

## THE MAGIC OF MARCH

VIRGINIA CAVALIERS



Kelsey Grant | The Cavalier Daily

COASTAL CAROLINA CHANTICLEERS



Courtesy Nicholas Balestracci | The Chanticleer

GEORGE WASHINGTON COLONIALS



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MEMPHIS TIGERS



Courtesy David Minkin

## Through the other teams' eyes

Writers from Coastal Carolina, George Washington, Memphis give overviews of their teams, Virginia's competitors at NCAA Tournament Raleigh Regional

### Coastal Carolina By Laurel Nusbauer Men's Basketball Reporter The Chanticleer

This season is the first time in 21 years the Chanticleers have earned an NCAA Tournament bid, as coach Cliff Ellis — who spent 10 years as the coach of both Clemson and Auburn — became just the 10th coach to lead four different Division I programs to the NCAA Tournament. No recent Coastal Carolina team has played with as much chemistry as the 2013-14 Chanticleers, and the team becomes very dangerous when players communicate and make

smart passes.

Junior guard Warren Gillis has excelled under pressure this season, sinking seemingly every shot he takes late in close games. Freshman guard Elijah Wilson's agility and ability to get off quick shots also make him a challenge to guard, while junior guard Josh Cameron will move the ball to an open player almost every time, but also has the ability to sink long 3-pointers.

Collectively, these three players are the Chanticleers' offensive stars. Coastal Carolina has not lost a single game when four players score in double figures, and sophomore forward Badou Diagne is generally the

player who completes this condition each game.

On the defensive end, the Chanticleers boast the best field goal percentage defense in the Big South Conference at 40.0 percent. El Hadji Ndieguene, a senior center measuring 6-foot-10, grabs nearly everything that falls under the backboard, making it difficult for opponents to snag offensive rebounds. In large part due to his efforts, Coastal is among the top-20 rebounding teams in the nation.

However, Ndieguene is currently

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## Top-seed Cavs open Tournament play

ACC title in hand, men's basketball team faces Big South champ Chanticleers to start March Madness

### Michael Eilbacher Associate Editor

The Virginia men's basketball team won an ACC regular season title, an ACC Tournament title and locked up a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament Sunday. With all these achievements behind them, the Cavaliers have a little time to rest on their laurels — right? Senior forward Akil Mitchell summed up the reality in five words: "You don't

know Coach Bennett."

For Tony Bennett, Virginia's buttoned-down head coach, seeding is "overrated" — and if you ask him about celebrating the Cavaliers' victories so far, he will give you a polite answer and refer back to the first "pillar" of his coaching philosophy: humility. Heading into an opening-round game with No. 16 seed Coastal Carolina, Bennett

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made sure at the very start to keep his players from getting ahead of themselves.

"After we watched the selection show, I just reminded the guys, I said 'Remember last year when we watched the selection show?'" Bennett said. "Remember us sitting there hoping that we were going to get in? Thinking we were on the bubble maybe, and that feeling of not being quite there? Be thankful of what you just experienced, but don't lose sight of that and how fortunate you are and how hungry we've got to remain."

If Bennett has to keep his team humble, it is because they enter the NCAA tournament on a stag-

## M BASKETBALL | Virginia preps for tourney, not TV

gering run. The Cavaliers have lost just two games in the 2014 calendar year, and they are coming off what is possibly their most complete performance of the season — a convincing 72-63 win against No. 3 seed Duke in the ACC Tournament final.

"I think it came together at a pretty high level against Duke," Bennett said. "Sure, there's always things — you could make more free throws and do certain things. But I think when you have all the guys, which is close to what we had, playing at that level — that's when we're at our best."

The Duke win helped drive out doubts Virginia was an imposter in the national title hunt, and the Cavaliers have seen their exploits played back on ESPN and throughout the national media. The players understand, though, that media coverage can turn quickly.

"It's cool to see your school in primetime," Mitchell said. "But

at the end of the day, how much longer are they going to keep talking about us if we lose? We have to stay grounded, we have to stay humble. And I think every guy on this team is. We're ready to get back to work."

Bennett is certainly not spending too much time watching ESPN. By Monday afternoon's press conference, less than 24 hours after the ACC title game, Bennett had already taken looks at the Coastal Carolina game film. He said he finds as much pleasure in good preparation as he does in victories.

"Enjoying the process' — that's a quote that Coach Bennett often repeats to us, which means enjoy every day, enjoy the special moments like beating a team like Duke in the ACC championship, but also enjoy every practice, work as hard as you can every day and try to get better every day," red-shirt sophomore guard Malcolm Brogdon said.

That process means preparing a whole new group of Cavaliers for their first NCAA tournament appearance. Only Mitchell, senior guard Joe Harris, junior forward Darion Atkins and Brogdon — who was injured — were at Virginia for the team's 2012 NCAA opening round loss to Florida. Mitchell said he is trying to impart as much wisdom as he can to the younger players.

"I mean, you've just got to stay composed," Mitchell said. "I think it's natural the first couple minutes to be jittery and be excited, because it's your first NCAA tournament game — I've only played one. You've got to stay composed and just stick to the basics, and we should be fine."

Virginia's opening round opponent, Coastal Carolina, may come into the game a severe underdog, but Chanticleer coach Cliff Ellis brings a wealth of experience. The head coach at Coastal Carolina since 2007, Ellis brings his fourth




























team to the NCAA tournament, having previously coached South Alabama, Clemson and Auburn to the postseason.


"Obviously, he's been a successful coach — his team has won at Coastal Carolina," Bennett said. "He knows how to win, he's built that team. Good guards, they defend well. [We] certainly have the respect for them."

Bennett is firmly focused on Coastal Carolina this week, but he knows that if the Cavaliers advance, he will have little time to prepare for a prospective matchup against either No. 8 seed Memphis or No. 9 seed George Washington. Regardless of the matchup, Bennett prefers to focus on his own team.


"You've got to prepare, but it's about you and how you're playing," Bennett said. "You've got to know what you need to know and understand that, but you can't get so worried about your opponent that you forget what got you there."

BRACKET PICKS


												
												
												




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What Tony Bennett and the Hoos accomplished by defeating Coach K and the Blue Devils in North Carolina is tantamount to slaying Darth Vader in the Death Star. I'd have to be a fool — or an ESPN pundit — to pick against them now. Also, Wiscy will continue to badger opposing teams with that defense.

Louisville is top-10 in offensive AND defensive efficiency, and has a sure-fire All-American in Russ Smith. Add that to a criminal under-seeding and a Hall of Fame coach and you have a recipe for back-to-back champions. Don't let my (admirable) Virginia homer colleagues fool you — the Cardinals will be the last ones standing.

Louisville has the opportunistic defense and a possible Monstar in Montrezl Harrell; Florida the experience and an inexplicable lack of pundit support as a title contender; Wisconsin can actually score this year. Virginia can outlast them all if they keep excelling on defense, hit timely second-half shots and, like all champions, get a little lucky.

My father bought me 12 Horizon mini-milks before I came back to school on Sunday. I was stoked. That's how Florida makes me feel. The four senior starters know each other's games inside and out, valuable come crunch-time. What's more, they've made three Elite Eights. Just feels like their year.

After correctly picking one team in the Elite Eight last year, I feel qualified to say Michigan will win the title this year. The Wolverines have a great balance of talent and experience — imagine how much better they'd be if Mitch McGary wasn't injured — and if they can survive the Midwest Region, they should be in an excellent position to take home the title this time around.

Don't buy the Sparty hype — the 'Hoos will be the representative out of the East (if you don't believe me, at least take Skip Bayless' word for it). From there, does it really matter? No one — not even the Wilbe-beast or a slighted Louisville squad — is stopping the Cavaliers and the most beautiful man in college basketball (Tony Bennett) from reaching the Promised Land.

In Monday, University alumnus Ian Cohen wrote a story for Grantland entitled “In Praise of Virginia: The Mediocre, Miraculous No. 1 Seed.” That Bill Simmons’ colossus of a sports and pop culture website would publish such a piece signifies Virginia’s arrival as a national talking point. A big to-do, if you will.

With respect to Mr. Cohen, I disliked the article. Calling mediocrity “a viable term” to describe Virginia’s comprehensively excellent athletic program, Cohen went on to characterize men’s soccer, lacrosse and baseball players as unlikeable pricks and exhibit a degree of familiarity with the basketball team that suggests he’s been reading online recaps and passing it off as expertise. He discusses how he avoided Virginia’s 72-63 ACC Tournament victory and how he is bracing for the other shoe to drop in the tournament. Most egregious of all, he calls himself “presumably someone who’s in a position to speak on behalf of all Wahoos.”

Ultimately, the article is about Cohen hedging his bets, and implying a similar impulse is consuming the Virginia fan-base. Anyone on Grounds paying a modicum of attention these past few months — anyone who witnessed the crowd that flocked to the Greensboro Coli-

seum last Sunday, or patronized a food or drink establishment in Charlottesville during a game — knows that such a perspective hardly represents a universal sentiment. People have gone all-in on this team; “Why not us?” has supplanted “Why us?” as the operative Virginia supporter mentality.

Still, what bothered me most about the article was that Cohen had a point, albeit a sloppily delivered one. We’re not Cleveland or anything, but after decades of uneven men’s hoops and football performances, Virginia’s ACC Championship and No. 1 seed twofor certainly made for a surreal weekend. The natural instinct for those that care is to suspect that things are going a little too well to last, especially now that the joy ride ends abruptly with the next loss. The temptation to hope for the best but batten down the hatches in expectation of heartbreak has never been stronger.

Critical consensus holds that the Cavaliers will break before the might of No. 4 seed Michigan State. What I alluded to a few weeks ago still holds more or less true: those outside the Virginia bubble are paying respect to Virginia with a collective patronizing smirk, as if the Cavaliers are that C-student burnout they knew in

high school who somehow ended up becoming a state senator.

Virginia players have relished the neglect from the national media, real or perceived. As perspicacious observers of this team should already know; however, Virginia has far more going for it than a chip on its shoulder and good luck. If I remember my Gary Gallagher class correctly, Tony Bennett is like a kindly, basketball coach version of Ulysses S. Grant, using a wealth of resources to relentlessly barrage opponents in his distinctive style until physical, emotional and mental attrition grants the Cavaliers a victory. It’s more villainous than spunky.

According to basketball-nerd folk hero Ken Pomeroy, the Cavaliers rank among the best in the country in adjusted offense and adjusted defense. Perhaps a healthy Michigan State will indeed meet Virginia in the tournament’s fourth round and ride Adreian Payne, Gary Harris and Keith Appling to a sound victory. If they do so, they will have beaten a fellow titan, not a fluke one-seed on some miraculous run.

Virginia’s quality manifested itself at the ACC Tournament this weekend. Every Virginia player — including tournament MVP Joe Harris and fellow first-teamer Malcolm Brogdon, who had shooting performances of 2-of-7 and 1-of-7 from beyond the arc, respectively — struggled for stretches this past weekend. When they did, however, at least two others — whether

it was Akil Mitchell, Anthony Gill, Darion Atkins, Mike Tobey or London Perrantes — compensated with big shots, offensive rebounds and lockdown defense. Few teams in the country can hope to contend with that kind of depth.

When Bennett’s defense is humming and clicking on one of those all-consuming, 35-second possessions — where an offensive player tries to penetrate, gets halfway to the line, realizes he just waltzed into the basketball equivalent of a wood-chipper and either passes the ball in a panic or hurls up a shot he knows is doomed before he releases it — I wonder whether sports is part of the arts, after all. On the other end, though the Cavaliers still sputter every now and then, their patience in waiting for the best shot available has translated to several scintillating second-half scoring sprees. To watch Virginia closely is to recognize what college basketball can be at its best. I can think of no better compliment to pay a team.

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I love the general sense of wonder around Grounds surrounding the fact that the Cavaliers became this good. It really is *amazing*, after all.

I also understand that things just got real scary; though no one would ever call this season anything short of a resounding success, odds still remain strong that Virginia players and supporters will be forced to tell themselves exactly that after a loss rather than enjoying the bliss of a na-

tional championship.

Still, for the first time since Ralph Sampson was eating LittleJohn Sampson’s — give or take a 1995 or 2007 — the Cavaliers are a formidable enough team to win a national championship without the intervention of gypsies or the shoes from “Like Mike.” It may be a puncher’s chance, but it’s far more than most teams ever get. Add in the rampant hoops fervor which has gripped the University community these past few months, inciting non-sports fans and diehard devotees alike to scream like lunatics at TVs, and it’s clear that something very rare is happening in Charlottesville. It’s the kind of sports phenomenon that fans seldom get to enjoy, and though the foundations laid by Bennett suggest otherwise, it may never happen again for Virginia basketball. We can’t know for sure if we’ll ever have better reason to believe.

With respect to Cohen, I would recommend everyone savor these last few moments of believing in a pretty darn special basketball team. Even if Friday rolls around and Virginia is losing to a team in Coastal Carolina whose mascot name roughly translates to “Fairy Tale Roosters,” and even if that other shoe does finally come crashing to the floor; at least you can say you shoved all your chips to the middle of the table. Opportunities such as this one, with the potential for a timeless achievement this high, happen too infrequently to bet anything less.

## Wrestling sends eight to NCAA Championships

*Oklahoma City plays host to battle of best the nation has to offer*

**Matthew Wurzburger**  
Associate Editor

No. 12 Virginia wrestling reaches the end of its long, hard season journey at the NCAA Championships this week in Oklahoma City, Okla. Three days of nonstop wrestling against the nation’s best awaits them, with the ultimate prize of a national championship on the line.

The Cavaliers (18-3, 5-1 ACC) will send eight wrestlers to the tournament. Seven — junior Joe Spisak, redshirt junior Gus Sako, sophomore Blaise Butler, junior Nick Sulzer, senior Stephen Doty, senior Jon Fausey and sophomore Zach Nye — received automatic bids based on their performance at the ACC Tournament, while sophomore Nick Herrmann was granted an at-large bid.

Eight wrestlers constitute a large cheering section for any Virginia wrestler on the mats.

“Bringing almost all of our guys is a huge morale boost,” Spisak said. “It feels like another away dual match when, in reality, it is the toughest

tournament of the year.”

Taking a nearly-filled stable with him to Oklahoma City, coach Steve Garland has made it known his sights are trained on a top-10 team finish. Last year, with nine wrestlers at the tournament, the Cavaliers placed 21st with 23.5 points. To clinch a top-10 spot Garland and his team will need to overcome old foes Pittsburgh and ACC champion Virginia Tech.

“A top-10 finish would be the highest our program has ever finished at nationals,” Spisak said. “It would mean the world to my coaches, teammates and me.”

Sulzer, a 2013 All-American at 165 pounds, looks to end his magnificent 2013-14 campaign with a trip to the podium. The third seed in his weight class, Sulzer draws Hokie redshirt junior Chris Moon in Thursday’s opening round. Sulzer dismantled Moon back in November in a 20-8 major decision.

Coming from a rival school, Moon will hold few surprises for Sulzer.

“I feel like we are both very familiar with each other, and that provides

a sense of comfort,” Sulzer said. “I know what my opponent looks like and some of his tendencies, but in reality each match is different.

Four other Virginia wrestlers received one of the top-16 seeds in their brackets. All other wrestlers outside the 16 go unseeded. Spisak is seeded 16th in the 141-pound bracket and faces Lehigh sophomore Laikie Gardner, who defeated Spisak by decision at the Northeast Duals in late November.

Sako is the 149-pounder’s seventh seed. He draws Northern Illinois senior Rob Jillard. Jillard missed a large portion of the season because of injury and enters the tournament with a 9-9 record.

The ACC champion at 157 pounds, Butler enters as a 10th seed. His opening round contest will be a rematch with Rutgers redshirt sophomore Anthony Perrotti. Perrotti fell to Butler by decision at the Northeast Duals.

Doty is the 11th seed at 174 pounds. Sophomore Austin Gabel of Virginia Tech will look to avenge an earlier 4-1 loss to Doty in Charlot-

tesville.

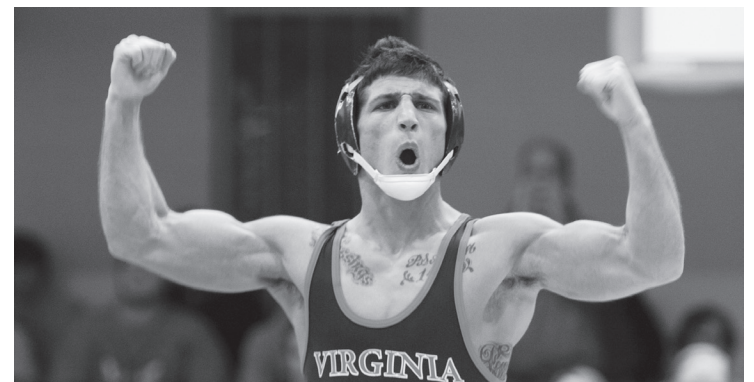
Unseeded at 125 pounds, Herrmann’s first opponent will be Oklahoma redshirt senior Jarrod Patterson, the sixth seed. In the 184 pound bracket Fausey takes on Old Dominion redshirt freshman Zach Dechow, who handed Fausey a 3-1 decision loss earlier in the season.

At 197 pounds, Nye, the ACC runner-up, gets an extremely difficult draw with junior Scott Schiller

of Minnesota. Schiller is the fourth seed in the bracket and a defending All-American.

The Cavaliers will strive to exceed their mark of two All-Americans from the 2013 Tournament. The top eight finishers in each bracket receive All-American honors.

“We have an extremely talented team,” Spisak said. “When we show up to wrestle at our best then great things happen.”



Emily Gorham | The Cavalier Daily

Junior Joe Spisak, who earned a berth at national competition last year, aims for a title this season.



# Virginia seeks strong end to season heading to NCAAs

*No. 7 women's swimmers, divers head to Minneapolis eyeing top-10 finish*

**Robert Elder**  
Associate Editor

This season, the Virginia women's swim and dive team has been one to remember. Under first-year coach Augie Busch, the Cavaliers not only won their seventh consecutive ACC title, but also shattered the record books in the process. Now, the long season which began with its first meet in October has one more stop for No. 7 Virginia: Minneapolis, Minn., for the NCAA women's swimming and diving championships.

When he took over the Virginia swim and dive teams last summer, Busch's goal was to build the program into one considered nationally elite. Thus far — especially with the women's team — Busch is well on his way toward his goal, and a strong showing this weekend at NCAAs will further cement the Cavaliers among the nation's best. Busch said he feels the team is more than ready to boast its talents on the national stage.

"I think the odds are on our side," Busch said. "From a physical standpoint, we're in a good place. I think everybody feels like their

body is ready for this weekend more than it's ever been ready for anything. It's just about making sure that your mind is ready to race."

The Cavaliers qualified 13 swimmers for individual events at the championships and will bring four more swimmers to compete in relay events. The group which will swim in individual events includes two seniors, four juniors, three sopho-

vidual events. In addition, five different swimmers — freshman Leah Smith, sophomore Courtney Bartholomew, juniors Shaun Casey and Ellen Williamson and senior Caroline Kenney — will each compete in three individual events.

Virginia hopes to improve from last season's NCAA championships, when Georgia claimed its fifth national title. Even though the Cavaliers claimed their seventh consecutive top-20 finish by placing 18th at the meet, the team was disappointed with its performance and intends to aim for a better result this time around.

"I think we all know we have a lot to prove this year, but I think having gone through last year, we know a little better what to expect," Williamson said. "I think this year we'll be a lot more prepared and start the meet really well."

In the month since the ACC championships, the swimmers have hit their taper and spent extra time working on details — ideally leading to even faster times than what they've already put up this season.

"It's just cutting out yardage," Williamson said. "We've had an extra month to work on little things

like relay exchanges to make them a little bit better before going into NCAAs."

While Virginia has always fielded a very strong swimming and diving program, it has rarely been mentioned among the best in the nation. But given the impressive times the teams have recorded this season, this perception could change with a strong performance at NCAAs.

The Cavalier women have set nine school records in individual events this season — Bartholomew on the 100 and 200-yard backstroke, Williamson on the 200-yard individual medley the 100-yard butterfly, Smith on the 500, 1,000 and 1,650-yard freestyle and freshman Laura Simon on the 100 and 200-yard breaststroke. Bartholomew's time of 50.73 in the 100-backstroke and Smith's times in the 500 and 1,000-yard freestyle — 4:34.35 and 9:33.29, respectively — are currently the fastest times in the nation for those events.

Furthermore, three Virginia relay teams also broke school records. The 800-yard freestyle relay team consisting of Smith, Kenney, freshman Kaitlyn Jones and Williamson set the school record with a time of 7:01.39 in the ACC Championships. The 200 and 400-yard medley relay teams, both consisting of Bartholomew, Simon, Williamson and senior Emily Lloyd, also set the school's fastest times at 1:36.16 and

3:29.94, respectively.

Even with these times, the Virginia women still have an even higher ceiling, as Busch and the coaching staff have been preparing for the NCAA championships from day one. Several swimmers did not even taper for the ACC championships in order to further prepare themselves for NCAAs.

"I think this year, more than any other year, we've had our focus on NCAAs, and I think we're the perfect team to do that right now, because we're so strong coming off all of our dual meets and ACC performance," Williamson said. "We have put extra emphasis on NCAAs, and I think it will go really well this year because of that. I think we're all really prepared to swim fast."

The team is not only excited, but also very motivated to perform this weekend in what they believe will be their best performance of the year.

"This is what got me hooked on college coaching," Busch said. "Just the experience of NCAAs — testing your talents against the best in the country, really the best in the world. There's just something really unique and special about this meet. I can't wait to get back to it."

The meet begins Thursday and will continue through Saturday. Preliminary races will be held in the mornings, while finals will take place in the afternoon.



All-ACC junior Ellen Williamson will compete in the individual medley and butterfly.

mores and four freshmen.

This marks the seventh consecutive season Virginia has qualified at least 10 swimmers for NCAA competition, as well as the sixth straight season Cavaliers will compete in all five relay events. Of the 13 qualifying swimmers competing, all but three will compete in multiple indi-

## OPPONENTS | Teams playing for Sweet Sixteen berth in NYC

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scheduled to undergo back surgery after the first round of the NCAA Tournament against Virginia. There has been no official word if the surgery will be postponed should the Chanticleers win.

Coastal Carolina lacks a true sixth man, which could present problems against deeper teams. The Chanticleers struggle away from home with a 6-7 record, and have also shown difficulty breaking full court presses and various zone defenses, particularly the box-and-one.

Gillis is the team's most reliable free throw shooter, averaging 85.2 percent this season. Much like the Cavaliers, however, the rest of the team does not excel at the line.

**George Washington**  
By Sean Hurd  
Contributing Sports Editor  
The GW Hatchet

After being picked to finished 10th in the Atlantic 10, George Washington had its best season in seven

years, posting the second most wins in program history with 24 and finishing third only behind Saint Louis and Virginia Commonwealth.

Under third-year head coach Mike Lonergan, the Colonials collected marquee wins in non-conference play against the likes of Miami, Creighton, Maryland and Georgia. They then continued their success in conference play, going 11-5 with wins against VCU, Richmond, Saint Joseph's and Massachusetts, and earning the program's first NCAA tournament appearance since 2007.

Most of GW's success has come without its second-leading scorer, sophomore guard Kethan Savage. Savage was having a breakout season until being sidelined for the rest of conference play with a broken foot Jan. 18.

Emerging as a star player for GW was 6-foot-5 guard Maurice Creek, a transfer from Indiana who chose to play his final year of eligibility closer to home. The graduate student leads the team in scoring, averaging 14.3 points per game, and is the team's best three-point threat at 40.6 percent shooting.

The combination of sophomore forward Kevin Larsen and senior forward Isaiah Armwood overpow-

ered frontcourts of opposing teams with their size and length, together responsible for 23.8 points and 15.5 rebounds. Armwood, a senior who transferred from Villanova last year, tallied 10 double-doubles this season.

Sophomore Patricio Garino, an explosive 6-foot-6 forward, has also emerged as an x-factor for the Colonials, scoring in double figures in the last 11 games of the regular season and averaging 12.3 points.

The Colonials have shown multiple times this season they are capable of shutting down top scorers. Against Creighton Dec. 1, the Colonials held Doug McDermott, the nation's leading scorer at 26.9 points per game, to just seven points in a seven-point victory against the Bluejays.

However, the team has dealt with injuries all season long — including Savage, Garino and sophomore point guard Joe McDonald — while also receiving minimal production out of an inexperienced bench. Early foul trouble to Lonergan's starters has proven costly in the regular season, but fatigue from the starters after logging heavy minutes may be a key issue in postseason play.

**Memphis**  
Hunter Field, Sports Editor  
The Daily Helmsman

Consistency has escaped Memphis coach Josh Pastner and Tigers all the season. One night, they're losing to Cincinnati by 15 at FedExForum, and the next night, they're beating Louisville by six at the KFC Yum! Center.

When the team is firing on all cylinders, it can compete with any opponent. However, when the Tigers are bad, they are terrible — look no further than their 72-53 loss to Connecticut in the conference tournament.

The team's four senior guards received all of the attention at the beginning of the year, and they've played pretty well in stretches. However, truth be told, they've been a tremendous letdown. Memphis performs best when its big men are involved and playing at a high level.

Sophomore forward Shaq Goodwin dropped a ton of weight in the offseason and shot out to a red-hot start, but he has dwindled down the stretch.

His frontcourt mate, freshman Austin Nichols, found his rhythm as the season progressed, winning the

American Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year Award. Nichols, a consensus top-30 recruit, has great hands and touch around the basket, and can impact the game when he's focused.

Like Virginia, Memphis' guards defend extremely well. However, offense has been a major issue.

Senior guard Joe Jackson leads the Tigers' offensive attack, averaging 14.3 points per game. However, he shot a dismal 26.9 percent from beyond the arc on the year after entering the season shooting 36.4 percent.

Senior guards Michael Dixon Jr. and Chris Crawford are the sharpshooters for the Tigers. They both shot 38 percent from three, but they're the only real threats from downtown.

When opponents pack the paint, Memphis struggles on the offensive end. If a game turns into a shooting contest in the half-court, the Tigers will lose nearly every time.

The Tigers want to speed the game up by pressuring their opponents and forcing turnovers to make it an up-and-down game. When the game slows down, Memphis seems to have no half-court sets on offense and becomes extremely stagnant.

All that said, they can be dangerous if they get everyone on the same page at the same time.





**Kaelyn Quinn**  
Associate Editor

# IFC completes Safe Space training

*First-ever Greek session aims to bridge gap between fraternity chapters, LGBTQ students on Grounds*

The Inter-Fraternity Council completed Safe Space training at the LGBTQ Center Tuesday night in an effort to bridge the gap between the two communities. LGBTQ Center Coordinator Scott Rheinheimer and intern Carrie Myatt, a second-year College student, led the training.

Dean of Students Allen Groves attended the session and acknowledged the University's fraternity system can be intimidating for LGBTQ students.

"The fraternity system has been slow to embrace diversity ... if we're being honest," Groves said.

Groves relayed his own experience as a gay fraternity member. "I was absolutely petrified that my brothers would know I was a gay man," he said.

Training consisted of a gen-

eral presentation on the LGBTQ population and techniques for being an ally within the fraternity system specifically. Myatt said the Center gives six or seven training

year College student. "The group mentality scares a lot of people. ... In a group, people who are supportive are less vocal."

Reid said this trend was espe-



Porter Dickie | The Cavalier Daily

The Inter-Fraternity Council met in the LGBTQ Center (above) Tuesday night for a presentation about ways fraternities could become more welcoming to the LGBTQ community.

sessions per semester.

"There are so few openly gay members in fraternities," said IFC President Tommy Reid, a third-

cially evident in new members, who mistakenly saw homophobia as a way to assimilate into the system.

"The younger guys ... think expressing repulsion [toward LGBTQ students] is an expression of coolness and an acceptance into the fraternity system that is associated with tradition ... and masculinity," Reid said.

Groves said this behavior is rooted in the traditional image of fraternities as strongholds of masculinity.

"The fraternities are seen as the bastion of tradition and masculinity, and those things have historically felt at odds with the concept of a young man who is gay," Groves said.

IFC members acknowledged there is a homophobic group mentality within the fraternity system.

"[Being gay] is something that on an individual basis, a lot of guys are very OK with," said Diversity and Outreach Chair Brian Head, a third-year Commerce student. "... But in the group mentality, the fraternity system is a little more homophobic and that's a stigma we're trying to fight."

The training included discus-

sion of tolerance and positive attitudes, as well as issues of gender identity and coming out.

Despite the existing stigma, mindsets are changing, Head said. The IFC training marked what Head called an important "first step in creating an accepting and safe community."

"The more educated people are, the more likely they are to speak up," he said. "My fraternity took our first openly gay pledge this year."

Looking forward, the IFC hopes to continue open dialogue and action within the fraternity system.

"If we put ourselves out there as a figure who cares ... as an ally to the LGBTQ community ... first-years coming in will feel like this will be an open community to them," Reid said.

Vice President of Administration Ben Gorman, a second-year College student, recognized the movement is a gradual process.

"It's just about changing the culture on step at a time ... one person at a time," he said.

## Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity bans pledge process

*IFC President Tommy Reid says decision could reduce hazing, Alpha Epsilon Pi President Saul Brodsky says probationary period beneficial to organizations*

**Alia Sharif**  
Associate Editor

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, named the "deadliest" fraternity by Bloomberg News, has decided to eliminate the pledging process for all chapters across the nation.

According to the SAE national website, the change was not purely a result of media pressure, but comes following a number of deaths within the fraternity and forced closures due to hazing.

"If there is actual evidence that [hazing] did happen, then it is a good idea," said fourth-year College student Saul Brodsky, president of the University's Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity chapter.

Following the March 9 edict by Sigma Alpha Epsilon's national governing board, all chapters had 48 hours to initiate new members, or by March 11 at the latest.

Going forward, the fraternity will begin what has been termed a "True Gentlemen Experience," which requires new members be initiated as brothers within 96 hours of receiving bids. Chapter members across all years will now participate in member education programs in light of the pledge-

education program's removal.

With the act of pledging removed from the new membership process, the term "pledge" will also be eliminated. New members are to be regarded as and treated like any other member of the chapter, and in time, members should see a reduction in the health-and-safety fee.

Brodsky believes taking pledging out of the fraternity experience, however, will ultimately be detrimental to chapters, saying the process offers a way to gauge people's commitment when joining a fraternity.

"I think if you're joining any organization, you have to go through some sort of probationary period," Brodsky said.

The SAE's national board, the Supreme Council, expects there to be some resistance to the change, but hopes the presidents of individual chapters will support the decision and encourage the rest of the chapter to do so as well. One brother from the University's SAE chapter, who wished to remain anonymous, said the chapter is complying with all national changes.

Major concerns about the change revolve around the loss of tradition. When the SAE national board answered some of the bigger



Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

A brother of the University chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (above) said the fraternity would comply with the national policy to end pledging.

questions about the True Gentlemen Experience, this was largely played down.

"We believe in good traditions, not ones that fail to reflect and burnish our overarching mission, values and creed," the statement read.

Ultimately, SAE nationals agreed the possible dangers attributed to hazing can outweigh the perceived benefits of the new member education process. Third-year College student Tommy Reid, the Inter-Fraternity Council president,

said the two are inherently linked.

"I think that dangerous hazing is often molded into this new member education process — so by eliminating the process itself, you are removing a major instrument of the hazing," Reid said.

As of now, the Supreme Council is not recommending any additional changes to chapter structure, though they have stated chapters will be shut down if it is found new members are being treated like "second-class citizens."

"While I fully believe the new member initiation process can be very positive, I understand that the process has been pretty wildly exaggerated and put to negative affect across the country," Reid said.

Skepticism remains as to whether eliminating this process will actually reduce or eliminate hazing completely. Brodsky said bigger institutional problems mean this may not be a long-term solution for SAE.

"It seems like an easy way to pass the buck and pull the hood over the frats," Brodsky said. "You don't have to worry about fixing programs and problems."

Brodsky said the national attention SAE's policy change has received places pressure on all fraternities.

"This brings heat on everybody when they do stuff like this," Brodsky said. "No one is trying to break the law."

Reid agreed the SAE decision may lead to changes down the line for other fraternities.

"I would imagine that other national organizations will pursue a similar process," he said. "I think that fraternity new member education has strayed from what its core intentions are."



# Dean Allen Groves gets Virginia LGBTQ award

*Equality Virginia announces University Dean of Students winner of state leadership honor, eight others win award*

**Catherine Valentine**  
Senior Writer

Equality Virginia named Dean of Students Allen Groves a recipient of the sixth annual OUTstanding Virginians award last Wednesday, marking the group's 25th anniversary.

A committee comprised of Equality Virginia staff members, board members and active LGBT individuals chose Groves as one of nine award beneficiaries.

"I see myself as a University leader who happens to be gay," Groves said in an email. "I have always tried to be a good role model to others in terms of being comfortable in my own skin while also being unafraid to challenge stereotypes or preconception."

Equality Virginia is an education, outreach and advocacy group for Virginia's LGBT population. The honor recognizes individuals "who represent Virginia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community with distinction and who are committed to moving the LGBT community forward," according to the press release.

The organization's initial deci-

sion in 2009 to acknowledge singular leaders in the LGBT community represents "a whole movement of living 'out,'" Equality Virginia spokesperson Kirsten Bokenkamp said.

"Statistics show that if you know somebody that is LGBT, you personally are going to be more accepting and want to work for the rights of the LGBT community," Bokenkamp said. "So the more people that live authentically [as] who they are ... the closer we move towards equality."

Equality Virginia identified three key circumstances of Groves' various accomplishments in both the University and LGBT communities which distinguished him in the selection process: his presence in the national fraternity movement, his response to the issue of workplace discrimination and his social media presence.

In 2004, Groves was openly criticized for his decision to run for international president of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

"A very senior alumnus approached me the night before and

see GROVES, page 7



Dillon Harding | The Cavalier Daily

Dean of Students Allen Groves (above) was awarded the sixth annual OUTstanding Virginians award last week for his leadership in the LGBTQ community.



Ryan O'Connor | The Cavalier Daily

U.S. Senator Mark Warner, D-VA, (above) visited the Medical School Wednesday to tour the Focused Ultrasound Center. He praised the program and spoke on the importance of government funding for research and development.

## Senator Warner visits Medical School

*Virginia politician praises innovation at University's Focused Ultrasound Center*

**Annie O'Brien**  
Senior Writer

Sen. Mark Warner, D-VA, visited the Medical School's Focused Ultrasound Center to see a demonstration of the cutting-edge focused ultrasound technology Wednesday morning. While there, he praised the benefits of government investment in research and development, promoting its place in both state and federal budgets.

"[Focused ultrasound surgery is] an example of world class research going on at the University of Virginia with the potential to transform a whole host of treatments," Warner said. "In tight budget times, cutting research saves in the short run, but in the long run it is costing society. [It is] costing the well-being of the population."

Warner said it is often the case that research and innovation funding is first to be cut by lawmakers in Washington and Richmond when trying to balance the budget.

Warner, who is running for re-election this November, has spent the week touring the state of Virginia. He has already made stops in Portsmouth and Richmond to speak to students about college affordability and legislation he introduced in the Senate to help students refinance loans at a lower rate.

On Monday, the senator held a roundtable discussion at Tidewater Community College, and met recent college graduates at The Urban Farmhouse coffee

shop in Richmond Tuesday. Later Wednesday afternoon, he visited an EMT class and an anatomy class at Piedmont Community College.

Warner's tour of the Focused Ultrasound Center included a demonstration of the ultrasound treatment technology and a discussion with the Center's directors. The treatment is a non-invasive and innovative surgical approach which concentrates ultrasound waves toward a single spot in the body, removing "bad tissue" while leaving surrounding healthy tissue unharmed.

"This is cutting edge technology trying to eliminating cutting treatments," said Alan Matsumoto, chair of the Department of Radiology and Medical Imaging.

With the potential for far-reaching applications, the Center is using the technology to develop therapeutic treatments for conditions such as essential tremor — a type of Parkinson's disease — Parkinson's disease proper, metastatic brain tumors and uterine fibrosis — all without surgery.

"This technology is on the verge of some killer applications," said Dr. Jason Sheehan, the research director of the Center and a professor in the departments of Neurological Surgery, Radiation Oncology and Neuroscience.

At present, the FDA has approved ultrasound technology to treat uterine fibroids and pain from bone metastases. Clinical trials of FUS to treat essential tremors, metastatic

brain tumors and Parkinson's disease are underway. FUS has been approved to treat breast cancer, Parkinson's and essential tremor commercially outside the United States.

For Warner, the technology represents an example of the benefits of state and federally funded research.

"Seeing [the demonstration] brings home the reality of the technology — folks in central Virginia will see it, and it makes the case that this is the type of research we want to continue to see [at U.Va.]," he said. "From a Virginia standpoint, it brings jobs, economic value and has a chance to change how we think about healthcare."

Matsumoto reiterated the research's value for the state as a whole.

"[The Center] provides an opportunity for a nexus of collaboration within our institution with common research," he said. "It has brought industry together [with] national and international collaboration."

Through the Center's pioneering role in testing treatments, the state will benefit from some of the leading medical technology, Matsumoto said. He said the Center will be partnering with a French company to treat thyroid and breast tissue, proving that the Center and the University will become a sought-after partner as the technology is increasingly used.

To date, there are 395 commercial sites using focused ultrasound technology for treatment, the majority of which are in Europe.



# Housing and Residence Life Office releases RA selections

Of 409 applicants, 90 University students offered positions, selection program coordinator Peifer explains four-part application process

Alia Sharif  
News Writer

The Office of Housing and Resident Life released the resident advisor decisions for this upcoming year during Spring Break for first-year, upper class and focused residential areas. Of the 409 students who applied, 90 candidates received offers.

Of those selected, 68 are from the College and 47 are first-years. Additionally, 51 of those selected are female, compared to 39 who are male.

Accepted applicants have until March 24 to accept or decline offers. HRL will pull extra applicants from an alternate list if necessary.

Selections are made annually through a four-step application process.

Candidates begin with a written application reviewed by three to four different HRL staff members. Applicants are asked not to give any identifying features, and current HRL staff judge the application on a volunteer basis. Candidates are also asked to provide a recommendation. These parts of the application are supplemented by both a group and an individual interview.

"Our hope is to get as a full of a pic-

ture as possible and have as many people's views as possible [contribute to the selection]," said Janelle Peifer, the selections program coordinator for HRL.

The interviews and the applications are judged on a numerical rubric as well as through qualitative analysis. The rubrics change each year and are put together by the selections team, with about 40 to 50 people weighing in on its content, according to Peifer. The qualitative judgments are used to capture features not explicitly in the rubric.

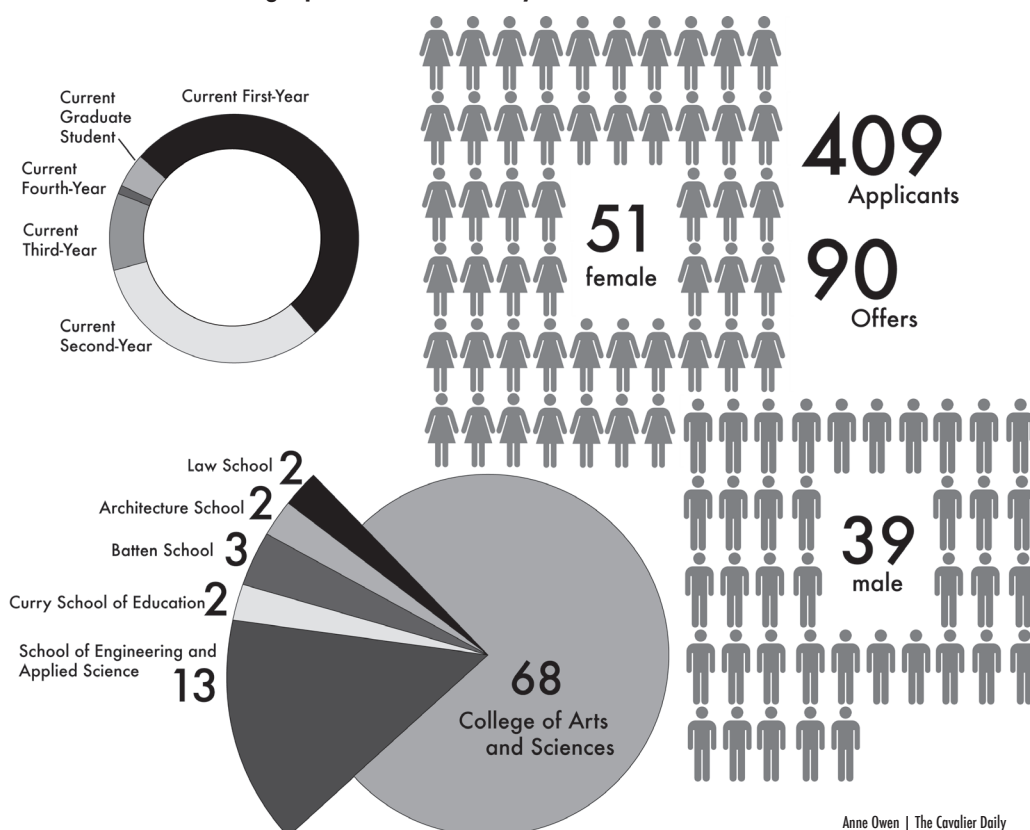
"One of the big things that we [focused on] in info sessions and materials [was to] make sure people have a thorough [knowledge of the] roles of an RA," Peifer said.

Though all four parts of the application are factored into the final decision, the recommendation and written application hold less weight than the interview portion.

Peifer has been selections program coordinator for three years. Her responsibilities range from developing selection philosophy to organizing administrative processes and working with the information technology department.

"I'm really passionate about making sure a lot of people apply for the position, because it is an amazing job," Peifer said.

## Demographic Data for Newly Selected Resident Advisors



SPICMACAY and HSC @ UVa Present



## Indian Classical Night

*Mesmerizing Indian dance, vocal and instrumental performances by UVA students and faculty*



**Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
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**Chemistry Auditorium**  
**(CHEM 402)**  
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**FREE ADMISSION!**  
**FREE Indian snacks!**



Questions?

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## GROVES | Equality Virginia cites Groves' response to AG memo

Continued from page 6

told me to withdraw from consideration because of my sexual orientation," Groves said in an interview with Equality Virginia. "Someone like you can't be president," he said.

Groves proceeded to win the office position the following day and, after a markedly successful term as international president, accepted an apology from the alumnus.

"The fact that I am a gay man is perhaps significant in terms of breaking barriers or challenging stereotypes, but I am involved because I believe in the value of fraternity, not because I am gay," Groves said.

In 2012, Groves also became Chairman of the North-American Interfraternity Conference.

Equality Virginia also credited Groves for his response to a 2009 memo from then-Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's which said state universities had no obligation to extend non-discrimination policies on the basis of sexual orientation.

"Nothing anyone says will make U.Va. reject its core value of nondiscrimination," Groves said in a meeting at the time.

Groves continues to endorse this statement.

"I do not believe that the University would treat a student differently because of his or her sexual orientation, nor do I believe that an employee would be fired, not hired or

not receive a promotion because of anti-gay animus," he said. "The University is handicapped by current state law in terms of its ability to offer LGBT employees partner or spousal benefits, for example, but that isn't a result of U.Va. lacking a commitment to non-discrimination."

Equality Virginia noted a Valentine's Day tweet by a capella ensemble the Virginia Gentlemen, "a big shout-out to all the VG girlfriends and boyfriends!"

Groves responded with a note, "Thanks for this tweet — it gives me great hope for the future."

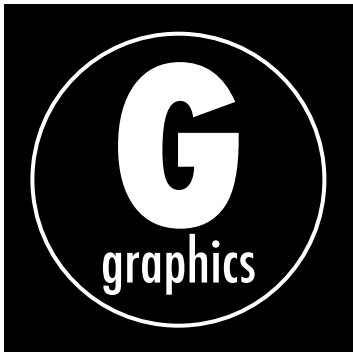
"It is important for LGBT people at the University to be comfortable being leaders who happen to be LGBT," Groves said. "Be comfortable in your skin while also being terrific at what you do. The reason that there has been so much change in public opinion around an issue like marriage equality is the willingness of LGBT individuals to be open with family, friends and colleagues regarding their lives."

Groves said there is room for improvement in acceptance and equality at the University, such as continued shouting of "not gay" in the rendition of the "Good Ol' Song," but said he has confidence in the University community.

"I have great hope for the generation that is my students," Groves said.

The 2014 OUTstanding Virginians will be formally recognized at Equality Virginia's Commonwealth Dinner Saturday, April 5.





MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN

Sis waitlisted me again last night.

Yeah my class registration got really screwed up too.

No, your Sis...

My Sis?!

She keeps saying I'd be first in line if she didn't have a boyfriend. It's frustrating.



THE ADVENTURES OF THE AMAZING <THE> A-MAN BY EMILIO ESTEBAN



MORE AWKWARD THAN SOME BY CHANCE LEE



SOLE SURVIVOR BY MICHAEL GILBERTSON

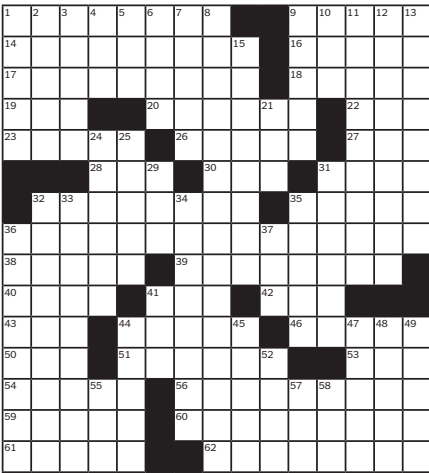


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0214

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bivouac, maybe
  - 9 Presses
  - 14 Classic parental advice to bored children
  - 16 Needle
  - 17 Line of suits?
  - 18 1970s NBC courtroom drama
  - 19 Tacoma-to-Spokane dir.
  - 20 Lupin of fiction
  - 22 Scheming
  - 23 \_\_\_ finger
  - 26 Bond phrase
  - 27 20-Across, e.g., informally
  - 28 Gramps, to Gunter
  - 30 Wise
  - 31 Standard offspring
  - 32 Wordsworth or Coleridge
  - 35 String bean's opposite
  - 36 Phrase from Virgil appropriate for Valentine's Day
  - 38 Favorites
  - 39 Handy work in a theater?
  - 40 Gifts of flowers
  - 41 Carly Jepsen, singer with the 2012 album "Kiss"
  - 42 Yamaguchi's 1992 Olympics rival
  - 43 Agent of psychedelic therapy
  - 44 Unhinged
  - 46 Pig leader?
  - 50 Spanish name suffix
  - 51 Dr. Seuss title character
  - 53 Liquor letters
  - 54 \_\_\_ Veda Beach, Fla.
  - 56 Entrepreneur who's well-supplied?
  - 59 Full-length
  - 60 Going nowhere
  - 61 Cold forecast
  - 62 "Clever thinking!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Adrien of cosmetics
  - 2 Valuable chess piece, to Juan Carlos
  - 3 Like horses
  - 4 P.G.A. stat
  - 5 Cool \_\_\_
  - 6 Magical opener
  - 7 Fate personified, in mythology
  - 8 Delivers a romantic Valentine's Day surprise, maybe
  - 9 Total
  - 10 Root word?
  - 11 TV listings info
  - 12 Forever
  - 13 Informal goodbye
  - 15 "Don't stop now!"
  - 21 Quiet break
  - 24 Sticks figures?
  - 25 Building materials?
  - 29 Base letters
  - 31 Home of Lafayette College
  - 32 It was used to make the first compass
  - 33 Dodger's talent
  - 34 Policing an area
  - 35 Broods
  - 36 Fictional island with a small population
  - 37 Prefix with -graph
  - 41 Paris's La Fayette
  - 44 Some U.N. votes
  - 45 Skateboarding trick used to leap over obstacles
  - 47 Like Humpty Dumpty
  - 48 Me.-to-Fla. route
  - 49 The Friendly Islands
  - 52 First name in blues
  - 55 Wine container
  - 57 "All the same ..."
  - 58 \_\_\_ de guerre

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



PUZZLE BY BRUCE HAIGHT

- 33 Dodger's talent
- 34 Policing an area
- 35 Broods
- 36 Fictional island with a small population
- 37 Prefix with -graph
- 41 Paris's La Fayette
- 44 Some U.N. votes
- 45 Skateboarding trick used to leap over obstacles
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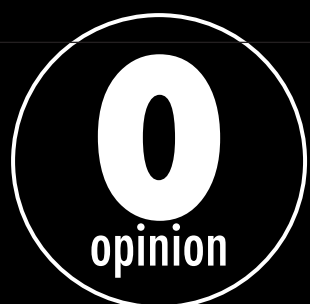
[peacecorps@virginia.edu](mailto:peacecorps@virginia.edu)



Zambia, 2010-2012

**Why Apply to Peace Corps?**  
"The longer one waits, the less likely one will actually join the Peace Corps. Instead of letting life get in the way, take advantage of the freedoms of youth and apply!"





## Comment of the day

“Bossy definitely does have a negative connotation. You don’t often hear someone say, ‘God I love her, she’s so bossy. It’s really great how she orders people around!’ The problem is that a woman will be accused of being bossy while displaying the same behavior that would have earned a man praise for being a competent leader. It reflects an idea that a woman giving direction is unusual. Tina Fey gave her book that title to make a joke about how women are treated in the workplace, hence the cover with her with a man’s arms.”

“Becca” responding to Meredith Berger’s March 17 column, “Bossy and proud.”

Have an  
opinion?  
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## LEAD EDITORIAL

# Training spaces

*Safe Space training will likely increase fraternity diversity*

The executive members of the Inter-Fraternity Council completed a Safe Space training session on Tuesday, led by LGBTQ Center Coordinator Scott Rheinheimer and second-year intern Carrie Myatt and attended by Dean of Students Allen Groves. IFC President Tommy Reid said there are very few openly gay members in fraternities. Groves said this may be because “fraternities are seen as the bastion of tradition and masculinity, and those things have historically felt at odds with the concept of a young man who is gay.”

According to Reid, many new members of fraternities think their brothers are more likely to accept them if they adopt homophobic attitudes. And this method of assimilation may very well work. The IFC executives at the training session on Tuesday agreed such a homophobic mentality does exist

within the Greek system. They also seemed to agree that such a mentality needs to be eliminated.

To be more welcoming and supportive of LGBTQ students is one way fraternities can increase their diversity. Opinion Columnist Nazar Aljassar wrote earlier this semester about the concerning lack of racial diversity in the Greek system. Several organizations at the University have recently made efforts to actively increase their diversity, such as Honor and University Guides. But diversity is not just about race; it also includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

Gay students are likely discouraged from rushing because of the overall characterization of fraternities which Groves mentioned. And if they do decide to rush, they might be disinclined from returning to houses or accepting bids because of the prevalent

homophobic attitudes of other rushees which Reid referred to.

Safe Space training for IFC executives is a positive start to making the fraternity system more open to and accepting of gay members. But in order to be effective, each individual fraternity should give the same amount of attention to the issue. As a condition of their Fraternal Organization Agreement, all fraternities at the University are required to complete six educational programs a year, three of which may be the fraternity’s choice of topic. Safe Space training would make an excellent FOA workshop, providing each fraternity with the knowledge and awareness it needs in order to be more welcoming to gay students.

Casually dropping the words “fag” or “homo” in a derogatory fashion during conversation is an example of how anti-gay stigma can permeate the atmo-

sphere of a fraternity. If a rushee or a brother who makes these comments is egged on by the rest of the fraternity members, the problem is perpetuated. But if a brother stands up and shows disapproval, he sends the message that such words are not cool, but actually hurtful. This is a simple way to break the cycle of homophobia. It may not be easy; it may require courage to break away from the group mentality. But the group will be better if it is prompted to let go of such notions of bigotry.

The fraternity system should be one that produces men of strong and admirable character. There is nothing admirable about homophobia. Gay students should not feel excluded from participating in the tradition of Greek life. Each fraternity should work to make sure this feeling of exclusion is sustained no longer.

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### Questions/Comments

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# Grade pointless average

*The grade point system is an unreliable way to quantify students' academic success*

**Will Henagan**  
Viewpoint Writer

Last semester I sat down in a meeting with my advisor. I was bright-eyed and enthusiastic, ready to tackle a tougher spring schedule until she suggested I think about protecting my grade point average. Her point was valid: I was thinking about applying to the Commerce school, Batten and maybe the Politics Honors program. Maintaining a strong record of academic excellence would ensure doors to higher levels of education at the University remained open. But when did academic excellence become synonymous with grade point averages? Why was it more important I check the Course Forum for the percentage of A's a professor historically awarded than it was I read about the details of the subject matter?

The University and peer institutions have a broken method for evaluating the quality of students. According to research conducted by education reformer Alfie Kohn, author of "The Schools Our Children Deserve: Moving Beyond Traditional Classrooms and 'Tougher Standards'" and "Punished by Rewards: The Trouble with Gold Stars, Incentive Plans, A's, Praise, and

Other Bribes", grades have three effects: "First, [students'] interest in the learning itself is diminished. Second, they come to prefer easier tasks — not because they're lazy, but because they're rational. After all, if the point is to get an A, your odds are better if you avoid taking intellectual risks. Third, students tend to



**Grades are so often arbitrary; the higher education system needs an evaluative format that that looks beyond just a number."**

think in a more superficial fashion — and to forget what they learned more quickly — when grades are involved." The grade point system pushes students to take classes with favorable grading scales instead of challenging material. This system stymies intellectual curiosity by making it "rational" to remain within one's academic comfort zone, and it penalizes innovative scheduling combined with true academic rigor. Google search "easiest classes at U.Va" and scroll through the plethora

of advice on how to pad your schedule with classes to boost a sagging GPA.

Several departments have realized the intellectual freedom granted by removing the numeric system of evaluation. For example, the Politics Honors program freezes students grade point averages upon their acceptance to the program if they choose to take all their classes outside the program as pass/fail. According to their website, the department believes this program provides students "with flexibility to develop innovative approaches to understanding the most important political issues of our

time." Developing avant-garde approaches to learning and inquiry or pushing your scholarly boundaries often means experiencing academic failure. The University needs a system of evaluation that provides incentives, not repercussions, for intellectual risk takers.

Furthermore, grades are usually one individual's evaluation of the quality of a piece of work, and the more advanced the subject or student the greater variance between different graders' perspectives on

what is "A" or "high-quality" work. If a student produces work that refutes a professor's opinion or core academic, personal or moral principles, the professor is automatically subject to bias when grading. He or she will look for flaws in an argument as opposed to the quality of the work produced. Grades are so often arbitrary; the higher education system needs an evaluative format that that looks beyond just a number.

Almost everyone can agree there must be some method for evaluating the quality of a student's work and his intellectual caliber. Employers and graduate schools need some method for choosing from a pool of applicants, and there needs to be some motivation for students to produce advanced work outside of simple desire for excellence. Institutions of higher education should have students in every subject matter produce a portfolio, meaning the school should require each student to produce a tangible and evaluable body of work by the end of their time at the University. A system along these lines would mean more work for evaluators, but why should society not buy into a system that rewards innovation instead of "taking the easy way out?" Many of the creative disciplines, like graphic design and photography, have already

moved toward this paradigm. This system provides a way for Universities to prove its students have been taught real tangible skills that can be applied in the workplace.

The grade point system produces students with empty diplomas and false accolades. According to Kohn, grades are as unnecessary as "paddling or taking extended dictation." Currently several private high schools, like Saint Ann's School in New York City, exchange grades for a series of personal progress reports by teachers. While this system may be the ideal, it remains unfeasible in a large University setting. However, requiring a similar report from professors with students in small upper-level seminar style classes could be a way to incorporate multiple mediums of analysis into a student's portfolio. The University could be the first major public institution to take the first step towards choosing innovation over the stagnant status quo. We need to shift towards an educational perspective that de-emphasizes what has become an easily manipulable and senseless numerical scoring system.

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*Will Henagan is a Viewpoint Writer.*

# Fund the candidates

*The publicly-funded campaign finance model should be applied to university elections*

**John Connolly**  
Opinion Columnist

Prior to 2008, major party presidential nominees had customarily agreed to accept \$84.1 million from the federal government. Their acceptance was contingent on an agreement, bound by law, not to exceed this figure in campaign spending towards the general election. But Barack Obama's 2008 announcement that he would forgo federal funding of his presidential campaign reversed this long-standing campaign finance tradition, which dated back to the Watergate era. By declining federal funds, Obama was free to collect far over the customary \$84.1 million, setting a new precedent for presidential candidates. In 2012, for instance, both Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney declined federal funding, opting instead to raise gargantuan sums via private fundraising.

The irrelevance of public election funding and spending caps has brought about a corresponding rise in the importance of fundraising for the general election. But at least the option exists for candidates to accept

public funds and agree to spending limits, an act that would curb some of the unseemly and massive expenses incurred by recent campaigns.

Unfortunately, no such option exists at this University. As a recent Cavalier Daily article detailed, candidates for Honor Committee fund their campaigns entirely out of their own pockets. As a result, spending by candidates varied wildly. According to the University Board of Elections (UBE) campaign expenditure reports, Honor Committee candidates spent as little as \$3.50 and as much as \$182.85. This huge discrepancy did not go unnoticed by the candidates. Martese Johnson, a candidate for Honor Committee, pointed out that some students simply have less money to spend than others, and candidate Nick Lee noted that campaign expenditures might put some students at an electoral disadvantage.

"Public funding" would remedy this problem. I propose that the UBE grant funds to each candidate running in a contested election that collects enough signatures to be placed on the ballot. Under this system, candidates would not be obliged to

spend all of the funds, and would be required to return all unspent money. This policy would eliminate any fear that self-financed campaigns discourage underprivileged students from seeking office.

Any call for spending increases may be controversial. Just three of the 29 candidates whose campaign spending is reported on the UBE website spent over \$100. For argument's sake, assume that the UBE elected to grant each candidate in a contested election \$100 for campaign spending. Just 26 candidates participated in contested elections this year, and nine are law students. If the UBE granted each of these candidates \$100, it still is spending just \$2600, a number likely to decrease as candidates return unspent funds. While this is a hefty sum, I believe it is a price worth paying in order to eliminate notions of barriers impeding underprivileged students from seeking office.

Implementing such a reform would be difficult, but not impossible. It is possible that the UBE might adopt such a policy through a member vote, but students could also work to amend the UBE Constitution through the process out-

lined in Article VI of the UBE Constitution. I do not know whether the UBE has considered policies to amend University campaign finance regulations or remove barriers for underprivileged students in the past, but I feel confident that the students of this University will act to remove policies they view as unjust.

It is important to note that campaign spending is not the only factor in determining electoral results. The candidate who spent \$3.50 on the race won election to the Honor Committee, as did the candidate who spent \$182.85. According to the Cavalier Daily article cited above, some candidates felt that spending was somewhat irrelevant, and that establishing a personal connection with voters was the paramount issue in the race. Still others even suggested that campaigning is counterproductive, and that shameless self-promotion might drive away voters.

This may be true. But self-financed campaigns may still discourage underprivileged students from seeking office. This is a shame, particularly where democratic values of student self-governance are constantly emphasized. It is difficult to produce evidence suggesting that

underprivileged students are disadvantaged in the University electoral process, as there are few concrete statistics relevant to this idea. Nevertheless, it is necessary to implement this public funding scheme to truly ensure that the University electoral process is fair.

Compared to the recent cuts to AccessUVA, campaign election spending probably seems like an extraordinarily minor issue to underprivileged students who attend this University. But the implication that some opportunities on Grounds might only be available to students of privilege is stunning and sobering. It is possible that campaign finance in University elections is irrelevant. But in order to eliminate any potential that privileged students might stand a better chance of winning election, the University should adopt a public system of campaign funding. At this University, so long a beacon for democracy, elections should be held on a level playing field.

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*John Connolly is an Opinion Columnist for The Cavalier Daily. His columns run Thursdays.*



# In favor of the mock wall

*The creation of the mock wall was an effective way to spark discussion at the University about the Middle East*

**Elaine Harrington**  
Viewpoint Writer

I walked past the mock wall between Newcomb Hall and Monroe Hall dozens of times the week of February 24, and on each occasion was both bothered by its obnoxious presence and was obliged to pick up a few of its ideas. I was surprised that a brightly painted piece of plywood activism stuck in my mind, compelling me to seek more information on Israeli Apartheid Week and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a whole.

I wasn't alone. The wall's power in its illicit feel of graffiti, accessibility, scale, symbolism of the "separation wall" and simplicity generated much interest for the Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine (SPJP). Many students thanked them for building it and joined their listserv. According to SPJP member and fourth-year Batten student Sara Almousa, it raised awareness among students generally deterred from learning about the conflict "because they feel they don't know as much...and maybe are too shy to ask or don't know what to ask." It was notable enough for the Brody Jewish Center to promptly organize

a panel in response. The Cavalier Daily news article covering it was listed as one of the popular stories on the website and has 46 comments; while often emotion-fueled and sarcastic, they are still useful to spark dialogue.

The wall's inflammatory nature was effective rather than blindly antagonistic. Not all agreed. The same article reported on Hoos for Israel president and third-year College student Jeremy Conover's disapproval of the wall, an unhappiness beyond simple dissent. He feared that the wall "misinform[ed] students" because it presented information "in a biased way" and did not use "any context." Conover's fear is unnecessary, but understandable because the wall served to inform students who may have known little about the conflict.

However, today's college students are not new to receiving information from a "biased" perspective because of exposure to the "point of view" journalism of blogs and satirical "news" like The Colbert Report. In fact, a 2012 study demonstrated that teenagers prefer the obvious stance of point-of-view journalism to "objective" news, finding it more genuine and trustworthy. Therefore, students

who saw the board knew that it was pro-Palestinian and were capable of evaluating its information as such. The news article's top comment asks, "Abdel-Qader [the president of SPJP] wants to show how the Palestinians live, but how can

of the word "apartheid." While he may be correct that the term "inflames emotions and...exacerbates the problems and the differences between the two sides," the word is still useful for promoting discussion in the University setting.

As the use of the term "apartheid" is not a verifiable fact, it forces SPJP to explain why they and other boycott, divestment and sanctions groups think it is applicable; it also enables students to question whether or not the situation replicates an apartheid policy like South Africa's.

Likewise, the wall's use of the word "apartheid" drove the Brody Center to explain why it finds its application inappropriate through their "Whatever It Is, It's Not Apartheid" panel. Furthermore, this strong language demonstrates the differences between viewpoints on the conflict. Just as the "pro-life" and "pro-choice" monikers show the groups' disagreement over whether abortion is an issue of life or women's choice, so do the "apartheid wall" and "security fence" terms demonstrate the fundamental debate over whether

the generically-termed "separation wall" is accurate or useful. These opportunities to learn should not be stymied for the sake of presenting a singular truth to students.

The wall was more than effective at accomplishing its goal. By displaying the Palestinian flag and cause, it let SPJP assert the Palestinian identity erased in the vandalizing of their Beta Bridge painting two years ago. According to Almousa, the wall acted as the "stepping stone that this group needed in order to awaken its creativity and activism," as well as allowing future projects to be more successful as their mission is better understood. It forced Hoos for Israel to more actively teach its beliefs, and via SPJP attendance at the Brody Center's panel, allowed for thoughtful discussion. Almousa also shared that SPJP and J Street may co-sponsor events in the future, a partnership which would have both great symbolic value and potential to facilitate a nuanced dialogue about the conflict. Because if college students cannot be hopeful about Middle Eastern peace, who can be?

*Elaine Harrington is a Viewpoint writer.*



**The wall's inflammatory nature was effective rather than blindly antagonistic."**

we ignore how Israelis live?" This reaction is both logical and useful: the same 2012 study showed that teenagers sought out different perspectives "à la carte" to achieve a clearer understanding of current events, which should be the goal of any group looking to raise awareness. For this reason, presenting information with a pro-Palestinian bias is neither untruthful nor uninformative.

Third-year College student Billy Baker, an intern for J Street, a liberal "pro-peace" organization, also criticized the wall for its use

we did not complete the course, or necessarily use all of the provided resources, it greatly supplemented our experience in the club. I challenge those who think of MOOCs as a weakened form of individual learning to reconsider

them as an innovative tool for collective education. In this particular case, our use of the MOOC could not have been replaced by a real-life course. For starters, no such class existed in my small high school. In addition, most students in the club were not willing or able to devote the many hours a week that would be required to garner the same information from print or Internet sources rather than from the lectures.

Another common complaint about MOOCs is that they may

diminish the value of a traditional education. I would remind those who believe this to be a valid critique of MOOCs that the same argument was likely made about the Internet, which has transformed the way that people learned, both in and outside of the classroom, and has made information instantaneously accessible. MOOCs do not change the fact that to compete in our modern job market, a university degree is vital. What they do change is the access that people have to the University's gifted educators. MOOCs break down the walls of exclusivity that must exist within the American system of higher education in order for it to thrive. Valuable information and educational resources that we have should be shared with those who seek them, especially because we have the capability to do so.

Although ideals of untethered intellectual exploration are commonly expatiated by universities, and even by our founder, the reality is that many of us students are bound to a strict series of courses during our time at the University, with which we can complete our majors (and sometimes double majors or minors) as well as our academic requirements. MOOCs offer the chance for dabbling, for the dipping of toes into

a subject area that you may not be able to pursue in a class due to other academic obligations. Although this argument may seem only applicable to University students, it can really be applied to all who take advantage of MOOCs, who may have full time jobs, be living outside the US, or not have the resources or time to pursue the subject that interests them in a formal educational setting. The fact that MOOCs do not award a degree to these people, or even credit, does not imply that they are useless.

As we look into the future, I do not foresee MOOCs having any lasting negative impact. On the contrary, I think that once universities such as UVA commit to free public online education, many foreign universities will follow suit, making global access to the world's finest educators and academic resources increasingly more accessible. Like placing historically significant artifacts in a museum rather than keeping them in a closed private collection, MOOCs will not ruin (or even change) the higher education system, but will simply broaden its reach beyond the intellectual and social elite.

*Mary Russo is a Viewpoint Writer.*

# The merits of MOOCs

*Massive Open Online Courses are valuable because they make academic resources globally available*

**Mary Russo**  
Viewpoint Writer

Last week, the Managing Board published an editorial entitled "The Shortcomings of MOOCs", in which they argued that although they represent an aspirational ideal of public education, Massive Open Online Courses are not adequately achieving their purpose of providing easy access to University courses well enough to justify the resources that must be expended to surmount the obstacles that they present.

Although I recognize the challenges highlighted in the editorial, I believe that MOOCs are more valuable than the editorial suggests, as they are characteristic of the values of education and intellectual curiosity that are central to the University, and to the ideals of higher education as a whole. I hesitate to use the word education in my response, as I believe that much of the heated debate over MOOCs stems from the misconception that they will replace or threaten our current educational system. On the contrary, I believe that MOOCs simply broaden the reach that our distinguished and accomplished educators can have, and are a worthy pursuit for the Univer-

sity.

One major critique of MOOCs is that they are essentially a watered down version of a formal classroom experience. As pointed out by the Managing Board, as well as in another Cavalier Daily article, MOOCs neither provide course credit nor



**MOOCs break down the walls of exclusivity that must exist within the American system of higher education in order for it to thrive."**

grades. Thus, maging them as a potential substitute for a formal class in an institution of higher learning is pointless. Rather, MOOCs should be thought of as a new academic venue altogether, separate from both a classroom and a library (or perhaps, the Internet).

The best way for me to illustrate this point is by drawing from my own experience with an MOOC. In high school, I was involved in a politics/philosophy discussion club. One semester, we used an MOOC, an

we did not complete the course, or necessarily use all of the provided resources, it greatly supplemented our experience in the club. I challenge those who think of MOOCs as a weakened form of individual learning to reconsider

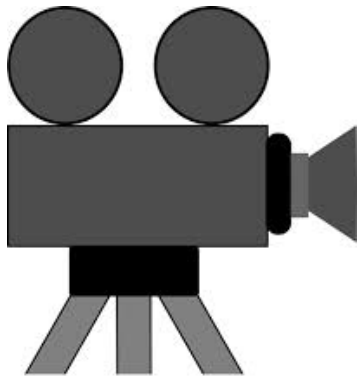
them as an innovative tool for collective education. In this particular case, our use of the MOOC could not have been replaced by a real-life course. For starters, no such class existed in my small high school. In addition, most students in the club were not willing or able to devote the many hours a week that would be required to garner the same information from print or Internet sources rather than from the lectures.

Another common complaint about MOOCs is that they may



# HUMOR

Just for wits.



Denise Taylor  
Humor Columnist

Lately, I've noticed there are a lot of movies out there but not many I can sit through all the way. I decided to write down a few of my own ideas for movies so I can make them, once I finally get rich.

## "Mirror, Mirror"

A blind man lives alone and makes mirrors for a living. Each time a customer buys a mirror, he tells them how beautiful they are. None of the customers even notice the man is blind because they're too busy watching themselves in the mirrors. The movie ends in a silent shot of the blind man standing in front of the mirror with no reflection looking back at him. Wait a second — is the blind man a vampire, too? I'm not

gonna tell you because the audience has to decide.

## "The Wild Frontier"

A heartwarming story of a bear and a salmon who have to stick together in the aftermath of the Louisiana Purchase. I haven't worked out the details but there's a scene where they ask Sacagawea for directions but the salmon stays back because he's nervous about meeting a famous person. This adds depth to salmon's character because he comes off as super-confident in the beginning when he first meets the bear. Historical accuracy is the key with the dialogue here, because it needs to feel like you're watching a real bear and salmon talk in 1803.

## "Sherry Pie"

This one's a romantic comedy that opens with the hunky actor of the day playing 17-year-old Shawn Dawcett, who's laying in a cornfield. Shawn makes a bet with his cousin Sherry that he could get any girl he wanted in this town to take him to the Sadie Hawkins Dance. Sherry says it's a deal, as long as he "stays the heck away from her." If you watch romantic comedies as much as I do, it's easy to see where this one's going.

Still — a cute little family flick that's sure to entertain.

## "Death of Aunt Mathilda"

A successful but emotionally detached businessman must return to his hometown to attend his Aunt Mathilda's funeral. He is overcome with guilt when he realizes he never knew his Aunt Mathilda, and decides to be less selfish and learn more about her. He asks his mother and it's revealed that she never knew his Aunt Mathilda either. The man's two sisters and brother admit to never having even met Aunt Mathilda, both under the impression that the others knew who she was. It turns out that no one in this family knows Aunt Mathilda. This sets us up to explore the main mystery in the film: who sent out the funeral invitations?

## "Two Mixed-Race Cops"

A twist on the classic black-cop, white-cop duo, this movie is about two policemen who both have a healthy balance of book smarts and street smarts that get them through

fighting tough crimes. I decided that the crimes don't really matter, as long as there are enough scenes of them sitting in the front seat of a cop car and gently shaking their heads in disapproval.

## "S-t-r-a-n-g-e-r"

A beautiful French bohemian moves to the United States for her next adventure. While she wants a new chapter in her life, she finds it harder and harder to adjust to the American ways and language. One rainy day in Manhattan she meets an American stranger who helps her close her loft window. The stranger stays for tea and later teaches the woman all the letters in the English alphabet. Right as the he's about to leave, they make love on her balcony's bistro table, and she never sees him again. Twenty years later she is back in Paris, watching television, and who's on? The stranger, who turns out to have been Pat Sajak! The bohemian woman lives the rest of her life in regret.

## "Inner-city School/ Artsy Movie"

An inner-city school is riddled with gang violence and devastating

budget cuts, leaving many of its students to drop out and survive in the streets. A clean-cut math teacher comes in and decides it's time to finally turn things around. After a few weeks the kids all learn Calculus really well, but a bunch of them still get shot. This leads the teacher to quit his job and inspires him to do what he really loves: painting. I think it'd be good for this movie's soundtrack to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  Snoop Lion and  $\frac{1}{4}$  Phillip Glass, but that's something I'll have to talk to my musical director about.

## "World War I(I)"

Set in Germany in 1940, this movie follows a group of four Nazi officers who suffer severe psychological trauma once they find out about the war and its atrocities. The trauma causes each officer to have a series of childhood flashbacks (80 percent of the movie), all of which show us their young lives and what their families went through in WWI (fuzzy edges so you know it's the past). I'm pretty sure this movie would make lots of money even though it's a World War I movie, because it's disguised as a World War II movie.

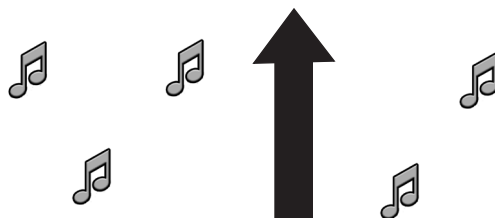
Denise Taylor is a Humor Columnist for The Cavalier Daily.

# On Exercise

Charlotte Raskovich  
Humor Columnist

Start with some stretches and remind yourself that mortality is inevitable. Your body is naught but a transient and coarsely assembled mass of blood, tendons and assorted viscera. Ultimately your memory will fade into oblivion no matter what you do and no matter how strong your calves are in life. Nothing matters. Now you're ready to work out.

To get pumped up, put on the sort of music you listened to when you were hitting puberty and had the energy to care about things. While lunging to the beat of "Anarchy in the UK," remember the time you wrote a searing exposé on abstinence only education for your eighth grade Optimist Club essay. Remember how you were sticking it to The Man? Remember how The Man was Mr. Knox? Caring? Remember caring?



A general rule of thumb in choosing an exercise regimen is: the worse the graphic design, the better the workout. What typeface does the well-meaning health blogger use? Arial? Weak. Bolded Papryus over a pastel watercolor background? Perfect.



Visualize clear goals for yourself. The goal is for people to look at you and think, "If this was the Middle Ages, I would totally marry that girl because she looks like she would a) survive the winter b) have an affordable dowry c) be able to chop a lot of wood," and then think, "Good thing I don't live in the Middle Ages because I'm going to hit on that wispy girl with less threatening muscle definition."



Alternatively, the goal is for people to look at you and think, "That girl has the body of a goddess. I'm not going to approach her lest she turn me into a stag and hunts me down with a pack of hounds." Take a break and stretch while you google those dogs that look like wolves (Alaskan Malamute). In any case, the goal is for people to leave you alone and let your corporeal form disintegrate in peace.

Charlotte Raskovich is a Humor Columnist for The Cavalier Daily.





# A&E looks at unsung heroes

*This week, we deliver in-depth looks at your new favorite underdogs.*

## A wise look at Allison Weiss

*Rising indie-rock artist exhibits sweet, meaningful sounds worth plugging into*

**Candace Carter**  
Senior Writer

On a sweltering day last July, Warped Tour's Acoustic Basement Tent burst with the sweet indie-rock sounds of Allison Weiss. With an acoustic guitar, a tambourine and an outfit resembling The Ramones' classic punk threads, the audience expected to hear relaxing folk tunes that would mellow the harshness of the sun. Instead, Weiss treated them to a jam session full of angry, rock 'n' roll narrative pieces that resulted in a mile-long line at the merchandise table after her set.

Only recently having made her formal debut into the worldwide

music market, Weiss released her first full-length album "Say What You Mean" in 2013, following two highly successful Kickstarter campaigns and one vastly underappreciated YouTube song series.

Weiss's style strikes a happy medium — it is not as dramatic or heavily eye-lined as Avril Lavigne's angsty girl-rock, but it also doesn't succumb to the pop fluff sounds of some indie bands like The Drums and Arcade Fire.

The emotional content of her music is made more meaningful with this balance. Instead of overwhelming depression or underwhelming metaphorical comparisons, listeners get a true feeling of her restrained sorrow and confusion and her ultimate understanding of reality.

"Wait for Me," a soft track from her full-length, puts a hopeful twist on a stricken break-up as she describes the freedom of spirit she'll be able to express in her new single life. The hate presented in "Hole in Your Heart" bangs out a heavy bass line and full-bodied vocals, giving listeners a heady sense of her anger at a lover who has neglected her. The album's closing track, "I'll Be Okay," sends us off with solid closure as she sifts through confusion following a break-up with interesting rhythmic interplay of guitar and soft drums.

Before the pervasive success of "Say What You Mean," the emotional content of Weiss' material seemed more raw and fresh. A personal favorite of mine from her

YouTube series is "I Don't Wanna Be Here," which layers delicately melodic guitar with undertones of self-hatred.

Aside from Weiss' honesty and lyrical talent, the greatest advantage of her music is her strong, sweet voice. It sounds completely natural when coupled with her lilting guitar. The lack of vocal touch-up in each of her YouTube videos, or "teenage years' songs" as she dubs them, makes her work more meaningful and beautiful.

Her personality shines

through in these videos: Weiss is a sweet-hearted Georgian with big dreams, boldly pursuing the American Dream. She bravely bears her soul in her music and appeals to other troubled souls like herself in her endeavors to use her music to positively impact the world. Her earnest voice, adorable personality, and noble quest to change the quality of life for the downtrodden make her quite the inspiring underdog.



Courtesy of PropertyOfZack.com



Courtesy of Reliance Home Videos

**Nina Lukow**  
Senior Writer

There is only one animated film I turn to when I feel the nostalgic desire to revisit my childhood. No, it's not "The Lion King" or "Aladdin." In fact, it's not a Disney film at all. It's a film which hardly even features children, and instead has two con men scheming their way to become filthy rich as its leading, unlikely heroes.

## 'The Road to El Dorado' is one not taken

*Underrated animated children's comedy worth appreciating*

Still can't guess it? Here's another hint: there's a little treasure known as El Dorado heavily featured in it.

That's right, I'm talking about 2000's "The Road to El Dorado" — DreamWorks Animation's charming and hilarious musical-comedy about Tulio (voiced by Kevin Kline) and Miguel (Kenneth Branagh), two gamblers who find a map to El Dorado, journey to the mythical city and are mistakenly received as gods by its citizens. Hijinks worthy of a screwball comedy ensue.

This film gets the award for most underrated children's animated film in my book — not only for the hysterical and mischievous shenanigans Tulio and Miguel get into, but for the touching friendship between the duo at the heart of the film. This is a buddy comedy disguised as a family-friendly adventure film.

The banter between the two of them is like nothing seen in Disney animation. It has one of the most quotable scripts I've ever encountered in a children's film, with dialogue resembling comical jousting.

It certainly helps the two lead characters are voiced by none other than Kline and Branagh, who have such fun with their roles you can hear the rib-tickling repartee bouncing off their tongues with comedic ease.

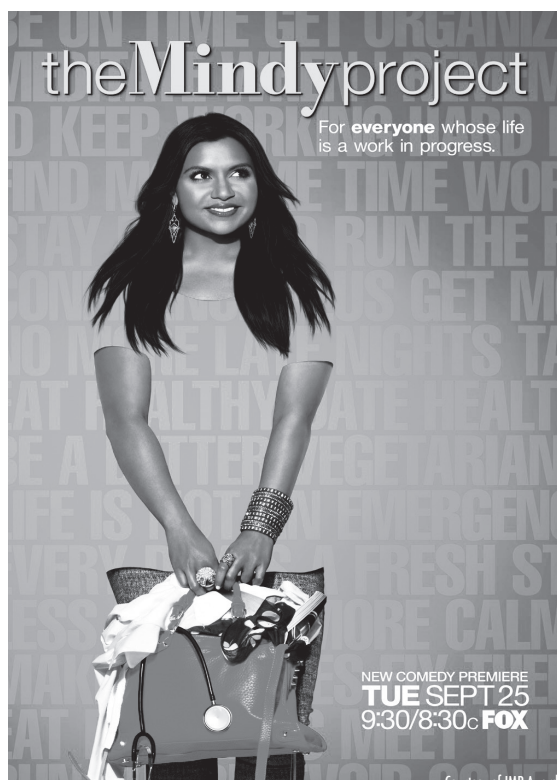
I won't deny, I'm especially partial to Kline, who manages to infuse all of his roles with vibrant energy, and here, as the greedy schemer Tulio, he excels. One could say his role within this underrated slice of animation earns him top prize for most underrated performance alongside all his other outstanding roles.

Have I even mentioned the music yet? Because it's savory, toe-tapping and written by the immensely talented Elton John and lyricist Tim Rice. Only one song is sung by the characters themselves (the clever "It's Tough to Be a God"), while the rest of the soundtrack plays in the film's background, guiding Tulio and Miguel on their adventures. I often find myself humming these tunes, from the upbeat and perky "Trail We Blaze" to the incredibly catchy title song "El Dorado." Go on YouTube, give them

a listen and try not to get one stuck in your head. I dare you.

This film has so many gems in it: all-star voice casting, an entertaining and amusing plot, terrifying villains, swell music. I find it surprising and disappointing it didn't catch on with audiences when it was originally released. It's true hand-drawn animation in feature films was already being ushered out the door by the new millennium; "El Dorado" entered theaters around the time that Disney released "The Emperor's New Groove" and "Atlantis: The Lost Empire," both films which grossed a small profit and signaled the decline of this cinematic art form. Like those two films, it's possible the downfall of "El Dorado" was its medium — or perhaps it was forgotten by the time DreamWorks debuted the immensely popular CGI franchise "Shrek" a year later. Still, for me, this film shines golden, and will always be the film I return to when I need a good dose of childhood nostalgia.





Anne Duessel  
Senior Writer

An underdog can be judged both by its quality and the level of adversity it faces

# Defending 'The Mindy Project'

*Despite unwarranted criticisms, "Mindy" characters, humor makes show worth watching*

in the recognition of this quality. With this in mind, no show currently on television is more of an underdog than FOX comedy "The Mindy Project."

First, let's discuss quality. "The Mindy Project," above all, is a comedy — and in terms of humor, it fires on all cylinders. The writers' vast experiences, with past stints including "30 Rock" and "The Office," comes across clearly. Dialogue is quick, pop culture references are abundant and situations — some focused on the fictional OB/GYN practice Shulman and Associates, some focused on characters' dating experiences

— are both absurd and delightful. While the funniest lines come from the two main characters, the highly energetic Dr. Mindy Lahiri (Mindy Kaling) and the curmudgeonly Dr. Danny Castellano (Chris Messina), the rest of the ensemble, notably Dr. Peter Prentice (Adam Pally) and Nurse Tamra (Xosha Roquemore), will frequently throw out hilarious one-liners.

Overall, characters share tremendous chemistry. If "The Mindy Project" is to be remembered for anything, it will be for the thorough and nuanced exploration of the relationship — platonic or otherwise — between Mindy and Danny. At the beginning of the series, the two were adversaries, with Danny regularly attacking Mindy's weight and Mindy regularly attacking Danny's recent divorce.

In the smallest of increments, however, Danny and Mindy become the other's best emotional support, helping each other be "the best version" of themselves, as Danny once admits. This slow and meticulous progression is only able

to succeed through the brilliant acting work between Kaling and Messina, who deserve an endless supply of awards for the emotion they can convey in one exchanged glance.

Unfortunately, "The Mindy Project," and its talented actors, never gets the acclaim it deserves. Rather than receiving praise for strong comedy or acting, it has consistently received the back end of wrongful criticism and controversy. In many instances, this controversy stems from Kaling's Indian background, as many critics, when discussing the show, waste time wondering why her character only dates white men. Commenting on the show from such a narrow perspective depicts "The Mindy Project" as a failure to adhere to a social agenda rather than recognizing it as a celebration of comedy and talent.

The show also runs into a roadblock by constantly being compared to other shows. Whether Kaling's work on the show is compared to her past stint on "The Office," or

its creative choices are held up alongside other FOX shows such as "New Girl" and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," the show is rarely criticized with an open mind. The program does not often get to stand on its own, where it might be better appreciated.

Nevertheless, "The Mindy Project" was recently renewed for a third season — one victory for a show which deserves far more than it gets. After all, it's a witty, character-driven comedy with a cast full of talent and promise. It is the only show worth watching right when it airs, and the only show worth watching five times after that, in case a detail was passed by or a moment went unnoticed. It is not just an "underdog TV show" — it's one-of-a-kind.

The Mindy Project returns with new episodes on FOX Tuesday, April 1, at 9 p.m.

## Think outside Pandora's box

*Lesser-known music-streaming sites offer more variety, user input*

Jacqueline Justice  
Senior Writer

Spotify's meteoric rise to prominence after its release in 2008 parallels that of Pandora after its launch in 2004. Both marked new and innovative ways to stream music online. Pandora was the pioneer of its kind — a method of listening to specific genres of music without having to pay for the service or for a subscription to a radio



Courtesy of Spotify Press

show. However, it lacks the ability to listen to an entire album or a particular song — two services in turn offered by Spotify.

Although massively popularized, these two music streaming sites aren't the only of their kind — nor are they without their faults.

Pandora's initial popularity stemmed largely from listeners' ability to discover new music and not have to buy songs outright before hearing them. Listeners can create a personalized radio experience based on a single song, artist or greater genre.

"I like it because I know the music on my iPod really well, so it's nice to have something of the same genre that I haven't necessarily heard before," first-year College student Margaret Mester said. "It just changes things up a bit."

Mester admits Pandora has some flaws, though.

"It plays a lot of the same music," she said. "It's like there's a certain amount of songs that it just rotates, and it also has a lot of ads."

Other sites, meanwhile, offer alternate means of music discovering — but without all the advertisements and with less repetition. 8tracks allows users to upload playlists tagged with words describing the playlist by artist, genre, mood or listening environment, like "gym" or "party."

"There's no commercial breaks, which is very nice, and their mixes are usually more true to character than Pandora," first-year College student Francesca Trombetta said. "My problem with Pandora is I'll go to the Mozart station, and it'll skip around to different genres. 8tracks playlists are better for studying, and do not have commercials. ... Also, I like that you can search

multiple tags — it's easier to be more specific."

Fourth-year College student John Shelton expressed similar concerns with Pandora.

"Just because I like [one] song doesn't mean I want to listen to a song that sounds the same," Shelton said. "I want something new."

While 8Tracks fills this niche well, other sites are better facilitate finding new music. Media Studies faculty member Nicholas Rubin, also a WTJU disc jockey, said he uses either music blogs or sites like Soundcloud and Bandcamp to discover new songs and artists.

Though both Soundcloud and Bandcamp offer streaming options, they focus more on buying and downloading music. Artists can upload their music to either of these sites, where users can both preview and download it. Differing from iTunes in their

focus on indie genres and unsigned musicians, well-known radio hits are not typically available.

In addition to these sites, there are several other very specific and less popular sites available for music streaming. YouTube Disco allows visitors to type in an artist or a song and will make a playlist of YouTube videos based on your interest, similar to Pandora. FratMusic offers playlists catered toward college students, featuring categories from "Throwbacks" to "Day drinking."

The Internet presents an innovative outlet for musicians to showcase their music, and users have at their fingertips a vast variety of websites to listen to and discover music. Picking a music-streaming site depends on your intentions, but regardless, Spotify and Pandora are far from the only options available.

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Courtesy Art Wallpapers

## Exes: TV's only exception

Past loves in TV shows are underdogs to root for

more” — but I’ve arrived at my own conclusion: the pull of television’s exes.

Exes are the ultimate underdogs. We hate to love them and we love to hate

them, but when it comes down to it, the presence of ex-boyfriends and girlfriends in our favorite TV shows makes them better. These characters add humor, drama and conflict which drives plots and forces other characters to make dynamic adjustments in their lives.

First-year College student Breanna Cross agreed TV exes create relatable circumstances for viewers who have experienced awkward breakups.

“In the show ‘Gossip Girl,’ Blair (Leighton Meester) breaks up with her boyfriend Nate (Chace Crawford) because he cheated on her,” she said. “Even afterwards, she sees him

at school every day [where it’s] hard to avoid each other. [This] portrays the relationship between exes really well. ... We all have that one person we don’t want to see, but it’s unavoidable.”

The relatability of fictional relationships tends to make viewers more emotionally invested in the shows they’re watching. Third-year College student Rachel Knowles also cited “Gossip Girl” as a source of bad romance she can sympathize with, noting the relationship between Serena van der Woodsen (Blake Lively) and Dan Humphrey (Penn Badgley) who, unlike his beau, isn’t from Manhattan’s affluent Upper East Side.

“He added that element of not belonging in the [privileged] setting,” Knowles said. “I was sympathetic to him.”

Failure to fit into a particular relationship is also represented in “Gilmore Girls,” where the breakup between Rory Gilmore (Alexis Bledel) and Dean Forester (Jared Padalecki) leaves fans torn between loyalties to the two characters.

“[Dean] ended up getting

dumped because his girlfriend fell in love with a ‘bad boy,’” first-year College student Elizabeth Surratt said. “I guess you feel really bad for him because he did absolutely nothing wrong, but then you also sympathize with [Rory], because you could tell she didn’t really love him. You have mixed feelings.”

These conflicting feelings pull viewers into the action as they ponder which character to side with, in a sort of “Team Edward” vs. “Team Jacob” conundrum (minus the vampires). The choice is rarely a simple one. Second-year College student Laura Leddy cited Jane Margolis (Krysten Ritter) in “Breaking Bad,” who encourages boyfriend Jesse Pinkman (Aaron Paul) in his drug habits despite the fact he’s recovering from addiction, as helping her decide where her loyalty lie in watching the show.

“I didn’t like her because she brought [Jesse] back to doing drugs, ... but in the end I felt bad for her because [Walter, Jesse’s former partner,] lets her die,” Leddy said. “I think [her presence] represented the bad sides

of both Jesse and Walter [as well as] their struggles. Walter is selfish because he let her die to keep Jesse from doing drugs. I think she helped bring [her own death] out.”

Though tension often endures after a breakup — especially if one half of a couple is no longer breathing — it doesn’t always end badly. While “Seinfeld” is admittedly far removed from “Breaking Bad,” it does offer further insight into your more typical relationship.

“In ‘Seinfeld,’ Elaine and Jerry are exes, but both are friends within the show,” first-year College student Mehar Viridi said. “They separate their relationship from their friendship. This is a rare thing, but it works here.”

Even more rare is the relationship between Ann Perkins (Rashida Jones) and Andy Dwyer (Chris Pratt) in “Parks and Recreation.” When the couple breaks up, Andy continues to live in a tent in a pit outside of Ann’s house.

“[Their relationship] definitely adds humor to the show,” fourth-year College student Kevin Shefferly said. “In terms of the show, [that particular circumstance] is pretty funny — but in real life, that’s extremely creepy.”

These former lovers are what keep viewers locked in and waiting for more. They’re also — for better or for worse — what drives fans to past lovers of their own. And so, if you ask me, planning a wedding with Chandler is perfectly reasonable. It’s no living in a pit.

## Heroes remembered, Hollistercore never dies

A look back at middle school music, the sneaky rebirth of angst-ridden pop punk no one should mind

James Cassar  
Senior Editor

Before the advent of Spotify playlists but after the do-it-yourself mixtape, iTunes rolled out the iMix feature. I was in middle school. Any playlist made on your personal computer could be copied and uploaded to the iTunes Store for immediate review by millions of armchair critics. And even though this function has receded into the dark depths of the digital record shop, it still exists as a testament to my awkward formative years — and the songs which suffered endless rotation by my stubby click wheel finger.

One iMix trend which survives via Spotify is to have Hollister employees with too much free time assemble tracklists that mirror what blares out of their store speakers behind a thick fog of surfer-dude cologne. Though the bleach-blond kid brother of Abercrombie

now rocks out to Fun. and Imagine Dragons, in 2007, a different soundtrack played as disgruntled mothers rifled through racks of overpriced relaxed jeans while their prepubescent kids bubbled with angst at GameStop across the mall. Welcome to “Hollistercore.” Did you bring your sunscreen?

As much as this sounds like a page ripped from one writer’s autobiography, this music was bankable enough to shift Gainesville label Fueled by Ramen to a bigwig office under major label Atlantic Records. Sure, that required a huge shift in the new acquisition’s business plan, who no longer catered to frustrated Floridians bouncing around at emo gigs, but instead expanded their purview to the Warped Tour stops of suburban youth. The subgenre’s subscribers weren’t old enough to see PG-13 movies without supervision, but could certainly understand hormonal imbalances more astutely than most adults.

The conduits for this short-lived musical phenomenon wore their hair long and teased with enough hairspray to choke 15 Lady Gagas. Whether your loyalties laid more with the anthemic pop-rock of Boys

Like Girls or the danceable pseudo-punk of Mayday Parade, every major label had their hands in some pocket of this corner of preteen culture. Eventually, this trend died down as fast as it began. Hollister and its subcultural stepsibling Hot Topic shifted their focus to sounds with harder edges, and Vans Warped Tour strayed even farther from their punk rock birth certificate by bringing Katy Perry on board for a summer.

Why revitalize a fad better left to a younger crop of consumers? Why pay attention to the musical score of peach fuzz and puerile romance? Hollistercore actually never completely kicked the bucket — and 2014 might be the year it’s fully revived.

I had just clicked “Accept” on my offer to the University when I ordered my first Warped Tour ticket. At this point in my life, my tastes wobbled between easygoing and ear-shrapnel, and 2012’s festival delivered a happy

medium to my iTunes library. I went from almost drowning in people at the wrong end of a Title Fight mosh pit to screaming along to Man Overboard, a parade of 20-somethings still stuck in eighth grade. The latter descriptor of my concert-going experience is Hollistercore’s brand of an Elvis sighting. With little to no major label traction — but just enough corporate culture to draw audiences — 2007 showed up to party five years later with a different coat of paint: pop punk.

Sure, the guitars were louder and the vocalists swooped their hair under snapback hats. Despite these cosmetic changes, the songs remained the same — even if Pitchfork is taking a verbose stance on this resurgence. Take Handguns, for example — a champion of this new strain of Hollistercore — whose angry name and faster instrumentals can’t hide their childish mindset. Even though their first re-



Courtesy Fan Pop

cord is titled “Angst.” I can’t help but laugh when a song chronicles “that period after lunch / I saw you in my hallway / I didn’t know what to do / Much less what to say.” Keep in mind these are touring musicians above the legal drinking age.

Whatever your stomach for cheesy lyricism may be, one thing remains clear. The Warped Tour is noticing this uptick in Hollistercore 2.0, and has invited back the bands that arguably created the genre in the first place to compete with their copycats. Recent additions to this summer’s lineup have included The Maine and Cute Is What We Aim For, who have continued making music despite the fact the spotlight has been lent to someone else. Will the teachers school the students? Will the former major-label darlings reign supreme in their new underdog story? We’ll see the outcome born and bred in a mall near you this fall.





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