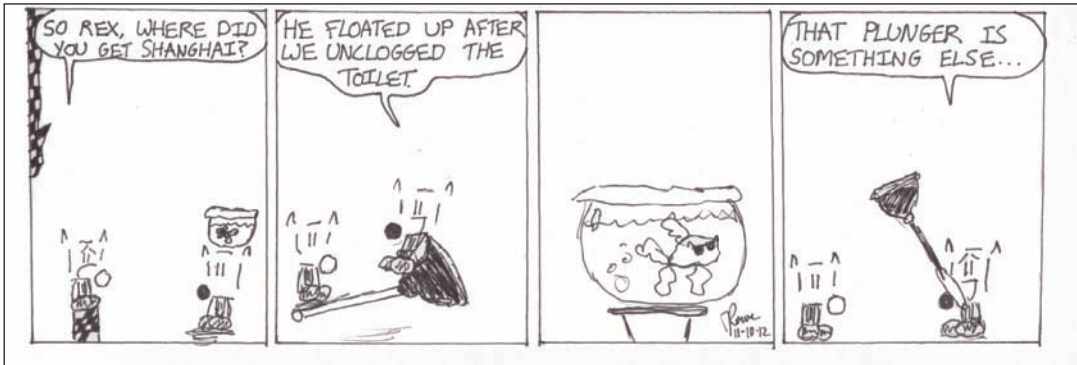


A2

Comics

Thursday, November 29, 2012

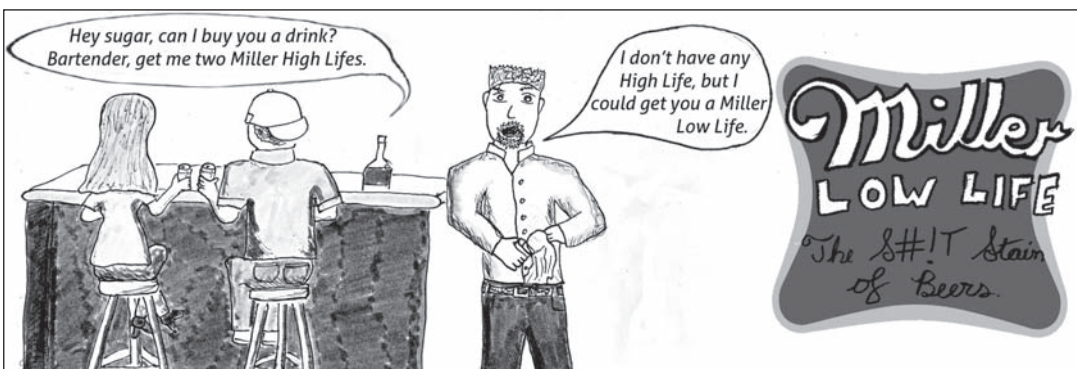
DJANGEO BY STEPHEN ROWE



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



A BUNCH OF BANANAS BY GARRETT MAJDIC & JACK WINTHROP



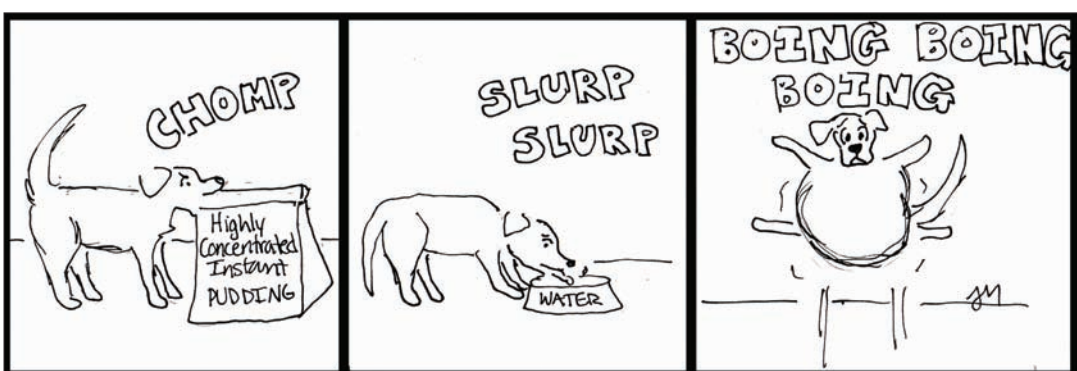
CHICKEN STRIP BY SORCHA HARTMAN & SAM NOVACK



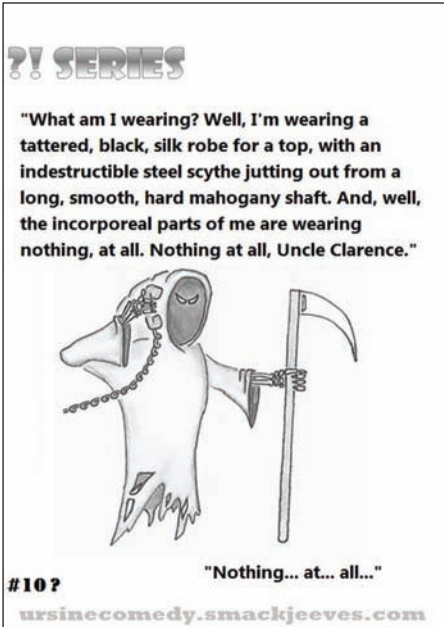
GREEK LIFE BY MATT HENSELL



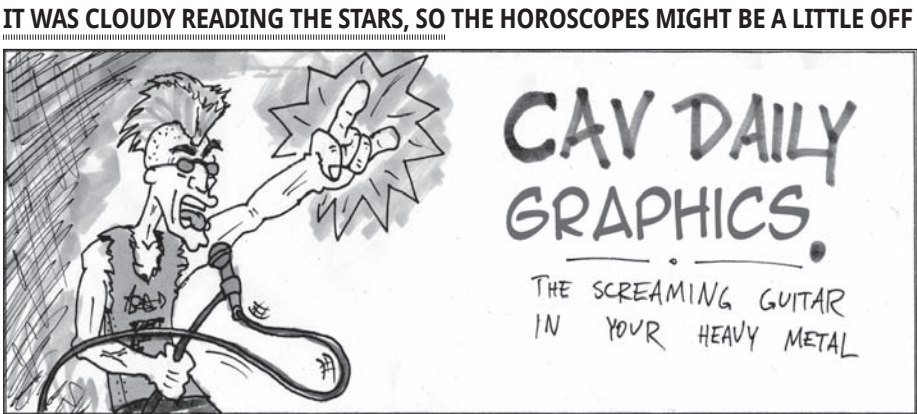
(NO SUBJECT) BY JANE MATTIMOE



BEAR NECESSITIES BY MAXIMILIAN MEESE & ALEX STOTT



MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be involved in a bonding of sorts. The process of melding parts into a whole can be unexpectedly magical and is quite a thing to observe. You'll enjoy this time of connection.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It can be an eerie feeling when the oracles seem to speak directly to you. It makes you curious about how things work. You'll have the urge to pull back the curtain to see what magical mechanism is at work behind the scenes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There is much about your life that is determined by actions you execute on autopilot, most of which take but a few minutes. Big changes occur by altering small habits.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Overcoming perceived limitations requires a change in your perception. The day presents a test of your mettle. Stay true to your convictions, and you'll experience the reward on the other side of this challenge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Is a storm ever just a storm? Physical and emotional weather patterns have something to say. You will feel as though you can speak the language of the elements. You'll accurately read the signs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Everything takes effort. That's why trying to find a shortcut is often a waste of time. A mindset of "you shouldn't have to wait, you should be exempt from hard work" only leads to further delay.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Wanting to feel better is a universal desire. You can bet that the person next to you is in the same boat, sensing that there's more joy, happiness and pleasure to be had and trying to figure out how to get it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Familiarity can be either an obstacle to or a catalyst for attraction. It all depends on chemistry. If you feel attractive and like what you see in another person, the closer you get the more you want to get close.

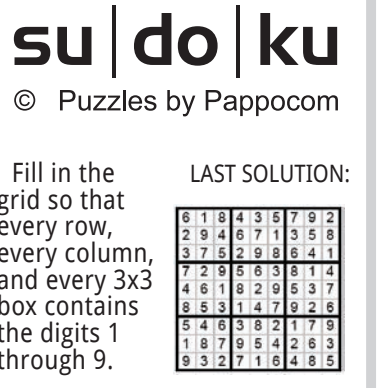
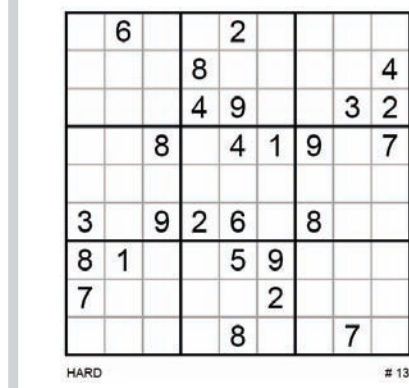
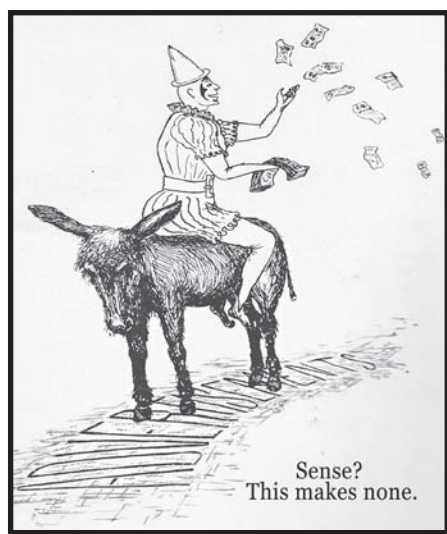
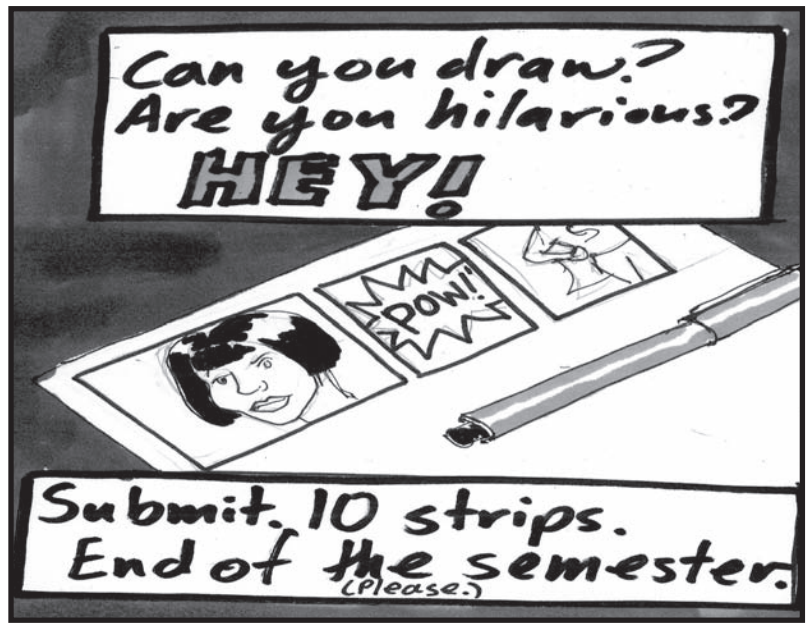
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Comfortable conversations are featured -- the kind where no one is saying anything too important, but the noise is reassuring. You may find yourself longing for a challenging intellectual connection.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even though you know you shouldn't base your self-worth on the money you earn, it still feels good to bring home the money that feeds you and yours. You'll be glad you can contribute.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Most people are poor judges of what will make them happy. Instead of going for "happy," pursue your interests, and you may accidentally land at "happy" in spite of yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). An impasse is a critical moment of the journey, because an impasse has something to teach you. It's time to decide which is immobile: the obstacle in your path or your attitude.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 29). It's one of your most romantic years, as you approach love with a great deal of commitment and imagination. You release fear and become increasingly selfless in relationships. A major accomplishment is featured in January. May features exciting plans. Get away in June. Cancer and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 22, 25 and 18.



Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

The New York Times Crossword

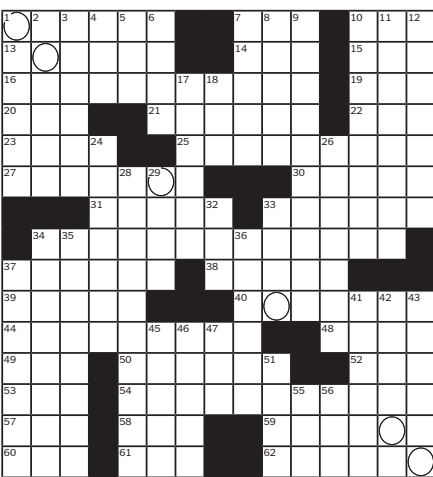
- ACROSS
- Category at some banks
 - Start of an excuse
 - Car rental add-on
 - Everything Bach composed, e.g.
 - Contents of a flask?
 - Leftover bit
 - With 34- and 54-Across, basic instruction for [circled letters]
 - Grammatical case: Abbr.
 - Lb. or oz.
 - One with a habit
 - It might be announced over a P.A.
 - Ready to be driven
 - Congregation member authorized by a bishop to conduct part of a service
 - Place for additional info
 - IHOP order
 - Buenos ____
 - Savvy
 - See 16-Across
 - Opera character who sings "Largo al factotum"
 - Town on Cape Cod
 - Expression of amazement
 - Brother of Electra
 - Musical effect that's simple for a trombone
 - Fair sight
 - Logos, e.g.: Abbr.
 - "Romanian Rhapsodies" composer
 - Señora Perón
 - Malarkey
 - See 16-Across
 - Poetic preposition
 - One who frequently sees Spots, for short
 - Bottom
 - Poetic time of day
 - "Evil Woman" grp.
 - Have a fixation

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SABER TADA SPAR
THROE EGOS PAGE
ROUNDCHUCK EYRE
ORI HARES SEPAL
MANDELA ITCH
RAINALCOHOL
LURID BEEP NAB
ASAP GLOSS MESA
WED ZOOM FISHY
RAVEROBBER
RISE INASTIR
ANGST BEGOT OSE
XOUT HOSTWRITER
EDNA ALPO OPERA
LESS TONE WOMEN

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1025








Puzzle by Caleb Rasmussen

- Where police look for matches
- Not for nothing
- The Gulf of Mexico has a big one
- Snap, Crackle and Pop, e.g.
- Snorkel, e.g.: Abbr.
- Musical line
- Big Whig
- Shining
- Jewelry box item
- Part of a Mideast orchard
- Raise canines?
- Ends of ballades
- Smallest human bone
- Slippery as ____
- Cool
- Mil. hero's award
- Spider-Man villain ____
- Octavius
- Turning point
- Big section of the dictionary

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Three-Day Weather Forecast

Provided by the Cavalier Weather Service

<div><div></div><div>TODAY High of 49°</div></div> <div>Mostly sunny skies with a calm wind becoming south between 5 to10 mph.</div>	<div><div></div><div>TONIGHT Low of 29°</div></div> <div>Mostly clear with a calm southwest wind around 5 mph.</div>	<div><div></div><div>TOMORROW High of 56°</div></div> <div>Plenty of sunshine with a calm south wind.</div>	<div><div></div><div>TOMORROW NIGHT Low of 33°</div></div> <div>Partly cloudy skies with temperatures falling into the low 30s.</div>	<div><div></div><div>SATURDAY High of 57°</div></div> <div>Mostly sunny skies with temperatures reaching the upper 50s.</div>
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The high pressure system that builded in our area yesterday will move off the coast later today, keeping mostly sunny skies and temperatures in the 50s in our sights. It will remain off the coast until Sunday allowing some warmer temperatures to creep in for the late weekend and beginning of next week.

Louisville | Littlepage squashes realignment rumors

Continued from page A1

Dame will remain independent in football and play five ACC games per year.

Realignment rumors have swirled around Virginia, too, as numerous recent reports suggested the University might follow Maryland to the Big Ten. Athletic Director Craig Littlepage issued a statement Tuesday quashing that growing speculation.

“The University of Virginia is a proud member of the Atlantic Coast Conference,” Littlepage said. “Neither representatives of the athletics department, nor President Teresa Sullivan, has received invitations to nor sought membership in other conferences ... We look forward to continuing this relationship far into the future.”

The ACC’s athletic future appears brighter with the addition of Louisville, which features two of the nation’s most prestigious basketball programs. The men’s squad reached the NCAA Tournament Final Four in March, and the team’s 38 total NCAA appearances are the fifth-most all time. The women’s team has advanced to the Sweet Sixteen three of the past five years, including a runners-up finish in the 2009 NCAA championship.

ACC Commissioner John Swofford said Louisville would “simply take Maryland’s place in terms of our basketball scheduling and in Olympic Sports,” which would make the Cardinals one of Virginia’s primary partners in basketball and ensure the schools play two games each year. Louisville will also assume Maryland’s spot in the Atlantic Division for football.

Louisville’s football team peaked with a 12-1 record and an Orange Bowl appearance in 2006 but struggled after then-coach Bobby Petrino bolted for the NFL. Louisville posted a 15-21 record during its next three seasons, but has returned to the national spotlight since coach Charlie Strong took the reigns in 2009. The team boasts a 9-2 record this year and remains in contention for a BCS bowl bid.

“With the addition of the University of Louisville, the ACC continues to be well positioned for the future competing at the highest level in all facets of the collegiate experience,” the ACC Council of Presidents said in a joint statement. “The ACC continues to be a vibrant conference that remains steadfast in its commitment to balancing academics and athletics.”

Although Louisville enhances the ACC’s on-field product, its academic ranking falls below the majority of the conference’s members. In the most recent US World & News Report, the ACC featured seven schools in the top 50 and all but one school sat in the top 100. The conference’s most recent additions follow that mold — Notre Dame ranked No. 17 and Pittsburgh and Syracuse tied for No. 58 — but Louisville’s No. 160 rank would be the ACC’s lowest by 54 spots.

Louisville’s 51 percent graduation rate also lags behind the ACC’s 12 current members, which see an average 81.2 percent of students graduate within six years.

North Carolina Chancellor Holden Thorp cited Louisville’s athletic prowess as a primary factor in choosing the school ahead of the academically higher-ranked University of Connecticut, widely reported as another prospective new member.

“I think that what we felt was that what the ACC needed the most was to add the most exciting sports program that we could,” Thorp said. “That is the way to ensure that the success of the ACC in sports was successful enough to allow us to keep our group together...but Louisville — Jim Ramsey is an excellent leader in higher education, and he’s done a lot with their university, and it’s on an upward trajectory.”

Swofford dismissed the idea that adding Louisville was purely a sports decision, stressing that the conference seeks to balance both academics and athletics.

“We felt Louisville was the best fit for the Atlantic Coast Conference at this point in time in every respect,” he said. “I think that when you look at Louisville, you see a University and an athletic program that has all the arrows pointed up, a tremendous uptick there, tremendous energy.”

Construction | University to renovate McCormick dorms

Continued from page A1

dents better understand current construction projects, including renovations to Newcomb Hall and the McCormick Road bridge, said fourth-year Architecture student Nell Connors, co-chair of the Building & Grounds committee. “We want answers,” Connors said.

The McCormick Road bridge, built in 1930, is unstable from years of wear, and a bus hitting the structure this past summer did not help the bridge’s stability, said Jay Klingel, director of operations and maintenance for Facilities Management. After the crash, the Virginia Department of Transportation established an 8-ton limit for the bridge, forcing buses to reroute in what Klingel called an “unhappy surprise” for many students returning from summer vacation.

The department plans to start repairing the bridge the day after graduation and aims to finish by July 20, Klingel said. The bridge will be inaccessible to cars and pedestrians as it undergoes repairs.

“This is a major route,” Klingel said. “All of us are going to be impacted by this.”

The University plans to ultimately replace the bridge, Klingel said.

During the panel discussion Klingel also described the impacts of Ruffner Hall renovations set to take place next semester. Pedestrians on Ruffner Bridge, which links Ruffner Hall and Brown College, will no longer be able to walk straight to Bonnycastle, because of construction. Instead, they will have to turn left and walk past the Physics Building to reach McCormick Road dorms.

“That will be for a period of months, I don’t know how many months at this point,” Klingel said.

Another major renovation project this year has been the restoration of the Rotunda’s roof, which is slated to be completed by graduation in May, said Annette Cyphers, director of facilities planning and construction for Facilities Management. But the complete restoration of the Rotunda, an extensive \$51 million dollar project, has many phases to be carried out in the coming years.

During Winter Break, the Lawn will undergo a final turf replacement on its lowermost section, completing a project started this summer. The project will block pedestrian access to the lower part of the Lawn for a month or two, Klingel said.

The current Newcomb Hall construction will be completed by the end of the semester, said Dade Van Der Werf, supervisory senior project manager for Facilities Management. Newcomb Hall has undergone renovations every 10 to 15 years since it was built in 1950.

With a \$33.2 million budget, the two-year Newcomb Hall project will add an additional 15,000 square feet to the building, Van Der Werf said, though structural flaws discovered during renovations have extended the construction period.

Three new dormitories on Alderman Road will open next fall, and a fourth is scheduled to open in 2015, said Patricia Romer, director of plans and programs in Housing & Residence Life. Dunnington is scheduled to be demolished in May.

After the fourth dorm opens, McCormick Road dorms will undergo renovations to install heat and air conditioning, Romer said.

Among other projects discussed Wednesday evening were the construction in New Cabell Hall — set to be completed by July 2014 — and the new indoor practice facility and a new theater, both set to open in the spring.

Relief | FEMA to reimburse 75 percent of local disaster claims

Continued from page A1

Department of Emergency Management.

“What happens is we have to get damage reports from the local governments and then verify those findings, and then we do a formal damage assessment,” Spieldenner said. “We see if the paperwork is what we need, and then we have to wait for the reply. There was a holiday in there too, and that probably impacted the approval from FEMA.”

Spieldenner said the money was going to state and local governments for their efforts involved in the cleanup and protection during the hurricane. It does not go directly to Virginia residents.

FEMA will reimburse up to 75 percent of costs, Spieldenner said. The other 25 percent is split between state and local governments.

“It could take months for the localities to be reimbursed,” Spieldenner said. “This is the beginning of the process. We will be working with localities and hopefully they will get their funds reimbursed.”

Only counties that FEMA thinks has justifiable costs will be reimbursed, said Debbie Powers, deputy coordinator in the Arlington county Office of Emergency Management.

To be eligible for federal relief, each locality has to have incurred a certain amount of expenses, Spieldenner said. The threshold for expenses to determine eligibility for aid is based on a formula that takes into account the population of a particular county or city. Smaller communities need a threshold of up to \$40,000 in damages, Spieldenner said.

Counties not approved for disaster assistance now can apply for funds later, if necessary.

“The 28 [localities] that are approved have all passed the threshold,” Spieldenner said. “There is the possibility we can add more if necessary. That’s happened before. Some may not have been ready when the process started.”





The Cavalier Daily

"For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it."

—Thomas Jefferson

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Reckless merging

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is justified in investigating the Louisiana State University system

The Louisiana State University system has joined the University as bodies under scrutiny from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A vote by the system's Board of Supervisors consolidated the leadership positions for the Louisiana State University system, and the system's flagship campus in Baton Rouge, at the end of October. Regardless of the merger's rationale, the association has taken issue with the procedural secrecy with which it was done, and for this their frustration is justified.

The Louisiana State University system is composed of nine institutions, with its Baton Rouge campus being the largest and highest populated. The system itself is guided by a governing board and a president. The previous president – John V. Lombardi – was fired by the board this April. William Jenkins was appointed as interim.

A chancellor runs the Baton Rouge campus. Michael Martin, the former chancellor, left in May for a position at Colorado State University. In his stead, Jenkins was appointed as interim. Thus Jenkins was simultaneously interim at the system and campus level — what some saw as a conflict of interest. This conflict was solidified when the board decided in October to make the office of chancellor and president one in the same. Given that Jenkins already served in both capacities, the board had the ability to make the switch without making additional firings.

To those in the state, the move came unexpectedly. There was no advance notice that a vote would be taken. At one meeting on October 26, the board heard a proposal from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) — an advisory group for governing boards — about the merits of realigning

the governance structure. With the AGB recommendation having just been announced, the board proceeded to pass such a measure during that very same meeting.

One person who may approve is Bobby Jindal, the state's governor. An article by The Chronicle of Higher Education cites allegations that Jindal's interference had ousted Lombardi in April. The article also speculates that Jindal may have been working with the "LSU Flagship Coalition" — an interest group of "business leaders and citizens," according to its website — to consolidate university governance. In particular, this coalition wanted the Baton Rouge campus to have more independence, which some critics feared would come to the detriment of the state's smaller colleges.

Regardless of such politics, the association's grievance is that the decision process did not include enough input from faculty members — a warning that was previously leveled at the University. In the case of the Louisiana State University system, this evaluation is accurate. The preponderance of evidence and lack of public notice or input clearly reveals that the system's board violated the association's requirement that faculty have a role in governance. Given a warning from the Louisiana Attorney General's office, citing that the system's board had violated open meetings laws, the board will have a re-vote regarding the merger of power this month. However the final vote turns out, there are further stipulations in the association's policy that prohibit boards from having external influence dictate their decisions. Should the state's governor have played too big a role in the system's leadership merger, then the association would be warranted to take adequate action.

Editorial Cartoon by Peter Simonsen



Public affairs

David Petraeus made a private mistake and should not have had to resign

THE RESIGNATION of General David Petraeus from his position as CIA director is a stunning downfall for one of the most highly regarded public officials in modern times. That the architect of the surge during the Iraq War turned commander of

ROLPH RECTO
OPINION COLUMNIST

best and a wasteful one at worst. I am not condoning infidelity, but what exactly about Petraeus' being involved with another woman compromises his ability as CIA director? An affair might be a bombshell in his domestic life, but it should not be paraded as a public spectacle; frankly, it is none of our business. While Petraeus' affair is by all accounts morally reprehensible, he should not have been pressured to resign solely for that reason. Likewise, Allen's nomination for Supreme Commander should not be rescinded or put on hold because of mere allegations of infidelity.

Some argue that the way Petraeus conducted his affair with Paula Broadwell, his mistress and biographer, compromised his security as CIA director, and thus he was right in resigning. He communicated with Broadwell through a public Gmail account, which is troubling since hackers have been known to target the personal accounts of public officials to find dirt about them. His position is especially vulnerable to blackmail — the intelligence director naturally makes enemies during his tenure. I expected the spymaster general to have a more sophisticated method of conducting a clandestine affair, but this argument — that he would have succumbed to blackmail to hide his affair — assumes that Petraeus is morally corrupt, which outside of this one indiscretion is unfounded. Even if some hacker working for a foreign intelligence agency blackmailed Petraeus about his affair, I

doubt that a man who has worked in the army for almost forty years would even entertain the thought of saving his personal reputation at the cost of jeopardizing national security. At that point, he would just confess his mistake.

Petraeus' affair, which is certainly not the first and certainly not the last for public figures, is but another reminder that those in positions of authority are also flesh and blood. While they should be held to high standards, we must acknowledge that they also make mistakes. Some mistakes are excusable, and some are not. In Petraeus' case, the mistake is excusable in the sense that it is impertinent to his role as CIA director; in his domestic life, however, such a mistake is a great one and not at all excusable. Thus we can see him as a great leader but a flawed family man — a man who has served his country greatly but has failed those who are closest to him. It should be obvious, then, that his being a flawed family man does not prevent him from being a great general or CIA director, making his resignation senseless. But even if there was no external pressure, Petraeus probably would have resigned anyway. Stepping down is his way of saving face; he cannot achieve redemption if he does not first fall from grace. If Bill Clinton's storied post-presidential career is any indication, Petraeus' career will remain relatively intact after the dust has settled.

Rolph Recto's column normally appears Wednesdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at r.recto@cavalierdaily.

Featured online reader comment

"Gen Chem can be a weed out not because of the difficulty but the way the class is set up. It's a harsh curve and the tests are only 15 questions, so if you miss a few or there are trick questions, it doesn't always reflect your understanding of the material. And the curve is harsher than orgo since half the class gets below a C. I definitely struggled my first semester of gen chem and now I'm getting As on orgo exams because the tests give you more of a chance to show what you know."

"guest," responding to Alex Yahanda's Nov. 28 column, "The difficult course."

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The ombudsman is available at ombud@cavalierdaily.com.

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North by Norquist

The GOP should move away from extreme positions in order to work toward a bipartisan solution to the fiscal cliff

IN THE aftermath of election day a few weeks ago, my primary worry about the results was that the Republican majority in the House and the Democrats in the Senate and the White House would be unwilling and unable to compromise. I thought the Democrats might see the reelection of President Obama as a sign they don't need to listen to Republicans, and that the GOP would react to their defeat by digging in and sabotaging any efforts at bipartisan action. While I hoped progress could be made on issues such as women's health, gay marriage and immigration reform, my most immediate concern was with the enormous threat of the fiscal cliff. If either party was unwilling to compromise the consequences would be devastating. I was most worried about the Tea Party element of the Republicans, who almost derailed the debt-ceiling talks just over a year ago. I doubted they would be willing to discuss an increase in government revenue in negotiations, which would have made a deal almost impossible to reach. I was pleasantly surprised during the past few weeks, how-

FORREST BROWN
OPINION COLUMNIST

ever, as many prominent members of the GOP have expressed a willingness to compromise. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) has publicly stated that he is "willing to generate revenue" while Rep. Peter King (R-NY) has said that "everything should be on the table." Other legislators, such as Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), have expressed similar opinions. All of these lawmakers' willingness to compromise is commendable and makes the likelihood of financial disaster significantly less. Interestingly these Republicans have not had to defend themselves from the party itself. Rather, their statements have been making headlines because of Grover Norquist, an anti-tax lobbyist who runs the group Americans for Tax Reform. His group has pressured the vast majority of Republicans in Congress to sign a pledge promising to never raise taxes or eliminate deductions, a pledge the Congressmen mentioned above would be breaking by including revenue increases in a compromise. He has responded to their statements with a promise to work against the reelection of anyone who breaks his pledge. And he has the resources and

political clout to make a significant impact on any race in the future. Norquist's inflexibility is a huge problem not just for Republicans but for the whole country — but the current situation is also an opportunity. If Graham, Chambliss and King can convince enough of their colleagues to follow their example and compromise, then Norquist's power, which comes from his hold on an overwhelming number of Congressmen, would be devastated. He won't have the funding or support to make an impact on a large number of elections, and the Republican Party could begin to reshape itself as the party committed to solutions over rigid ideology. If, on the other hand, Norquist is able to cow Republicans into leaving Graham and co. isolated in their positions, there is a chance he could succeed in knocking them out of Congress, leaving the GOP with even fewer members

capable of finding bipartisan solutions. The Republican Party has a real chance right now to distance itself from overly rigid positions that played a significant role in their defeat on election day. It has been widely acknowledged that extreme positions and statements on immigration, gay marriage and abortion, among other social issues, were costly; and in many cases prominent members of the party have begun to shift their views in response. But I think the issue of taxation was also a factor — more than 50 percent of Republicans believe the best solution to the debt is a combination of spending cuts and increased revenue. By moving away from Norquist, the GOP would not only be gaining legislative breathing room, but also would be sending a message that the party is unwilling to allow its outer-right elements to keep it from serving a nation much

closer to the center. Norquist is just one of the more powerful lobbyists in Washington, a standout in a group that wields far too much power in both parties. If Norquist were to fall, Republicans would be setting an example as a party willing to learn from its mistakes and listen to the people as a whole rather than well-financed special interest groups. The United States needs two healthy parties to function effectively, and at the moment the GOP appears to be sliding toward irrelevance. This is due to changing demographics, a failure to connect to women voters and changing views on social issues, and the GOP will have to deal with all of these issues in some capacity. But by standing with Graham, King, Chambliss, and its members who are willing to put the country before partisan posturing, the Republicans would make a significant step toward reclaiming their place as the party of responsibility and could open doors to a more efficient and less drama-filled legislative process.

Forrest Brown's column appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at f.brown@cavalierdaily.com.

Less is moral

Courts should stay consistent in their rulings about whether to uphold all kinds of morality laws

I'M NOT your typical proponent of Justice Antonin Scalia's brand of judicial conservatism. Despite my personal admiration for the old warhorse's vociferously worded dissents, I generally consider the Constitution to be much more than a simple legal document with limited applicability to our modern society. Despite my philosophical differences with Justice Scalia, however, I have found a number of his arguments decidedly persuasive. In particular, his position on how the Court should deal with "morals legislation" is one of the most over-looked, yet potentially most cogent and influential, positions in the modern court and could have far-reaching effects on many contemporary social movements, the gay-rights movement included. Briefly, Scalia's position is this: the Supreme Court, bound by an unwritten duty to uphold a standard of consistency and logic in its rulings, must take an all-or-nothing stance when considering legislation that imposes the sexual morality of

RUSSELL BOGUE
OPINION COLUMNIST

the majority onto the minority — gay marriage prohibitions, bigamy laws and obscenity laws, for example. Such laws are instances in which legislative majorities, enacting the will of their constituents, have deemed certain behaviors as "immoral," and thus not permissible. In *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), the Supreme Court ruled that a Texas prohibition on gay intercourse was unconstitutional, as it infringed on the privacy and freedom of action of the state's citizens. Scalia, in his dissent, gave lucid expression to the idea that such rulings undermine the Court's credibility: "The Texas statute undeniably seeks to further the belief of its citizens that certain forms of sexual behavior are 'immoral and unacceptable'... — the same interest furthered by criminal laws against fornication, bigamy, adultery, adult incest, bestiality, and obscenity... If, as the Court asserts [today], the promotion of majoritarian sexual morality is not even a legitimate state interest, none of the above-mentioned laws can survive rational-basis review."

The same logic can, and must, be applied to gay-rights legislation. It is important to note here that I'm making no argument on whether gays should be allowed to marry, nor am I taking a stance on the constitutionality of morals legislation. Such issues are valid, yet separate, issues from the one I'm addressing now. Rather, I want to focus on how the Supreme Court should deal with such disagreements. The answer, I reaffirm, is consistently: either legislatures have the constitutional right to pass laws that regulate the morality of their citizens, or they don't. This could mean trouble for gay-rights activists who wish to use the courts as the pathway to marriage equality. For if the courts are to be philosophically consistent in their rulings — as I think we all believe they ought to be — they will have to admit that they have always recognized the right of legislatures to enforce morals-based laws

"The answer, I reaffirm, is consistently: either legislatures have the constitutional right to pass laws that regulate the morality of their citizens, or they don't."

when it comes human sexuality — that is, until the last few decades. Whether or not they ought to have deemed constitutional the governmental regulation of private sexual matters is unimportant here: The point is that they have in the past, and they continue to do so by open toleration of morals based legislation. The fight for marriage equality is a clash of morals. Both camps marshal a number of arguments to their side, the vast majority of which boil down to competing conceptions and definitions of right and wrong. It's inherently a moral issue. The courts, then, must recognize that if they are to allow the legislature to pass laws based on sexual morality, they must logically allow legislatures to decide the issue of gay marriage — or, the courts can pull an about-face and declare that all morals legislation is an unconstitutional imposition of the will of the majority, and

thereby invalidate a number of existing statutes that few Americans actively protest. The beauty of this argument is that it acknowledges that such logical rigor is not required of legislatures. Again, Scalia in his Texas dissent phrases it perfectly: "One of the benefits of leaving regulation of this matter to the people rather than to the courts is that the people, unlike judges, need not carry things to their logical conclusion." In other words, the people can decide that bigamy is illegal and gay marriage is acceptable because they are not held to the same standards as the justices. But the issue of gay marriage is fundamentally one about social morality; claims by its proponents that it is one of "civil rights," although potentially valid, are rooted in their moral conception of acceptable behavior. As such, the battle for such rights must be played out in the sphere where it properly belongs: the legislature.

Russell Bogue's column appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at r.bogue@cavalierdaily.com.

Going clubbing

Hands-on organizations are the best clubs to join in order to further one's education

MY FIRST August on Grounds, I received news of a holy gathering on the Lawn known to most as "The Activities Fair," in which hundreds of clubs and organizations tried to garner new interest. I remember being accosted by upperclassmen who, clipboards in hand, would give me their 30-second spiel, extend a pen, and expect me to scribble down my email address. Signing up for plenty of organizations turned out to be one of the greatest decisions I have made in terms of furthering my education. It may seem contradictory that time spent away from doing homework or studying could develop my engineering degree, but I would even argue that intentionally hand-picking certain clubs and organizations can greatly augment your classroom education. Having signed up for the full gamut of clubs and organizations my first year, I have tried to draw connections between the ones that are most enriching. The link between the clubs

ANDREW KOURI
OPINION COLUMNIST

that are most beneficial to my education is that they are "hands-on." Before you dismiss this as engineer-specific advice and wander off to the next article, know that when I reference a "hands-on" organization, I do not mean that you must be building a widget, per se. My three criteria an organization or team should meet to be considered hands-on are: 1.The main purpose of the group should be to develop a product or a production. 2.At least two-thirds of the members should be working on the deliverable — a final product — rather than just serving as group administration. 3.There should be a specific piece of the final product for which each member can claim responsibility. Since these criteria are a little nebulous, allow me to list a few examples. On one end of the spectrum, I am on the Solar Car Team, which literally builds a physical product (a vehicle powered by the sun). This is a hands-on organization because

the focus of the club is to develop a car to race. With the exception of some of the operations team, everybody's work is in the domain of the product. Finally, all members can see how their work during workshops contributes to the final product, because the design decisions made depend on their research and presence. Other examples of organizations that meet the hands-on criteria would be The Cavalier Daily, the Virginia Gentlemen, McIntire Investment Institute and First Year Players. For athletics, the "production" is the game, yet for primarily social organizations such as the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, the product is enjoyment, which is not deliverable. The genres of these clubs are broad-ranging and clearly do not pertain to a certain major, yet all of these groups do a fantastic job of progressing classroom education. What do the hands-on organizations offer that the others

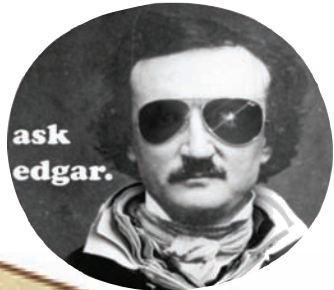
"What do the hands-on organizations offer that the others do not? Foremost, practice."

do not? Foremost, practice. Similar to how a lab session builds upon the concepts taught in lecture, hands-on experience outside the classroom solidifies the extraneous topics that may not be practiced enough in lab or with homework assignments. Distinguishing hands-on organizations from purely recreational activities are the questions that one can generate — and subsequently learn from — when expected to overcome obstacles beyond contrived textbook problems. How can making tough-budget decisions such as choosing the number of days to print a newspaper be taught in a classroom? After a solar car workshop, it is not uncommon for members to need to ask faculty for advice on a peculiar challenge that went unsolved with the tools taught in lecture. The challenges from real-world scenarios are unique learning opportunities. Please do not misinterpret my strong endorsement for hands-on organizations to mean that I

discount the utility of organizations whose primary purpose is not to augment students' education. There is no deliverable product that a fraternity works toward, yet it would be silly to think that there is no value to this non-hands-on organization, for example. With the numerous advantages that experiential learning offers students, the University needs to dedicate more resources toward supporting these initiatives. Kelvin Wey, a manager of McIntire Investment Institute, said, "Members would greatly benefit from faculty training on the Bloomberg terminal in the School of Commerce." Though the University has made moves to improve hands-on learning, with the unveiling of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences' new experiential learning workshop scheduled for March 2013, we must not forget the importance of hands-on learning.

Andrew Kouri's column appears bi-weekly Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at a.kouri@cavalierdaily.com.





ask
edgar.

By Edgar Allan Poe
CAVALIER DAILY STAFF WRITER

Heyo Ed,

I had a great time at home during Thanksgiving break — when I was with my friends that is. Hanging with my parents was different. We fought about everything from curfew (I'm an adult, yet I have a curfew?), the dishes (please, I get enough of that from my roommate), and what we were having for dinner, though anything beats N2. But I'm worried about how I'll survive an entire month of this during winter break.

Help!

Stuck in the Suburbs

Dear Stuck in the Suburbs,

Going home after a semester of college is a difficult transition for many first years who have had their first tastes of freedom. After months of eating whatever you want, sleeping whenever you want and having complete control over whether you want to actually attend any of your morning classes, it's hard to revert to living under your parent's rules. At home, you can't come home at 3 a.m. covered in beer and frat sludge and then sleep until 2 o'clock the next afternoon. Winter break is a special time, however, and it's important not to forget what you love about being home. No more swiping into meals and wishing you could swipe right back out. No more watching TV in a creepy dungeon in the basement of your dorm, sharing a bathroom with 20 other people or depending on your student ID card for your life. Instead you get to sleep in your bed, eat home-cooked food and get into your house without swiping in. There will undoubtedly be a few adjustments to transition back into life at home, but don't let that stop you from appreciating how much your life at home and your family means to you.

Keep rockin' the suburbs,
Edgar

Dear Eddie,
I've been invited to two tacky Christmas sweater parties already. What is that all about? I wish I had known about these events during break — I could've raided my mom's closet. Alas, what should I do? Where can I find a tacky Christmas sweater?

Thanks,
Wacky & Tacky

Dear Wacky,

I will ignore my indignation about not being invited and move right onto the tips. You're in luck. There's a place, a magical place that holds more ugly sweaters than even your mom's closet: Goodwill! Charlottesville has an abundance of thrift stores, and Goodwill is your cheapest and surest bet. If you'd rather not leave the house, eBay will also have what you need. Whatever Christmas sweater you can get your hands on will probably do the trick. Christmas sweaters are by definition festively hideous, so you don't need to worry about picking something too classy here. Fair Isle sweaters work in a pinch, but you really want to go as flashy as possible: extra points for sequins, pom poms and miniature jingle bells.

Joyeux Noël,
Edgar

Dear Mr. Poe,

I'm struggling about what to do about the impending finals season. I'm a first year, and if we're being honest — which you know we are — I got a little too caught up in the Rugby Road scene and not enough in the library scene (if there even is one, I wouldn't know). Now I have a semester worth of "important knowledge" to learn for three of my classes. There just aren't enough hours in the day. Any advice to keep me from failing out?

Yours,
Where's Ackerman Library?

Dear Where's Ackerman Library,

Everyone from the late night Club Clem regulars to the frattiest of the frat stars feels the impending fear of finals season, but almost everyone survives. The end of Thanksgiving break signifies the beginning of three weeks of hell. It's hard to focus on finals with Christmas music blasting and holiday festivities everywhere you turn, but if there is any time in the semester to remember you are actually enrolled in classes, it's now. Finals often count for a significant portion of your grade, so the last weeks of the semester can either make or break you. For a first-year finals virgin, it can be a scary time. You've never spent 14 straight hours in the library before and the madness that ensues can sometimes be overwhelming. Before you know it, however, you'll be a finals veteran — pulling all nighters like a champ and drinking more coffee than seems humanly possible. The most important thing to remember is that the end is near. Work hard now, and come Dec. 18, all students will be home, free to spend the next month forgetting everything they learned this semester.

Time to nerd up,
Edgar

Disclaimer: Edgar is not a medical professional nor a psychiatrist. Edgar listens to your problems and offers what he hopes are constructive comments. By taking his advice, however, you accept full responsibility for your own actions.

Top Ten Most Catastrophic Things to Come Out of No-Shave November

By Annie Meester | CAVALIER DAILY STAFF WRITER

1 Beard burn:

What could be worse than going in for a kiss and getting a faceful of beard? Sure, your lips are safe, but what about the cheeks and chin you spent so long making flawless to impress the boy you're kissing? You can avoid this painful experience by applying moisturizer before you kiss, according to Allure.com. You didn't know you were going to come in contact with a beard four hours earlier and forgot to bring moisturizer? My non-expert advice: Bring a razor instead.

3 Girls retaliating:

If boys can do it, girls can too. You say you're not shaving for a month? Neither are we. Although this thought may terrify some members of both sexes, it is a real threat. Imagine this, bearded men: You're at the gym, trying to lift 20 pounds more than you actually can to impress that pretty girl on the elliptical near you. You check her out one more time to make sure that risking full function in your arms is worth it. Face, pretty. Body, in shape. Legs, look good in leggings. Wait. Those aren't leggings? That's hair? Based on the fact that I almost gagged writing that, encountering it in real life would be at least 12 times worse.

5 Incompetency in beard-growing ability:

Growing up with two brothers, I've learned that one of the hardest tests of manhood is getting your sideburns to connect to your beard. Apparently that two-inch patch of skin by a man's cheekbones is not very conducive to hair growing. To those who are not yet fortunate enough to have achieved such a feat, please buy some Rogaine. You look like a cross between Ricky Bobby of *Talladega Nights* and Brad Pitt when he was trying to grow a goatee in *Fight Club*. Not pretty.

7 Shedding:

You look down at your notebook and see little hairs everywhere. Those precious hairs that you have spent a month growing are jumping right off your face. Even they don't like the idea of No Shave November. You might not listen to my advice, your mom's advice or Allure.com's advice, but take it from something that knows your face better than anyone: your facial hair. Those hairs are trying to tell you that you two are never ever ever getting back together. I know about 83 percent of University students are dying for a cute furry animal, but shedding like one isn't really what we meant.

9 Funny things that aren't funny:

I don't understand why men think it's OK to shape their facial hair into non-traditional ways. When the curled moustache isn't screaming, "Catch me on Dateline NBC's creeper special tomorrow!" it's screaming, "I spent way too much time, effort and my sister's hair gel to make this moustache stick up two inches off my face." It's a lose-lose. There is nothing okay with either of those choices. Trying to style your facial hair in a hilarious fashion will only lead to despair.

2 Tickling:

So you survive your kiss with aforementioned Beard Boy. You part ways, and he leans in for a hug. As his face nears yours, his beard grazes your cheek. You laugh, he pulls away, giving you a weird look. This is a serious hug! Why are you laughing? Much like the feeling of a pumice stone being rubbed on your feet while you're getting a pedicure, the tickle of a beard can cause uncontrollable and inappropriate giggling. My second attempt at non-expert advice: Get him to shave or wear a full-face ski mask.

4 Things getting stuck in the beard:

After a long day of classes and thinking about how great you look with a pound of hair on your face, what could be better than a sandwich and potato chips? A little excited, you attempt to eat 10 chips at once. Upon realizing only one actually made it into your mouth, you check the floor hoping the nine other chips survived the fall. But they aren't there. Where could they be? Why is your beard suddenly crunchy? The bright side: You just found a handy alternative to pockets. The dark side: Bet you wish you had looked in the mirror after eating those Cheerios this morning.

6 Becoming a stranger:

Things that probably happened because your facial hair has taken over your most distinguishable features: Your grandma didn't recognize you when you went home for Thanksgiving; an over-friendly squirrel thought your face was a nest; your professor reported you to the Honor Committee because she thought someone else was taking your test for you; the pretty girl who usually waves at you pretended you didn't exist; your ID got rejected at Trinity.

8 Different-colored facial hair:

Natural highlights can look great in the hair on your head, but not so much in the hair on your face. Spare yourself the embarrassment of looking like a human patchwork quilt in one of two ways. The first is to shave off the entire beard. The second way is to only shave off the patch of hair in the offending color. I dare you to think of a way to make the latter look socially acceptable.

10 Razor breaks:

So you've finally decided to shave. You take one last look at your beautiful facial stylings in the mirror and lather on some shaving cream. You bring the razor up to your face, shed a tear and shave that first patch. Soon, half of your face is clean shaven and baby smooth. Realizing you should have done this three weeks ago, you are quick to begin shaving the other side. You bring the razor to your face again, run it through your hair — then it stops. You hear a crack. The razor blade separates from the razor, and you're left with what resembles a facial Afro comb. On a scale of one to not good, that's a 10.

Sophomore forward Sarah Imovbioh has shined in the early goings of the season, recording her second 20-point performance of the season Saturday.



Courtesy Virginia Athletics

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

4-1 Cavaliers visit Minnesota

After suffering first loss last weekend, women aim to amend mistakes, ride Imovbioh's strong play

By Lindsey Cherpes
Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

Virginia travels to Williams Arena Thursday to play Minnesota as part of the annual ACC/Big Ten Women's Challenge.

The Cavaliers (4-1, 0-0 ACC) have won four games in the challenge since it was created in 2007, losing only once in 2010 to Ohio State. The gritty, physical Golden Gophers (6-1, 0-0 Big Ten) should provide an interesting test for coach Joanne Boyle's Virginia squad.

"They're a pressure-up, man-to-man team," Boyle said. "They play

physical. They're a good rebounding team. Their numbers are similar to ours."

This season's adaptation of a man-to-man defense and consistent rebounding helped the Cavaliers win the first four games of the season, including a 73-66 upset of Vanderbilt last weekend in San Juan, Puerto Rico. So far, Virginia is allowing 60.8 points per game and had not yielded more than 70 to any opponent before a 74-73 defeat to Syracuse Saturday.

Please see **W Basketball**, Page B2

SPORTS

IN BRIEF

Virginia ousts Badgers

Down 38-36 with 10 minutes, 18 seconds remaining, Virginia finished on a 24-16 run to defeat Wisconsin 60-54 at the Kohl Center Wednesday evening. With the victory, the Cavaliers (5-2, 0-0 ACC) became the 16th team ever to defeat the Badgers (4-3, 0-0 ACC) on their home floor during Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan's 12-year tenure. The match marked Virginia's third straight victory in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

Junior guard Joe Harris finished with a game-high 22 points on 8-of-19 shooting for Virginia, which held Wisconsin to just 38.2 percent field goal shooting and only five free throw attempts all game.

The Cavaliers sealed the triumph by forcing Wisconsin into a hurried, deep 3-pointer that failed to find the rim with less than 10 seconds left, as coach

Tony Bennett's squad clung to a 58-54 lead.

Bennett, a former assistant under Ryan at Wisconsin and a disciple of the Wisconsin coach's sluggish, defensively relentless brand of basketball, claimed his first career victory at the school where his father, Dick, led the Badgers to a Final Four appearance in 2000.

With two defensive gurus at the helm, the game started in predictably stingy fashion. Harris torched Wisconsin's defense for 13 points on 6-of-9 shooting but nearly everyone else on the court struggled as the Cavaliers carried a 24-23 lead into the break.

The two teams exchanged baskets before freshman forward Evan Nolte's two free throws sparked a 14-5 run to propel Virginia to a 50-43 lead. Harris and Nolte hit 3-pointers during the run

while redshirt freshman point guard Tevin Jones — charged with running the offense down the stretch despite the availability of the previously-injured senior Jontel Evans — provided speed and savvy at the point.

Harris pushed the lead to 55-47 with 3:12 remaining, but three late Cavalier turnovers allowed Wisconsin to close within 57-54 on Jared Berggren's free throws with 34 seconds left. Junior forward Akil Mitchell's three free throws closed out the evening's scoring.

Mitchell posted a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds, and sophomore forward Darion Atkins tallied a season-high 14 points to accompany his seven rebounds.

Ben Brust led the Badgers with 15 points.

—compiled by Fritz Metzinger



Thomas Bynum | Cavalier Daily

Sophomore Joe Harris tallied five rebounds and a season-high five assists to go along with his 22 points during Wednesday evening's 60-54 win against Wisconsin.

SWIM & DIVE

Elite field awaits Cavs

Swimmers hope Georgia Fall Invitational prepares them for spring postseason

By Matt Comey

Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Fall competition culminates this weekend for the Virginia swimming and diving teams as they compete among the nation's best at the Georgia Fall Invitational in Athens, Ga. The field will include storied programs such as Georgia, Auburn, California and Texas.

"One of the goals of our team is

to work up to being a top-five program, and the only way to do that is to get out there and race the teams there right now," sophomore Ellen Williamson said.

The No. 9 men will face teams accounting for 15 of the last 17 national champions, while the field for the No. 10 women makes up 12 of the last 14 titles. The highest-ranked program in the field for both

genders, California, is the two-time defending national champion on both the men's and women's sides.

"Three of the perennially top five teams in NCAA swimming competition [Georgia, Cal, and Auburn] will be at this meet," coach Mark Bernardino said. "I think it's important that we're seeing them in the regu-

Please see **Swim & Dive**, Page B2



Courtesy Virginia Athletics

Freshman Courtney Bartholomew won ACC Co-Swimmer of the Week honors last week for her nationwide fifth-best 200-meter backstroke time. She competed in this year's Olympic trials in both the 100 and 200 backstroke events.

WRESTLING

Matmen brace for Vegas tourney

Fall's final competition affords wrestlers chance to challenge vaunted competition from across country

By Matthew Wurzbarger

Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The No. 17 Virginia wrestling team travels to Las Vegas this weekend to compete in the Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational. The nation's elite assemble each year for this tournament, and the Cavaliers (6-2, 0-1 ACC) look to impress on a prominent stage.

Virginia last took to the mat against No. 11 Virginia Tech Nov. 25, suffering a disappointing 25-6 loss to the Hokies. Freshman George DiCamillo and redshirt junior Jon Fausey were the only Cavaliers to win their matches. DiCamillo defeated Eric Spjut 5-2, and Fausey earned a decision against Austin Gabel.

Following the lopsided loss to Virginia Tech, head coach Steve Garland has sensed a spike in energy from his wrestlers during practice.

"When you get punched in the mouth it's amazing how serious things start to get," Garland said. "All of the sudden the attention to detail ramps up, the fight in the last 30 seconds of practice ramps up."

DiCamillo will strive to continue his collegiate debut with another strong performance this weekend. DiCamillo entered the season expecting a redshirt, but a change in plans forced the 133-pounder into competition. He has won each of his first two matches, claiming victory at the Wolfpack Open wrestling unattached before last week's triumph against Spjut.

Garland and the coaching staff praised DiCamillo's dedication, poise, and composure in the spotlight. The young grappler could make a deep run in his first tournament with Virginia.

"He's everything we want in a student athlete," Garland said. "He's going to be special for a long time. If he can stay healthy, he's going to be one of our all-time greats."

Competing in a premier tournament is an entirely different experience than dual and individual meets. The first day of the Cliff Keen Invitational is a 12-hour affair, and it takes a special wrestler to fight with the

Please see **Wrestling**, Page B2

What to watch for this weekend

Home:

Saturday, 4 p.m., Men's Basketball vs. Green Bay
Sunday, 2 p.m., Women's Basketball vs. West Virginia

Away:

Thursday, 8 p.m., Women's Basketball @ Minnesota
Friday-Saturday, all day, Wrestling @ Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational
Friday-Sunday, all day, Swimming and Diving @ Georgia Fall Invitational in Athens, Ga.

W Basketball | Balanced attack pleases coach Boyle

Continued from page B1

“It’s been going great,” sophomore forward Sarah Imovbioh said of the new defensive strategy. “I love it. It’s not simple, but it’s something we can buy into immediately.”

The Cavaliers appeared to be riding their defense to a fifth consecutive victory after building a 12-point first-half lead against Syracuse. Turnovers and defensive lapses, however, allowed the Orange to climb back into the game and hit two free throws with 0.4 seconds on the clock to steal the win.

For Boyle, reestablishing Virginia’s defensive moxie and eliminating late-game hiccups represent her primary concerns ahead of Thursday’s trip to Minnesota.

“Our goal is to really make them take tough shots, and get out of their rhythm, and take them out of their system,” Boyle said. “Hopefully they make better decisions. We really do have to own those [late-game] possessions more.”

Despite the misstep in Puerto Rico, the players’ expectations for Thursday’s game remain high. “We still have great momentum, and we’re still excited,” Imovbioh said. “We can’t wait to get out there to play Minnesota.”

If Imovbioh continues her sturdy play after scoring her second 20-point output of the season Saturday, Virginia should stand a fair chance at snatching victory from the Gophers. Imovbioh, currently in her first year with the team, leads the squad with 15.0 points and 7.8 rebounds per game, replacing injured senior center Simone Egwu. Imovbioh’s impressive .793 shooting average has earned her a ranking of fourth in the ACC and seventh in the NCAA.

“Going to visit my coaches and seeing the film has really helped me a lot,” Imovbioh said. “Just working hard, and trying to fill in Simone’s shoes until she gets back.”

In addition to Imovbioh, juniors forward Ataira Franklin and guard Kelsey Wolfe are averaging in double digits, helping provide Boyle with a balanced offensive attack.

“We’re so much better if we have people who can step up at any time,” Boyle said. “I always say when you have a team that can average three or four people in double figures you’re going to have a really good team. I think that is what we’re starting to grow into.”

Minnesota is returning stateside after winning two-of-three games in last weekend’s Cancun Challenge in Cancun, Mexico. Sophomore guard Rachel Banham should prove a daunting defensive assignment for the Cavalier backcourt, averaging a team-high 19.0 points and 4.1 assists.

With Egwu on the verge of rejoining the team this weekend and the squad brimming with confidence despite the Syracuse loss, Virginia is eager to vanquish the Gophers and add an impressive non-conference win to its NCAA tournament resume.

“We can’t wait to get out there and play basketball,” Imovbioh said.

Tipoff is set for 8 p.m. Thursday.

Swim & Dive | Phillips relishes talented distance field

Continued from page B1

lar season, because when you get to the national championship, these are the people you have to beat.”

The Cavaliers most recently completed a successful trip to the Midwest, where they faced Indiana and Penn State two weeks ago. The Virginia women (5-0) convincingly defeated both opponents. The men (4-1) bested the No. 23 Nittany Lions but fell by one point to the No. 7 Hoosiers.

“I was pleased with the performance of both teams,” Bernardino said. “We swam extremely well, and I give a lot of that credit to the athletes and their mental and physical toughness ... What the men took from this meet was the fact that they had a lot [of] personal season-best times. We weren’t so much focused on the one-point loss.”

The Georgia invite will serve as a litmus test for both Virginia teams, as it will feature a style of scoring and level of competition much like that of the NCAA championship meet in March. The meet is also the team’s last contest for nearly two months.

The men’s competition will include, among others, No. 3 California, No. 4 Texas, No. 11 Georgia and No. 16 Auburn. Every event will likely feature swimmers vying for an individual national championship, something that excites junior Brad Phillips.

“From top to bottom it’s going to be a stacked meet,” Phillips said. “I think that’s really going to give us an advantage come ACCs, where we’ll know we’ve already faced teams with just as much speed. Going up against that quality of opponents helps bring out the best in us.”

Phillips will lead the Cavaliers in distance events. His 500-meter freestyle time of 4 minutes, 19.85 seconds is 14th in the nation, second-best in the meet only to Texas sophomore Clay Youngquist.

“We’re really looking forward to the 500 and mile races we’re going to have with them,” Phillips said. “You couldn’t ask for a better field. We all know each other, so we really like to bring out the best in each other.”

The women’s squad will also face nationally-ranked teams, including No. 2 California, No. 3 Georgia and No. 9 Auburn.

“We raced at the Georgia Invite last year, and Cal was there and then went on to win NAAs,” Williamson said. “This meet gives us a lot of confidence going into NAAs because we’ve already seen some of the top teams that are going to be there. I feel like we swim better at NAAs because of this meet.”

The women’s side features many names that will likely earn top finishes. Among them, senior Lauren Perdue ranks second in the nation in the 50-meter freestyle and third in the 100-meter freestyle, and freshman Courtney Bartholomew, the reigning ACC co-swimmer of the week, ranks fifth in the nation in the 200-meter backstroke.

The Cavaliers look likely to go from strength to strength. With the recruiting process finally wrapping up for the Cavaliers the entering freshman class looks as impressive as ever, especially on the women’s side. In all, the Cavaliers will introduce four top-25 swimmers in the world aged 18 and under.

“We have two recruiting classes that we are extremely excited about,” Bernardino said. “We are very excited about this group of women, and we have definitely improved our team ... The men’s side is an outstanding class, and we have filled some holes we’ve needed to fill.”

This weekend’s meet will consist of prelims and finals, a format the Cavaliers have yet to experience this season. Action begins 9:30 a.m. Friday and will continue late into Sunday.

Wrestling | Cavaliers tackle physically, emotionally taxing two days

Continued from page B1

necessary intensity long after the sun sets.

“When you wrestle that quarterfinal match at 8 o’clock at night it’s going to be a lot different than being fresh as daisies at 10 in the morning,” Fausey said.

The requisite physical toll of participating in a marquee tournament will likely match the emotional burden on a coach notoriously incapable of relaxing. “Tournaments are crazy,” Garland said. “It wears you out. I was so exhausted a couple of years ago that I honestly did not know if I could get out of bed the next day.”

The competition at this weekend’s invitational will be stiff.

“When you go to Las Vegas and you have four or five guys ranked ahead of you and you win the thing, it’s like, ‘This guy is for real,’” Fausey said. “It’s going to challenge us, and I think that is something to be excited about and not shy away from.”

After this weekend the team will hold nearly a month’s worth of training sessions during the semester break without entering a formal competition. The monthlong respite from matches gives Garland a crucial opportunity to further mold the team to his liking and gives individual athletes time to hone their techniques.

“One of the fun parts of the job is seeing a weakness and then going in and working on that weakness,” Garland said. “The learning phase is during December, and that is what I’m excited about.”

The Cavaliers expect to close out 2012 with quality wins as DiCamillo, Fausey, redshirt sophomore Nick Sulzer and red-shirt senior Matt Snyder hope to receive a top-five seed in their respective weight divisions.

“We’re starting off on the right foot, but how we finish is up to the guys,” Garland said.

Fausey believes his team possesses the right mindset for victory. “If you aren’t going on the flight to Las Vegas looking to win the thing, then you might as well stay home,” he said.

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film

Putting the 'Christ' back in Christmas movies

by conor sheehy

You know the most wonderful time of the year has arrived when “All I Want for Christmas Is You” dominates the airwaves, the temperature seems to drop by 10 degrees a day and Fox News gears up to combat the so-called “war on Christmas” that apparently plagues toy stores and cinemas across the country. As bank account balances plummet and heating bills skyrocket, we can at least find solace in what the PC police have dubbed “holiday movies,” which either serve as a rare reminder of the “reason for the season” or as a dose of outrageousness and hilarity.

The 1930s and ‘40s saw the creation of the traditional Christmas movie, which tended to blend spiritual stories and real-world romances to construct accessible tales that suited the tastes of the time without losing sight of their religious origins. Take for instance one of the era’s most critically and commercially successful yuletide entries, *It’s a Wonderful Life*. The Jimmy Stewart classic affirms the value of the everyman as a force of moral good and familial leadership in an increasingly hostile world of growing class divisions. Films such as *It’s a Wonderful Life* discuss social justice, love and commitment within a Christian framework, but the ideal vision they present can play well with viewers of any faith or creed.

Slightly more problematic are the Christmas TV specials that began to spring up at the start of the ‘60s. Made-for-TV classics such as *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *The Little Drummer Boy* demonstrate an earnest attempt on the part of Christian filmmakers to reclaim a holiday that seemed at the time to be tilting toward secular status.

Contemporaneous offerings such as *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Frosty the Snowman* and *Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town* mark awkward efforts at replacing Christmas’ religious roots, symbols and stories with a new set of icons, figures and tales that have nothing to do with the holiday’s Christian origins. The distinctively Christian Saint Nicholas was molded into the secular Kris Kringle, receiving a commercialized, fairy-tale backstory that distanced him from any semblance of sainthood.

Despite attacks from the Religious Right against the apparent ‘godlessness’ of secularized Christmas stories and specials, films such as *How the Grinch Stole*

Christmas and *Frosty* actually broadcast messages of peace, hope, love, charity and thanksgiving, all of which arguably stand at the core of Christian theology.

For better or worse, the rise of slasher films and bawdy comedies in the ‘70s and ‘80s resulted in the decline in this sort of joyful holiday fare in favor of ironic and irreverent takes on Christmastime. As the 1984 classic *Gremlins* demonstrates, nothing says yuletide cheer like murderous monsters and horny teens. As the ‘80s progressed, images of angels and nativity scenes in mainstream holiday films fell by the wayside, replaced by visions of *Die Hard*’s besieged Nakatomi Plaza and the exploding turkey and supersized tree from *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*.

These gory horror films and black comedies don’t exactly make for ‘Ho-Ho’-wholesome family fun, but they do provide enough laughs and scares to spice up the holiday season, and they come across especially well when compared with the slew of schlock that has followed them.

The early ‘90s stood strong as the last bastion of top-tier Christmas films, combining sweet moral lessons about the value of family and faith with high-stakes entertainment in movies such as *Home Alone*, *The Muppet Christmas Carol* and the remake of *Miracle on 34th Street*.

Sadly, this trend came to a quick and decisive end when the eternally obnoxious Jonathan Taylor Thomas opted to team up with box-office bomb Jessica Biel in 1998 to spawn the sickeningly sweet and even more sickeningly stupid *I’ll Be Home for Christmas*, an unwatchable road movie that makes *Jingle All the Way* look like *A Christmas Story* by comparison.

Through films like this Biel vehicle, as well as the whole collection of Lifetime Original Christmas movies, most of which revolve around siblings of Santa or women who crawl through their dryers to reach the North Pole, filmmakers have effectively killed the Christmas movie. Even a charming throwback like last year’s *Arthur Christmas* can do little to buck the trend. It’s easy to complain about the alleged overzealousness of the Religious Right this time of year, but if putting the ‘Christ’ back in Christmas means trading *Shrek the Halls* for *It’s a Wonderful Life*, we may all benefit from taking a step in that direction.



music



Mark your calendars: The University may be a hotbed of a cappella culture, but it’s not every day that the most exciting act in instrument-free music sweeps through town. Pentatonix is gearing up to jam out at the Jefferson Theater Sunday, bringing their energetic arrangements of top-40 hits to the Downtown Mall in what will likely be some of the best a cappella Charlottesville has ever seen.

The young quintet, made up of Scott Hoying, Kirstie Maldonado, Mitch Grassi, Avi Kaplan and Kevin Olusola — all in their early 20s — formed in 2011 to audition for NBC’s singing competition *The Sing-Off*, which they went on to win. They have since gone on to transcend their not-so-humble network television beginnings: Their new holiday EP *PTXmas* immediately topped the iTunes Holiday Albums Chart, and they are currently in the middle of headlining their first national tour.

A&E caught up with Olusola by email in advance of the group’s Dec. 2 show. (No instruments were harmed in the making of this interview.)

A&E: How has your group dynamic evolved since meeting for the first time before *The Sing-Off* auditions?

KO: When we tried out for *The Sing-Off*, we

didn’t know each other or how this group would work. Since then, we’ve grown so close ... We now have inside jokes galore, we hang out with each other constantly, and we feel comfortable talking to each other about our ups and downs. It’s nice to know you can rely on the people you work with and be a family.

A&E: You’ve said before in interviews that you want to become the first mainstream a cappella group. You’re obviously on the right track — what steps are you taking to achieve that goal, and how will you know when you achieved it?

KO: It first comes down to our sound. When we decided to audition for *The Sing-Off*, we wanted to create an innovative sound that was also marketable in this current musical climate. We listen to lots of genres (like pop, dubstep/electronica, folk, hip-hop) and try to fuse them in a way that makes our a cappella music reach the widest audience. That idea gave us a competitive edge on *The Sing-Off*.

Also, social media is such an important part of our strategy. We try to engage the fans as much as possible through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram so that they keep up-to-date with us and feel like they are a part of our family. Plus, we have an incredible team (label, manager, agent, publicist, etc.) that helps us make the right deci-

sions business-wise to build our brand.

A&E: You guys are all very young, and you’ve sacrificed a lot to pursue this dream — do you ever worry about missing out on the typical college experience? Do you have any desire to return to school in the future?

KO: We all realize how amazing and rare of an opportunity this is. So many people dream [of being] recording artists and tour[ing], so we will do what is necessary to make this work. Some of us definitely desire to go back to school and some are even taking online classes. But for now, our goal is to grow as a band and make amazing music.

A&E: If you could go on tour with one modern artist, who would it be and why?

KO: Collectively speaking, we would love to tour with Beyonce. We love her artistry, and she’s an inspiration. She’s the most hard-working woman in the industry, and we would grow a lot from being around her.

A&E: What are your plans for the future — ideally, what will Pentatonix be up to in two years?

KO: We want to continue to grow our fan base by touring and putting out a lot more music, especially original material. We are writing a lot to hone in on our original sound. As long as we’re making music, we’re great!

arts & entertainment

INSIDE



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‘Life of Pi’
PAGE B5

ONLINE

<http://www.cavalierdaily.com/section/ae>

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<http://cdtablog.tumblr.com/>

NEXT WEEK

A&E’s ‘Best/Worst of 2012’

Music:
Christina Aguilera
Ke\$ha
Alicia Keys

★ poor ★★ average ★★★ good ★★★★ excellent ★★★★★ classic

music

'PARADISE' FOUND

Lana del Rey returns with intriguing, atmospheric EP steeped in sultry Americana

by saniah aljunied



Courtesy Interscope Records

Has it really been a year since Lana Del Rey captured the attention of taste-makers all over the Internet with her viral tunes and self-directed music videos? Just as quickly as Del Rey rose to fame, the pervasive fascination with her entrancing, dolorous sound and her film noir-inspired aesthetic quickly gave way to disputes about the authenticity of her rags-to-riches tale — and of her lips, as if plastic surgery is unheard of in the entertainment industry. Regardless of whether you are put off by the controversy surrounding Del Rey’s marketing tactics or remain enthralled by her sultry croon, the singer has returned to the spotlight with her latest eight-track EP *Paradise*. The new release shows Del Rey offering powerfully poignant messages similar to her debut album — emotive lyrics about heartache laced with Americana. Her idiosyncratic style is perhaps epitomized by the opening track “Ride,” a sweeping ballad strangely redolent of a

Western film and powered by her signature smoky vocals and backed by cinematic strings. Singing about escapism by evoking the open roads of America, Del Rey builds the song to a powerful climax and reveals her vulnerable side: “I’m tired of feeling like I’m f---ing crazy / I’m tired of driving ‘til I see stars in my eyes / I look up to hear myself saying, / Baby, too much I strive.” Wild, untamed and exposed, “Ride” displays Del Rey at her best. In “Body Electric,” Lana continues along the same track of concealing emotional pain, opting instead to adopt veneers of opulence, youth and sexual pleasure. When she’s not singing about heartache and pain, Del Rey conjures up images of youthful, fast love. In “American,” she declares her feverish passion in the refrain, “You make me crazy, you make me wild” while also shedding light on what she feels embodies the American dream: “Be young, be dope, be proud / Like an American.” This catchy track with its upbeat tempo manages to capture the thematic core of Del Rey’s aesthetic, with its American flavor, the heady rush of youth, love and beauty and an undying commitment to upholding the sound of a bygone age. In alignment with her old-school inclinations, Del Rey covers The Clover’s “Blue Velvet” and provides an earnest and soulful rendition of the 1954 classic. Reminiscing about a lover lost (“Precious and warm a memory through the years”), this song perhaps signifies Del Rey’s regret at the passing of an era dominated by the likes of Elvis and Marilyn Monroe, both of whom she acknowledges as parents in “Body Electric.” As Del Rey woefully sings in “Gods and Monsters,” life imitates art. In this eight-track EP, Del Rey brings her strengths into clear focus and shows her ability to remain razor sharp — if not in freshness and versatility, then at the very least conceptually and aesthetically, making *Paradise* a coherent and laudable endeavour.

Album Highlights
“Ride”
“Blue Velvet”
“Yayo”

music

Jefferson Theater falls for Carbon Leaf

Richmond folk-rockers put on energetic show for eager Charlottesville fans

by colleen garrott

What did you miss if you weren’t at the Jefferson Theater Nov. 16? In the words of Carbon Leaf lead singer Barry Privett: “A row, a ruction, a fracas, and a fray. A rough and tumble free-for-all, a broil, a brawl, a melee.” Just kidding — those are the lyrics of Carbon Leaf’s soon-to-be-released song “The Donnybrook Affair.” There was no brawl or melee the night of the concert, but there was a packed house full of enthusiastic fans who had a foot-stomping good time as Carbon Leaf and opening act Justin Jones delivered an energetic set that gave fans more than three hours of music. Carbon Leaf is comprised of Barry Privett on vocals and penny whistle, Terry Clark on electric and acoustic guitar and vocals, Carter Gravatt on acoustic guitar, electric mandolin, electric guitar, lap steel, vocals and violin/fiddle, Jon Markel on electric bass and upright bass and Jason Neal on drums. The band’s musical style incorporates elements of folk, Celtic, indie and country rock. Carbon Leaf has been together since 1992. Although most of the original band members are from the Richmond area, Carbon Leaf got its start at Randolph Macon College in Ashland, Va. and plays concerts for the East Coast college circuit regularly. During its marathon performance, Carbon Leaf played many popular tracks from its last few albums, including “Life Less Ordinary,” “Miss Hollywood,” “Desperation Song,” “Raise the

Roof” and “Torn to Tattered.” Considering the band’s prolific history, it was no surprise that the crowd at the Jefferson Theatre included everyone from rowdy frat guys to plaid-clad hipsters to adventurous parents. There was spontaneous Irish jigging, strangers swing dancing, and most of all there was an undeniable and impressive display of showmanship and musicality from the musicians. Gravatt and Clark during the show played at least 10 different types of guitars between them. Privett channeled Jethro Tull not only with his strange onstage behavior but also with his proficiency on penny whistle and flute. Markel delivered a stunning upright bass solo, and the entire band demonstrated its talent by taking a break in the middle of the set and performing a single-mike, acoustic version of “What Have You Learned?” The night ended on a high note as the band played an encore that included perennial favorite and radio hit “The Boxer” and an extended version of “Let Your Troubles Roll By.” Gravatt delivered the most impressive solo of the night as he took a usually mellow song like “Let Your Troubles Roll By” and brought it to soaring, roaring new heights with an electric guitar solo that would have impressed John Mayer. Be on the lookout for Carbon Leaf’s upcoming album, expected sometime in 2013, and don’t forget to check out Justin Jones on YouTube or iTunes for some inspired and relatively undiscovered blues/rock tunes.



Courtesy Vanguard Records

★ poor

★★ average

★★★ good

★★★★ excellent

★★★★★ classic



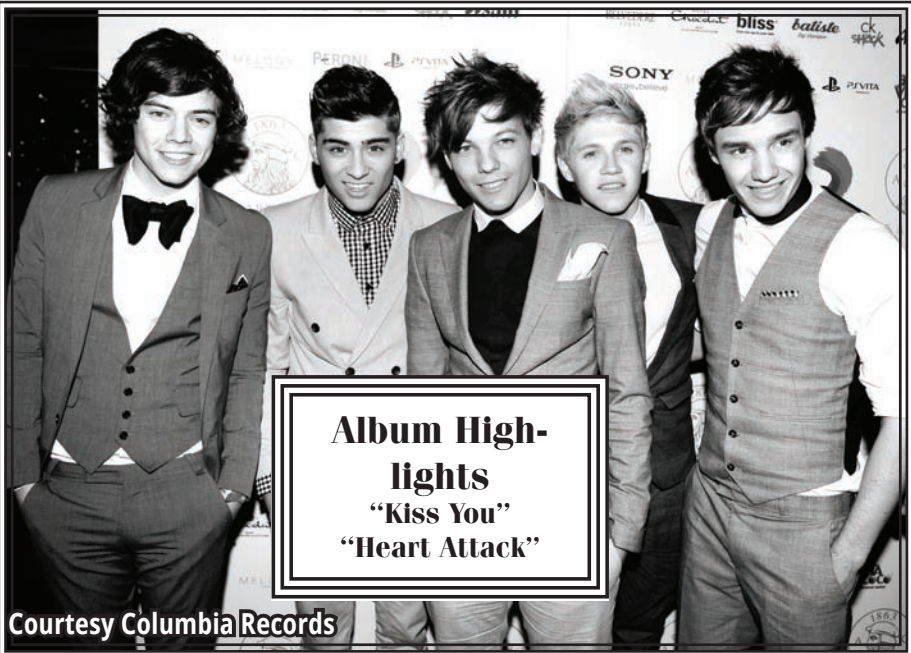
music

New album, same ‘Direction’

British heartthrobs’ second full-length effort mirrors debut

by Jamie Shalvey

If I were to describe British boy band One Direction’s sophomore album *Take Me Home* in one word, it would be “familiar.” It seems the five insanely successful *X Factor* alums wanted to take this album in exactly the same direction as that of their first record, *Up All Night*. Again, One Direction supplies us with a decent selection of bubblegum pop songs, all of which tend to run together. The tracks on *Take Me Home* — though insanely catchy — mirror the formulaic pop of the band’s last effort. That being said, familiarity isn’t necessarily a downfall. The style of the band’s first album is admirable and successful, and since this second record was released a short year afterwards, even a team of 30-plus writers couldn’t create a whole new sound for such a lovable group. At first listen, it’s difficult to distinguish one song from another. Aside from three slower tunes, all the tracks have similar qualities — beat-heavy dance choruses and generic pop lyrics. As far as listening goes, the faster dance tunes are more fun. Among these upbeat songs, the best include “Heart Attack,” a top-40-style track that mixes fun sound effects into the chorus; “Kiss You,” a harmonious pop track that uses repetition and plenty of “yeah’s” and “na na na’s”; and the album’s first single, “Live While We’re Young,” a beach anthem for teens everywhere. In addition to these tunes, tracks such as “Back for You,” “Change My Mind,” and “I Would” offer up a nice blend of pure dance-pop and ballad-esque stylings. British singer/songwriter Ed Sheeran wrote two of the album’s slower songs: “Little Things” and “Over Again.” These nice, acoustic ballads feature a sound that seems more attuned to Sheeran than to the band. The songs would seem much more genuine had Sheeran sung them. As it is, they appear a bit out of place on *Take Me Home*. As with every album, there are a few rough patches. “C’mon, C’mon” is a generic early 2000s-esque tune with too many clichés, and “Summer Love,” though refreshingly different from the rest of the album, is a boring tune that fails to capture attention and a poor album-closer. These pitfalls don’t prevent One Direction from delivering a solid sophomore effort, but they do call into question the record’s alleged newness. The most striking thing about *Take Me Home* is its replication of boy bands past. There are only one or two tracks on the album that sound completely original. The rest are either vaguely familiar or tip-of-your-tongue “I’ve heard this before!” familiar. Songs such as “They Don’t Know About Us” and “Last First Kiss” echo music we haven’t heard since the start of the century from *NSYNC and the Backstreet Boys. The album has its ups and downs, but it ultimately amounts to an impressive array of pop songs. Though somewhat formulaic, the catchy choruses and upbeat verses leave the listener wanting to dance, and that’s all a good pop album should do. One Direction is truly this generation’s major boy band.



Courtesy Columbia Records

Album Highlights
“Kiss You”
“Heart Attack”

film

Courtesy 20th Century Fox

‘LIFE OF PI’ SPLASHES ONTO BIG SCREEN

by liz carleton

★★★★

Director Ang Lee's highly anticipated film adaptation of Yann Martel's 2001 best-seller *Life of Pi* is a generally successful attempt to bring the highly literary story to the big screen.

The novel was a moving fable of humanity and faith; the film's primary marketing angle, however, was to present the story as an adventure tale — which it certainly is, to a degree. But the strength of the film, as in the novel, rests in its more contemplative side. Along with the classic tale of the boy and a tiger comes a second, more gruesome story.

Piscine Molitor “Pi” Patel grows up as a Hindu like his parents, but with his inquisitive spirit he discovers both Christianity and Islam. His curiosity and devotion help him overcome his father's disapproval. Aside from his spiritual flexibility, he has as normal a life as any boy who lives in a zoo. On the first day of secondary school, he renames himself “Pi” after some bullying spurred by an unfortunate pun based on a mispronunciation of his name. The action begins when Pi's life is uprooted from India. His family decides to move to Canada and the ship on which they, and an assortment of zoo animals, leave sinks. Pi ends up in a lifeboat with several castaway friends, notably Richard Parker, a Bengal tiger. The rest of the movie details Pi's arduous journey as he tries to maintain hope and train his tiger.

Given the nature of the medium, the film is at an inherent disadvantage in its attempt to be as effective as the book. Readers have the opportunity to reflect on their personal beliefs throughout, while viewers are limited to a more constricted view bound by Lee's vision. Unfortunately for Lee, this particular story benefits from the intimate setting of a book. Basically, always read the book first.

Still, film has its advantages. Lee provides an intensely visual experience. With Richard Parker's flawless CGI, you could almost see right through to his feline soul. A magical island inhabited by meerkats is conjured like the mirage it might be. Drifting through a sea of fluorescent jellyfish, illuminated by a golden sunset, Pi's breathtaking environment nearly compensates for his constant hunger and terror. Even in his wasted state, Pi is able to appreciate his surroundings. Since viewers, unlike Pi, do not have to worry about physical distress, the film's visual feast provides a veritable delight.

The famed director wields his artistic license in shifting some things, such as removing a humorous scene in which Pi's pandit, priest, and imam fight over him. Lee has earned it after mastering almost every genre of film (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Brokeback Mountain; Hulk*). Regardless of this English major's rants about the loss of print, Lee must be applauded for adapting what has been called an unfilmable novel.

film

‘Lincoln’:
an honest classic

by emily benedict

★★★★★

Courtesy Dreamworks Pictures

The back of an incredibly tall, lanky man filled the frame, and a thin but soothing voice filled my ears. With light coming from behind him, the man took form as he stood up and towered above everyone and everything around him. Again and again shots of Lincoln's thin frame in a dark room were lit up, making me feel as if I were watching a ghost.

Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln* follows President Abraham Lincoln's (Daniel Day-Lewis) attempts to pass the 13th Amendment, which outlawed slavery. Though the film intersperses a few battle scenes with moments of political drama, the account mainly focuses on the actions of Congress. Day-Lewis is uncanny as Lincoln — I felt like I was staring into the face of a penny.

You don't need me for any spoilers — just open any history book. Even though everyone knows how the story ends, the movie still tells an interesting tale about how it all came to be. The film is an intriguing character study centering on one of our nation's most famous and enigmatic presidents.

Lincoln's struggle to gain bipartisan support for the 13th Amendment felt eerily familiar in the wake of the recent election season. Instead of jeers and brash accusations, the Republicans and Democrats in Lincoln's time at least had some clever insults for one another. At one point Congressman Thaddeus Stevens (Tommy Lee Jones) says to a man speaking too much on the House floor that his excessive use of oxygen is damaging to his “pulmonary activities.”

Lincoln hires three unorthodox Republican lobbyists (James Spader, Tim Blakes Nelson and John Hawkes — basically the three stooges) to ensure he gets the votes he needs for the amendment to pass. Whether they're casually dropping bills as bribes or downright frightening congressmen, these dishonest Abes successfully stir up the story.

We all know things can move slowly in Congress, but this film demonstrated the opposite. Although the film was not exactly action-packed, its rapid-fire rhetoric kept up the film's brisk pace. Quick wit and pithy remarks were not in short supply in what could have been a drawn-out and overly loquacious story.

Although the ending may have been about two minutes too long, and I've seen enough top hats and facial hair to last me a lifetime, the film's riveting storyline and superb acting left me wanting to watch it again to make sure I hadn't missed anything. Hopefully, Day-Lewis will get what he deserves — a third Oscar — and the movie will live up to its buzz-worthy expectations during the award season.

film

Washington propels ‘Flight’ to thrilling heights; redeems lackluster script

★★★★

by vanessa cao

Robert Zemeckis' *Flight* takes off to a spectacular start, with veteran actor Denzel Washington at the film's helm as William “Whip” Whitaker, a skilled airplane pilot navigating a world of moral complexity and corruption.

The film's scandalously raw opening scene, in which Whip wakes up beside a naked stewardess and snorts a line of cocaine after a night of sex and drunken revelry in his motel room, promises an unconventional drama-suspense film. And for at least the first third of the film, this promise is fulfilled with gripping action sequences and bravura acting.

In the first and strongest section of the movie, a highly intoxicated and cocaine-affected Whip must answer the call to action when mechanical failures threaten to crash his plane and exact a substantial death toll. In an astonishing stunt that's just a hair's breadth short of a miracle, the voracious pilot manages to save all but six lives aboard the carrier.

The film's first 40 minutes or so are captivating, not only because of thrilling action sequences but also because of the moral dilemmas in which Whip becomes entangled. Should Whip be charged with six counts of manslaughter because he was intoxicated while operating the aircraft? Or should he be considered a hero for saving 96 lives out of the 102 passengers onboard through his skillful and levelheaded maneuvering of the doomed plane? These are fascinating questions to explore — and yet after these tantalizing tidbits are dangled before the viewer, the film takes a nosedive into repetitiveness.

The rest of the movie focuses mainly on Whip's alcoholism and the trial examining the causes behind the initial plane crash. This latter portion of the film sacrifices the depth and excitement of the first 40 minutes for trite commentaries on morality, the law and addiction as Washington's character struggles to overcome his dependence on drugs, only to repeatedly fall back into his bad habits. Perhaps as a result of insufficient knowledge and insight on the part of the scriptwriter or director, the film's take on addiction feels shallow.

Despite some frustratingly repetitive and strangely dull scenes, Washington's performance soars with the sort of integrity and nuance we've come to expect from this master actor, whose versatility and dynamic presence never fail to impress. Washington's intensity during the plane crash sequence proves riveting, and when the film begins to falter, his star power still makes the movie watchable if not terribly interesting. Washington's acting talents could have been put to much better use had the script and

plex and striking in later parts of the film. I just wish the spectacular beginning's momentum was sustained throughout the rest of the movie. *Flight* is still worthy of a look-see, however, for the eye-candy at the beginning of the film and the clinging-to-the-edge-of-your-seat action the plane crash scene provides.

Without that momentum the film flew to great heights in the beginning, but fell flat toward the middle and end. A worthwhile watch, but not something that will knock you out of your seat.

film

‘Dawn’ of the undead: Sun sets on ‘Twilight’ saga; final film fails to sparkle

by stephanie dodge

Courtesy Summit Entertainment

If you think of twilight as just a part of the day, you've been living under a cultural rock for the last five years. Love it or hate it, Stephenie Meyer's saga has haunted fans and critics alike for years now. But with the release of this fourth and final *Twilight* movie, *Breaking Dawn: Part II*, the saga has finally come to an end.

The plot of this last installment is as predictable and laughable as ever, honing in on Bella's new life (or living death) as a vampire, wife and mother and her character's encounters with the rest of the supernatural world. As with any other film in the saga, the movie isn't about the plot so much as it is about a particular cultural moment and our relationship to it.

I'll admit I'm a *Twilight* fan. You can roll your eyes, but hear me out. As a teenage girl I fell in love with the books that made me believe my soulmate was waiting for me around the next corner. Unfortunately, my Edward (or in my case, Jacob) has yet to turn up. The beauty of the books was that you felt like you got to be a part of an epic romance.

The movies failed to deliver this sort of powerful escape. From the midnight premiere of the first movie my senior year of high school, I knew being a Twihard was going to be tough. The worst part was knowing the mockery was well-deserved and secretly wanting to join in. The movies were just so bad, and they never got any better.

Masochistically, I returned to the midnight premiere every year. It became a ritual. Between the books and the movies, I invested a lot into my *Twilight* fanhood. I amassed a slew of great memories from attending those fantastically awful midnight showings.

Breaking Dawn: Part II is no better than its predecessors. I had to suffer more than one embarrassing “good god this can't be happening” moment while watching it unfold on screen. Whether I had these feelings because I had such low expectations going in or whether because it was just a terrible movie is difficult to judge. If you're hoping the movie-making machine behind *Twilight* magically got it right this time around, abandon hope before entering the theater. If you're not a *Twilight* fan, don't waste your time.

If you are like me, and you will always remember *Twilight* as a part of your late childhood, go and enjoy the last installment. As the credits roll and the screen broadcasts pictures of all the characters from the entire saga, tears may fall as you remember how you yourself have grown from your first *Twilight* book to your last *Twilight* movie.

The series has been a big part of our childhood and our generation. I won't miss having to defend my taste in the movies, but now that there's no *Twilight* on the horizon I realize the last film marks the closing of a chapter of my life.


★ poor

★★ average

★★★ good

★★★★ excellent

★★★★★ classic




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