to a situation,” Baliles said. “It's a way out of the impasse: what the American people want is clarity in

the decision making.”

The effort to revise war powers policy began in 2008 when President Barack Obama was briefed on 13 months of work by the Miller Center's National War Powers Commission. Former Secretaries of State James Baker, III and Warren Christopher chaired the committee.

The committee sought an amended War Power Act in 2007 and 2008, but the “time was not yet ripe for consideration of this bill,” Kaine said.

“Now that we are 40 years into an unworkable War Powers Resolution and now we have had a string of presidents — both Democratic presidents and Republican presidents — who have maintained that the act is unconstitutional,” Kaine said in a statement last January. “We do think it is time to revisit.”

The act, if passed, would replace the standing war powers legislation, however Kaine and McCain do not see it as the final word in the conversation about congressional responsibility for military action.

“I view our introduction of this legislation today as the start of an important congressional and national debate,” McCain said in a statement last January.

Kaine made political moves recently reflecting his intent to utilize the Miller Center's model for new war powers legislature. He spoke out against the executive military actions taken against the Islamic State in the Middle East which lack congressional approval. Under the War Powers Consultation Act, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, both Houses of Congress would have been required to vote upon the military action and either accept or deny involvement.

“Now it's time to finish what we started and not shy away from what's required to reach a political consensus on the serious threat ISIL poses and the scope of this critical mission,” Kaine said. “Additional delay not only sets a dangerous precedent for future conflicts, it dishonors the sacrifice of American servicemembers who are risking their lives in this mission.”

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a vote to authorize the use of military force against the Islamic State Dec. 11, 2014, underscoring the congressional involvement in measures of war for which Kaine and McCain have been advocating. This committee is the same committee to which the bill was initially referred.

# Law Prof. Douglas Laycock wins Supreme Court case

*‘[I]n this case I was his only contact with the outside world, so it was very gratifying to be able to help him,’ Laycock says*

**Kristen Cugini**  
Senior Writer

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously Tuesday in favor of Law School Prof. Douglas Laycock in the *Holt v. Hobbs* case, in which Laycock represented Abdul Maalik Muhammad, an inmate at an Arkansas correctional facility who was not permitted to grow a half-inch beard despite its importance to his Muslim faith.

Laycock said the overall experience was positive, especially considering the direct help he was able to provide Muhammad.

“This experience was very rewarding,” Laycock said. “Usually you don’t get to deal with

the client in person, but in this case I was his only contact with the outside world, so it was very gratifying to be able to help him.”

Laycock said prior to the case’s outcome, 42 states had laws in place permitting only a half-inch beard — and in some cases did not allow for a beard of any length.

“Prison officials are used to exercising a great deal of power,” Laycock said. “[They] can be very arbitrary about it and have a low regard for the rights of inmates.”

But Laycock said the right of religious expression has great significance to prisoners, and is essential to well-being of many of those who are incarcerated.

“It’s the only thing they have to hang on to as a source of comfort,” Laycock said. “This issue is very important to those who believe it.”

Laycock said he hoped this victory would facilitate inmates’ free expression of religion, and said the Court’s ruling should have broad effects reaching beyond this specific case. The length of inmates’ hair, special diets, permission to keep sacred objects in a cell and gatherings for worship are all similar issues which have yet to be addressed, he said.

In terms of the expected outcome of and preparation for such litigation, Laycock said he spent considerable time antici-

pating the opposition’s likely arguments, but thought his client’s case would prevail.

“I was reasonably confident, but nothing is 100 percent certain in litigation,” Laycock said. “It was important to prepare as if we would be fighting uphill all the way.”

Due to the fast-paced nature of Supreme Court case review, Laycock said it was especially important to quickly comprehend the opposition’s argument and formulate a counter in an efficient manner.

“The way to prepare is to anticipate and refine your answer to say as much as possible,” Laycock said. “There was not much that we didn’t anticipate.”



Courtesy UVA

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of University Law Prof. Douglas Laycock, above, in a religious liberty case. The Court said the inmate could grow a longer beard in keeping with religious practices.

# Task force reviews student-athlete academic integrity

*Sullivan convenes panel to improve overall academic experience, consider procedures, practices*

**Samantha Josey-Borden**  
Associate Editor

University President Teresa Sullivan commissioned a seven-member task force last month to examine the academic integrity of the University’s athletics department and ensure student-athletes continue to meet academic standards and to improve their overall academic experiences.

Sullivan said the task force will review whether current academic procedures and practices are providing student-athletes with high quality education.

“I believe that we have a good system in place for ensuring academic integrity in athletics, yet even good systems experience failures in implementation,” Sullivan said in a press release.

“The task force is charged with examining our system for such issues and, if appropriate, making recommendations for change.”

The creation of this task force comes on the heels of recent reports of academic fraud among athletic departments at universities around the nation, such as the “paper classes” at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Education Prof. Carolyn Callahan, the faculty representative of the Atlantic Coast Conference and the National Collegiate Athletics Association, said while academic misconduct — and potentially fraud — among student athletes is a concern, the group will focus on observing and improving the academic experience of student-athletes.

“Certainly academic

misconduct has been much discussed in the wake of the UNC situation and the issues at other institutions,” Callahan said. “But that area will be included as one aspect of task force deliberations as part of ensuring we are providing excellent and genuine academic experiences.”

Callahan said the NCAA and ACC do not have established procedures to monitor potential academic misconduct by universities registered with the conferences. Nevertheless, she said, both organizations are taking action to prevent such situations from occurring.

“The new Committee on Academics of the NCAA is working on defining academic misconduct more clearly and on sanctions for academic misconduct,” Callahan said. “As new rules and regulations are

developed the process will likely be one of investigation of reports of misconduct rather than a specific, regular monitoring.”

Members of the new University task force will review University, ACC and NCAA policies. They will also discuss practices with academic advisors, past and present student-athletes and various faculty members, preemptively examining the University’s academic compliance with the two conferences.

“The examination of whether athletes receive the education they expected when they were recruited, whether they have access to courses and majors that provide a high quality education that other students can access, [and] whether they have the appropriate support in achieving academic goals will be among the areas examined,” Callahan said.

No direct investigations have been made into academic integrity among student-athletes at the University, but a 2001 report on University athletics — called the “2020 Task Force on Athletics” — examined academic issues and made recommendations to maximize the academic experience of student-athletes.

Ultimately, the “2020 Task Force” implemented stronger communication between student-athletes and academic advisors and faculty. It also suggested a higher number of incoming first-year student-athletes attend the University’s Transition Program, which allows student-athletes to adapt to the rigorous academic environment prior to their first semesters.

The newly established task force is expected to have a report ready by June 30.



Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

The University Police Department has created a temporary substation in the Corner area near the University Women’s Center.

# U.Va. Police open Corner substation

*University increases lighting, emergency phones, works to improve on-Grounds camera system*

**Juliana Radovanovich**  
Senior Writer

A new police substation on the Corner opened Thursday in an effort to increase law enforcement presence in the area. The temporary substation, housed in a grey pod building, is located across from the Corner and next to the Women’s Center.

Charlottesville Police Chief Timothy Longo said the substation will provide increased visibility and a greater concentration of resources to

help keep the Corner safe.

“The primary objective is to create and sustain a safe environment,” Longo said. “There are no specific issues or problems that we are seeking to impact other than to reduce the likelihood of criminal activity and disorderly behavior that oftentimes results from alcohol consumption and poor judgment.”

In addition to this new safety measure, the University has also increased lighting and the number of emergency phones, and is working to improve the camera system on Grounds.

The substation will not be regularly staffed by police, but will have additional officers from both the University and the Charlottesville police departments stationed on weekend nights, including Thursdays, from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

“Staffing levels will be determined by time of day, day of week and special events which may occur from time to time which impact population density,” Longo said.

The substation will eventually move to a permanent location in what was previously the Freeman-Victorius frame shop. This move is

expected to take place this summer.

Additionally, the University and the police department are working with G4S, a security company, to set up an ambassadors program in which unarmed, uniformed escorts will walk students home in the dark.

According to their website, G4S offers security services and security technology in a variety of sectors, including airports, hospitals and colleges. The company specializes “in the provision of security products, services and solutions.”

The G4S initiative will be put into place at the beginning of February.





Kelsey Grant | The Cavalier Daily

Sophomore point guard London Perrantes is second in the ACC with an assist-to-turnover ratio of 3.2, giving up the ball only 1.5 times per game.

### Deebas Dhar Sports Writer

The Virginia men's basketball team looks to continue its torrid start to the season Thursday night against Georgia Tech in Charlottesville. With more than half the regular season complete, the Cavaliers are 17-0, their best start since the 1980-81 team won its first 23 games.

Virginia comes off a strong 66-

51 victory against Boston College, despite trailing into the second half. Junior guard Malcolm Brogdon scored 20 points, including going 3-of-6 from range, to help offset fellow junior guard Justin Anderson's uncharacteristically cold shooting night, in which he missed all eight of his field goal attempts. Junior forward Anthony Gill added a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

The Yellow Jackets, Virginia's Thursday opponent, started the

season with a 9-3 out-of-conference record, before slumping to five straight losses to begin conference play. Last Saturday they recorded a 70-65 loss to Pittsburgh in which they failed to score for a five minute stretch in the fourth quarter.

Despite Georgia Tech's struggles, as well as an upcoming schedule for Virginia that includes games against Duke, Louisville and North Carolina, coach Tony Bennett refuses to take the

Yellow Jackets lightly.

"We're getting as ready as we can, and we're going to go against a physical Georgia Tech team trying to take the good things we did [against Boston College], build on them, and address the areas where we need to improve," Bennett said.

Though Georgia Tech has been struggling as of late, as Bennett mentioned, it is a team known for its physical play. The meeting poses a great matchup on the glass, with Virginia currently ranked first in the ACC in defensive rebounds and Georgia Tech ranked second in the ACC in offensive rebounds. The Cavaliers' defense has been stifling thus far, allowing a measly 50.6 points per game on the season, but on missed shots it will have to contend with the big bodies of junior forward Charles Mitchell, senior center Demarco Cox and senior forward Robert Sampson, all of whom average more than six rebounds per game for the Yellow Jackets.

Despite a bruising front line, the Yellow Jackets remain one of the poorer offensive teams in the country, ranking 14th in the ACC averaging only 65.6 points per game. Starting at the shooting guard position is junior forward Marcus Georges-Hunt, who leads the team in scoring at 12.9 points per game. Though Georges-Hunt provides a tough matchup for Malcolm Brogdon with his creativity and constant attack on the basket — he averages more than five free-throw attempts per game — he remains an inefficient scorer, shooting only 38 percent from the floor and 19 percent from beyond the arc, while posting an assist-to-turnover ratio below 1.0. If the Virginia defense can force Georges-Hunt into poor shots and turnovers, the Georgia Tech offense will struggle to get in a good rhythm.

For the Cavalier offense, soph-

omore guard London Perrantes may be the most important player, despite averaging only 5.0 points per game. He exploded for 26 points in the double-overtime win against Miami Jan. 3, but has returned to his more usual numbers with eight points against Boston College and five against Clemson the game before. His greatest impact, though, is in his ability to distribute the ball efficiently, averaging 4.4 assists to only 1.4 turnovers a game, all while adjusting to his new role in the offense.

"I just think you always have to be careful of forcing someone too far outside of what's comfortable to them, especially a guy with a feel like London," Bennett said when asked about Perrantes' recent stretch. "Justin [Anderson] and Malcolm [Brogdon] are aggressive guys. London sees that, and then when the time comes he picks and chooses."

With the 17-0 start, many people think this year's Cavaliers could exceed the success of last year's squad, which won the ACC Tournament title for the first time since 1976 and reached the Sweet 16 as a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

"We had a good stretch last year, and I think we realized how together we had to play to be our best, and I think our guys understand that this year," Bennett said. "When they're really playing together, and are sound and tough defensively and putting in the right kind of effort that way — and having a level of good decision-making and soundness offensively — that's our way to be successful."

While it remains to be seen whether Virginia will pass the bar set last season, its reputation for playing tough defense paired with an efficient, balanced offense remains the same.

Tipoff is set for 8 p.m. Thursday at John Paul Jones Arena.



Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

Junior guard Faith Randolph posted 14 points in the loss, tied for the team lead with senior center Sarah Imovbioh.

## Women's basketball falls against Canes, 67-58

After jumping out to a 10-0 lead, the Virginia women's basketball team faltered in the second half to lose 58-67 against Miami Wednesday night in Coral Gables, Florida.

The Cavaliers (13-6, 3-3 ACC) started off the game with back-to-back three-pointers from sophomore guard Breyana Mason and junior guard Faith Randolph, but the team only made three more from beyond the arc the rest of the game. Meanwhile, the Hurricanes (15-4, 5-1 ACC) missed their first

seven shots before a jumper by sophomore guard Jessica Thomas gave her team their first two points of the game. Thomas led her team with 18 points and four steals on the night.

The Hurricanes were in control down low despite the cold shooting start, finishing the first half with six layups to Virginia's zero as the Cavaliers were beaten in the paint once again. For the game, Miami tallied 36 points in the paint to Virginia's 14.

With the score at 12-6, the Canes made five straight shots to cut the lead to just one point at 17-16. Miami did not score again for the next four minutes, but still cut Virginia's early lead down to two by halftime, 27-25.

In the second half, the Cavaliers pushed their lead to eight points, but the Hurricanes continued driving to the basket — their first six made shots in the half were layups. The last of the six, by senior forward Jassany Williams, tied the game at 38-38 at

the 12:58 mark. Virginia remained close with the Hurricanes but never got the lead again, as Miami held on to win their second straight in the series between the two teams.

Senior center Sarah Imovbioh and Randolph led the Cavaliers with 14 points each, as Virginia's bench only scored four points to Miami's 24.

After finishing their two-game road trip 0-2, the Cavaliers return home Sunday to face Georgia Tech.

—compiled by Chanhong Luu

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# Cavs, Panthers meet in ACC clash

After convincing win against Duke, wrestling team eyes victory against rival Pittsburgh

**Matthew Wurzbarger**  
Associate Editor

No. 14 Virginia wrestling hosts its second top-10 team of the season this Sunday as No. 10 ranked Pittsburgh comes to town for a showdown between two premier ACC programs.

The Panthers (7-3, 2-0 ACC) got the better of the Cavaliers (9-3, 1-0 ACC) last season in the Steel City, 25-9. The match could only be described as a rock fight, and the final score belied how closely contested the evening was — seven of 10 weight classes were decided by two points or fewer.

In the grand scheme, that hard-fought loss morphed into a positive for Virginia. The team was cruising up to that point, having won its previous six dual meets. The punch in the mouth delivered by Pittsburgh only upped the Cavaliers' determination to be great.

"They took it to us last season," coach Steve Garland said. "At that time we'd forgotten what it felt like to

lose, and this defeat woke us up and gave us a whole new direction for the rest of the season."

The narrative this time around is a bit different. Virginia is not riding a string of victories, and an unfortunate but ultimately uncontrollable rash of injuries has tested the resolve of the Cavaliers.

Still, Garland said he firmly believes having the right mindset is imperative to success. Following the team's 30-9 drubbing of Duke last Friday, he implored his wrestlers to not make the mistake of becoming overconfident and thinking they were good enough to get by without first putting in the hard work.

Fifth-ranked junior Blaise Butler said he supported his coach's emphasis on attitude — with one distinction.

"Personally, I don't think there is such a thing as overconfidence," Butler said. "It is good to go into the match believing that you are the better wrestler and that we are the better team, but we can't expect the referee to raise our hand just because we be-

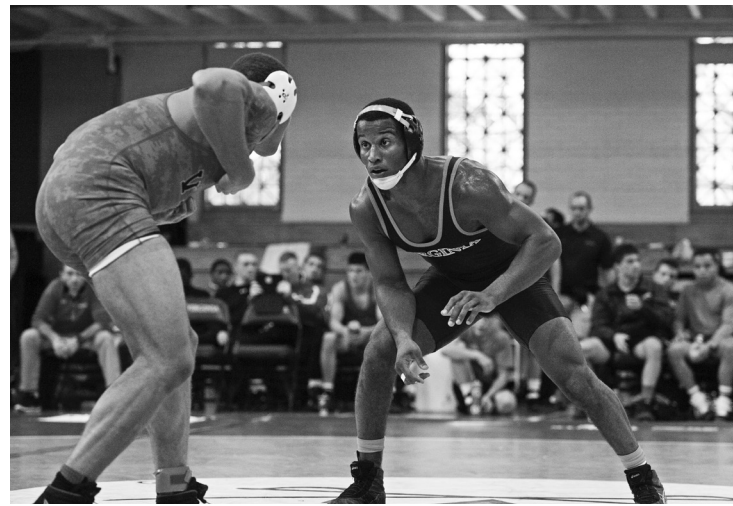
lieve that we are the better team."

Butler has good reason to believe he is the better wrestler every time he enters the circle, but the reigning ACC Wrestler of the Week will have his hands full with seventh-ranked senior Tyler Wilps at 174 pounds. Wilps is a two-time NCAA qualifier, a 2014 ACC champion and placed seventh at the NCAA Championships last season.

"[Wilps] is one of the best wrestlers in the country," Garland said. "This is another great opportunity for Blaise to wrestle against the best. I want him to focus on how he competes and not worry about how highly Wilps is ranked."

Every point will matter Sunday, and Butler and second-ranked senior Nick Sulzer both know how to score and secure precious bonus points for their team.

Sulzer continues his rampage through the NCAA in his fourth and final season. His record currently sits at 20-1, and he can enter into a tie with Rocco Caponi for the fourth-most victories in team history. At



Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

Junior Blaise Butler, ranked fifth in the nation at 174 pounds, faces a tough challenge in seventh-ranked Pitt senior Tyler Wilps in Sunday's match at Memorial Gymnasium.

times, a technical fall victory seems to be what is expected from a Sulzer match, and the bonus points it brings could determine the match.

"I'll take either [Butler or Sulzer] against anyone," Garland said. "I love those guys."

But no two wrestlers can win a match for a team. A Virginia victory will require the whole team to do its part, and all 10 Cavaliers to fight for every possible point from the first until the final whistle. As the team

learned the hard way in a 16-15 loss against Virginia Tech in the championship match of the Virginia Duals, every single point matters.

"Every single guy has to scrap for each point," Garland said. "We have to do it shoulder-to-shoulder, and over the past few weeks the team is really syncing together. If you can't get up for this match then it's hard to get up for anything."

The match begins at 1 p.m. at Memorial Gymnasium.

## A gross oversight

Over the past decade, the NCAA has brought sanctions against many historic programs — the University of Southern California, University of Miami and Penn State — under the pretense of a "lack of institutional control."

**KRISHNA KORUPOLU**  
Sports Columnist

The results of these sanctions have been devastating to many of these athletic programs and the athletes who have trusted their futures to these programs and the NCAA. The once storied Miami and Penn State programs were brought to their knees as a result of the investigations that the NCAA launched.

On Jan. 16, it was announced that the NCAA had reached a settlement with Penn State that would reinstate the 112 wins that were annulled between 1997–2011 as a result of the Jerry Sandusky scan-

dal. Additionally, the \$60 million fine paid by the school as part of the lawsuit stemming from the scandal would be redirected towards addressing child abuse in Pennsylvania. Finally, Penn State can award the same number of scholarships as other

Division I programs.

Penn State fans across the country cheered the result of the deal, but there were mixed reviews from those outside of the fan base among those who felt that the program had been pardoned prematurely. While there are cogent arguments on the both sides of the deal, the real issue here is the actions of the NCAA.

During the settlement proceedings, news emerged that the NCAA once again botched an investigation into institutional wrongdoing. An integral part of the investigation

and sanctions was the Freeh Report, which was an independent report conducted by former FBI director Louis Freeh. The report outlined the findings of the investigation and the wrongdoings committed by the Penn State athletics program.

The punishment imposed was allegedly determined by the findings in the Freeh Report. However, it turns out that Ed Ray, the chairman of the executive committee that levied the sanctions against Penn State, failed to read the report or even the glance over it. In other words, the leader of the committee that levied the sanctions failed to properly oversee the decision to bring crippling sanctions against Penn State.

This failure is very much akin to the lack of institutional control charge that NCAA has levied in the past. So that bears the question:

who punishes the NCAA?

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that the NCAA has failed to properly conduct its investigations and enforcement of policies. During its three-year investigation of Miami's booster scandal involving Nevin Shapiro, the NCAA's own enforcement officials paid Shapiro's attorney to gather confidential information.

The NCAA handled this gross error by terminating a few of its enforcement officials and levying a nine-scholarship reduction against Miami over a three-year period. Miami was deemed the victor in this affair as the accusations levied against the program regarding improper benefits warranted much stiffer penalties.

The lack of accountability in the NCAA's institutional structure allows the leaders of the organization

to commit the very negligence they accuse others of, oftentimes without any substantial recourse. Truly, it is time for the implementation of an independent oversight committee over the NCAA's executives and enforcement officials.

The lack of proper oversight runs from top to bottom of the institutional structure. An executive committee chooses Mark Emmert, the president of the NCAA, which is different than the process that other sport league's leaders are elected. Both Roger Goodell of the NFL and Adam Silver of NBA are elected by the owners of the institutions they oversee. The process for Emmert may implicitly elect the president by the schools he oversees, but the events over the last few years clearly demonstrate that there is a need for direct oversight by either the schools or an independent party.

# WELTZ | Wilkins brings strong presence at forward in first year

Continued from page 1

impressed coaches with his energy and defensive intensity. With Virginia trailing by five in the second half against unranked Boston College Saturday, Bennett turned to Wilkins and the freshman did not disappoint. He scored four points, including the go-ahead lay-up, during a 10-0 run that put the Cavaliers in front for good.

"He's so active — you can see

that — and of course there's some freshman mistakes that are apparent, but there's no substitute for the experience that he gets," Bennett said of Wilkins. "When you're out there more in a game setting I think you really grow from that. I think he's gotten a little more comfortable, a little more full offensively."

Wilkins did not appear during the team's first two games of ACC play, but has now played double-digit minutes in three consecutive contests. Sporadic playing time has not unnerved Wilkins,

however, because it was precisely what Bennett promised when he recruited the four-star prospect two years ago.

"When I recruited Isaiah, it was a real candid conversation," Bennett said. "I said, 'There's some experienced upperclassmen in front of you and you'll get what you earn — and you might not play as much as you're used to.'"

Rather than being cowed by the lack of a guaranteed role, Wilkins was immediately drawn to the Cavaliers. He had initially planned to

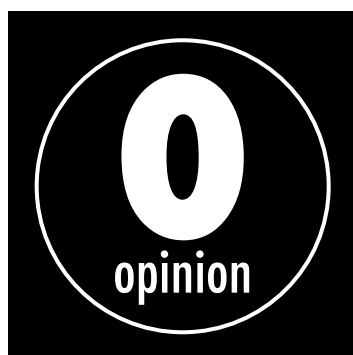
visit other schools before making a decision, but changed his mind and elected to announce his commitment to the University on Sept. 1, 2013.

In doing so, Wilkins not only passed over offers from Miami, Memphis and others, but also brushed aside the advice of an NBA Hall of Famer. Dominique Wilkins, the former Atlanta Hawks superstar and Isaiah's stepfather, had encouraged the 6-foot-7 forward to consider playing at his alma mater, the University of Georgia. The younger

Wilkins replied that he wanted to play for a winner, an opportunity the rapidly improving Virginia program would surely provide.

With 13 games remaining in a regular season that has been nothing short of perfect, Virginia will continue to lean heavily on Wilkins and Tobey to stabilize a second unit that once was wholly devoid of post options. Their play guarantees at least one thing for the Cavaliers down the stretch.

Justin Anderson will not be playing much power forward.



## Comment of the day

“The travesty of this episode is that fairness, due process, and general faith in the male half of humanity has been chucked out the window in the name of political correctness pushed by gender extremists who now dominate any discussion of such issues on campus. It is open season on male students and even the highest ranking administrators are in on the hunt. Which administrator or faculty member lifted one finger to offer these young men protection? It’s nothing but cowardice in the face of an unflinching onslaught against male students. Instead of take back the night rallies, the men of UVA should be holding take back reality rallies.”

“Phil Ford” responding to the Jan. 13 lead editorial, “The next chapter.”

## LEAD EDITORIAL

# Two more years

*President Obama’s two-year community college plan should include undocumented students*

The White House recently unveiled a proposal called America’s College Promise, which aims to make two years of community college free for eligible students. The proposal, much like a plan created by Tennessee Governor William E. Haslam last year, will make higher education more accessible to low-income students and, according to the White House, could save full-time community college students an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year. However, the proposal currently excludes undocumented students from these benefits.

We have previously argued undocumented students should be given the chance to pay in-state tuition at public universities, in keeping with the ideals of the DREAM Act. In fact, President Barack Obama issued an executive order last November extending the protections of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to an estimated 5 million undocumented immigrants, a decision that greatly improved educational opportunities for undocumented students who

can more easily complete college degrees, given their parents can now work legally.

The President has demonstrated a commitment to aiding undocumented students and families by significantly rolling back deportations. Given the large increase of undocumented immigrants no longer at risk of deportation, making community college accessible to undocumented students is not only consistent with the President’s previous policies, but also necessary for those students. The cost of higher education is often insurmountable for undocumented immigrants. California remains the only state where undocumented students can apply for state aid to fund their educations, and only a handful of private schools offer financial aid regardless of citizenship status. Decreasing deportation — a laudable step — without increasing educational opportunity puts undocumented students at an obvious disadvantage: according to the group Connecticut Students for a Dream, an estimated 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school nation-

wide annually, but only 5 percent of these students are able to pursue higher education.

The increasing importance of higher education makes such statistics even more problematic. The White House estimates that by 2020, 35 percent of job openings will require a bachelor’s degree and 30 percent will require some level of college. If undocumented students are unable to gain entry into higher education, their level of opportunity relative to their peers will actually decrease.

Offering these students educational opportunity is a question of fairness. Undocumented students who enter the country illegally probably do so at the behest of their parents, and deserve the same educational opportunities as those who are born in the country. Additionally, undocumented immigrants contribute to the economy, paying an estimated \$15 billion to Social Security every year, while only taking out \$1 billion. These workers deserve more benefits than they are currently receiving. Making college accessible to undocumented students would

not only level the playing field, but could also potentially benefit the economy even more by giving more students the skills to develop new innovations.

Though America’s College Promise has garnered some bipartisan support, inclusion of undocumented students in the plan could threaten to derail that support. However, 19 states currently allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at state schools, including Virginia (despite a recent challenge in the state Senate). A more politically viable option for the President’s plan could stipulate the inclusion of undocumented students in states that already have such laws.

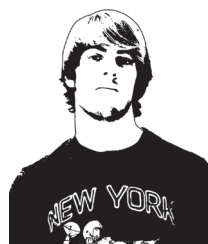
If undocumented students don’t make the cut in the final version of the bill, state legislatures should strongly consider improving on the President’s plan by including undocumented students in their states. Since these undocumented students will remain in the country under DACA, it is to the country’s benefit to provide them with equal educational opportunities.

# A home by any other name

*The University should strive to create more on-Grounds housing options for students*

Forty-one percent. Less than half of all undergraduates at the University live on Grounds; keep in mind, the figure itself is artificially high, as it includes first-years for whom on-Grounds accommodations are mandatory. Over the years, the University has grown undeniably distant from the original Jeffersonian goal of an Academical Village, a community in which students and faculty live and learn in unison. Though the University’s commitment to that vision

remains strong in principle and in practice to a degree, the despairingly low percentage of students living in on-Grounds housing indicates our housing system has, for the clear majority of students, failed to live up to Jefferson’s original vision. In response to recent events at the University, my fellow writer Mary Russo highlighted the need for a program of off-Grounds Resident Advisors in order to provide students living off Grounds with the advising resources and safety students living on Grounds might take for granted.



CONOR KELLY  
Opinion Columnist

While the idea is certainly a strong one, it is equally important for the University to make new strides in ensuring that affordable, on-Grounds housing options remain viable for future upperclassmen.

Admittedly, the University’s burgeoning population has, over the years, presented numerous logistical obstacles to the fulfillment of our founding vision. The University’s proximity to Charlottesville, for one, has made eastward expansion a rather limited enterprise. That

being said, the physical expansion of the University has been marked by a curious and seemingly haphazard sequence of developments. Compared to the aesthetically grand and invaluable practical organization of the Lawn, the rest of the University has developed in a sort of sprawl, expanding in various directions, some of which have separated sizeable portions of the University from Central Grounds. Granted, the development of the University has been limited by existing infrastructure and housing; yet even consid-

ering such restraints, more could have been done to maintain a high rate of students living on Grounds. The relative dearth of affordable, on-Grounds housing options for upperclassmen seems in itself to limit the degree to which the original vision of an “Academical Village” can be realized, or at the very least respected.

In light of the Jeffersonian vision of an “Academical Village,” and in comparison to peer universities, the University fares rather poorly when it comes to the percentage of undergraduates living in on-Grounds housing. In most of the Ivy League, the percentage of undergraduates living in college housing hovers in the region of 90-98 percent. Even at peer public universities such as the University of North Carolina, considerably more students — roughly 54 percent of undergraduates — live in college housing. I admit that, in the scheme of things, the percentage of students living in University housing might seem to be a rather insignificant issue, yet as the University community continues to grow apart physically there are bound to be consequences of a cultural nature. Though reestablishing sustained on-Grounds living as an essential part of the University experience will by

no means serve as a cure-all for the community’s social ills, it would at the very least emphasize a renewed commitment to Jefferson’s original principle.

Admittedly, little can be done to alter the current organization of Grounds in order to create a living environment that might more closely match the idea of an “Academical Village.” It may be slightly idealistic to think a community this size can tangibly realize this idea, yet it is certainly practical to suggest the University has considerable room for improvement in terms of creating additional accommodations and incentives for upperclassmen to remain in on-Grounds housing. At the very least, the University can endeavor to construct new on-Grounds housing so upperclassmen of the future might have a more realistic and affordable opportunity of living on Grounds in the manner Jefferson intended.

On that note, a new exercise currently being conducted by the Architecture School seeks to explore the Ivy Road/Route 250 interchange as a possible area for additional on-Grounds housing. Though the exercise itself is purely academic and not meant to suggest any future

plans for that area, the idea itself is constructive. Increasing the percentage of undergraduates living in on-Grounds housing will require an innovative approach, one that prioritizes research into potential new areas for the development of affordable on-Grounds housing. For a University that prides itself on the originality and design of its Central Grounds, it would surely be both a realistic and worthwhile goal to increase the percentage of students living in on-Grounds housing into the 50 percent range (for a start).

It may be quite idealistic to envision a community of close to 15,000 undergraduates all living in a close-knit (and admittedly densely populated), modern “Academical Village,” yet when many students have to take buses or other forms of transportation in order to reach Jefferson’s original Grounds, the intangible benefits which those Grounds offer may be lost in transit.

Conor’s columns run Tuesdays. He can be reached at [c.kelly@cavalierdaily.com](mailto:c.kelly@cavalierdaily.com).



# Rekindle the conversation

*Concerns about academic integrity at University of Kansas mirror similar issues at the University*

Last week the Managing Board directed our attention to the problem of partisan influence in higher education. They referenced a recent case at the University of Kansas where students and faculty are concerned about the hiring process of Dr. Arthur P. Hall, the current director of the Center for Applied Economics at KU and former public-sector chief economist for Koch Industries Inc. Students are demanding “greater transparency regarding Dr. Hall’s background, connections, and affiliations” and all documents pertaining to several KU faculty suspected of being brought in by Charles and/or David Koch.

Corporate influence in higher education is not necessarily wrong, as long as faculty operating within privately-funded programs are hired to represent and serve their respective academic fields, not the ulterior agendas of political interest groups. But we should not readily construe private giving as an unconditional contribution for the good of higher education. U.S. corporate executives do not support public institutions just out of altruism. And yet ironically, Hall argues for the protection of private documents in the name of academic freedom despite his close ties to the very people who spend millions undermining scholarly research every year.

I return to the conversation on “Integrity and influence” because such issues of transparency are of equal importance here on Grounds.



**WILL EVANS**  
Opinion Columnist

University historian Robert Geraci published a piece in the Guardian in November 2012 revealing evidence of a potentially controversial sidestory to Helen Dragas’ unsuccessful ousting of President Sullivan. Geraci speculates that beneath the apolitical discussion over the future of higher education, Board members and University faculty clashed over the hiring of Michael Mann — an assistant professor in the University Environmental Sciences department from 1999 to 2005. In Spring 2012, Mann received a faculty nomination to fill an endowed chair in “environmental change” at the University.

Despite being one of the nation’s most esteemed and accomplished climate scientists, Mann has become a primary target for climate skeptics and conservative politicians. For years, critics have attempted to defame Mann for publishing allegedly fraudulent data — allegations that have since been disproven. The political parade against Mann reached a peak in May 2010 when climate change denier and Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli issued a subpoena against the University, demanding it release all documents pertaining to Mann’s research. The University blocked Cuccinelli’s attempts, announcing that his move was an “unprecedented and improper governmental intrusion into ongoing scientific research.” However, Mann again entered the public spotlight in 2012 upon fresh attacks from

critics — hot press which incidentally came out just months before the Dragas-Sullivan fiasco. It was during this same time that Mann’s nomination for the endowed position was rejected.

Geraci argues apparent political differences between Sullivan and the Board warrant close investigation into a possible connection between the Mann and Sullivan debacles. He states, “It’s no secret that board members, who are mostly business-people, are much more likely...to be on the conservative-Republican side of things than employees and students, who are significantly, if not predominantly, liberal-Democratic. Sullivan is, no doubt, in the latter camp.”

If politics did in fact influence the Mann hiring decision then the socio-political composition of the Board should be held up to greater scrutiny. And given the close link between conservatism and climate denial, one can’t help but ponder the judgment of our own Board members. After all, the University administration does not have the best reputation when it comes to supporting a more sustainable energy economy — a future contingent on the admirable work of scientists such as Michael Mann.

It’s no secret that Republican Thomas Farrell — former University Rector and current director of the bottom-line driven Dominion Virginia Power — pumps \$200,000 per year into the pockets of Board

members Helen Dragas (Sullivan’s chief ouster) and former McDonnell appointee Mark Kington (chief donor for the currently empty endowed chair of environmental change). And we well know that the American Council of Trustees and Alumni — a chief aggressor against the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools who issued the University a warning for failed compliance with transparency policies during the 2012 Board debacle — is (you guessed it) saturated with Koch brother influence.



**Corporate influence in higher education is not necessarily wrong, as long as faculty operating within privately-funded programs are hired to represent and serve their respective academic fields.**

The very people who exist to support the integrity of higher academia appear to be the least likely to encourage its efforts, particularly when that research is centered on climate change. Did the political interests of University administrators squash the qualified judgment of their own environmental scientists to prevent what would have arguably been one of the most important hiring decisions in University history? Did a political assault on core principles upheld by the American Association of University Professors somehow underlie the already unwarranted at-

tack on President Sullivan? If so, the integrity of our academic hiring process is up for serious questioning.

I do not intend to point a finger at specific past or present members of the Board of Visitors for deliberately interfering with the University’s academic hiring process. In fact, the Board does have final say when it comes to faulty positions, salaries and promotions. The issue is that partisanship should not be permitted to enter that decision making process, period. And yet the unspoken but obvious priority of any university administration is the protection of institutional reputation, and thus security of private financial streams. Sadly — and with overwhelming evidence nationwide to show for it — school administrators often find themselves acting on behalf of outside private interest, which unavoidably exerts political sway. Given the heated politics surrounding the Mann controversy, one can’t help but wonder if such interests directly contributed to the silencing of Geraci’s findings.

Regardless of how guilt should be assigned, when a professional historian finds certain evidence significant enough to publish, one would expect a more thorough investigation from both the University and local media. Given the trend so far, I have little hope this piece will help rekindle that conversation. I put my faith in the facts.

*Will’s columns run bi-weekly Wednesdays. He can be reached at [w.evans@cavalierdaily.com](mailto:w.evans@cavalierdaily.com).*

# Je suis le monde

*All victims of terrorism should be given equal attention*

**David Olson**  
Guest Viewpoint

Dear Editor,  
Over the past few weeks, the world has witnessed a renewed series of attacks inspired by radical Islam. These most recent attacks impacted the lives of people in France and Nigeria, and started conversations the world over. Certainly radical Islam has been at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy concerns for the better part of twenty years, but recently the rise of organizations such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria as well as Boko Haram in Nigeria has made it painfully evident that it is certainly not going away in the near future.

However, in light of these re-

cent attacks I believe we have seen a fundamental difference in how the world, particularly the West, values the lives of others. After the tragedy in Paris, the world rallied around the French with the viral hashtag “Je Suis Charlie” in solidarity with the grieving French community. World leaders met in Paris and marched in defiance of the tactics practiced by a corrupt religious interpretation that tarnishes the reputation of an entire community of faith. Unfortunately, the world did not share in this same sentiment for the victims of Boko Haram, who claimed in one day the lives of potentially 2,000 people. Despite the scale and horror of this attack, it was relegated to the background while media continued to discuss the implications of the twelve killed in the

Charlie Hebdo attack. There were no viral hashtags, no marches by world leaders, just the quiet acknowledgement that it happened. This observation hauntingly ech-



**In light of these recent attacks I believe we have seen a fundamental difference in how the world, particularly the West, values the lives of others.**

oes Joseph Stalin’s famous quote: “The death of one man is a tragedy; the death of millions is a statistic.”

If we are to take a unified stand against the violent tactics of terrorism, we must stop selectively choosing whose lives we actually care about. We must no longer

only pay attention when the violence and destruction of terrorists is aimed at western values, cultures and political interests, but also when it is aimed at others who we may not identify as easily with. If we are to truly take a stand against such inhumanity, we can’t only

be Charlie, but we must also be the oppressed, the victimized and the powerless regardless of race, skin-color, religion or strategic interest.

We must finally admit that human life is truly valuable and fundamentally equal in worth. Until we do this, the moral footing upon which we rest our ideals of justice and humanity will certainly crumble under our own hypocrisy and selectivity. Whatever rhetoric we employ about the rights of others and liberating the oppressed will be rightly perceived as a thinly-veiled excuse for furthering our own interests. We must be brave enough to look injustice in the face and call it such, and bold enough to stand with the powerless even when it is not the path of least resistance.

*David Olson is a third-year in the College.*

# Irresponsible reverence

*Blockbuster American Sniper encourages blind militarism and patriotism, not thoughtful rejection*

Over the past weekend, “American Sniper” shattered Hollywood records in a month when studios usually unload their worst movies to die. Pulling in \$105 million so far at the box office, it’s clear that Clint Eastwood’s most recent project has tapped into something deep within the American psyche and its feelings about our ill-fated wars. Movies are rarely if ever solely meaningless entertainment, and the remarkable success of the film forces us to ponder the reasons behind Americans embracing the story of “the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history.” Whatever the cinematic merits of the film (and most critics seem to think they are considerable), we should see American Sniper for what is: a disturbing sign of militarism on the rise and a heralding of ascendant right-wing politics.

More than anything else, critic A.O. Scott at the New York Times sees the film as an “expression of nostalgia” for George W. Bush’s foreign policy of righteous American good guys versus Bush’s infamous “evil-doers.” Rather than casting soldier Chris Kyle’s suffering as the awful products of sociopolitical forces that led the country into a senseless \$2 trillion conflict that left hundreds of thou-

sands dead, Eastwood frames Kyle’s struggles as those of a patriot attempting to reconcile a love of country with a love of family. The real Chris Kyle, in fact, described himself as “hat[ing] the damn savages,” expressed his desire to “shoot people with Korans,” and saw himself as waging a one-man war on crime in a religious crusade soaked in hyper-masculinity. According to The Economist, a close read of the Kyle’s autobiography raises the possibility that the directors and writers softened a man who may

well have been a “sociopathic monster.” Eastwood makes some gestures at showing the pain of PTSD that afflicts numerous veterans returning home from incredibly long and psychologically brutal tours of duty, but overall the film’s hushed reverence of Kyle and by extension of the war in which he participates conceals the Iraq War’s humanitarian catastrophe rather than exploring the horrific moral and political reasoning that gave birth to it.

In response to criticism from the likes of Seth Rogen, who compared the film to Nazi propaganda, lead actor Bradley Cooper has put forward the self-evidently absurd claim that American Sniper is “not a movie about the Iraq War” and has denied

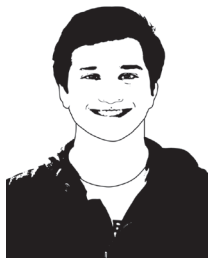
that the film is political at all. With these statements, The Intercept’s Peter Maass points out Bradley Cooper “fails to understand how war movies operate in popular culture.” In the late 70s, as Americans were processing the devastation of Vietnam, movies like Apocalypse Now (1979) and The Deer Hunter (1978) seized the zeitgeist while grappling with the imperialist horror of what had unfolded a few years prior. With the movie First Blood (1982), however, Hollywood began transitioning to producing increasingly jingoistic films like Red Dawn (1984) and Top Gun (1986). These films offered a huge cinematic

tempt to blithely ignore this, they can’t get away from the real power they wield over the millions of people (and counting) who saw American Sniper last weekend.

So why does this movie matter so much right now? With Jeb Bush gearing up to run for president, we are the midst of a well-orchestrated but subtle campaign to whitewash the disaster that was the George W. Bush administration. This administration included a domestic policy wholly dedicated to transferring wealth upward, degrading the environment, and making life harder for marginalized social groups, with the whole debacle ending in financial crisis. American Sniper reimagines the era as a time of patriotic valor and great heroes who, while tested and scarred by what they experienced, proved themselves by triumphing over the forces of evil. Just as we are rightly told not to forget the devastation of 9/11, we should not forget the madness of the Iraq War and the policies that surrounded it.

It may well be that as a collegiate liberal arts student, I’m out of touch with Sarah Palin’s “real America” that has embraced American Sniper. I also don’t want to denigrate the

soldiers who made enormous sacrifices in battle only to be frustrated by bureaucracy and unemployment back home. That said, when conservatives like National Review writer David French praise Eastwood for “reach[ing] a great nation with a story it needed to hear” by “describing the true nature of the enemy,” and “giving...young boys a warrior-hero...to emulate,” it should give those of us concerned about protecting our country’s higher impulses from diluted fascism pause. In 2015 America, television hosts are calling for mass murder, conservative politicians are peddling Cheney-style narratives of civilizational conflict, and Americans are being told that they will “all get killed here at home” if they don’t support endless war in the Middle East. Combined with historic Republican gains in the 2014 elections, a law and order backlash to piecemeal criminal justice reform, and of course the historic success of American Sniper, the left and center underestimate the right at their peril. American Sniper may be a great cinematic achievement, but as a sign of where the country is headed next, it is deeply troubling.



GRAY WHISNANT  
Opinion Columnist



**With Jeb Bush gearing up to run for president, we are the midst of a well-orchestrated but subtle campaign to whitewash the disaster that was the George W. Bush administration.**

assist to the Reagan-Bush militaristic agenda, which would eventually reach its apotheosis with the Iraq War under a different Bush administration. Art and life are in a constant cycle of imitating each other, and as much as Eastwood and Cooper at-

*Gray’s columns run Wednesdays. He can be reached at g.whisnant@cavalierdaily.com.*

# Tiny houses, big idea

*The ‘tiny house’ movement, though quirky, holds promise for ending homelessness*

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there are around 578,424 people experiencing homelessness on any given night. The primary reason for homelessness, according to the NAEH, is the scarcity of affordable housing.

In the past year, a tiny house movement has begun. You may be familiar with the show “Tiny House Nation,” a reality series about middle class families who move into one-room properties. Some do so in order to change their consumer lifestyles or to become more environmentally and economically friendly.

The movement and the show may seem cutesy and silly; however, one-room properties may be a potential solution to homelessness, as evidenced by their success in the Pacific Northwest, and recently in Madison, Wisconsin. A few examples of functioning tiny house vil-

lages are Dignity Village in Portland, Village of Hope in Fresno, Opportunity Village in Eugene, and Quixote Village in Olympia. According to Portland Alternative Dwellings, tiny houses cost between \$15,000 and \$85,000 with an average tiny house costing \$23,000.

One of the newest tiny house villages opened in November of 2014 in Madison, Wisconsin. The project was organized by a coalition of the homeless and members of Occupy Madison when a camp housing 80 to 100 homeless people in the initial stages of the Occupy Movement in 2011 was evicted by the authorities the following year. The village, which was built legally on private property, has four residents so far, and there are plans to build six more homes in the spring as well as a community facility.

While the village in Madison is an example of a tiny house com-

munity built from scratch, some of these villages (such as Dignity Village) are reimagined tent cities which may date back as far as the Depression.

One valid critique of the tiny house movement is that homelessness can be caused by an array of issues — such as mental illness or addiction — all of which must be addressed. However, if tiny house villages can help get people off the streets who are homeless due to the lack of affordable housing, the remaining resources can be allocated to assist those who are homeless for other reasons. In other words, the tiny house movement will not solve the issue of homelessness in America, but it is the kind of innovation which represents progress towards the end goal.

Another sizable challenge faced by the tiny house movement is the high rent in many Western cities. It is no coincidence the villages have been most successful in Pacific Northwest states, which have more land. The movement will have the most success if cities sanction land

to be used for this purpose.

The Occupy Movement has been criticized for its lack of concrete goals or means for achieving those goals. However, the tiny house village in Madison provides a forceful example of how shifting the focus to helping the needy rather than merely criticizing the privileged can improve the movement’s effectiveness immensely. Tiny house villages can empower the homeless to be in control of their housing in Madison. They not only took part in the building of the houses, but also had input in the design and color of their new homes.

Luca Clemente, a member of Occupy Madison, says, “Occupy Madison evolved into a group based on human solidarity — we don’t care if [you’re] Democrat or Republican. The point is do you want to come together to cooperate, to pool your resources, creativity and physical labor to make each other’s lives better.”

Although I have never experienced homelessness myself, I believe shelter, safety and privacy to be basic

human rights. When a person loses his home, he may also lose a piece of his dignity. As the income gap in the United States continues to grow, it seems we either have to accept more homelessness or support housing projects that are affordable for those living in extreme poverty. The existence of tiny house villages will act as a preventative measure. When facing gentrification or surging rent, those living under the poverty line can invest in a one-room property rather than living in a shelter or on the streets. Although tiny houses may sound ridiculous, we should keep in mind that a movement towards sustainable, affordable, and minimally wasteful housing in a set in a positive direction, especially if it may help to ameliorate what can only be categorized as an inequality epidemic.

*Mary’s columns run Thursdays. She can be reached at m.russo@cavalierdaily.com.*



MARY RUSSO  
Opinion Columnist





**Charles Hancock**  
Senior Writer

Each year, critics and movie buffs decry the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' list of nominees for the Academy Awards, chastising the Academy for missing obvious choices, overlooking powerful performances, or focusing on too narrow a set of films. Shortlists generally show the Academy favoring classic Oscar fare and honoring some offbeat indie picks, while snubbing other deserving movies.

Here are some the biggest surprises and most shocking omissions from this year.

**"Selma" claims a Best Picture nomination, but falls short in other top categories**

While getting a Best Picture nomination, the critically acclaimed civil rights drama "Selma" failed to garner any other nominations in top categories. The Academy did not nominate star David Oyelowo for his superb portrayal of Martin Luther King, Jr., director Ava DuVernay (who would have been the first woman of color to be nominated for Best Director in a traditionally male-dominated category) or the screenplay.

Selma's weak showing at precursor awards was chalked up to guild voters not receiving

# The 87th Academy Awards: snubs and surprises

*Arts & Entertainment takes a look at nomination list's biggest oversights*

screeener copies of the film, but weak support at the Oscars is still surprising. The movie received the least nominations for any Best Picture nominee this year (its only other mention was for Best Original Song) — a failure which cannot be fully explained by the movie's late release, given the stellar showing of "American Sniper." Either the movie didn't connect with voters or criticisms about its historical accuracy proved crippling.

What was once a potential front-runner will now very likely spend the rest of the Oscar race reduced to a footnote, which is a shame. Fortunately, Oscar snubs don't always dictate a movie's legacy, and the artistic achievements of "Selma" should overshadow its poor awards showing.

**"American Sniper" surprises with spectacular showing**

Dark horse Best Picture contender "American Sniper" broke away from the pack, accumulating six nominations, including Best Picture. But in one of the biggest surprises of the day, star Bradley Cooper broke into the Best Actor race, despite no-showing at precursor awards. The story of the United States' deadliest sniper also got a Best Adapted Screenplay nomination and many technical nominations. Despite a Director's Guild Award nomination, Clint Eastwood expectedly missed out on Best Director, considering the strength and breadth of competition. Regardless, this former dark horse is now at the front of the

pack, and is one to watch going forward.

**Popular commercial films were given the cold shoulder**

Overall, the slate of nominees represents typical historical dramas with some more offbeat films, but the more commercially successful contenders fell short all around. Expected Best Picture nominee "Gone Girl" not only failed to make the list, but Gillian Flynn's excellent adaptation of her own novel failed to get an Adapted Screenplay nomination (while the screenplay for the polarizing "Inherent Vice" surprised). The Best Actress nomination for Rosamund "Amazing Amy" Pike was the only mention given to David Fincher's hit.

"Interstellar" reaped five technical and musical nominations, but missed out in top categories, representing another loss at the Oscars for the consistently snubbed Christopher Nolan (the fact he still has never been nominated for Best Director is baffling).

In one of the most surprising omissions, the Academy did not nominate "The LEGO Movie" for Best Animated Feature. Considering it was the most critically and commercially successful animated film of 2014, its absence seems a serious oversight. The audience greeted its absence with an audible groan.

It is worth noting that some nominees may go on to become big hits. "The Imitation Game" is doing well and should receive a lot more business after its

strong showing. "American Sniper" looks like it may be a smash, and "Selma" also only started its theatrical run last weekend. Regardless, the lack of big box office hits in the eight Best Picture nominees is noticeable considering the category was recently expanded to give room to the sort of acclaimed, popular movies which were nevertheless left out this year.

**Bennett Miller sneaks into the Best Director race**

One of the biggest surprises of the day was Bennett Miller's nomination for Best Director for "Foxcatcher." This is the first time since the Best Picture category expanded in 2009 that a nominated director's movie has not been a Best Picture nominee.

**Steve Carell scores in Best Actor**

It looked like Steve Carell was getting pushed out of the hyper-competitive Best Actor category, with the BAFTAs indicating he might end up in the Best Supporting Actor race. But Carell ended up with a well-deserved Best Actor nomination for his dramatic transformation in "Foxcatcher."

**"Nightcrawler" and its momentum fails to pay off**

Despite a terrific showing at precursor awards, autumn surprise "Nightcrawler" fell short in major categories, apart from a Best Original Screenplay nomination. It missed out on an expected Best Picture nod and Jake

Gyllenhaal's terrific lead performance went unnoticed. While it was not traditional Oscar fare, it looked like the Academy would honor it.

**Marion Cotillard bumps Jennifer Aniston**

Dark horse Best Actress nominee Marion Cotillard ended up bumping Jennifer Aniston from the race. The nomination is surprising considering Cotillard's film "Two Days, One Night" missed the Best Foreign Language Film shortlist despite acclaim, coupled with Aniston's nomination by the Screen Actors Guild.

**Laura Dern appears in the Best Supporting Actress category**

Despite little notice from precursor awards, Laura Dern received a surprise Best Supporting Actress Nomination for her great work as Cheryl Strayed's (played by Best Actress nominee Reese Witherspoon) mother in "Wild."

**"Birdman's" invisible editing stays invisible to Academy**

It seems like the Academy actually thought "Birdman" was filmed in one take, as the editing wizardry that helped the movie pull off its "one-shot" magic trick went unnoticed in the Best Film Editing category. This omission could actually mean trouble for "Birdman" and its Best Picture hopes, since there is a strong historical correlation between Best Picture winners and Best Editing nominations.



Courtesy IMP Awards

## 'American Sniper' presents powerhouse feature

*Eastwood's latest film proves stunning tribute to American hero*

**Christian Salcedo**  
Staff Writer

It is no easy feat to quiet a theater audience. Once the credits start rolling, it is normal to hear whispers and laughs as people get up from their seats to awkwardly shuffle towards the exit. Only on rare occasions do films paralyze their audiences, keeping them in their seats.

Then, the community of viewers feels small in comparison to the film-watching experience. Silence is the automatic response — awe, the inevitable sentiment. There is no need for a soundtrack, and no one moves.

"American Sniper" is such a

film.

Based on Chris Kyle's autobiography, "American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History," the film portrays Chris Kyle's life from his early childhood and rodeo days to his final years following his fourth tour in Iraq. Jason Hall has done a superb job in adapting the work for the silver screen, leaving the book's most important elements intact.

But the film is not necessarily a collection of the best scenes from the book. Thanks to Bradley Cooper's nuanced portrayal of Chris Kyle, the film gains a depth and humanity missing from the autobiography.

Cooper embodies a man

fighting for all the right reasons — his country, his family and his brothers in arms. But what makes Cooper's performance so formidable is how he expresses the weight that comes from experiencing war. More often than not, words fail to express what Kyle is actually feeling. Instead, the twitch of an eye or a subtle smirk reveals more than the spoken word.

Cooper demonstrates not only significant acting acumen, but also an uncanny resemblance to Kyle himself. Cooper gained mass and muscle to play this part — but, unlike the usual Hollywood workout regimen that results in defined abs and a toned torso, Cooper is thick, highlighting the

body's role in combat, where utility is valued over conventional attractiveness. This new physique is put to work in the many combat sequences throughout the film — most notably in a heart-pounding confrontation with an enemy sniper with the additional threat of a looming sandstorm.

Cooper and Clint Eastwood talked with Kyle's father and wife, Wayne Kyle and Taya Kyle, before completing the film in order to receive their blessing and input, promising them that the film would serve as a respectful tribute to an American hero. Without a doubt, "American Sniper" is a resounding success, honoring the life of an extraordinary human being without romanticizing it.





# A conversation with Campbell Ross

*University student to perform stand-up on Downtown Mall*

**Candace Carter**  
Senior Writer

Fourth-year Commerce student Campbell Ross will take the stage at The Southern this Thursday to represent the University during the venue's Laugh Your Ass Off stand-up comedy night.

The LYAO series is part of a local initiative to fill what Lindsay Dorrier, marketing manager for The Southern and The Jefferson, calls "a glaring hole in the local entertainment scene."

Dorrier created the LYAO comedy showcase, using the scheduled performance of come-

dians Noah Gardenswartz and Kenny Wingle to forge a connection with the University and draw students Downtown in support of Ross.

"I'm interested in club level comics that don't hold back," he said in an email — and it seems Ross fits the bill.

Upon being asked to recommend a successful student comedian, Christopher Hutson, fourth-year College student and president and co-founder of the Student Stand Up Club, said he immediately thought of Campbell.

Ross began performing in high school, when he presented a mixture of stand-up comedy and im-

prov for a senior project.

Now Ross tackles a variety of topics onstage, and said his time at U.Va. has made writing a fun and easy task.

"[It] helps with the jokes ... just being happy all the time," he said.

Though a double major in Commerce and Economics keeps him busy here at the University, students can catch Ross performing at open mic nights a few times per semester.

"It's just a hobby," he said modestly.

Readers can catch Ross's routine this Thursday at The Southern.

# The importance of 'Selma'

*Civil rights film offers new, radical, relevant story for silver screen*

**Nina Lukow**  
Senior Writer

"Selma" is the most important film of the year.

"Birdman" may be the most technically creative. "Boyhood," with its 10+ years of production, may be the most innovative. But "Selma," depicting a powerfully moving moment in history during the Civil Rights Movement — and pulling its relevance into 2015 amid the Ferguson riots and protests against racially-charged police brutality nationwide — is without a doubt the most critical.

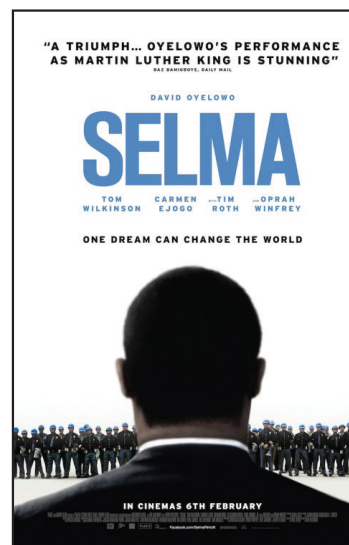
It is important not just because of the film's content — though the subject matter does introduce to a young generation a moment in Civil Rights Movement history which is often underrepresented. But rather than

chronicling an entire movement or recounting, in grand-biopic style, the entire lives of its leaders, director Ava DuVernay and screenwriter Paul Webb focus on a seminal, specific time and geographic location: Selma, 1965, after Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Opting for specificity is effective here — evoking Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," which portrayed only the last four months of President Abraham Lincoln's life. In doing so, DuVernay and Webb shift the focus from an individual (Martin Luther King Jr.) to a place and a moment, allowing the film to signal that its actions and events are greater than any one party involved.

The film's importance does not only stem from its approach to historic narration — though

DuVernay does avoid pretentious over-historicizing. The



Courtesy IMP Awards

plushness and crescendo of strings that comes with certain

biographical or historical films that try very hard to say "this is an important moment in history" (read: "Braveheart" or "The King's Speech") is not present here. Rather, "Selma" opts for depth in openly human — that is, flawed — characters and intimate close-ups juxtaposed with the larger events of the film, such as Bloody Sunday, the first Selma to Montgomery march and the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson.

"Selma" also stands out as the most important film of the year for its ability to win the hearts of viewers with the question: what do you stand for? This film inspires its viewers to consider actions in the film — state troopers taking brutal steps toward Civil Rights activists and the slow governmental reactions that followed — and comparing them to the riots and protests against police brutality this past year.

Furthermore, how should those who are not directly affected by those events react — those who Martin Luther King Jr. called the "white moderates" in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail, who he described as the "great stumbling block in [the] stride to freedom?"

"Selma" may avoid answering outright, but it leaves the tools of questioning in our hands to do what we will with them. That the film was so unjustly received by the Academy of Motion Picture's recently released nominations is unfortunate. David Oyelowo gives the performance of the year, bringing a stately, yet understated presence to the film as King. That he and Henry G. Sanders, who plays the father of murdered Jimmie Lee Jackson, were not nominated for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor is a mistake on behalf of the Academy.

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