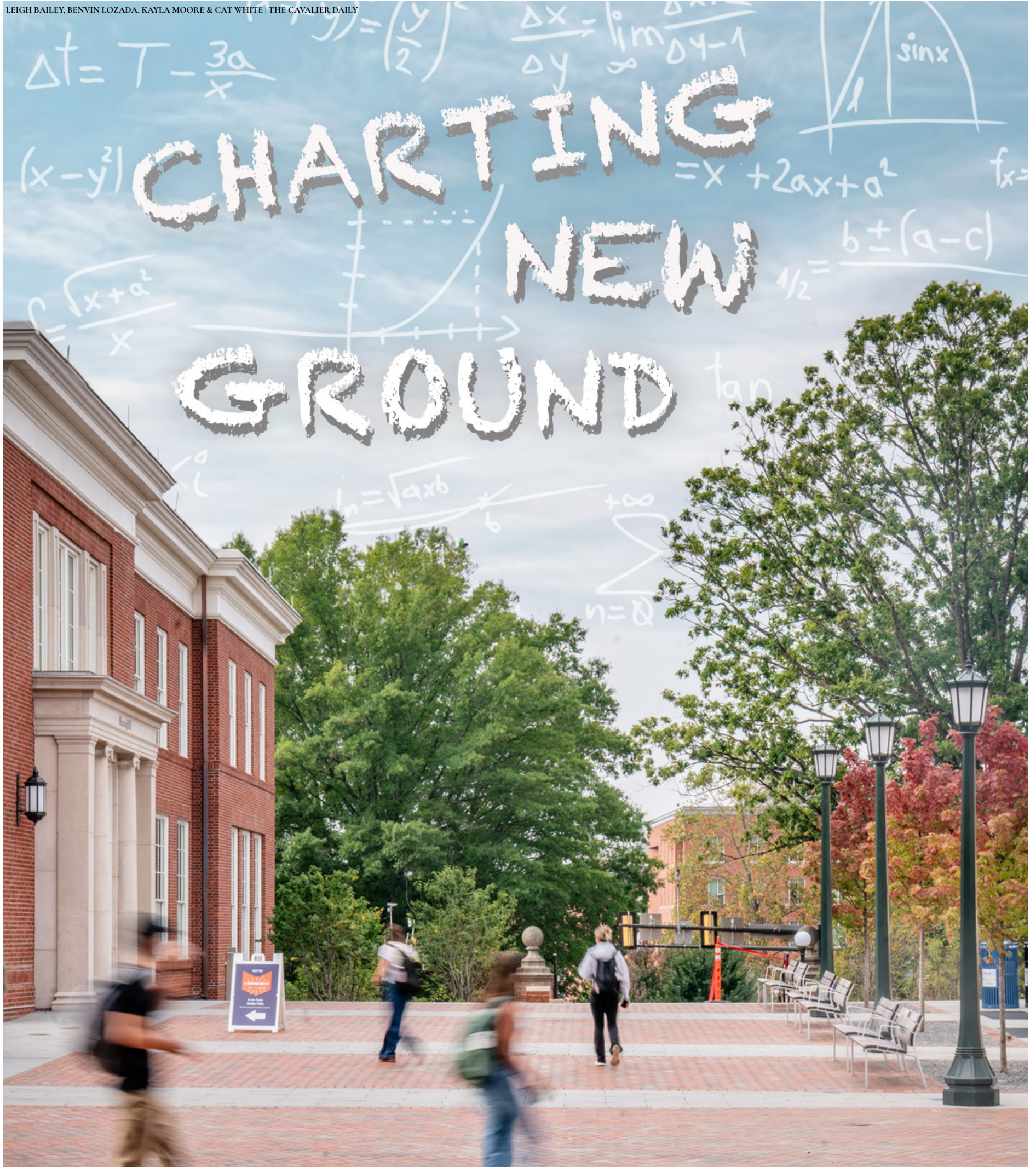


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LEIGH BAILEY, BENVIN LOZADA, KAYLA MOORE & CAT WHITE | THE CAVALIER DAILY



NEWS

This week in-brief

CD News Staff

Did U.Va. violate freedom of information law during Friday's Board meeting?

Friday's meeting of the full Board of Visitors turned tense when dozens of protesters lined up outside the Board room to attempt to enter, which most were unable to do.

Because most members of the public who attempted to enter were unable to, the University may have acted against prior advisory and court opinions on freedom of information law during Friday's Board of Visitors meeting, according to a lawyer familiar with the law and past cases.

Batten graduate student Eli Weinger was one of the protesters at Friday's meeting, and said that he believes the Board room is deliberately small so as to prevent the Board from being accountable to students.

"We're here, lined up to try to get in the room ... we know the Board of Visitors has set up a structure that makes being heard impossible, and that's intentional, they don't want to listen to what we have to say," Weinger said. "And what we're here saying today is no, you're going to have to listen."

In a statement to The Cavalier Daily, University Spokesperson Bethanie Glover said that the University was compliant with all state requirements at Friday's meeting.

"We accommodate as many members of the media and public into open sessions as possible, without violating fire code restrictions for the room or causing disruptions to board proceedings," Glover said. "We also make all open sessions available via livestream so that anyone can view the proceedings."

Spanberger visits U.Va. to speak with students just ahead of start of early voting

Former Rep. Abigail Spanberger — the Democratic gubernatorial nominee — visited the University Sept. 16 for a conversation with students on her policy platform. In the conversation with Center for Politics Director Larry Sabato, Spanberger made what is likely her final return to the University which she attended before the election.

Spanberger's appearance at the Rotunda comes after her opponent — Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears — spoke at a similar event in April. The two are vying to become the first woman governor of Virginia.

Spanberger hit on key issues through questions from Sabato and students, including how she would approach the Board of Visitors as governor. In the months since former University President Jim Ryan resigned, Virginia Senate Democrats have led a charge against Gov. Glenn Youngkin's appointees to the Board as a response.

In response to a student question, Spanberger said the Board's appointment process should be revisited.

"There is a real, clear need to make ... changes to how it is that we make appointments," Spanberger said. "I think that there's a whole array of things that people have brought to me for consideration."

The current process has the governor make nominations for governing boards across the Commonwealth, and those nominees begin serving until their confirmation comes before the General Assembly, usually during regular session. Other lawmakers, including Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, have previously said they too support changes to the appointment process.

Presidential search committee talks ideal traits in new president

The University's presidential search committee held its second meeting Monday, where it heard updates on the search from external search firm Isaacson, Miller. The firm shared that it is moving through the steps of the search faster than expected and that it is dedicated to preserving the University's commitments to academic freedom, student self-governance and affordability throughout the process.

The search committee also broke into subcommittees to discuss the priorities and ideal characteristics that various stakeholders have identified as important for a new University president.

The search committee is composed of 28 members with connections to the University, including current Board of Visitors members, students, faculty, administrators and alumni. The search committee serves in an advisory capacity to find a permanent University president following former University President Jim Ryan's resignation in June and is assisted by the external search firm Isaacson, Miller which will help to review and interview candidates.

Mindy Cimini, senior search coordinator of Isaacson, Miller, provided updates on the responses to the survey posted on the presidential search website, which remains open. There is also a form available on the Isaacson, Miller website accepting applications, nominations and inquiries.

The survey on the University's website asks a series of questions about top priorities, ideal personal characteristics and important areas of experience that the new president should have. It also asks for primary affiliation to the University, and provides space for free responses to a few questions.

Several Justice Department investigations into the University resolved, Mahoney says

Interim University President Paul Mahoney announced that Justice Department investigations into admissions policies of the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and the McIntire School of Commerce, as well as into the University's response to allegations of antisemitic discrimination, had been closed during a meeting of the full Board of Visitors Friday.

In the months leading up to former University President Jim Ryan's resignation, a series of letters sent by the Justice Department to the University and obtained by The Cavalier Daily through a Freedom of Information Act request revealed that the Department had opened reviews into the admissions policies of all University schools. The seven letters were sent between April 11 and June 17, and The Cavalier Daily obtained these letters July 1.

"Racial discrimination is immoral and abhorrent. Most of all, it is illegal. The mounting evidence that the Department is receiving on a near daily basis suggests that the problem identified above at the McIntire School of Commerce is not confined to that component," a letter sent June 17 read.

"In fact, the [Justice] Department possesses evidence that the use and consideration of race in admissions decisions and the conferring or awarding of student benefits and programming opportunities are widespread practices throughout every component and facet of the institution."

Mahoney discusses institutional priorities in interview

In a sit down interview with The Cavalier Daily, Mahoney said he hopes to promote civil discourse, maintain affordability and ensure stability

Brendon Bordwine | Senior Writer

Seven weeks after being selected as Interim University President Aug. 4, Paul Mahoney sat down with The Cavalier Daily to discuss his vision for the University during his short tenure, how his background prepared him for the job and what he sees as the University's role in national debates.

Mahoney, who has taught at the School of Law for more than 30 years and served as its dean from 2008 to 2016, was appointed to the interim role in August after the resignation of former University President Jim Ryan, who was facing pressure from the Justice Department over affirmative action policies and alleged antisemitism on Grounds.

When the Board of Visitors asked him to serve as interim president, Mahoney said that the decision to accept was straightforward.

"I decided that if the Board thought that I was the right person to lead the University at this time, then I was going to do my absolute best to do so. UVa. has been very good to me, and I want to do everything I can to pay it back," Mahoney said.

While his appointment is temporary, Mahoney emphasized he sees this responsibility as preparing the ground for the University's 10th president.

"It's a paradox," Mahoney said. "On one hand, by definition, an interim presidency is a temporary job, but on the other hand, I don't think you can succeed at it unless you take a long-term perspective. Maybe the best way to put it is that my job as interim president is to set things up so that the 10th president can succeed."

On how his decades at the University have influenced his leadership, Mahoney said that his past experiences have convinced him that strong faculty are the cornerstone of institutional excellence.

"My time at the law school, both as a professor and as a dean, convinced me of the central importance of attracting and retaining the very best faculty," Mahoney said.

He also pointed to his experience leading the School of Law during the 2007 to 2009 global financial crisis as a key test of leadership, one that he said prepared him to manage uncertainty in his current role as interim president.

"That taught me the importance of keeping a very close eye

on the budget, and it also taught me the importance of being able to pivot quickly as circumstances change," Mahoney said.

In recent debates, the term "shared governance" has been at the forefront of campus discussions. Over the past two months, student and faculty organizations have emphasized the principle in public forums, including a Labor Day teach-in that drew attention to federal overreach at the University and a statement from the United Campus Workers of Virginia at UVa. to the presidential search committee urging a stronger role for faculty, staff and students in decision-making.

In response to these debates, the Jefferson Council, a conservative alumni group, published several opinion pieces highlighting that shared governance has no legal or historical basis at the University.

Mahoney said he hopes to prioritize shared governance by ensuring University leadership remains attentive to the voice of faculty, staff, students and alumni.

"To me, shared governance means that the top leadership of the University should be attentive to the views of faculty, students, staff and even alumni in the Charlottesville community, should reach out to those constituencies whenever possible and should take a full account of their interests in making decisions," Mahoney said.

At the same time, Mahoney stressed that the president must maintain a close working relationship with the Board of Visitors, which oversees the University.

"I report to the Board, and of course, I look forward to working with them to advance the University's mission," Mahoney said. "It's also true that our Board members, both now and historically, have been very accomplished people, and they're a great resource ... of advice and counsel. But of course, they're not the only source of advice and counsel. Faculty, students, etc., are also very important constituencies to whom the president is also accountable."

Beyond his relationship with the Board, Mahoney must also navigate federal oversight, with the University facing multiple ongoing Justice Department investigations. Between April and June, the Justice Department sent seven letters to University officials requesting admissions



DANIEL FISHER | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Appointed Aug. 4, Interim University President Paul Mahoney sat down with The Cavalier Daily Sept. 24 to discuss his priorities.

data, scrutinizing diversity, equity and inclusion policies, and asking for evidence of how the University was handling alleged antisemitic incidents.

At a full Board meeting Sept. 12, Mahoney announced that investigations into policies at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and the McIntire School of Commerce and alleged antisemitic discrimination had been closed. He said that he had personally engaged in discussion with Justice Department officials and that the University had received letters confirming the resolved status of those particular investigations.

He did not name all specific reasons why the Justice Department chose to close those probes, only that they were based on information the University submitted about its policies and practices.

"We provided information about our policies and actions to the Department of Justice, and on that basis, they decided to close those investigations," Mahoney said.

Mahoney acknowledged that five investigations are still outstanding, covering broad areas

as from admissions to alleged discriminatory programming. According to Mahoney, the University is currently engaged in discussions about the five remaining investigations.

Looking ahead, Mahoney outlined a mix of short-term goals and longer-term ambitions.

"First, I hope to persuade our students, faculty, staff and alumni that the University is stable and that it's headed in the right direction," Mahoney said. "Second, I want to bring our discussions with the Department of Justice to a satisfactory conclusion, but I also want to work on some long term projects that I hope will create some momentum for the 10th president."

Among those projects, Mahoney emphasized cultivating civil discourse and viewpoint diversity, as well as monitoring costs across the University with the goal of maintaining affordability for students.

Mahoney said the University should also serve as a national example in politically charged debates surrounding higher education.

"The role UVa. should play is to demonstrate that we can dis-

agree and debate, but do it in a way that is civil and respectful," Mahoney said. "We are part of the story of America's founding and America was founded on the principles of free speech and personal liberty, and we should be faithful to those principles."

Though Mahoney will not participate in the selection of the University's next president, he shared what he believes the Board should look for.

"I think the next president should be a servant leader who will always put the interests of the University first," Mahoney said. "I hope it will be someone who understands UVa. and can inspire our students, faculty, staff and alumni. I also think it should be someone with a demonstrated track record of fostering academic excellence."

When asked if he would pursue the role permanently, Mahoney said that it was "to be determined."

As interim president, Mahoney said his hope for remembrance is simple.

"I just hope that they will say that I was the right person for the circumstances that I faced," Mahoney said.

Kirk's assassination prompts questions about free speech

The College Republicans circulated a letter Sept. 11 demanding Mahoney discipline University employees for celebrating or justifying Kirk's death.

Gracie Little | Senior Associate

In the wake of Charlie Kirk's assassination Sept. 10, there has been renewed debate at colleges and universities nationwide about free speech and political messaging in higher education. Multiple universities have let faculty and staff members go, expelled students or promised to investigate and discipline educators who have responded to Kirk's death "inappropriately."

These concerns about free speech nationwide have found their way to the University. The chief of staff in the governor's office sent an email Sept. 12 to all Commonwealth employees, which includes University faculty and staff, to remind them to positively represent the Commonwealth in and outside work.

On the students' end, the College Republicans at the University sent a letter Sept. 11 demanding employees of the University who reacted favorably to Kirk's death face disciplinary action, and other students weighed in on what the limits of free speech should be regarding reactions to Kirk's death.

Kirk was a conservative activist and founder of Turning Point USA — a nonprofit organization advocating for conservative politics primarily among young adults. While debating Utah Valley University community members, Kirk was shot in the neck and pronounced dead hours later. Suspect Tyler Robinson, 22, was charged with murder Sept. 16. Since Kirk's death, President Donald Trump has vowed retribution, saying he will go after the "radical left," which he claimed is to blame for a rise in political violence in the United States.

At the University, students have expressed mixed reactions in the wake of Kirk's death. Second-year College student Rebecca Mooney said she believes there are certainly respectful and disrespectful ways to react to Kirk's death. However, she said it is hypocritical for Kirk supporters to condemn those who reacted to his death favorably because Kirk himself was an adamant supporter of exercising First Amendment rights.

"Free speech is free speech. That's why the First Amendment exists," Mooney said. "It's ironic — the setting in which he was assassinated was a setting in which he was expressing [his] First Amendment [right]."

The First Amendment grants Americans free speech and expression rights. While the U.S. Supreme Court has struggled to precisely define this right's implications, its historical decisions have clarified this freedom as the right to "use certain offensive words and phrases to convey political messages," as per the *Cohen v. California* decision.

Since Kirk's death, some employees of the Commonwealth have pub-

licly reacted favorably to Kirk's death and faced consequences. A local school board member resigned and a Newport News public school employee has been placed on administrative leave following investigations into social media activity related to Kirk's assassination.

The Virginia Department of Education published a statement Sept. 13 regarding "troubling" social media posts. The posts allegedly "celebrated" Kirk's assassination, and the statement condemned this support of political violence that has "no place in Virginia's public schools." According to the statement, the VDOE will support superintendents who pursue social media reports, and it will evaluate options for state action against local school divisions who do not hold personnel accountable.

"Local school divisions should promptly investigate [the social media] reports ... and refer teachers and administrators who have violated these essential standards ... for licensure revocation," the statement read.

With regards to how an educator's right to free speech intersects with their duty to serve students, Second-year College student Margaret Barton believes University professors should avoid speaking in a way that devalues Kirk's personhood and stick to purely political issues as topics of discussion.

Barton said that a professor's role is to educate, and inserting opinions like praise of Kirk's death can take away from this mission. While she recommends professors remain loyal to their job's purpose, Barton said that ultimately, although a professor's words have the power to harm the reputation of the institution, those employed at the University have freedom of speech.

"I think that they do have the right to say [their honest reactions to Kirk's death], and they are allowed to say that due to freedom of speech," Barton said. "However, I do think for the overall reputation of the University and who they want their students to be and who they want their alumni to reflect, I think that it isn't the best look for the University."

Barton said she does not believe professors should be fired over a social media post or an expression of their views, but that the University could intervene and talk to professors about their duty to uphold the institution's image.

Contracted Independent Organizations also weighed in on the issue of free speech in regards to reactions to Kirk's death. The Executive Board of the CRs circulated a letter Sept. 11 via Instagram and X, addressed to Interim University President Paul Mahoney and the Board of Visitors. The letter expressed concern over reactions

of professors, teaching assistants and students on the assassination of Kirk which CRs deemed unacceptable.

According to the letter, many University members justified or celebrated Kirk's death, overlooking the horrible reality of political violence in America and the grief many students were experiencing. The letter said that conservatives have long been neglected at the University and had their views dismissed, which the authors say must come to an end.

"Many ... met this gruesome news with joy, laughter, cheering the violence on and wishing it upon us conservatives," the letter read. "Conservatives at the University of Virginia have been socially marginalized, unwelcomed and hated inside and outside the classroom."

In response to the alleged hateful reactions by University members, the letter demanded that Mahoney and the Board take action to discipline those who "justified or called for violence."

"If this University cared about free speech or democracy, it would act, and that starts with your actions or leadership," the letter read.

The Cavalier Daily reached out for a comment from CRs, and the organization responded that it has an internal policy of no statements.

John Littel, Gov. Glenn Youngkin's chief of staff, sent an email to all employees of the Commonwealth in regards to Kirk's death and a rejection of all forms of political violence. The letter compared this moment of national unity to Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to "defeat the evils that harm our democracy," and it said that free speech holds a particularly relevant meaning in this moment.

"While Virginia has led the way during the Founding of our Nation to ensure that the inalienable God-given rights of liberty and free speech were protected, we are not immune to today's assault on those rights," Littel's letter read.

According to the letter, state employees must hold themselves to a higher standard when it comes to their speech — they must represent the Commonwealth well inside and outside of work. Littel did not overtly mention or restrict employees' free speech rights, but he asked employees to refrain from publicly reacting to Kirk's death in a way that would not reflect well on the Commonwealth.

"[Public servants] are appropriately held to a higher standard. That means not only representing the Commonwealth during work, but also outside of the office and, especially in social media," the letter read. "We have received notice of several posts that clearly violate this standard of conduct. I remind you of the standards



ADAIRE BURNSD | THE CAVALIER DAILY

At the University, students have expressed mixed reactions in the wake of Kirk's death.

that are expected of state employees."

The letter did not specify any consequences should employees not meet these standards during work or on social media.

Faculty Senate Chair Jeri Seidman said she has received concerns from faculty on the letter from Littel, and she emailed questions and concerns to Mahoney. Mahoney responded, assuring faculty that they have the right to express themselves without fear of retaliation.

"When [faculty] speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline," Mahoney wrote in his response. "Their special position in the community imposes special obligations."

Seidman said she does not know of any faculty or staff members who have faced discipline for expressing personal views on Kirk's death, and she has expressed concern to members of the University administration about CRs' letter.

Recently, Trump has targeted media organizations who have expressed opposing views to himself and his administration, and ABC temporarily pulled TV host Jimmy Kimmel off air for comments over the right's reaction to Kirk's death. Kimmel returned to air Tuesday. According to Trump, many networks that criticize him should have their licenses revoked — the excessive criticism is "illegal" and no longer can be categorized as free speech.

Second-year College student Francesca Wood said that she thinks that the promise of free speech should not enable hate speech.

"I don't think you can celebrate

someone's assassination and murder in front of hundreds and thousands of people, like it's free speech," Wood said. "Free speech doesn't exist for you to be able to say whatever you want."

Third-year College student Katie Rice said she heard a range of reactions to Kirk's death, and those who reacted favorably to his assassination took her aback.

"I was with a girl who said, 'I hope he dies,'" Rice said. "Honestly, that was a bit shocking to hear — regardless of someone's political stances, we should have appreciation for the magnitude of [death]."

Rice said she also heard of a professor who seemed to imply that Kirk's death was warranted.

"I had a professor in an immigration class ... say that he wouldn't comment, but the innuendo was that ... he had a positive reaction towards [Kirk's] passing, which was definitely disconcerting for me as a student," Rice said. "It was honestly pretty sad to hear someone have that kind of reaction to a person's graphic murder."

During his time as a conservative public speaker, Kirk used his platform to convey the importance of free speech and open dialogue. He routinely debated progressive students and media personalities and was a strong proponent of the First Amendment.

"Hate speech does not exist legally in America," he wrote on X last year. "There's ugly speech. There's gross speech. There's evil speech. And ALL of it is protected by the First Amendment. Keep America free."

Where does the Student Council budget come from?

With more than \$271,000 this year, Student Council funds University CIOs and provides many accessible services for students

Lauren Seeliger | Senior Writer

Student Council unanimously approved a \$271,769.11 budget Sept. 16 for the 2025-26 academic year, an increase of \$40,000 from last year. Here's an in-depth look at where the money came from, and what it is being used for.

Student Council's budget stems from three sources — the Student Activities Fee, which each student pays with their tuition, Student Council-fundraised money and a gift given to Student Council from former University President Jim Ryan in 2023.

The Student Activities Fee

The SAF cost each University student \$58 for the 2025-26 academic year, bringing the total to approximately \$1.3 million.

Student Council does not get the entirety of the SAF total, according to Princess Wuraola Olubuse-Omisore, Council vice president for administration and graduate public health student. Part of the \$1.3 million is allocated to the salaries of Student Legal Services lawyer Teresa Hepler, Olga Weider, University associate vice president of finance, an annual \$50,000 donation to Madison House and \$91,012.11 for the Student Council internal budget.

Mitchell said the remaining roughly \$850,000-900,000 is allocated to Contracted Independent Organizations, so the Council's Organizations Branch can fund and provide resources to CIOs.

This year, the Organizations Branch had a budget of \$41,465 from the SAF, which was unevenly split across its four committees. This includes the CIO Consultants Committee, the Appropriations Committee, the Board of Audit and Management and the Organizations Recognition Committee.

According to Mitchell, the CCC put \$40,000 towards granting all CIOs free access to printing and \$1,215 to a Mailchimp subscription for the branch to communicate with CIO leaders via email. This CCC budget is approximately \$9,000 more than it was for the 2024-25 school year, but Mitchell noted the CCC arrived at a proper budget based on the typical number of pages CIOs have needed to print in years past.

After not receiving funding last year, the final two committees of the Organizations Branch have funding in this year's budget. The Appropriations Committee has an allocation of \$500 which Mitchell said they will use to hold workshops for CIOs to learn about how to make funding requests.

Besides the portion of the SAF budget funding the Organizations Branch, there is an additional \$49,547.11 going towards committees outside of the branch. The Arts Agency — a part of the Student Council

Presidential Cabinet Agency — has a budget of \$20,000 for the 2025-26 year, with a mission to support artists on Grounds.

Non-Student Activities Fee Funding

Non-SAF funding takes the smallest part of Student Council's budget, with \$7,928.50 for the 2025-26 academic year. Wuraola Olubuse-Omisore said during the Student Council general body meeting Sept. 16 that non-SAF funding primarily stems from personal Student Council fundraising, but that fundraising does not regularly occur. Student Council bylaws state that non-SAF funding “shall only be absolutely used when the requests for funds are not SAF-fundable.”

The membership committee takes almost the entirety of the non-SAF funding and is responsible for recruitment and retention of Student Council general members. The committee works to train and plan events for new members, provide stoies to graduating fourth-year students and photograph Student Council member headshots.

The University Allocation

Ryan gifted the Student Council \$750,000 in fall 2023 to be split over three years, and in January, Ryan extended this with \$250,000 to last another two years. Ryan intended this money to be put towards the Support and Access Services branch of Student Council, the newest branch which provides low-cost services to University students.

The largest part of the 2025-26 budget comes from this University allocation, with a total of \$169,528.50 — almost double of the SAS allocation in the 2024-25 Council budget. Funding for SAS uses \$145,750.00 of that total, split amongst SAS's various services. The additional \$23,778.50 not being put towards SAS is primarily for Cabinet agencies.

UVA. Mutual Aid has the largest allocation in the SAS budget, with \$63,100.00 for the 2025-26 year. According to Micah Andrews, chief of SAS and third-year College student, it is up to Student Council's discretion for how much is budgeted of the University allocation per year.

She said Mutual Aid was SAS's biggest priority this year and has three primary functions. The first is the Cavalier Career Closet, which launched Aug. 26 as a space for University students to take business attire at no cost. The closet required a \$20,000 down payment to My Career Closet — the company Student Council is partnering with to receive 140 tailored outfits for students — and is responsible for part of the SAS budget increase.

Two other functions of Mutual Aid are stocking a free store in the Student Activities Center in New-

comb Hall for students to have access to hygiene products and other necessities, as well as providing no-strings-attached grants to students in times of crisis.

The next largest part of the SAS allocation with \$40,000.00 is the Accommodations Access Fund, which provides funding to students in need of securing disability confirmation paperwork to receive University disability accommodations.

The AAF funding more than doubled from the 2024-25 year and Andrews said the AAF is now holding Cavalier Health — a new entity Student Council is establishing to hold all health services under one branch. This includes free STI testing for students, which has been held under the Cabinet branch of Student Council in the past. She also said Student Council is re-establishing the Next Steps Fund under Cavalier Health, providing free therapy sessions to students, and finally, Student Council is hoping to add dental insurance under Cavalier Health.

“We’re still in the works of figuring [dental insurance] out, but that’s what I’m really excited for this year, the expansions of Cavalier Health, as well as seeing Mutual Aid ... be utilized,” Andrews said.

Approximately \$17,000 of the additional \$23,778.50 not being used by SAS is going towards Cabinet agencies in Student Council, including Student Life and Safety and Wellness, which both work to raise student concerns to University administrators.

The Budget Planning Process

Though the Student Council budget is “approved” by a simple vote of aye or nay from Student Council representatives, Mitchell said the planning of the budget begins months in advance and that the budget is not officially approved until it goes through another majority vote among the Student Activities Committee — the committee overseeing the SAF. The Student Activities Committee comprises members appointed by Chief Student Affairs Officer Kenyon Bonner. Wuraola Olubuse-Omisore noted Weider also sits on the committee.

Mitchell explained each committee director within a respective branch of Student Council is tasked with deciding and explaining how much money they would need for the year. This process occurs annually to prevent over-allocation within the budget and Mitchell said the requested budget from each committee is carefully reviewed.

“If this committee requested \$20,000 last year and they only spent \$1,000, why would we just give them \$20,000 again this year?” Mitchell said.

Though not part of a specific

branch, Student Council representatives are responsible for advocating for the general University student body and can also request funding. Ian Travis, College representative and third-year College student, said this funding can be used for when representatives pass resolutions to implement projects for improving student life.

However, Travis noted it is hard for representatives — especially new representatives — to think in advance for funding as they may not yet know what projects they will want to initiate until the year progresses.

“I think a lot of reps are still getting their feet on the ground, because we have a lot of new [representatives], and they don’t really know what they want to do,” Travis said. “And to get [requested funding] into the budget, you need a fully fleshed out proposal, and sometimes you just can’t give it.”

Travis said most representatives rely on requesting money from the budget as the year goes on, rather than putting their requests into the budget upfront.

For the 2025-26 academic year, Mitchell said a goal among Council administrators is to maximize utilization rate — the percentage of the budget actually used at the end of the fiscal year. For the 2024-25 academic year, Council agencies utilized 64 percent of their allocated funding. Mitchell said the goal to increase this

rate is because leftover money from the SAF budget returns to the Student Activities Committee, not to the students who pay the SAF.

Though there was an increase in this year’s Council budget, Student Council mainly saw a large shift in their allocations due to removing funding for cosponsorships, rather than increasing the budget for all of their new initiatives. Historically, cosponsorships occurred in which Student Council provided funding to other organizations on Grounds to host events or purchase resources they needed.

Travis emphasized his happiness with the budget planning process this year and said the proposed budget was sent to Council representatives in a respectful manner of time. This allowed representatives to review the proposal and gather any questions or concerns prior to the general body meeting Sept. 16, when the budget went up for a vote to the Reps.

“I’ve been in three budget sessions and I’ve never seen such unanimity [among representatives],” Travis said. “I think Student Council is going to be funded really well going forward with it.”

Council representatives approved the 2025-26 academic year budget at the general body meeting Sept. 16 and Mitchell said this was followed by the Student Activities Committee approving the budget Sept. 18.

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SPORTS

Virginia swimming stands at an inflection point

This coming year will be a dynasty defense for the women and a potential jailbreak ascent for the men

Aimee Crosbie | Staff Writer

What happens to a dynasty when it loses its monarchs?

Within the brick castle that is the Aquatic & Fitness Center, Coach Todd DeSorbo is grappling with that very question after both Gretchen and Alex Walsh, among others, graduated from the college roster this past year.

After these departures, the team will lean hard into international star power, with senior Aimee Canny, a two-time South African Olympian, already on deck for her final year. The freshman duo of Lana Pudar and Sara Curtis, of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Italy, respectively, have also arrived as further Olympic-level additions.

Meanwhile, the men are surging upward with the arrival of No. 1 and No. 2 freshmen Maximus Williamson and Thomas Heilman — two generational prospects expected to flip the men's program into a dark-horse for national championship contention.

"On the men's side ... the freshmen are arguably the best class in NCAA history," DeSorbo said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily. "And then on the women's side, it's a new identity, it's different, because it's the first time in six years we haven't had a [Kate] Douglass or a Walsh."

This creates a rare contrast within the same program — the women attempting to uphold their hard-earned standard with a deeper and more global roster while the men try to leap up through the rankings on the backs of teenage phenoms.

As a result, DeSorbo may be about to face the most complex balancing act of his career — the defense of one dynasty while nurturing the rise of another.

The women — pressure to defend

Even without the Walsh sisters, the Cavalier women are anything but depleted — in fact, a team that once seemed to lean on a handful of stars now looks like a true top-to-bottom powerhouse, with experienced Olympians, NCAA champions and international podium regulars filling the lanes across every possible stroke and distance.

This increased roster depth is a promising room-read for the five-time NCAA champions, who are undoubtedly eyeing up a history-making sixth. Only three other swimming and diving programs have ever achieved the coveted five-peat, and none have rings on a second hand. So this year, more is

on the line than ever before for the most decorated team on Grounds.

"After five in a row, the seniors don't want to be the class that loses it, and the freshmen don't want to be the first class to not win it," DeSorbo said.

Part of continuing their record run will be filling gaps in relays — huge shoes to fill, given that Gretchen Walsh is widely considered the fastest woman in the world right now and Alex Walsh ended her collegiate career as the most decorated ACC athlete of all time.

Luckily, the Cavaliers have no shortage of choice in who to field in this sans-Walsh era. Junior and U.S. Olympian Claire Curzan seems poised to step into multiple key roles — her versatility across butterfly, back and free gives DeSorbo an abundance of flexibility. She is the lone returner from last year's 200 medley relay and, along with sophomore relay veteran Anna Moesch, one of only two familiar faces across the other relays, excluding only the 800 free relay.

"You want to be graduating people like [the Walshes], because it means you've been really successful," DeSorbo said. "When we graduated Kate [Douglass] a few years ago, people thought, 'Oh, this is the end.' And then we just continued [winning]."

A part of that winning is returning the majority of last year's NCAA roster.

One of those returners is senior captain Emma Weber, an Olympic gold medalist for Team USA, who has been at Virginia for three straight national championships. After years of winning, Weber noted that the goal is still the same.

"I think [newcomers] get this privilege of pressure," Weber said. "And I know [DeSorbo] talks about pressure as a privilege, and I think this season, if anything, there is a little bit more of that pressure from the swimming world and the NCAA to defend this title and make six."

The men — pressure to ascend

Virginia's men have not shared the same dynastic narrative as the women — never has a national championship banner been hung for the Cavalier men, and their last conference championship title was in 2013, the sixth of a consecutive ACC run.

This past spring, the Cavalier men finished eighth at the ACC Championships and 32nd



RICHARD DIZON | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The mighty Cavaliers are reloading with new talent post-Walshes.

at NAAs, their lowest in a decade. They struggled to score points amongst a slate of injuries and received a costly relay disqualification.

Now, with the arrivals of Williamson and Heilman, the Virginia men are suddenly on the cusp of national relevance once more.

Depth behind the big names helps to solidify Virginia's freshman class as the top in the country. Thomas Mercer arrives with ACC-scoring range across multiple events, the kind of versatility coaches covet come February and March. Nathan Szobota and Blake Amlicke give Virginia options on both freestyle and medley relays — Amlicke's 50 back chops even make him a plausible 200 medley leadoff.

That is precisely why this recruiting class matters — it is not just talent but timing. It has been an uphill climb against longtime ACC powerhouses NC State and Louisville, as well as conference newcomers Stanford and California, but now Virginia look like a genuine threat.

"Last year at ACCs, it felt like I was at NAAs ... [and ACCs] is just going to prepare them," DeSorbo said. "They're going to be able to walk into NAAs and be like,

'I've already raced the best.' It's not like they're going to be deer caught in the headlights at NAAs."

This is where the experience of senior Jack Aikins, senior Sebastien Sergile and the sophomore duo of David King and Spencer Nicholas come in. The men's side are returning all four competitors from NAAs this past March, so the former two will have high hopes for their final lap with the Cavaliers.

Aikins, especially, is the spine of this group — after back-to-back summers of heartbreak, he broke through at the U.S. trials to make the World Championships team. If he brings his summer form and Heilman and Williamson deliver A-finals in their predicted event lineup, the Cavaliers could contend for individual, relay and team podiums in the spring.

Still, the risk of banking too much on prodigies is real. The question is not whether they have the talent — that much is proven — but whether they can sustain the pressure of being "program-flippers" in their first year on Grounds.

"There's a lot behind the scenes that you have to take care of," Nicholas said. "You can work as hard as you can and not see the results you want to because you haven't been

doing every little detail right ... that was something that I struggled with last year."

The men and women?

The standard for both of these programs is dominance, but the routes there could not look more different.

Virginia has not swept both the men and women's ACC team titles since 2013 — though it has happened multiple times in program history. This sets up real stakes for the preservation of a dynasty and a breakthrough in a conference that just got exponentially tougher. The women are well positioned to chase a historic title, while the men suddenly have the firepower to possibly clinch a first.

"There's nothing that's really out of our reach right now," Aikins said. "I think everyone coming in, we're all on the same page right now with what we think is achievable. And we're all excited about that possibility."

Always growing, Nicholas Simmonds continues to rise

The freshman sensation has a history of the remarkable growth he has shown over the first month of the season

Mofeoluwa Akande | Staff Writer

When soccer players enter college and stare down the barrel of a compressed two-week preseason, it can be a struggle to acclimate quickly and make an early impact. But, for men's soccer's freshman forward Nicholas Simmonds, that was not the case.

Simmonds, a 6-foot-4, 195-pound physical presence, started at forward in the opening game of his inaugural season, against San Diego State, even over a returning MLS SuperDraft selection in junior forward AJ Smith.

Simmonds has since started and starred in all seven of Virginia's games this season, netting a team-high four goals. With every goal, Simmonds has stepped into the role of a clutch forward, and it is a fitting dawn to this chapter of his soccer career.

His first career goal, a header off a broken-down corner-kick against George Mason, served as a spark of hope in a lopsided 4-1 affair in the Cavaliers' lone loss so far this season. Despite Virginia's backs being pressed against the wall, Simmonds answered with his team grasping for life.

Simmonds' second goal, a late-game equalizer against Virginia Tech in Virginia's ACC opener, his first match in the Commonwealth Clash, came in the 79th minute. In the wan-

ing moments, it brought Virginia over the hump to a 2-2 draw.

His third and fourth goals came in a package deal that helped set the tone in his biggest collegiate game yet, Sept. 19 against No. 1 Wake Forest. Simmonds notched his first career brace in just the first half, scoring the opening goals as the Cavaliers incinerated the nation's top-ranked team 6-3.

Just seven games into his young career, Simmonds has already proven himself as a consistent contributor.

"He's been very good," Coach George Gelnovatch said. "He's been one of our more dangerous guys. But, you gotta remember, the guy's still a first year. He's only gonna get better."

That growth over time has been a staple of his career so far. Simmonds, at a young age, was never a prodigy. His father, Greg Simmonds, experienced Simmonds' development over the years and credited it to his growth mindset.

"He was, as a young kid, always on the third team, second team, and never really made the elite team till he was like 12," Greg Simmonds said. "He was that kid that just had to work very hard to achieve what he wanted to achieve, but his passion was to play the game that he loves at the highest level."

At just 16 years of age, as a high school junior, Simmonds debuted with the Richmond Kickers, in USL League One. That experience early on helped shape him to be who he is as a player now.

"I got to learn a lot," Simmonds said. "I got to play with pros and it accelerated my development a lot. I think it set me up for success, to be able to play at a pro level."

Simmonds became the club's youngest goal-scorer at 16 years and eight months, similarly to how he was the first freshman on this Virginia squad to notch a goal. His goal with the Kickers came off a corner, just like his goal against George Mason, and the goal itself served as an equalizer against Central Valley Fuego FC, just like the goal against Virginia Tech.

"I learned a lot of hard lessons that built character, but helped me and shaped my mentality, to what I think it is now," Simmonds said of his time at the Kickers. "And kind of the success I'm having here is because of that."

Apart from playing locally in Richmond, Simmonds also represented the Jamaican national team on the international stage, playing for the U17 and U20 squads.

"Being able to represent my coun-

try from where my dad's from is something that I take pride in, and is very special to me," Simmonds said. "Getting that opportunity is second to none, and something that I don't take for granted, because a lot of people can't say that they got to represent their national team."

The U17 call-up was in 2023, as his debut for the Reggae Boyz came against Guadalupe in the 2023 CONCACAF U17 Championship, a qualifier for the FIFA U17 2023 World Cup.

The latter was in 2024, when he represented Jamaica once again in the 2024 CONCACAF U20 qualifiers. He proved there that his knack for goal-scoring is not only present in the United States, as he knocked in his first international goal against Grenada in a 2-0 win. Playing internationally has helped sharpen Simmonds' mindset moving forward with the Cavaliers this season.

"I think one thing it really showed me was how to make an impact early and kind of how to put your first foot right," Simmonds said. "One thing I really, really focused on when I got [to Virginia] was making my impression and proving that I'm good enough to play from day one."

His mentality and eagerness to

prove himself comes from a motivation that resides close within his household. Greg Simmonds played soccer for Howard, graduating as the all-time leading scorer for the Bison, and has played in MLS, for the Jamaican national team and for the Kickers.

His sister, Kameron Simmonds, played Division I soccer at Tennessee and is now at Florida State. She also has experience with the U20 Jamaican team, as she represented it in the 2022 CONCACAF Women's U20 Championship.

"Being able to follow in my dad's footsteps and my sister's footsteps is something I take pride in ... just seeing their level of discipline everyday," Simmonds said. "When you have people like that in your house, it drives you."

Simmonds' presence as a lethal weapon has paid dividends for a Cavalier team that currently sits tied atop the ACC standings. Virginia is 5-1-1 and undefeated in its last three games, all against top-10 teams.

Simmonds walked off the field late in the game against Wake Forest to a large ovation. It already seemed like a career pinnacle. But over his life, he has proven that he just keeps going up.

No. 1 women's soccer has an ace in the goal

Victoria Safradin has played a quiet role in Virginia's rapid ascent to national supremacy

Sam Chun | Staff Writer

Coach Steve Swanson has a favorite line.

"Commitment — it's the difference between dreaming and doing," Swanson says.

It has been something he has told his No. 1 Virginia women's soccer team all season, and halfway through the regular season, it appears that his team has been doing a lot of, well, "doing."

Virginia, still undefeated at 8-0-1 and 2-0-0 in the ACC, has not trailed for a single second across 810 total minutes of play this season. The Cavaliers have done it against the class of the nation, including back-to-back victories over top-10 opponents Penn State and Duke.

So what has been the Cavaliers' recipe for success?

The Cavaliers together do not even have a top-50 scoring offense. Perhaps the unsung hero, then, is junior goalkeeper Victoria Safradin.

Through nine games, Safradin has pitched a shutout in all but two, during which she gave up just one goal apiece. Only three other goalkeepers in the country have surrendered two

goals or fewer through eight games. But Safradin herself argues that her entire defensive unit is the unsung hero.

"My back line has been doing phenomenal with blocking so many shots," Safradin said. "They are not even having the other team give me shots, because they're just blocking them before they even get to the goal."

There is truth to this. Virginia's opponents are averaging 7.9 shots per game, a number that, if the Cavaliers' opponents were their own team, would rank 320th. Safradin has not been peppered with shots she has to save — but when those eight-ish shots do come, she is quick to protect the goal.

As a whole, this defense returned three of its four starters from last season. A back line that includes graduate defender Laney Rouse and senior Kiki Maki has routinely kept the ball from inching too close to the goal. Continuity is a luxury that certainly cannot be taken for granted, and it has led to outings such as a shutout against then-No. 9 Penn State, in which Safradin

saw just one shot on goal.

But Safradin has proven that she is truly elite when the ball does come her way, as she holds the third-highest save percentage in the country at 93.3 percent.

In a statement victory, she saw seven shots on target against then-No. 2 Duke, stopping all but one en route to the Cavaliers' 3-1 victory. That level of strain is becoming the norm as Safradin and Virginia move into ACC play.

"Every team is going to be a challenge," Safradin said. "And they're always going to bring it and always going to bring high intensity. So just staying calm back there and being able to play out of any press, or just in general, being able to handle anything, that is something that I need to keep doing."

Safradin is already showing that she can elevate her play in big games. Last season, she gave up nearly three goals a game against ranked opponents — a recipe not built for success, especially with an offense that has been consistent but not necessarily explosive.

While rocky at times, Safradin's 2024 campaign gave her the experience to not just protect the net but to be a leader for her team. Safradin's steadiness brings comfort to the defense. It has particularly helped the lone fresh face of the back line, freshman defender Liv Rademaker, make a seamless transition to the team.

"It definitely helps with my confidence a lot, just understanding my players more," Safradin said. "I think them knowing that I've been back there and that we've all had a relationship made it easier for [Rademaker] to just come in and just be a part of the team right away."

Safradin's leadership is another aspect of her game that may go unnoticed due to its absence on the stat sheet. But whether it be setting up the defense on a corner kick, waving her teammates off a ball that she is charging toward or directing traffic in a crowded box, Safradin is extremely vocal and effective, something that often must come instinctively.

"At the end of the day, I can see the entire field and [the defense] can't," Sa-

fradin said. "My job as a goalkeeper is to communicate with them and talk to them to make their job easier."

Safradin has clearly made the defense's job easier, just as the defense has made hers easier, and while Virginia's offensive numbers have not yet dropped any jaws, the defense has made it so that the offense has not needed to do so. The Cavaliers have become the nation's best team without even hitting their ceiling.

Only time will tell if her and the defense's performance is sustainable, but Safradin shows no signs of slowing down. Virginia's next three games will come against unranked conference opponents before an away showdown Oct. 12 with No. 2 Stanford. There is also a date with No. 7 Florida State after that, and then, of course, come the ACC and NCAA tournaments in November.

"We're dreaming and doing," Safradin said. "We have a goal at the end of the day, and we're going to go and get that goal."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Shumway and Cobb Halls add artful dimensions to McIntire

McIntire's massive expansion project was intentionally tailored to spark student engagement and foster community

Benjamin Apostol | Senior Associate



KEN MICHAEL FABIA | THE CAVALIER DAILY

In planning Shumway and Cobb's layout, the University's three main ideals were for the buildings to be inclusive and inviting, functional and flexible and student-centric.



KEN MICHAEL FABIA | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Shumway's familiar Jeffersonian russet brick exterior holds a much more modern and minimalist interior, characterized by sleek white surfaces and technological integration.



KEN MICHAEL FABIA | THE CAVALIER DAILY

"We incorporated some really unique design features, like our semicircular glass facade, so it was combining historical precedent with kind of novel architectural things," Lewis said.

When the McIntire School of Commerce expanded its curriculum to three years long — and grew its student body by roughly 400 — a corresponding increase in its physical presence on Grounds accompanied the change. The 86,000-square-foot Shumway Hall, funded by a \$30 million gift from the Chris and Carrie Shumway Foundation, has been the largest addition to the Breeden Commerce Grounds. The building's construction was accommodated by a demolition and renovation to pre-existing Cobb Hall, which now sits just across Shumway on the southeast corner of the Lawn.

Bryan Lewis, chief information officer and assistant dean for operations at McIntire, saw to maintaining the University's architectural vision during the construction project for Shumway.

According to Lewis, a continuous balance between historical precedent and forward-facing ideas had to be struck throughout that process.

"Chris Shumway used to say, 'I want to build George Jetson's house.' He wanted to build something super modern," Lewis said. "The closer you are to Central Grounds, to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the harder it is to break the mold."

Shumway's familiar Jeffersonian russet brick exterior holds a much more modern and minimalist interior, characterized by sleek white surfaces and technological integration. With that, the building pays homage to its surroundings while distinguishing itself with futuristic themes.

"We incorporated some really unique design features, like our semicircular glass facade, so it was combining historical precedent with kind of novel architectural things," Lewis said.

The building's interior geometry also greatly contributes to its modern feel. It blends angular lighting panels, columns and study nooks with flowing and smooth curved staircases and mezzanines in a style rarely seen elsewhere on Grounds.

A wide array of art pieces, each made specifically for their spaces in Shumway and Cobb, add vibrancy and storytelling to the buildings' minimalist physical frames as well. One installation in particular — "A Life Worth Living" by Ato Ribeiro — lines 80 feet of Shumway's second floor

walls with acrylic and repurposed wood salvaged from Cobb's initial demolition.

In planning Shumway and Cobb's layout, the University's three main ideals were for the buildings to be inclusive and inviting, functional and flexible and student-centric. Lewis said that an important step towards achieving those goals was to facilitate community and interaction wherever possible with intently open design choices.

"The shortest paths through the buildings are really public, so you're going to make eye contact with other people," Lewis said. "The best study spaces are overlooking other spaces, so you're going to see your friends or your faculty."

Shumway's classrooms and reserveable spaces revolve around its lofty, brightly lit atrium. The open area works as a study spot or an auditorium for an audience of 400 as the lobby and centerpiece of the building.

Second-year Commerce student Ryin Ruaboro is a recent transfer and said that Shumway in particular has been helpful in meeting new people and settling into Grounds, in part due to its design.

"As a transfer, it's been the perfect place to meet everyone because of how public it all is," Ruaboro said. "The building kind of forces you to interact with everybody and eventually you get to build relationships through that."

Nora Kertache, member of the McIntire facilities and operations staff and fourth-year Commerce student, said the old Commerce curriculum — which she is currently completing — felt more fragmented in terms of student interaction. Now with the opening of Shumway and the diversified curriculum it invites, there is space for students across all years to interact.

"We're seeing everyone, now that a lot of the M.S. Commerce and Global Commerce and all of the graduate programs are also in here," Kertache said. "I see people daily that are second-years through master students."

In addition to its main public study space, Shumway features 25 reserveable group study rooms for students in need of a more enclosed setting. The building encourages all forms of cooperation which is in line with the emphasis on teamwork in McIntire's cur-

riculum itself, according to Kertache.

"I think overall, people's attitude about the building is much more positive than [Rouss-Robertson], because I think in Commerce, there's such a big emphasis on group work and collaboration," Kertache said. "[Shumway] is more collaborative in the sense of open spaces."

A similarly open space in Cobb Hall is its newly restored solarium on its highest floor. The room had its attic removed during renovation to reintroduce an inviting skylight to mirror what the space once looked like as a lecture hall over 100 years ago. The now snugly furnished area serves as an intimate study lounge and event space, with a double-height ceiling that gives students the space to work towards aspirations equally as tall.

"It feels like a living room-type environment, but it's really beautiful, and the history of that space is over 100 years of students taking classes in that room," Lewis said.

Glazed walls and grand windows across both Shumway and Cobb provide natural light that add to the sense of transparency and openness within the space. The large arched windows in Shumway's larger classrooms, for instance, were designed partially to allow pedestrians to peer into McIntire, according to Lewis. In that regard, the widespread use of glass allows for constant student contact as well.

"Students spend a lot of time in the building, so we emphasized that with glass and sight lines," Lewis said. "I like to say it's a really hard building to sneak through. It's a see-and-be-seen type space, and that was really intentional in the design process."

The exciting novelty in the three-year curriculum runs parallel to the novelty of these awe-inspiring physical spaces. With student-centricism imbued in their architecture, Shumway and Cobb have done a great deal to welcome McIntire's inaugural three-year student cohort, ushering in an exciting future for the School of Commerce.

"It's all part of the idea that, you know, places matter. The physical matters. Face to face really matters," Lewis said. "Having world class facilities for that is important."

Mimili Maku Arts connects Anangu past and future

The installation in the Rotunda shows the rich artistic cultural history of the Aboriginal people

Maxwell Mitchell | Staff Writer



CAT WHITE | THE CAVALIER DAILY



CAT WHITE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

According to Dr. Neumann, this art style is something that has developed and changed over centuries.

Most of the prints in the exhibition have a similar style, with vivid points of color combining and layering to create circles, planes and arc-like shapes.

Adorning the walls of the Upper West Oval Room of the Rotunda, the vibrant and intricate printmaking pieces of Mimili Maku Arts offer students a way to learn more about the Anangu people of South Australia. The exhibition was curated by Dr. Eleonore Neumann and College graduate student Kathleen King from the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, and the prints were all created by members of Mimili Maku Arts, an art center within Australia's Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands.

First established in 2010, the art center in South Australia serves as a place to create art, celebrate Anangu values, discuss social issues and provide income to artists through art sales. At its core, the organization is centered on the concept *malatja-malatja*, which means “those who come after” in Yankunytjatjara. The art-making process is used as a way for Anangu people to stay connected to their culture while educating and supporting their next of kin.

The exhibition includes eight prints, all but one of which were made during Mimili Maku Arts' first printmaking workshop in 2012, led by master printmaker Basil Hall. Hall has worked with and donated to Kluge-Ruhe for the last two decades, with these prints being donated in 2023. The selection showcases the strong intergenerational Anangu culture inherent to the spirit of *malatja-malatja* by highlighting two Anangu families and how they use art to keep stories alive.

Adarsh Shah, Rotunda Ambassador and fourth-year Commerce student, noted that the Rotunda is a uniquely situated space in which to display art from different cultures.

“We're able to have different artifacts from across the world come in at different times,” he said. “It's one of the benefits of us being a UNESCO World Heritage Site.”

Most of the prints in the exhibition have a similar style, with vivid points of color combining and layering to create circles, planes and arc-like shapes. Looking closely, each individual point is distinct, but when taking in the entire piece, they create an image that feels alive, reflecting the strength and exuberance of the Anangu community. According to Dr. Neumann, this art style is something that has developed and changed over centuries.

“The work that we're looking at is an expression of a culture that is the longest continuous culture in the world,” Neumann said. “But like any contemporary artists, they're also responding to the multiple contexts they live in.”

When selecting prints for this exhibition in March, Neumann and King started with Robert Fielding, Kluge-Ruhe's next artist in residence. Fielding has his own solo exhibition “Tjukurpa | Handle It” on display at Kluge-Ruhe through Jan. 11.

“In thinking about what else to do around his residency, we decided to put together this exhibition of print so that we could draw more attention to the amaz-

ing work being done in his community and show some of the other work that we have in the collection,” Neumann said.

As a member of Australia's Stolen Generation — a group of children removed from their families due to assimilation policies — Robert Fielding's father lost the language and stories of his Anangu heritage. Fielding decided to move to Mimili Maku to reclaim his culture, where he met Kunmanara “Mumu Mike” Williams and Tuppy Ngintja Goodwin. They soon became mentors, elders and de facto grandparents for Fielding, and with their help, he raised his children with the Anangu traditions and customs.

Fielding's print displays winding streaks of white traveling across a black background. This depicts desert sand blowing in the wind, and is intended to be a representation of the past's never-ending flow towards the present.

A print by Fielding's son, Zaachariaha, is also featured in the installation. Similarly, Zaachariaha's print makes heavy use of line, displaying layers of red and white stripes converging to the center of the piece. The words “who are you” are etched in Yankunytjatjara both backwards and forwards, signaling a questioning of identity and self.

Williams and Goodwin each have prints displayed in the exhibition as well. As husband and wife, Williams and Goodwin were both founding members of Mimili Maku Arts and respected community leaders.

Williams helped lead the APY

Land Rights movement that returned land to Anangu through the signing of the APY Land Rights Act in 1981. Aboriginal people were first displaced from these lands in the early to mid 20th century, due to the expansion of white settlers and the creation of reserves, which were parcels of land blocked off by the government for Aboriginal people to live.

Within these reserves, the government had complete control over the residents, including when they could leave, where they could work and who they could marry. The APY Land Rights Act was a key piece of legislation giving land ownership back to Aboriginal people.

Williams' print is the only one not created during Basil Hall's workshop, and was made in 2019. It features a map of Australia with vibrant red lines emanating from it. Over the map, Williams has written the words “Tjukurpa kunpu mulapa,” translating to “Our culture is strong.”

On the other side of the room, the prints featured are all from one of the most famous lineages of female artists from the APY Lands, including Betty Kuntitwa Pumani, her daughter Marina Pumani Brown and her niece Josina Nyarpingka Pumani. Their prints all reference an important women's story called the Maku Tjukurpa, which is about gathering enough maku — “witchetty grub” — to feed everyone in the community.

For community leader and founding member of Mimili Arts Kunmamara “Willy Muntjantji”

Martin, having a new generation of people experience Anangu culture through art was the entire reason he created prints.

“It's important that we hold our culture, our stories, our connection to country strong for *malatja-malatja* — that's why I make paintings,” Martin said.

One of Martin's prints is featured in the installation telling the story of the Wati Kutjara Tjukurpa. The fable, passed down to Martin through the men in his family, is about two men who turn into water serpents and travel across Australia. The serpents can be seen clearly snaking across the bottom of the print, their red and purple bodies contrasting against the yellow background.

The installation will be up in the Rotunda until Jan. 11, giving students plenty of time to visit and explore the Aboriginal artwork and culture. Additionally, Robert Fielding will have a conversation open to the public about the Rotunda's exhibition with indigenous scholar Dr. Gerald McMaster and Kluge-Ruhe director Nici Cumpston in the Upper West Oval Room of the Rotunda on Oct. 2 from 5:00-6:30pm.

Shah believes it is a privilege for the Rotunda to grant students access to such unique and powerful pieces from across the globe.

“These pieces of art could be in any major museum across the world,” Shah said. “We're lucky to be able to host them here, especially in a place like the Rotunda.”

The summer Ellie’s Country Club hosted watch parties

Audiences came together as a community to share cheers, gasps and themed drinks over weekly screenings of the Gen Z hit show

Zoe McFarland | Staff Writer

This semester, Ellie’s Country Club on the Corner welcomed crowds for watch parties of the third season of “The Summer I Turned Pretty” every Wednesday evening, giving avid fans and newcomers alike the opportunity to experience the show’s weekly release in a lively, communal setting.

The summer hit centers around Belly Conklin, a young adult girl caught in a love triangle between two brothers, Jeremiah and Conrad Fisher. Since its initial release in 2022, the show has found success not only through its content, but also through the overwhelming amounts of dialogue it inspires. The release of each episode has unleashed a torrent of social media chatter filled with opinions, theories, polls, character edits and more. Fans don’t just want to watch the show, they want to talk about it.

Ellie’s wisely tapped into the shared appeal of the show by opening up their bar space on Wednesdays for viewers to watch the show side by side, beginning Aug. 27.

The wooden interior and cozy decor gives the bar a warm charm, while its multiple floors and outdoor space provide plenty of room for audiences

to spread out. Both levels of the bar played the show on its own television, and though faint traces of background music drifted through the walls and ceilings, what really carried through the space were the boisterous reactions from fellow viewers. Additionally, Ellie’s served themed refreshments like Jeremiah’s raspberry “The Cake Was My One Thing” hardbody, and Conrad’s “Peach Stand” drink.

Talley Sublett, Ellie’s bartender and fourth-year Architecture student, was the brains behind the event. Alongside Ashley Major, the owner of Ellie’s, and other coworkers, she brainstormed drinks and created graphics and videos to market the watch parties on the bar’s social media. Sublett explained that since many people have already been hosting watch parties with friends, she saw the chance to make it into something even bigger, especially given the buildup to the finale.

“I definitely knew that it was gonna end with a fun big finale that a lot of people want to go to,” Sublett said. “[The show] is huge on TikTok and it’s fun to watch them after. It appeals to our age and even others. I see a lot of post-grads too.”

Fourth-year Engineering student Edith Kao attended multiple watch parties and appreciated the relaxed atmosphere of Ellie’s, as well as the opportunity to watch alongside equally invested viewers.

“It’s been fun because you get to know people that you wouldn’t have met on a regular day, but then you have something in common,” Kao said. “So I’d say it’s been a great way to unite people. Even though we would have different opinions on stuff, we can still bond over how we like the show.”

Those different opinions usually centered around the show’s defining question — which brother would Belly ultimately end up with. Most fans leaned firmly towards Team Conrad, and with this past season’s plot revolving around Jeremiah and Belly’s impending marriage, the dialogue evolved into a discussion of how and when the wedding would be called off, if Belly would end up with Conrad after all, or if she would choose independence over both brothers.

The penultimate episode marked third-year College student Michael Carlson’s first Ellie’s watch party, and though not a die-hard “The Summer I

Turned Pretty” fan, Carlson expressed enthusiasm similar to Kao’s for the event itself.

“It’s not only just a thing about watching the show, but it’s also about meeting other people and getting to chat with people you normally aren’t friends with,” Carlson said.

That sense of community was undeniably clear during the viewing of the penultimate episode, as attendees mingled, exchanged opinions and reacted vehemently to the events on-screen. The energy at Ellie’s was infectious, and despite the episode being broadcast on two separate levels of the bar, gasps, cheers and hoots could be heard permeating through the walls and ceilings.

Sublett added that one of the best parts of the watch parties are audience reactions, both joining in and witnessing them. She recalled a moment during the first Ellie’s watch party, when the Fisher brothers got in a physical fight, as particularly memorable.

“The first [watch party] was definitely huge,” Sublett said. “It was packed on both floors and it’s really fun to see everyone react, like yelling or screaming whenever you’re at the

show.”

For the finale Wednesday night, Ellie’s went out with a bang by arranging an outdoor seating setup and serving their signature buckets in themed flavors. According to Sublett, the energy was great all night, with many people coming an hour early to secure their seats and plenty of audience reactions throughout the episode.

“It’s been great to coordinate these,” Sublett said. “I put a lot of time and effort into the social media and planning surrounding these watch parties, and it’s really rewarding to see it being enjoyed by UVa. students of all ages.”

As for the finale, Sublett’s thoughts were mixed.

“To be honest, it was the outcome I wanted, but I’m not quite sure it’s how I wanted us to get there,” Sublett said.

Although “The Summer I Turned Pretty” has now come to a close, Ellie’s plans to continue their watch parties, with “Dancing With The Stars” as a next possible feature.

“We’re gonna be here anyway, right?” Sublett said. “Might as well have people enjoy it.”

THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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PUZZLE

Max Goldberg | Puzzlist

Answers are available on the digital version of this puzzle which is published at www.cavalierdaily.com.

ACROSS

- 1 Detergent target
- 5 Constellation part
- 9 Significant person?
- 14 Slurpee alternative
- 15 Own
- 16 Stage of development
- 17 Contemplative
- Commons neighbor
- 18 The yoke's on them
- 19 Three-note chord
- 20 Christopher Nolan, for one
- 23 South American pack animal
- 24 Radiant
- 27 Iconic Wild West character, with "The"
- 31 Posterior
- 32 Encountered
- 33 Slinky shape
- 34 Strong impulse
- 35 Denominator in the Instagram ratio calculation
- 39 Magazine contents?
- 42 State where one can find

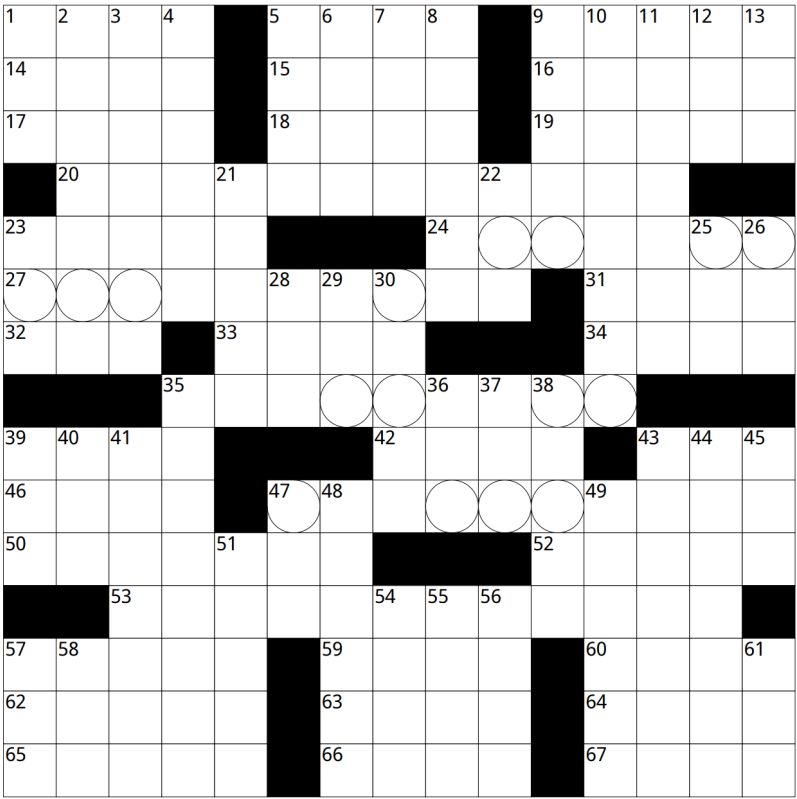
- Youngstown and Zanesville
- 43 Great Leap Forward leader
- 46 Show off at Slaughter?
- 47 Southeast Asian restaurant on 14th Street
- 50 A Bill Belichick's players
- 52 "Wonderwall" band
- 53 Elementary school math skill ... or what's taking place in the circled letters of this puzzle
- 57 Money, informally
- 59 Utopia
- 60 Salon sound
- 62 Tenochtitlan resident
- 63 Partner of hide
- 64 Marine eagle
- 65 Covert call
- 66 Opposite of "Reveille"
- 67 Like blue hair

DOWN

- 1 "See what I ___ there?"
- 2 Drifting sheet for a polar bear

- 3 Dependent
- 4 "Spill it!"
- 5 Not barefoot
- 6 Prepare to take off
- 7 Declare
- 8 Back out of an internship offer, perhaps
- 9 Decide that one will
- 10 Dorm room floor decor
- 11 Like a Ragdoll, compared to a Sphinx
- 12 That, in Valencia
- 13 Like hearts and diamonds
- 21 Secretary of State Rubio
- 22 Not cloudy, e.g.
- 23 What ChatGPT is, abbr.
- 25 Badger
- 26 Test taken by some fourth-years pursuing a Ph.D.
- 28 "You've got mail" company
- 29 Three-letter consideration for many a UVA. athlete

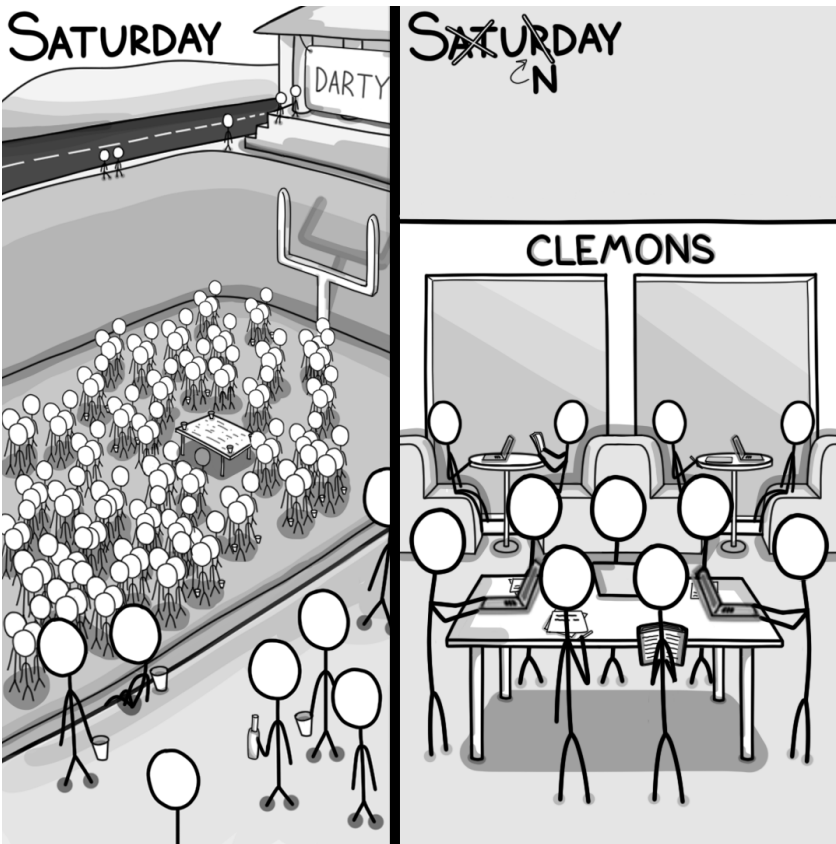
- 30 Rhyming partner of doom
- 35 Hiding spots for soldiers
- 36 Horton heard one
- 37 "There's no ___ team"
- 38 They aren't going to happen
- 39 Back, at sea
- 40 APA alternative
- 41 Some 13-Downs?
- 43 Brickworker's craft
- 44 Utterly absurd
- 45 C.I.A. predecessor
- 47 Table support
- 48 First-born
- 49 Made a higher bet in poker
- 51 Pass into law
- 54 Think tank output
- 55 Comedy show starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus
- 56 Puts pen to paper
- 57 Atlas component
- 58 There are 16 in a lb.
- 61 ___ XING



CARTOON

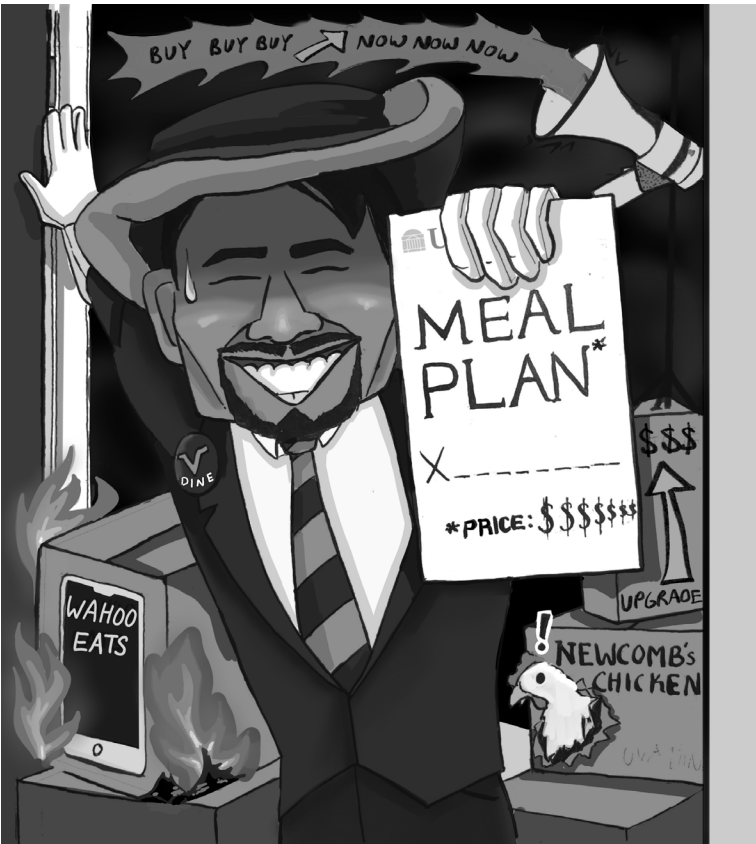
Play Hard, Work Hard

Conwell Morris | Cartoonist



Deal with the Dine

Melody Moore | Cartoonist



LIFE

Advising at the University: Accommodating or apathetic?

College students share their personal experiences with academic advising, from direction to disorientation

Abby Snowdon | Staff Writer

University students predictably hit the ground running with their schoolwork as soon as they return to Grounds. This, combined with balancing extracurriculars and social life, can leave students feeling stretched thin.

The advising system at the University purportedly exists to ease this burden, guiding students through course selection, prerequisites and long-term planning. However, many University students — even in the wake of recent changes to advising — find themselves frustrated with the advising process, citing confusion and a lack of personal connection and communication.

This year, the University adopted a new model for undergraduate advising. Under the new system, first-year students receive a pre-major advisor who also doubles as their first-quarter Engagements instructor. This has taken the place of the University's old faculty advising system, where faculty members across departments advised students on a volunteer basis in addition to their teaching and research responsibilities.

According to Dr. Creighton Coleman, lead advising fellow and lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences, this new system aims to flesh out a more dedicated advising experience for students.

"Faculty advising had its issues. It was really great, but you would have really varied student experiences," Coleman said. "So the new model tries to give more focus to advising, with people dedicated to advising."

However, even with these changes, many students still find themselves without the guidance they hoped to gain from the advising process. First-year College student Coltyn Dishner shared his frustration with the lack of support he has received.

"I wouldn't say I have a lot of great experiences with advising [at] UVa.," Dishner said. "I feel like it's [as if] they push you out on your own, and you're expected to figure it out. Honestly, help from my second-year friend has helped me a lot more than anyone has at UVa."

Echoing this sentiment, first-year College student Amanda Feinberg described how this lack of guidance has left her feeling overwhelmed. She said that the

feat of navigating academic requirements seems to fall wholly on students, and students' assigned academic advisors are not particularly helpful.

"There are so many requirements to graduate, and they don't make it easy to find out what you need to do," Feinberg said.

However, one thing that has been helpful is a new Stellic course planning program, which has been phased in for first- and second-year students over the last year. The platform, which has largely received positive feedback, facilitates student-advisor communication and allows students to explore major and general education requirements.

Even with the new Stellic platform, Dishner said that he has felt a lack of communication from his advisor — an issue that left him wasting credit hours.

"I was told by one of my friends that I was taking two classes that cancel each other out. They're both under the same [disciplines], and I'm just getting one credit because they both count towards the same thing. And nobody said anything," Dishner said.

Although the overall advising system has changed since she was a first-year student, third-year College student Meredith Clay's experience shows that some issues have carried over from the old system. Like Dishner, she said that she experienced a dissonance between the support she expected and the help — or lack thereof — she received.

"I definitely got an understanding that [the advisors] didn't know who their advisees were or what they're interested in, nor a sense of what was going on in any of the other departments," Clay said.

For Clay, this lack of clarity became more than a mere inconvenience. Just before course registration for Spring 2025, Clay was completely ready to enroll in all of her classes — that is, until she received a notification telling her she would not be able to enroll in a class she needed as a prerequisite for all of her other classes. She said that her advisor did not inform her that she had



CHLOE PANOS | THE CAVALIER DAILY

to take the course.

"I burst into tears and emailed [my advisor], who said I need to just take [the class] over the summer," Clay said. "[The requirements] were never made clear to [me] until the day that my course registration happened. That was horrible. I definitely cried a lot that day."

As a result, Clay had to move back to Charlottesville for Summer Session III, leaving her family several weeks earlier than planned. As an out-of-state student, she had to pay \$5,000 for the course itself, in addition to housing, an often expensive challenge in Charlottesville. The cherry on top? To accommodate the move back to Grounds, she had to move her in-person internship online.

Aside from a lack of communication, perhaps the biggest complaint from students about advising is the lack of tailored advice for specific majors. Under the new advising system, Dishner expected that his pre-major advisor — who doubles as his Engagements instructor — would align with his interest in computer science. However, he was placed in an Engagements course about the ethics of pollution and trash, and he expressed doubt about his advisor's ability to help him nav-

igate his courses.

"People who want to major in specific things ... should be paired with an advisor who has a lot of knowledge in that field [and knows] what specific classes they should take," Dishner said.

This is not dissimilar from the old system, where students received pre-major advisors that may not have been familiar with their major of interest. With a first- and second-year advisor outside of her major, Clay spoke to how she felt lost when it came to her prerequisites and general education classes.

"The first two years were just a lot of floundering," Clay said. "My major has always been declared as behavioral neuroscience, but my advisor [was] in the Chinese department. She just kept sending me websites that I had already seen," Clay said.

Clay's experience was one of many that compelled the University to revise the existing system. In an effort to make student-advisor relationships more compatible, Coleman explained how the new model dedicates specific individuals, like himself, solely to advising. The model will therefore allow students to forge more personal relationships with their advisors.

Coleman emphasized his ex-

citement for the program's more individualized approach, especially given the AI-based advising that other larger universities have adopted.

"A lot of big universities are going the way of efficiency and giving students something like a chatbot," Coleman said. "But I'm really excited ... I think [our] students are going to be better for it."

Still, Coleman acknowledged that the program is still in its infancy. He said that the University is working out the kinks, and it will be a couple of years before students can see, and appreciate, the benefits.

"Our creation was very rapid, which was good, right? Students have benefited from that. I think education at the College is better because of that. And we are growing into ourselves," Coleman said. "So these things will be worked out in years to come, but years to come is not now."

For now, students are left with a new-and-improved advising system in the making — one that, hopefully, will not leave students floundering in a sea of unknown prerequisite courses and general education requirements.

A play-by-play of cuffing season

From scouting at Shannon to playoffs over break, here's how University students draft their rosters for winter romance

Anna Stamey | Staff Writer

Football season is already in full swing at Scott Stadium, and as the leaves begin to change, cuffing season also takes to the field.

With October looming, the student body is solidly in the midst of the six cool-weather months where students competitively draft rosters of potential boyfriends, girlfriends, partners and sneaky links. Much like football, this cycle is chock-full of scouting, training and praying your top draft pick doesn't fumble during finals week — all while keeping an eye on who might be championship worthy in February.

At the University, cuffing season plays out in various arenas, from the Corner to the lecture halls, and there is just as much strategy involved as a nail-biter matchup under the floodlights.

Preseason scouting

Early September is when scouting began. For cuffing purposes, this meant reviewing summer flings, checking in on midsummer “practice

reps” and deciding who's worth bringing into the fall season. Did that long-distance spark die out after the heat of July, or was it time to start scouting closer to Grounds? You also watched hours of film — in the form of Instagram stories — and sized up prospects in lecture halls that you could see fitting in with the team this semester.

Drafting and tryouts

October is draft time. Now it's time to decide who actually has potential versus who was just preseason hype. Tryouts happen everywhere, from coffee dates on the Corner to late nights at Coupe's. Some recruits shine under pressure, inviting you to tag along with friends for Saturday buckets at Ellie's, and others throw interceptions, forgetting to text you happy birthday. This is the time to learn who fits into your schedule, who makes you laugh and who makes the first cut. Just like coaches, students have to make tough calls to trim situationships down to a manageable lineup and avoid any unnecessary penalties.

Regular season

Once midterms have come and gone, it's game time. Exams hit, social calendars get messy and, later on, Thanksgiving adds the stress of distance. This is when stats matter — who's your starting quarterback, and who's warming the bench? Players with the most minutes are the ones who survive late-night study sessions in Shannon or agree to brave meeting the family over fall break. Consistency counts here, and without it, you risk losing your starter to another team's roster.

Playoffs

December is the playoff bracket. Between study dates in the Newcomb Starbucks, walks on the Lawn post-LOTL and planning post-finals celebrations, cuffing season starts to come to a close with leading contenders. Playoffs demand more than consistency — what matters now is commitment. Consistency is about showing up regularly, but commitment means

signaling that you're in it for the long haul. One wrong move and the season could end right before New Year's. Every play matters — a surprise Bodo's delivery during finals is a clutch play, but forgetting to text back for days is a major fumble.

Bye weeks

During cuffing season, there isn't just one bye week, but several — all over winter recess. Just like in playoff football, only the top-seeded teams get the break. However, there's no telling whether this pause will recharge or weaken your roster. FaceTimes across time zones and consistent texting are essential, because with strong communication, your players are more than likely to make the finals. After winter break, some contenders make it back to Grounds with even more chemistry, while others are removed from the lineup before the spring semester even begins — whether because the break revealed weak communication or because someone found a new roster closer to home.

The Championship

The Super Bowl of cuffing season is — you guessed it — February 14, and not everyone makes it to kickoff. For those still in the game, Valentine's Day is the ultimate matchup. This is where you bring out your best, most strategic plays — a dinner reservation downtown, a bouquet delivery at the front door or even a soft-launch on Instagram. Pull it off, and there will be confetti falling on the field.

At the University, cuffing season mirrors the classic American game we all know and love, brimming with heartbreak, disappointment and triumph. Whether you're looking for fun or a long-term pick, draft wisely, play hard and remember — the wins and losses are part of the game, and if you walk away with a losing record, there's always next season.

More miles, more problems

Students weigh the benefits and drawbacks of having a car on Grounds

Charley Thomas | Staff Writer

When University students contemplate what to bring to school, they typically weigh which smaller objects are worth the suitcase space. An even bigger choice these students face, though, is whether or not their car should accompany them back to Charlottesville.

From grocery runs to Downtown Mall dinners, there are plenty of reasons why students are driven to bring their cars to Grounds. However, slim parking options, gas expenses and even a desire to embrace the walkability and beauty of Grounds push some students to trade in their keys for a pair of walking shoes.

Third-year Education student Riley Kane wrestled with these options ahead of her second year at the University. As a member of the club softball team, Kane must get to practices and games on North Grounds, and she determined that she needed a mode of quick transportation to make it to team obligations.

“If I didn't have practice or other places I had to drive to, then I would definitely not bring my car because that's easier and it would save gas and money,” Kane said.

Chief among the “cons” of driving around Grounds is the battle to find a long-term parking spot. Though Kane

would be living elsewhere, she reached out to the apartment complex Grandmarc in late summer to see if they had parking passes left for non-residents. Only recently, the complex called her back to tell her their garage was full. She also inquired about the Culbreth garage, but they simply told her to join their waitlist.

Despite her many efforts to secure a space, Kane was unsuccessful, and she must park on the street whenever she uses her car. With street parking availability constantly changing, Kane recalled several times when searching for a parking spot disrupted her schedule.

“There have been a few days where I've driven around for at least 25 to 30 minutes looking for parking, which is not sustainable when I have to go to other classes,” Kane said.

For some students, this hassle is enough to deter driving altogether. Fourth-year College student Beckett Smith was able to park his car at Grandmarc as a third-year student, and although an accident unfortunately cost him his vehicle, Smith expressed relief that he does not have to deal with car-related inconveniences now.

“It's definitely easier because I don't have to worry about parking,” Smith said. “My [apartment] unit only has one

spot, and one of my other roommates has a car as well.”

Complicating the situation even further, the penalties given by the University Department of Parking and Transportation for illegal parking on Grounds come swiftly and with steep prices, ranging from \$55 to \$300. These tickets are a risk that many college students, including Smith, have become increasingly unwilling to take.

“The parking authority has a reputation for getting you instantly,” Smith said. “I had a friend who left his car for five minutes, and he came back to a parking ticket.”

Going without a car has also saved Smith a considerable amount of gas money. Additionally, he said that he has started getting his groceries delivered, so he does not have to drive to the grocery store.

On the rare occasion that Smith does need a ride, he said he can usually hitch one from someone he knows.

“When I need specific things ... I find myself wishing that I had had a car, but my girlfriend has one, so in the worst case scenario I just ride around with her,” Smith said.

Even though other students may find it more difficult to relinquish access to a car, Smith believes that

walking around Charlottesville and Grounds allows students to embrace all that the University has to offer. Consequently, he supports the current University policy prohibiting all first-year students from bringing cars to school.

“I like [the policy] because the University doesn't have to worry as much about parking,” Smith said. “The first years also get a chance [to] — they're forced to — experience the area.”

Kane echoed Smith's sentiment, also noting that since first-year students already live on Grounds, they have fewer destinations for which a car would be necessary.

“Everything is already located in a space where they can walk,” Kane said. “For everyone else ... it makes sense, but first-years don't need to have their cars here.”

Even first-year College student Eissa Albathigi agrees with the policy, which he said gives students the chance to see if they really need a car on Grounds. Albathigi added that as a first-year student, he mostly eats on Grounds, and he can use the University buses to get around. For him, driving is not really a necessity.

“Students [can] test it out during their first year and see if they like it, and if they don't, then second year they

can get a car,” Albathigi said. “[Second-years] have more commitments anyways, so they would probably need one.”

Albathigi also noted that walking everywhere allows him to avoid the parking delays that Kane and Smith voiced complaints about. He said that without a car, he can simply walk right in and out of class, and he does not have to account for any parking time.

While Albathigi said he has no issues with commuting to class on foot, he still noted some occasions for which a ride would be more convenient.

“A 20-minute walk isn't too much, but when it's things outside of school, like a club event or something late at night, those are the times when I wish I had one,” Albathigi said.

Ultimately, students must decide for themselves whether having a car is worth the hassle. For Kane, despite the frustrations with parking, driving remains a convenient option for getting around, shopping for groceries and simply taking a break when she doesn't feel like walking.

“I feel like if you have [to be] places farther away, then I think the pros outweigh the cons,” Kane said.

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

Honor the Future campaign's success is still conditional

The record-setting campaign may have advanced the University's wealth, but questions remain about whose vision will define the University's future

The University recently announced that its Honor the Future campaign, launched in 2019 under former University President Jim Ryan, raised \$6 billion — surpassing its original goal by more than \$1 billion and marking the largest fundraising effort in University history. This milestone reflects an extraordinary level of alumni and donor engagement, and it has already supported a range of ambitious scholarships, research projects and academic initiatives on Grounds. These successes underscore how fundraising does not just come with resources, but also the responsibility for leaders to direct them in a way that prioritizes student experiences and makes the University's resources more accessible to the community.

A campaign of this magnitude is an extraordinary feat — one which will establish some internal stability in a moment of vast political uncertainty within higher education. To put this financial stimulus into perspective, two-thirds of all universities around the country currently exhibit financial stress as a result of declining rev-

enue, enrollment or research funding. This does not take into account the sky-high legal settlements following other universities' federal investigations. While vast financial threats are becoming commonplace in higher education, the Honor the Future initiative offers the University community a unique opportunity — the ability to focus on internal betterment, rather than solely being preoccupied by the University's sustainability writ large.

Of the campaign's 250,000 individual donors, over 120,000 were alumni, and the vast majority of gifts were under \$10,000, highlighting that the campaign's momentum came from a broad community of supporters rather than a few marquee philanthropists. This diversity in donors is crucial for the University's independence and public university status, and also creates an imperative to ensure that the financial priorities reflect a wide community rather than the interests of a handful of wealthy individuals.

In no small part is this unparalleled fundraising success owed to Ryan, who intimately understood both the fund-

raising process and the necessity for careful and community-based stewardship of the resources gained therein. The next leader of this University will inherit not only an endowment with billions of dollars in fundraised money, but also the responsibility of balancing the ambitions of high-profile initiatives with everyday needs.

For example, investments in major projects like the School of Data Science or Shumway Hall are essential and can elevate the University's national standing, but without proportional attention to everyday student needs, these initiatives risk reinforcing inequities on Grounds. Similarly, student-facing resources like expanding scholarships and mental health programs may not generate headlines, but they directly impact thousands of students' ability to thrive. By making these trade-offs deliberately and transparently, the next president can uphold the University's public mission while honoring the collective intent of the campaign's broad donor base.

Some might argue that the University already has safeguards in place to

prevent any one donor or administrator from exerting outsized influence. The University's governing body, the Board of Visitors, approves spending policies, the University of Virginia Investment Management Company manages the endowment's investments and some donor restrictions legally bind funds to their intended purposes. From this perspective, the risks of asymmetrical priorities between administration and community may be overstated. Yet, while these safeguards exist, they do not guarantee that the use of the University's newfound wealth will reflect the interests of its full community.

The ethos of careful stewardship and accountability within the campaign must be grounded in a genuine commitment to shared governance, a value which has been threatened at our University in recent months. The sheer scale of the Honor the Future campaign underscores why decisions about those resources cannot be left solely to administrators or donors. Indeed, the degree of alumni involvement in the Honor the Future cam-

paign speaks to the importance of shared governance — student involvement in critical governance matters creates a culture of connection to and collaboration with the University that ultimately engenders a desire among alumni to support their alma mater. In this way, involving students in decisions is not just a moral imperative today, but also a financial imperative for future fundraising initiatives.

By embedding transparency and broad participation into funding decisions, the University can make certain that its endowment supports initiatives that allow everyone to thrive, rather than favoring a select few. Only by spreading the success of this campaign towards the needs of the whole University community can we truly honor our University's future.

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HUMOR

The Performative Male: U.Va.'s newest invasive species

Editor's note: This article is a humor column.

Step aside, spotted lanternfly, because the newest invasive species has arrived on Grounds — the performative male. When students came back to Grounds in August, the population of this novel species exploded, increasing almost threefold in just under a month. This population boom can be attributed mostly to the sheer number of young adult males at the University looking to impress female students with an aesthetic appearance and trendy interests. By curating a specific look and certain traits, these men hope to improve their romantic prospects. However, these false personalities should not be trusted.

Similar to lantern flies which divebomb innocent victims at every corner, students will find that the Lawn, the Corner and McCormick Road are suddenly teeming with tote bags and fraught with feminist literature. Such a rapid infiltration has

led to outcry from the student body over managing this unforeseen infestation. In order to keep yourself and your loved ones safe, it's essential to stay informed about the tendencies of performative males around the University.

How to spot a performative male

Quite the opposite of the spotted lantern fly, performative males can stand anywhere from 5-foot-4 to 5-foot-11, although many will lie when asked directly. However, many other factors help differentiate the performative male from the significantly smaller, spotted red insect.

Performative males project a relatively consistent image, as they feign specific characteristics in hopes of drawing female attention. Most easily, these men can be recognized by their clothing. They often wear baggy jeans and t-shirts of bands that they believe to be incredibly niche — look for The Smiths, Nirvana, etc. Wired earbuds complement this false sense

of music knowledge. If you are brave enough to approach one of these men as he walks to class, he will likely tell you he is listening to the popular indie artist Clairo — but don't keep him too long, or he might be late to his Women, Gender & Sexuality seminar.

Performative males also tend to stand out by the things they carry. Usually, they hold a matcha from Saxbys in one hand — preferably iced, so that their target audience can see the drink through the clear cup — and a novel in the other hand. These men are frequently seen sitting alone on the Lawn reading literature by authors such as Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath and even Colleen Hoover.

The dangers of performative males

As performative males become ubiquitous around the University, it is increasingly crucial for ALL students to understand the risks they pose. While these men may not harm local ecosystems, some argue that

their impacts are even more sinister. Research shows that 93 percent of women who fall for performative men are subjected to manipulation, gaslighting and ghosting.

It's easy to ignore these statistics and assume that an intelligent, worldly young woman would never succumb to such deceptive tactics, but this is not the case. Smart, confident women are actually at a greater risk, which is part of what makes the University a hot zone for performative male activity.

How to stay safe

Luckily, protecting yourself and others is possible. The most reliable way to accomplish this is by avoiding men with the traits listed above. However, some men may exhibit one or two of these traits without being classified as a true performative male. The most challenging task is to differentiate between performative males and those who have a genuine interest in feminist literature, indie

music, matcha and the like. Even scholars and experts struggle with this, so don't feel bad if you find it too difficult.

Students can never be too aware of their surroundings, but as the semester continues performative males will be increasingly distracted by academic work and trying not to get hit by Veo scooters, the invasive species' only natural predator. Furthermore, their sensitive emotions often translate into weather sensitivities, and as temperatures drop on Grounds, potentially afflicted students may spot them less often. In time, these environmental threats to the performative male will allow the University community to refocus on ridding Charlottesville of spotted lanternflies, one pest at a time.

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OPINION

U.Va. reaps the benefits of Charlottesville, but gives back scraps

Charlottesville public schools are paying the price for the University's tax-exempt status and subpar support for K-12 educational services

Although Charlottesville is home to a celebrated educational institution, the city's public schools are running out of support. For years, Charlottesville's public schools have endured overcrowded classrooms, limited capacity for special education programs and staffing shortages — failures that prevent the system from meeting the most basic educational needs. This reality can be seen in the fact that CCS students consistently score below the state average on Standards of Learning assessments. What makes this reality especially troubling is that the University, with all of its power, has done a mediocre job at supporting community needs.

Consider this — the University of Virginia Foundation, the private real estate arm that manages property, is the largest non-public property holder in Charlottesville. The University also holds extensive amounts of land. Yet, both the Foundation and the University enjoy tax-exempt status, meaning that they pay not a single dime of property tax on the 97 swaths of Charlottesville land that they own. While this exemption is a governmentally recognized mechanism intended to support universities' educational missions, it comes at a steep cost to the city of Charlottesville.

If the University did pay taxes on its land, its bill would amount to more than \$20 million annually. This money could transform local schools. Instead, the University continues to unintentionally, yet unashamedly, benefit from this tax-exempt arrangement and contribute little in support, while the city's students shoulder the consequences.

However, the inequity extends be-

portunities for public school students being lost to the institution looming over them. Though the University did not orchestrate the reversal, the end result remains the same.

So, when will the educational needs of Charlottesville's children finally come first?

The University has a civic and moral responsibility to help Charlottesville schools. Its presence brings

economic life, but current projects fail to live up to their potential. The Buford Middle lab school is a partnership between the University's School of Education and Human Development, School of Engineering and Applied Science and others, developing a computer-science-focused lab for CCS middle school students. The program provides students with an opportunity to experience computational thinking,

transfer. What is necessary now are intentional and large-scale efforts that address the immediate needs of CCS.

There are concrete ways to reshape the University's relationship with Charlottesville. The University could enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement, as many other wealthy universities have done, providing consistent financial contributions to the city in place of property taxes. It could expand fundraising for structural improvements. It could create continuous teacher pipelines to support educators. But whatever path it takes, its collaboration with public schools needs to be sustained and systemic rather than symbolic.

The University may own land in Charlottesville, but until it begins investing in the children who live here, it will remain a neighbor in name only. It is time for the University to turn its power, privilege and resources into something meaningful for the students of the city it calls home.

If claiming a core mission of advancing knowledge, learning and public good, then those commitments must extend beyond Grounds to the city's children as well."

yond lost revenue from taxes. Earlier this year, the Department of Education reversed its decision to grant the Federal Executive Institute property to CCS and instead gave it to the University. The land was a 14-acre beacon of hope for CCS that was intended to be a location for alternative programs, preschools and special education classrooms. Instead, without warning, the property was transferred to the University, which will now use it for its ROTC and School of Continuing and Professional Studies programs. The swap revealed a broader trend op-

undeniable benefits, but its tax-exempt status deprives the city of millions of dollars, leaving public schools under-resourced. The University, therefore, has a responsibility to mitigate the negative effects of its presence and provide remediation for infrastructure, housing and services that are tangibly impacted. If claiming a core mission of advancing knowledge, learning and public good, then those commitments must extend beyond Grounds to the city's children as well.

The University plays a significant role in Charlottesville's social and eco-

integrating hands-on STEM experiences into schools. While this program is valuable, one lab school and scattered giving campaigns do not offset the divide between the privilege of a prestigious institution and the educational needs of an entire city.

Recently, the University has made progress by deciding to lease the five-acre Oak Lawn property to CCS. While this gesture is encouraging, it neither addresses the challenges facing Charlottesville schools nor compensates for the nine acres the University gained through the FEI property

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Mandate media literacy courses

The University should institute media literacy courses for students to equip them with the necessary skills to find the truth amidst a growing tide of misinformation

Where do you go first to get your news? In the wake of any breaking news event, individuals often rush to social media for minute-by-minute updates. However, these sites are often a center for misinformation, including in Charlottesville. Take the acrimonious departure of former University President Jim Ryan, and the ensuing social media firestorm, where individuals made outlandish claims, such as labelling Ryan as a supporter of "Marxism [and] a Pagan Muslim Apologist." These claims are not only false, but dangerous in how they can polarize individuals off of false premises. As our lives become increasingly digital, students must understand the inherent dangers of misinformation, along with its downstream consequences, such as increased partisanship and a decrease in trust among communities.

Educators should play a role in ensuring that students can identify misinformation. To that end, the University would be wise to provide students with a "crash course" class designed explicitly for this purpose. Higher education entails a deeper and more rigorous level of research and analysis than students are accustomed to, and this class can ensure that students learn how to discern accuracy and honesty

in every endeavor — a skill that will prove invaluable.

There are many frameworks the University could use to implement this course. Professors could begin with an overview of the history of misinformation and, similarly, propaganda. Rhetorical analysis of historical propagan-

way, the principles of inoculation can train students to spot misinformation.

After presenting a variety of strategies, professors can utilize a plethora of exercises encouraging students to interact with digital information sources, and draw their own conclusions about the validity of a claim. The

mation.

The compulsory nature of a similar program at our school, in tandem with the world-class educators the University possesses, can ensure that the University is something of a trailblazer, being one of the first to recognize the necessity of media literacy in

of such a program, and care must be taken to ensure that what is labelled as misinformation is academically reviewed rather than politically dictated. Perfectly valid complaints may be voiced about a reduction in student autonomy with the addition of yet another mandatory class for first-years. With that being said, critical thinking and careful analysis are hallmarks of a liberal education, and the University claims to offer one of the best.

Thomas Jefferson was a man who, above all else, valued the truth. As such, the University has an obligation to ensure that it produces students who are able to objectively differentiate between credible and uncredible information. If the University wishes to continue to uphold Mr. Jefferson's timeless founding ideals, they must recognize the necessity of truth, and continue to create students who tirelessly seek it out, even in an era where it is more difficult to find than ever.

Students should be equipped with the necessary skills to find the truth, despite the increasing difficulty of such a task."

da pieces would serve to contextualize the usage of misinformation as a tool of sociopolitical control, among other uses. Following this introduction, professors could lead a bootcamp on the identification of misinformation, as well as strategies to combat it.

One such strategy would be inoculation, or repeated exposure to low-stakes misinformation in an educational setting, a powerful tool that can be used to help combat misinformation. Professors could present tailored examples of misinformation to students, and then explain why the information is inaccurate and what tactic of misinformation it uses. In this

media literacy course can ultimately conclude by focusing on the implications of misinformation.

The University would not be the first to have such a program. Washington University offers a program to education majors and teachers, aimed at providing them with frameworks for teaching media literacy in their own classrooms. Several other institutions have similar programs, such as the University of Florida and Arizona State University's degree in Digital Media Literacy. These programs help to ensure that students become active and informed participants in discussions, rather than subjects to misinfor-

the information age. Students would be transformed into conscientious consumers of digital media, allowing them to glean insights not only from the information itself, but from the metadata of said content, such as information on the publisher. And, as more students benefit from these media literacy programs, our society will be filled with an informed populace capable of countering the increase in partisanship and distrust that media misinformation causes.

This proposal is imperfect, and not without objections. An increasingly politicized Board of Visitors raises concerns about the weaponization

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As part of a major fall exhibition curated by Federico Cuatlacuatl (Associate Professor Department of Art) and Erika Hirugami (Academic Curator and Doctoral Candidate, UCLA), Global Spanish and the Art Department will welcome international artists for a public dialogue focused on:

- Artistic sovereignty and resistance
- Migration and cultural inheritance
- The role of art in confronting nationalism and state borders

The conversation aligns with the Enabling Difficult Conversations mission by engaging themes often marginalized in institutional discourse.

Attend this session which will explore how Indigenous and transnational artists engage histories of displacement, cultural resistance, and identity through visual and narrative expression. This year's programming uses art and film as entry points to open dialogue on colonial legacy, ancestral knowledge, and the politics of belonging.

Panelists:

- Paulina Ochoa (John L. Nau III Professor of the History and Principles of Democracy)
- Karen Milbourne (J. Sanford Miller Family Director at The Fralin Museum of Art)
- Sam Amago (William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Spanish, Chair of the Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese)
- Porfirio Gutierrez (Zapotec Textile Artist, featured in Fuego Eternal Exhibition)



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