

DEFENSE RARING TO GO

Featuring enticing front-seven talent, dependable secondary, unit relishes new addition Tenuta's aggressive mentality

By Michael Eilbacher
Senior Associate Sports Editor

Last year featured a tale of two defenses for Virginia. There was the defense that was fourth in the ACC and No. 28 in the nation in total defense at 353.3 yards per game. Then there was the defense that allowed 28.9 points per game, ranking No. 71 in the nation. Reconciling those two sides of the defense will go a long way toward deciding what kind of year this will be for the Cavaliers.

To spearhead that development, Virginia brings in new defensive coordinator John Tenuta, who served last season as the defensive coordinator at NC State. He is known for a defense predicated on creating pressure and turnovers through blitzes, and it already has his players excited.

"He likes to dial up the pressure

and that's something that a defensive end loves; linebackers love it, too," senior defensive end Jake Snyder said. "He's going to get after the quarterback and create turnovers and that makes it fun for us to turn it up and get after it."

It may take some time for Tenuta to fully implement his system, as he is inheriting a defense with just two starting seniors in Snyder and tackle Brent Urban. Both Snyder and Urban have extensive experience at Virginia, and they will be tasked with accelerating the development of their fellow defensive linemen, sophomores defensive end Eli Harold and tackle David Dean. Both played in the majority of the Cavaliers' games last year but must adapt to new terminology and defensive looks.

see DEFENSE, page 3



Jenna Truong | Cavalier Daily

SHOUT AND ROAR

SIMILAR CAST, NEW PRODUCTION

New coordinator Fairchild, quarterback Watford, workhorse running back Parks hope to bring fight to the opposition

By Zack Barteo
Senior Associate Sports Editor

When Virginia opens the season Saturday against Brigham Young, seven returning starters will bring a familiar presence to Scott Stadium. But with the departures of major contributors and an entirely revamped strategy, the unit is expected to look markedly different from last year.

Entering 2012, the Cavaliers were fresh off an 8-5 campaign in which the run game was the focal point of the offense and figured to be again with the return of senior running back Perry Jones and then-sophomore running back Kevin Parks. But that smash-mouth style of football never materialized as the offense faltered, ranking No. 102 nationally in rushing yards and No. 97 in scoring offense.

This offseason, Virginia's coaches

have made a point of emphasizing toughness, which players and coaches believe may have been lacking last season.

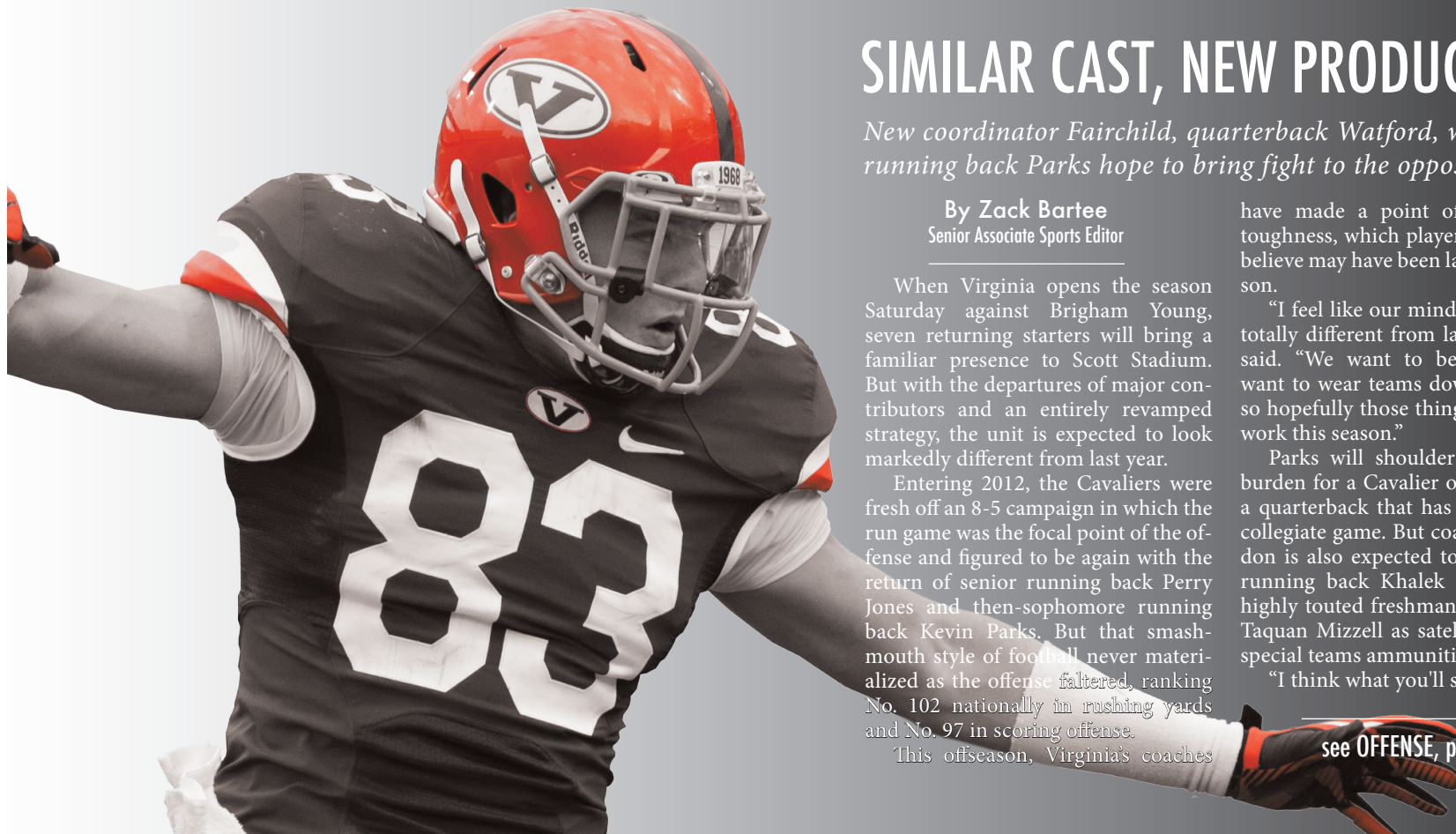
"I feel like our mindset this year is totally different from last year," Parks said. "We want to be physical, we want to wear teams down on offense, so hopefully those things are going to work this season."

Parks will shoulder much of the burden for a Cavalier offense without a quarterback that has ever started a collegiate game. But coach Mike London is also expected to utilize junior running back Khalek Shepherd and highly touted freshman running back Taquan Mizzell as satellite backs and special teams ammunition.

"I think what you'll see early on is

see OFFENSE, page 3

Dillon Harding | Cavalier Daily





DEFENSE | Defensive backs prioritize increasing interceptions

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"You come in as a freshman, and you think you've got all this learned, and all of a sudden it's switched up on you," Snyder said. "[For] a guy like Eli ... it's going to be kind of overload, to have two different schemes in the same year, so I try to help them out ... I'm kind of helping bring them along, but at the same time, they did a great job at grasping it."

Tenuta hopes to blitz effectively this year, and he will rely heavily on his linebackers to get past opposing offensive lines. Unfortunately for the Cavaliers, their two top linebackers from last year, LaRoy Reynolds and Steve Greer, both graduated in the spring. Replacing their output — Greer ranks No. 6 in Virginia history in tackles — will be crucial.

"It's tough to replace guys like that," Snyder said. "They're tremendous competitors, they're tremendous players, and any time you lose senior leaders like that, it's tough to replace them. That being said, we've

got some great linebackers coming in, and they've already done a good job stepping in and filling those shoes and making plays."

Junior Henry Coley started eight games last year and will start at middle linebacker. Junior Daquan Romero will join him on the weak side, while sophomore Demeitre Brim will line up on the strong side. Romero appeared in all 12 games last season but started just four times, and Brim saw limited action in his first year in Charlottesville. He has made strides in the offseason, and Tenuta has been impressed with his development so far in training camp.

The secondary performed admirably last year, ranking No. 33 in pass defense, but they will be even more taxed in the new defense. Cornerbacks and safeties will be expected to not only cover but also to blitz. Virginia's returning players are young — mostly juniors and sophomores — but they have game experience. Junior cornerback Demetrious Nicholson is the unequivocal star of the group, as he earned an All-ACC honorable mention in 2012 and should

be the secondary's centerpiece.

The competition for second cornerback has been more contentious. Junior DreQuan Hoskey started 10 games last year, but he has battled sophomore Maurice Canady for the starting role throughout camp. Hoskey is listed at the top of the depth chart going into opening weekend, but Canady will see heavy action throughout the year, most likely as the third cornerback in the team's nickel package.

Juniors Brandon Phelps and Anthony Harris each started all 12 games last year at safety, and both return this year at the top of the depth chart. Though they saw the majority of action for the Cavaliers last year, they combined for just a single interception. Virginia as a whole mustered a dismal 0.3 interceptions per game in 2012, tied for second-worst in the nation. Holding onto the balls they defend could heavily impact the team's scoring prevention, and the players are satisfied in their progression.

"Right away, you can see the difference out there in practice," Harris

said. "Guys know what they're actually looking at, they know what offenses are doing, they know formations, they've grown that much; we've all grown that much. Just branching away from knowing what we're supposed to be doing as an individual [to] what we're doing as a team, and what the offense is trying to do to us."

That secondary and the entire defense will be tested immediately against Brigham Young. The Cougars boast a potent receiving threat in senior wide receiver Cody Hoffman, and will look to use a read-option offense under sophomore quarterback Taysom Hill. With the depth chart now set, the challenge for Virginia will be finding specific ways to apply it to BYU.

"I think if you ask the coordinators, we put in everything that they wanted to see put in," coach Mike London said. "What's important is then curtailing what we do and then trying to fit that to the game plan of what we anticipate BYU to do ... Hopefully there will be some things that we do that they've never seen."



2013 SCHEDULE

AUG. 31	BYU
SEPT. 7	OREGON
SEPT. 21	VMI
SEPT. 28	PITTSBURG*
OCT. 5	BALL STATE
OCT. 12	MARYLAND*
OCT. 19	DUKE
OCT. 26	GA TECH
NOV. 2	CLEMSON
NOV. 9	N. CAROLINA*
NOV. 23	MIAMI*
NOV. 30	VA TECH

*DENOTES AWAY GAME

OFFENSE | LT Moses anchors offensive line

Continued from page 1

trying to find plays and substitution groups that will have those guys in the game," London said. "The great thing about [Shepherd] and [Mizzell] is they are our punt returners, kickoff returners [and] they can also play slot receivers in different formations."

Possibly the most talked-about story of the offseason was the transfer of senior Michael Rocco and dismissal of junior Phillip Sims — both of the Cavaliers' primary signal-callers in 2012 — and the resulting quarterback battle between sophomore David Watford and redshirt freshman Greyson Lambert.

Watford, who played in 10 games in 2011 before redshirting last season, was named the starter Aug. 12. He represents one of the biggest question marks facing the Virginia offense entering regular season play, but the coaching staff plans on easing the sophomore into the starting role.

"We're not going to ask [Watford] to do more than what he's capable of doing," London said. "Obviously he's a gifted and talented young man, but if he does what's being asked of him to do in distributing the ball and using his legs and his arm and his brain, then I think that's going to be critical to our success."

Luckily for Watford, seven of the Cavaliers' top eight pass-catchers from last year return, including senior Tim Smith and juniors Darius Jennings and Dominique Terrell.

"I feel like our receivers are more

experienced," Parks said. "I feel like there's going to be more big play ability down the field. Tim Smith has been around; it's going to be a breakout year for him."

Junior tight end Jake McGee, a fan favorite after his memorable last-second, game-winning catch against Miami last year, also figures to impact the passing game, despite sitting at third on the depth chart behind junior Zachary Swanson and sophomore Rob Burns. London said McGee slid down the chart due to blocking deficiencies.

"Yeah, I wouldn't put too much into that," London said. "He'll play in the game because he has a skill set that we definitely need. We've got to require our tight ends to block, and I think that Jake will get better at that. But we'll expect all three of those guys [will] have an opportunity to play and help us."

The other burning question for Virginia's offensive line is how it will manage after allowing 14 sacks and three safeties in the spring game along with the graduation of first-team All-ACC offensive tackle Oday Aboushi. In one of the final position battles to be settled during camp, sophomore Ross Burbank beat out redshirt freshman Jackson Matteo for the vacant center spot.

"That battle had a lot of ups and downs for everyone that was involved," senior guard and captain Luke Bowanko said. "The most impressive thing about Ross was the way he handled it. On days when he'd come out and maybe struggle a little bit, that next day he'd come out and you'd have to say, 'Wow, he had a really great day.' That's

big when a guy's growing into a role and you're trying to gain confidence in the guys you're playing with."

Virginia returned four starting offensive linemen, including senior left tackle Morgan Moses, a preseason All-American and first-team All-ACC selection. Junior guard Conner Davis switched to right guard after starting 11 games on the left side last year, while senior captain Luke Bowanko will return to his natural position at guard after starting all 12 games at center in 2012. Sophomore right tackle Jay Whitmire set himself apart in spring practice and rounds out the unit, with projected starter senior Sean Cascarano, who started every game at guard last season, still on crutches for a hip injury.

Parks said his teammates have done an impressive job opening up holes for him so far.

"I've seen the offensive line doing great," Parks said. "And I believe that's the biggest factor for us going into the season ... our offensive line and how they play."

Training camp hype means little when a team kicks off the season against such formidable competition as Brigham Young and preseason No. 3 Oregon. However, after a miserable 2012 outing, the optimism abounds among the Cavaliers' offensive weapons.

"There's a lot of excitement in the locker room, a lot of buzz," Bowanko said. "That's the great thing about college football is that first game comes around and the whole nation kind of gets a good vibe going."

BYU vs. UVA

SCOTT STADIUM



3:30 PM
ESPNU



Sophomore David Watford takes over at starting quarterback for the Cavaliers, and he will be tested from the opening snap against Brigham Young. The Cougars were bruising on defense last year, allowing just 266.1 yards and 14.0 points per game, both ranked third in the nation. Senior linebacker Kyle Van Noy had 13 sacks and two interceptions last year and is a Pre-Season All-American. For a Virginia offensive line with some questions, preventing Van Noy from terrorizing Watford's debut will be a key concern.

Brigham Young debuts a new starting quarterback of its own in Taysom Hill. The sophomore played in six games and started twice last year, throwing for 425 yards and rushing for 336. He will rely on his scrambling and on senior receiver Cody Hoffman, who was twelfth in the nation last year in receiving yards and should provide matchup difficulties for Jon Tenuta's aggressive defense.

BY
THE
NUMBERS

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA FOOTBALL
OPPONENT
OVERVIEW

Here's a look at Virginia's 2013 opponents "by the numbers"

Daniel Wertz | Cavalier Daily Sports Editor

3

Brigham Young finished **THIRD** in total defense in 2012 to advance to a bowl game for an eighth consecutive season. Led by All-American and now senior outside linebacker Kyle Van Noy, the defense was the nation's top-ranked unit on third down. On offense, Phil Steele Preseason All-American Cody Hoffman returns for his senior season as the NCAA active leader in career touchdown receptions. Hoffman will be catching passes from a new starting quarterback, Taysom Hill, who is a dual-threat option under center.
2012 Record: 8-5 Conference: Independent Last Bowl Appearance: 2012

50

Oregon averaged nearly **50** points per game last season, trailing only Louisiana Tech in scoring. The Ducks return Marcus Mariota, 2012 Pac-12 Offensive Freshman of the Year and Honorable Mention All-American quarterback, who threw for a touchdown in all 13 starts and finished the season with 32 — one shy of matching the program record. Mariota and junior running back De'Anthony Thomas lead a dazzling offense that finished last season fifth in total offense and third in rushing offense.
2012 Record: 12-1 Conference: Pac-12 Last Bowl Appearance: 2012

2

Virginia Military Institute won just **TWO** games in 2012 for the second time in three years. The Keydets are just 13-42 in five seasons under coach Sparky Woods and have not had a winning season since 1981. The last time VMI faced Virginia, coach Mike London earned his most lopsided win as head coach in a 48-7 drubbing in Charlottesville.
2012 Record: 2-9 Conference: Big South Last Postseason Appearance: 1995

22

Pittsburgh has competed in the Big East for the past **22** seasons but will join Syracuse as new members of the ACC in 2013. In addition to adapting to life in a new conference, they must also cope with changes of their own. Redshirt senior Tom Savage, who has not played in a college football game since 2010 with Rutgers, will enter the season as the starting quarterback for a team picked to finish fifth in the Coastal by the Preseason ACC Media Poll.
2012 Record: 6-7 Conference: ACC Last Bowl Appearance: 2012

0

Ball State has faced Virginia **ZERO** times in its 79-year history. The Cardinals have gone 15-10 in two seasons under coach Pete Lembo, including a six-game winning streak to close the 2012 regular season. Senior quarterback Keith Wenning, who ranks second in Ball State program history in passing yards, will return for his final season while leading rusher junior Jahwan Edwards will be back in the backfield for the nation's 28th ranked rushing attack.
2012 Record: 9-4 Conference: MAC Last Bowl Appearance: 2012

1

Maryland will host Virginia for **ONE** last time as a member of the ACC before switching to the Big 10 for the 2014 season, ending a 50-year relationship with the conference. The Terrapins' nightmare 2012 season turned comical when freshman linebacker Shawn Petty was forced into quarterback duty after a rash of injuries at the game's most important position. Senior C.J. Brown will return from an ACL injury to start under center, but Maryland was picked to finish just fifth in the Atlantic in the ACC Kickoff Media Poll.
2012 Record: 4-8 Conference: ACC Last Bowl Appearance: 2010

17

Duke snapped a **17**-year bowl drought in 2012, racing out to a 6-1 start before losing its final six games of the season. The Blue Devils owed their surprising success to a superb passing offense led by then-senior Sean Renfree, who was drafted in the seventh round of the NFL Draft. With his departure, junior Anthony Boone will take over at quarterback. In his lone start last season, he shredded Virginia for 212 yards passing and four touchdowns in a 42-17 Blue Devil victory.
2012 Record: 6-7 Conference: ACC Last Bowl Appearance: 2012

56

Georgia Tech scored **56** points against Virginia last season in a 36-point victory, the highest total by a Cavalier opponent in coach Mike London's three-year tenure at the University. The Yellow Jackets vaunted triple-option offense kept opponents off balance all season as the team finished fourth in the country with 311.2 rushing yards per game. Georgia Tech began the season just 2-4, but rallied for a 5-3 conference record, an appearance in the ACC Championship Game and a 21-7 triumph against Southern California in the Sun Bowl.
2012 Record: 7-7 Conference: ACC Last Bowl Appearance: 2012

105

Clemson senior Tajh Boyd was selected as the ACC Kickoff Media Preseason ACC Player of the Year in a landslide, receiving **105** of a possible 120 votes. The reigning ACC Player of the Year broke his own ACC record by throwing for 36 touchdowns in 2012 and is now the all-time program leader in passing touchdowns and passing efficiency. He leads a Tigers team that is the preseason favorite to capture a second ACC title in three years.
2012 Record: 11-2 Conference: ACC Last Bowl Appearance: 2012

8

North Carolina ranked **EIGHTH** in scoring offense last season and will return fifth-year senior Bryn Renner and star sophomore wide receiver Quinshad Davis to a team that averaged more than 40 points last season. Electric running back Giovani Bernard left the school after his sophomore season and was selected in the second round of the NFL Draft, leaving a large void to fill in the Tar Heel backfield.
2012 Record: 8-4 Conference: ACC Last Bowl Appearance: 2011

3

Miami has lost to Virginia **THREE** consecutive times, most recently on tight end Jake McGee's second game-winning catch of the season with just six seconds remaining in a 41-40 thriller. The Hurricanes have only been outscored in those three contests by a combined 13 points. With reigning ACC Offensive Rookie of the Year Duke Johnson and standout senior quarterback Stephen Morris returning, Miami was picked to win the Coastal Division in the ACC Kickoff Media poll but await word from the NCAA concerning further sanctions from an investigation into whether players received illegal benefits from boosters.
2012 Record: 7-5 Conference: ACC Last Bowl Appearance: 2010

9

Virginia Tech has beaten its Commonwealth rival for **NINE** consecutive years. The Nov. 30 matchup will occur one day after the one-decade anniversary of the last time the Cavaliers beat the Hokies — a 35-21 victory in Charlottesville Nov. 29, 2003. Virginia Tech will field 2011 Second Team All-ACC senior Logan Thomas, who last year became the first Hokie quarterback to lead his team in rushing in nearly 50 years.
2012 Record: 7-6 Conference: ACC Last Bowl Appearance: 2012

The more things change

Last October, college football's iciest character lit a match.

"I think that the way people are going no-huddle right now, that at some point in time, we should look at how fast we allow the game to go in terms of player safety," Alabama head coach Nick Saban opined, with the air of a parent concerned his kids really shouldn't be watching the Video Music Awards anymore, days after West Virginia and Baylor combined for 133 points in a regulation game.

"... I just think there's got to be some sense of fairness in terms of asking, 'Is this what we want football to be?'"

In June, new Arkansas coach Bret Bielema answered Saban's query with a vigorous "Heck no" by proposing a rule to the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel that would mandate a 15-second substitution period for defensive players after each first down. This regulation, he argued, would protect players from fatigue-induced harm, never mentioning that such a directive would also neutralize the whirling dervish offenses anathema to Bielema's style.

And now, the ember that Saban ignited last year has turned into a small firestorm with questions about the debate circulating the nation's press conferences and spread proponents Mike Gundy dismissing Bielema and Saban's concerns.

Sure, self-interest and stick-in-the-mud traditionalism likely fueled the coaches' protests: Alabama and Bielema's Wisconsin teams ranked slowest and 5th-slowest in terms of plays per minute of possession from 2008-2012, still going a combined 108-27 in that stretch with their hard-nosed, defensively-oriented brand of "North American Football." Still, Sports Illustrated reporter Stewart Mendel cited researchers who concur with Bielema's general premise about player safety.

As it turns out, virtually no empirical data exist to illuminate some link between no-huddle offense and injury risk. But their comments merit our attention for a different reason. Namely, the implication behind their words that the sport as they know will become a bastardization of its former self invites a really fascinating discussion.

The game is undoubtedly changing. On average, FBS teams have increased their plays per minute by 2.61 percent since 2008, with more and more – including Brigham Young, Virginia's opponent this Saturday – vowing to emulate the breakneck pace popularized by Oregon, the nation's

second fastest team in the past five years and Virginia's second foe.

"It seems like the way college football is going," redshirt senior defensive end Jake Snyder said at Monday's press conference. "It's a lot more this style of football, so we have to prepare for that."

Few, too, can deny the allure of the hurry-up offense's philosophical underpinnings. Revving things up confounds a defense, forcing them into mistakes that would make even an ABC agent confronting a case of LaCroix blush. Intuitively, it just makes sense: tired, bamboozled defenses will typically fare worse than energetic, cognizant ones.

Nor can anyone dispute the rave results enjoyed by many of its proponents. Oregon compiled 46 wins and averaged 43.5 points in four years – less than only Alabama and Boise State – with its spread running onslaught, while coaches such as Gundy and Johnny Autograph caretaker Kevin Sumlin have torched defenses with more traditional spread-passing attacks. What's more, the best of these offenses burn out scoreboards without sacrificing efficiency: of the 10 teams with the highest points per play last season, according to

adjustedstats.com, four ran some variation of a no-huddle, guns-blazing spread.

But installing a speedy offense has proven neither necessary nor sufficient to secure instant success. Saban, after all, sits comfortably at the zenith of the college football world after his Alabama teams won three of the past four championships thanks to stifling defense, efficient offense and quarterbacks with unfortunate chest tattoos. Bielema's glacial Wisconsin teams have reached the last three Rose Bowls. Even Georgia Tech has treaded water running the triple option, the antithesis of the spread in some ways.

Meanwhile, Indiana and Western Michigan achieved minimal success running far more plays per minute of possession, primarily because those teams feature deficient talent and pedestrian tactics. And that's the whole point.

Because the talent pool is so much larger and more disparate in the college game compared to its professional counterpart, simply being bigger, stronger and more skilled matters immensely. Virginia will be hard-pressed to beat Oregon no matter how flawless a gameplan London and his coordinators devise, just as Alabama could rout Western Michigan with the Saban-ator 3000 turned to hibernate mode for the evening. I mean, Gene Chizik won a championship, and he makes Lane Kiffin

look like Bill Belichick.

But the sport's most able coaches have married marquee talent with sound tactics, meshing the two together to optimize production. Sumlin, for instance, added a zone-read component to Texas A&M's offense to augment the spread passing style he patented at Houston, in order to highlight Johnny Manziel's skill set. In the end, if a coach can acquire the sufficient talent, enable players to maximize that talent through preparation, and enjoy a little luck, he will probably succeed no matter what kind of schemes he runs.

Change is as inevitable in college football as it is in life, a fact confronting Mike London and Virginia as they open the season bracing for a once-gimmicky type of offense now verging on ubiquity. As football has evolved constantly during the past several decades, however, one simple rule has remained constant: quality wins. No one can predict how exactly the burgeoning trend toward no-huddle and fast-paced offenses will transform the game, or whether the injury link will manifest itself, or how Saban, Bielema and our beloved Cavaliers will adjust. But at its best, the sport will always showcase gifted individuals creating something magical through diligence and sheer luck. That's all I could ever want college football to be.



FRITZ METZINGER
SPORTS EDITOR

SPORTS STAFF PREDICTIONS

6-6

Zack Bartee

Sports Senior Associate

"I think Virginia will pull an upset or two, but will also blow a game that it should win. My season is made if the Commonwealth Cup returns to Charlottesville."

6-6

Daniel Weltz

Sports Editor

"Sophomore David Watford will impress with his command of the offense and ability as a dual-threat quarterback, and the Cavaliers may well race out to a 5-2 start, but an imposing close to the season will keep Virginia from a meteoric rise in 2013."

6-6

Michael Eilbacher

Sports Senior Associate

"The Cavaliers overperformed in 2011 and underperformed in 2012. 2013 looks like the year they could even out. If they make a bowl, they'll make it backing in – the last five games are brutal."

5-7

Fritz Metzinger

Sports Editor

"Hope springs eternal for a young Virginia team that has flashed immense potential on both sides of the ball this summer, but that excruciating schedule and questions at linebacker may turn this into more of a 'Silver Linings Playbook' kind of year. Still, expect inspired effort, one big upset and reason for optimism entering 2014."

Honor reveals new internal model

Current representatives to receive basic training for all three committee areas; new members to gain comprehensive introduction

By Alia Sharif and Katherine Britton
Cavalier Daily staff writers

A proposed change to the Honor Committee's bylaws could overhaul the way new members are recruited and trained. Previously, honor recruits have been divided into three separate pools: counselors, advisors and educators. The proposed change would group all recruits into a single pool.

a fourth-year College student, said the proposal, which will come to a vote Sunday, would increase cohesiveness in the honor community by putting all new recruits through a single training process.

"Our training is going to have to be a lot more hands-on and engaging," Behrle said. "We want new members to be fluent in every aspect of the honor system."

The current system had been criticized by some members in

the past because it forced them to choose a role on honor before they knew enough about the positions, said senior advisor Nick Hine, a third-year College student.

Behrle said comprehensive training would allow honor members to make a more informed choice.

Honor Chair he said. Behrle said an informal poll among honor members last week showed moderate support for the proposal. "There were people who enthusiastically support it, some people who were neutral, but I haven't talked to anyone who strongly doesn't support it," he said.

New members would still be able to concentrate their efforts in one area during their tenure on honor, Behrle added.

Current honor members would be allowed to stay in their current specialized role or retrain to become universal member, he said.



Photo by Marshall Bronfin
The Honor Committee is considering a new training plan for entering recruits in which members will be trained in all aspects of the Committee's roles, rather than selecting one role for their tenure.

Swipe technology allows easy Rotunda access



Photo by Marshall Bronfin
In addition to its regular business hours, the Rotunda will now be open to students until 10 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday. Students can swipe into the building using their IDs, and will enjoy extended hours during exam season.

Starting this semester, students will have the option to study in the original library of the University: the Rotunda. In a pilot project, the Dome Room, the North Oval Room, the Lower West Oval Room and the Lower East Oval Room will have specific times reserved for student study. First-year Dome Room dinners will also return after a two-year hiatus.

"Before this year, the Rotunda was unlocked and locked each day by the Rotunda staff with keys," said Alex Halbritter, Rotunda guard and Chair of the University Guide Service. "This summer, they installed swipe-access on the building's lower levels, allow-

ing students to access the building with their U.Va. IDs during certain hours."

Students are now able to swipe their ID cards to access the building after public hours, which run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The new schedule, available on the University's Rotunda website, will allow students to have access to the building until 10 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday. The hours will be extended to midnight during exams.

"This is a 'pilot year' to increase the building's usage by students, before interior construction picks up after graduation this May," said Halbrit-

ter, a fourth-year Commerce student.

The effort is one of many steps taken to open the UNESCO World Heritage Site to the student body. Rotunda Operations Manager Christine Wells said the University hopes the addition of COLA and USEM classes, as well as the re-introduction of First Year Dinners in the Dome Room on Wednesday evenings will help better serve students.

The Rotunda will be monitored by two RMC Events staff members and one student Rotunda Guard after hours. Covered drinks are permitted, but no food is allowed inside.

—compiled by Maggie Ambrose

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University celebrates March on Washington

Harrison Institute hosts 50th anniversary of civil rights victory



Photo by Jenna Truong

Like the District of Columbia and many other municipalities and institutions, the University celebrated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington on Wednesday.

By Kelly Kaler
Cavalier Daily News Editor

Soulful music flooded the lecture hall at the Harrison Institute Special Collections library Wednesday as more than 100 people gathered to honor the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington.

Deborah McDowell, director of the University's Carter G. Woodson Institute, opened the presentation with a speech discussing the first call for a March on Washington in 1941, originally led by civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph. Just before the scheduled date of the march, however, President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order to purge racial discrimination in government employment, and the march was cancelled, making Dr. King's march in 1963 the first large-scale march of its kind.

Much like the '63 march itself, the event incorporated music — The John D'earth Quintet performed a live rendition of "Alabama" by John Coltrane at intermission.

"Jazz music is black music," D'earth said before launching into the first verse with his trumpet. "It

was created by people who were at first brought here against their will ... and is revered around the world today." The performance received thundering applause.

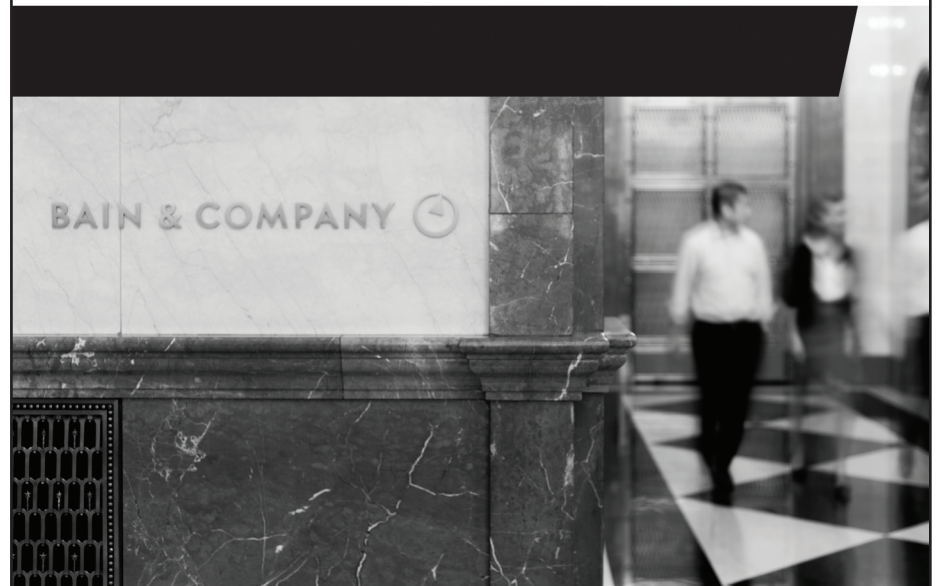
English Prof. Susan Fraiman read Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech in reverse.

"I do this to challenge the way these intentions [set forth by Dr. King] have been watered down," Fraiman said. "Mainstream U.S. culture encourages positivity, romance ... anger and protest are seen as whining, even unpatriotic." Fraiman praised King's challenge and refusal to accept the status quo and dissatisfaction with racial segregation.

To end the session, Batten undergraduate student Eden Ze-karias urged the audience to look beyond the University and consider the perpetuation of racial privilege outside the confines of Charlottesville — or even outside the United States.

"If we do not seek to perish as a global people, we need to realize what happens to [our international peers] also happens to us," she said. "We are looking at modern-day segregation where people are placed into pockets of poverty and pockets of privilege."

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New data reveals promising horizons for post-grads

College, Engineering, Commerce school graduates vary in skillset, enjoy similarly strong job prospects in today's market

By Emily Hutt and Jordan Bower
Cavalier Daily senior writers

Forty percent of May 2012 graduates from the College of Arts & Sciences had acquired full-time employment or were self-employed after Final Exercises this past May, according to a recently unveiled report that profiled graduates' post-college paths.

The results came from a survey conducted by University Career Services in conjunction with the College and Center for Survey Research, and provide a "snapshot of the diverse ways in which graduates of the College launched their futures after earning their baccalaureate degrees," according to the report.

Reports for other schools at the University showed even higher rates of employment, with undergraduate 2012 graduates in the Engineering School and the Commerce School employed at rates of 55.1 percent and 86 percent respectively.

Sarah Isham, director of Career Services for the College of Arts and Sciences, said the report's findings will be particularly valuable to current and prospective students, as well as faculty and peer institutions.

In addition to the 40 percent of respondents who had acquired

full-time employment or were self-employed after graduation, an additional 6 percent had accepted part-time employment. About 26 percent of respondents reported acceptance into graduate or professional schools, and 12 percent of respondents indicated other plans – including traveling, service work or fellowship. The remaining percentages said they were seeking employment or admission to graduate or professional schools.

Education, consulting services, legal services, scientific research and healthcare services topped the list of occupational fields among respondents. Most respondents remained in the United States after graduation, with only 7 percent reporting international employment.

Respondents' average starting salary was \$41,058, with a median of \$38,000. The report contained an additional breakdown of salary distributions, with computer science and consulting services industries reporting the highest post-graduation salaries among

respondents.

The pilot study began in March 2012, when 2,428 undergraduate students from the College were identified as eligible for graduation in May 2012. Researchers used web-based surveys to reach out to students to encourage them to participate in the survey in late April, in addition to per-

lowing graduation, the Center for Survey Research closed the 2012 survey and compiled the data.

About 47 percent, or 1,142 students, of the 2,428 May 2012 graduates responded to the survey after the spring and fall response requests. The University Career Services office has already begun collecting data on the 2013 graduating class, Isham said. She said the group hopes to release the data in early 2014.

"It's definitely something that we were thankful to do and we hope that we have the resources to continue it," she said.

Both Engineering and Commerce 2012 graduates reported average starting salaries higher than \$60,000 in the reports.

In the Engineering School, the average starting salary of those surveyed was \$67,701 and a median salary of \$65,000. They were most likely to take jobs in consulting, computer hardware/software design or development and engineering service.

"Generally speaking, our stu-

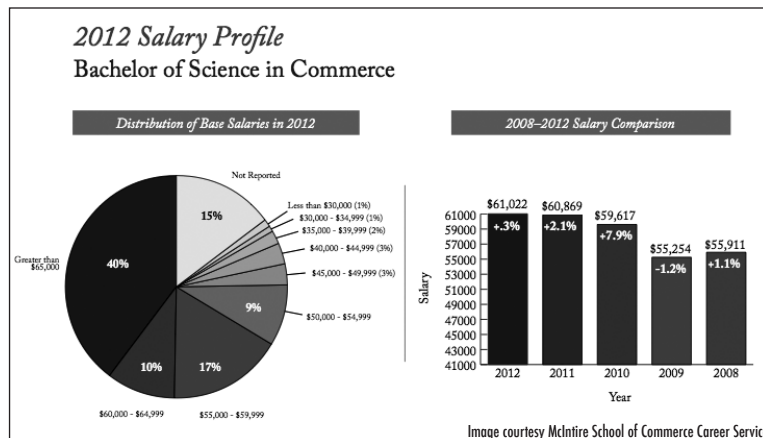
dents, when they graduate, have lots of options," Engineering School Associate Dean Edward Berger said. "Some of them will go to grad school, some of them will go to medical school, some of them will go to Teach for America — that's one of the things that we are really pleased about with our undergraduate program is that when students graduate they have lots of opportunities and there are no doors closed to them."

Commerce School graduates have an average base salary of \$61,022 and a median base salary of \$60,000, according to the survey.

Jobs for Commerce graduates were most often in the fields of investment banking, consulting – not with accounting firms – and diversified financial services.

Commerce School Dean Carl Zeithaml said that the high employment rate is due to the high level of interest recruiters have in Commerce students.

"We attract new recruiters each year and we have very loyal and very engaged recruiters," Zeithaml said. "I think one of the things that they like about [the students] is that they are students who have taken two years in the college and many of them have a minor in the college or a major. You add to that a world-class business education and that makes the students extremely attractive to the recruiters."



odic follow-up emails.

"We survey students in the spring when they are here, and based upon those classes that are going to be included in the report, we follow up with respondents," Isham said. "The survey is voluntary on the part of each fourth year in the College."

After sending follow-up emails to non-respondents and students who were still seeking employment in the winter fol-

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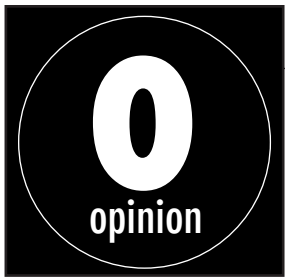


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Comment of the day

“Resist the temptation to prepare for your career”... So I can pay \$40,000 per year to read books and learn languages I could easily do on my own? I’m all for being well-rounded, but there’s a way to do it without spending that much money.”

“TonyXL” responding to Russell Bogue’s Aug. 22 column, “An open letter to the Class of 2017”

Have an opinion?
Write it down.

Join the Opinion section.

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LEAD EDITORIAL

Rethinking a historic space

We commend the University for extending student use of the Rotunda

The Rotunda should not seem forbidding, least of all to University students. For years, the Rotunda’s second-floor glass doors were sealed shut. The doors struck most students on Grounds as ornamental, not functional. Until University officials opened the building’s second-floor entrance in March, students trying to enter the Rotunda had to walk down to the building’s lower doorway and then make their way up through spiraling stairs.

Though the Rotunda is a paragon of Enlightenment architecture, it is also a living building. It hosts offices and meetings. Streams of tourists amble through nearly every day.

But some students, especially first years, view the Rotunda as off-limits. This attitude comes partially from the building’s status as an architectural marvel. Entering the Rotunda can feel like entering a church — which, given Jefferson’s decidedly secular intentions for the University, is irony of a severe flavor. We can also attribute students’ hesitation about entering the Rotunda for casual purposes to the fact that the building hosts some high-powered meetings, the Board of Visitors’ sessions being one example. Wandering around the Rotunda looking for a place to study can make one feel as if one risks intruding on something important. Finally, students have been uneasy about studying in the Academical Village’s centerpiece because doing so is not ingrained into the habits and patterns of mainstream University student

life.

It is this last trend that Rotunda officials hope to change. Rotunda Operations Manager Christine Wells recently announced that the building would extend its study hours. Students may now swipe in to study between 5 and 10 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday. The Rotunda remains open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The new Rotunda programming schedule has also allotted more time slots for classes in the Lower West Oval Room and has reserved the Dome Room for first-year dorm dinners on Wednesday nights.

These changes may seem minor, but they mark a forceful symbolic point. This gesture is a particularly positive way to welcome first-year students — some of whom are unsure which spaces are “allowed” — into the University’s symbolic and architectural center. By reserving Sunday through Tuesday evenings specifically for students, University officials have indicated in clear terms that they wish students to take advantage of the school’s most iconic space.

Students should treat this privilege responsibly by following stated guidelines, such as not bringing food into the Rotunda. They should also take advantage of this marvelous opportunity—to work and learn in one of the world’s most stunning buildings. We commend the Rotunda staff for promoting students’ interests and making a historic structure a place for learning, discussion and study — much as Jefferson envisioned.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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Putting off fun

Instead of focusing only on big goals, students at the University should embrace unexpected opportunities that arise

By Fariha Kabir
Opinion Columnist

College students have made an art form of procrastination. Whether it's writing a 20-page paper the night before it's due or cramming for finals, saving things until the last minute is part of student life. As I begin my fourth year, I realize I too have procrastinated on a number of things. There are so many great restaurants in Charlottesville and I have only tried a handful. Academically, I've been putting off taking an art history class or trying to learn Chinese. Nearly every time an interesting opportunity came up, I generally pushed it aside because it was not relevant for the specific future goal I had in mind. I was very focused on achieving certain academic credentials that I let other opportunities slip by. But, now as a fourth year reflecting on my tenure at the University so far, I realize that by constantly pushing things back se-

mester after semester, I have yet to try or do many things that I had originally wanted to.

There is, of course, so much more to college than academics, but viewing college with a one-track mind limits the experience regardless of the specific nature of your goal. Such an approach prevents the opportunity to grab things as they come. These opportunities can take many forms. They can be classes that are completely irrelevant for your future goals or ambitions, but still strike your interest. They can be partaking in U.Va. traditions like the lighting of the Lawn. They can also be hiking Humpback Rock. While spending four years at U.Va., it is important to expose

yourself to the wide range of experiences available, and to do so as opportunities arise.

// *Nearly every time an interesting opportunity came up, I generally pushed it aside because it was not relevant for the specific future goal I had in mind.*

The University has a long list of traditions, and partaking in these traditions or better experiencing the Charlottesville area enhances the four years spent at U.Va. Participation in these activities can help a person grow by exposing them to different ideas and environments. More importantly, it makes college an academic, social and cultural experience, which is

important in helping an individual better understand themselves and the world around them. College is the last cushion before the "real world"; therefore, having a more rich college experience can be important in preparing students for the challenges they face after graduation.

Additionally, partaking in these opportunities can allow to you to meet more people, and form connections. Granted, trying different restaurants will not help you form connections, but going to different events will. For example, the Lighting of the Lawn is a chance to interact with more students and perhaps even expand your network of people. Doing research will expose you to different professors and contacts who may be able to help you find the job or opportunity you are looking for, but did not know existed. In many respects, these opportunities are the first step in the "real world."

However, you can only make

the contacts or have an enriching college experience if you grasp opportunities as they are offered. If you wait, those opportunities may not come again. For example, I thought learning Chinese would be very interesting, but I waited too long. The key is to have a wide vision of what you want to accomplish at the University in your four years.

Four years is really not a long time. In order to ensure that I leave with no regrets, I have made a bucket list of things to do before graduating. While I put off doing many things in favor of my goals, I intend to make the last year count. Instead of saying you will do something next semester, make it next weekend. The University and Charlottesville have much to offer—take the time to see it in all its glory before graduating.

Fariha Kabir is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily.

Netting a good-bye

Tennis player James Blake's retirement deserves more recognition

By Alex Yahanda
Senior Associate Editor

I try to refrain from writing about sports for opinion pieces, but I had to make an exception in this instance. As some tennis fans know, it has become a tradition for American tennis players to retire following the U.S. Open. Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick, among others, played their final matches in similar fashion. On Monday, James Blake announced that he would be retiring after the year's final major. Blake's announcement comes after a period of several years in which his ranking has continuously dropped.

Even if you are a tennis enthusiast, you may not yet be aware of this development. Or, if you are, maybe you just do not care. Blake has not been a relevant competitor for years, and he never enjoyed the same stardom as many of his contemporaries. Even with American tennis at a low point, Blake has faded into obscurity. He is currently ranked 100th in the world and has not won a tournament since 2007. Yet it would be a shame for his retirement to go unnoticed

simply because his on-court accomplishments were considered lacking. Indeed, Blake's retirement should be highly publicized, as his story can provide a refreshing departure from current sporting news.

Recent sports coverage has been overwhelmingly negative, sometimes enough to make even the most cheerful person cynical. Every level of athletics, it appears, is looking to blame someone for something. Former football players are blaming the NFL for inadequate protection against concussions, the NCAA is blaming players for illegally receiving benefits, Major League Baseball is blaming a group of players for lying about steroid use, and a grand jury is blaming NFL player Aaron Hernandez for first-degree murder. Those are just some examples of front-page sporting news. Blake's retirement will probably not garner as much attention. It should, though, for his willingness to never blame anything, even though he had the right to.

Blake's career is the epitome of overcoming hardship and serving as a symbol of perseverance. His

path to tennis success was an untraditional one. As a child, he had severe scoliosis and was forced to wear a back brace. He was not the product of an exclusive tennis academy, and chose to play college tennis—a rarity for future

// *It would be hard for any sports fan — not simply tennis fans — to find an athlete with more class.*

professional players. After excelling in college and breaking into the professional tour, Blake was met with debilitating injuries. He broke several vertebrae after slipping and slamming his head into a netpost. Then, he developed a case of shingles so bad that it paralyzed his face and negatively affected his vision. Nevertheless, Blake returned from those setbacks and ultimately rose as high as number-four in the world. But,

for his few years of high-class tennis, he was never able to compete with the likes of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. And though it would be easy, Blake never blamed any previous misfortune. It would be hard for any sports fan—not simply tennis fans—to find an athlete with more class.

For those who know Blake's story, it is frustrating that his retirement will likely not garner the sweeping coverage as, say, Sampras'. From one standpoint, it makes sense that outstanding athletes receive more widespread celebration when they retire. Their absences, after all, will impact their sports more strongly, and many dominating athletes have managed to become cultural icons. Brett Favre and Michael Jordan's many retirements, for instance, were front-page news stories because those athletes were among the all-time best at their respective professions. Likewise, Mariano Rivera—the New York Yankees' legendary pitcher—has seen his final season in baseball become a celebrity tour because he is considered to be the greatest closer in baseball history. From another perspective,

though, we should wonder why we do not always immortalize athletes with great character like we do those with impressive skills. Sure, better players may be more enjoyable to watch on the field or court. But for athletes sports are a job, not who they are. Character, then, should be more widely appreciated in today's sporting culture, especially when considering how many exceptional athletes have been of questionable morals. Blake's integrity and class deserve at least as much recognition as any athletic milestone achieved by Barry Bonds, Lance Armstrong or Tiger Woods and perhaps more.

Sadly, some lesser sports figures who have overcome tremendous adversity or who have proven to be especially positive forces outside of sports are never given the farewell they deserve. Blake deserves as much publicity as any Heisman Trophy winner or NBA Finals MVP, because he is a rare combination of skill and poise that transcends his athletic skill.

Alex Yahanda is a senior associate editor for The Cavalier Daily.

No end in sight

Incoming, returning students must remain attentive to the challenge's facing the University's honor system

By Forrest Brown
Opinion Columnist

Anyone who was on Grounds last year remembers the drama surrounding the Honor Committee's "Restore the Ideal" proposal. For those who weren't, it all started when the Committee decided to take action to combat issues facing the honor system at the University.

Their proposal had two parts: the first, informed retraction, would allow students to admit their guilt when they learned they were being investigated for an honor offense and receive a year's suspension instead of expulsion, while the second would change the pool of eligible jurors for trials from the student body at large to just members of the Committee.

These changes were intended to combat two issues the Committee saw as consistently troublesome: that students who were open about their offenses in a trial were systematically expelled

while those who lied were able to manipulate juries into a not-guilty verdict. As the proposal awaited a vote from the student body, debate about these proposals became heated. Many members of the student body, including myself, had issues with the proposed changes. I felt jury reform went too far in completely eliminating the average student from the process, and that informed retraction was less accessible to low-income and international students. Both sides spent lots of time campaigning, writing articles and speaking to various groups about their opinions, and unfortunately the dialogue often became less than civil. Eventually a petition put informed retraction on the ballot separately from jury reform. When the votes came in,

about 60 percent of the student body had voted against the joint proposal and slightly more approved of informed retraction alone.



Honor at the University embodies many of our Jeffersonian ideals.

That is the current situation: all that changed in honor last year was the addition of informed retraction. Unfortunately, that does not do enough on its own to combat the serious faculty and student accountability issues facing honor, and some form of jury reform is still needed. I have no doubt that the Committee is talking about ways to either put another proposal on the table or to encourage students to put something forward themselves. And we, as a student

body, have to meet that challenge.

There are a multitude of options for jury reform that address both the concerns of the committee as well as those of the student body. A mixed jury composed of both Honor Committee members as well as normal students is already an option available to accused students, and could be made the standard practice. I also suggested in an article last year an opt-in jury system, where students could sign up to be part of the jury pool early in the semester and undergo more rigorous training both then and before the trial they adjudicate. I'm sure there are more ideas among members of the student body that could be effective, or at least provide some inspiration to put another, more balanced and effective proposal on the table.

Honor at the University embodies many of our Jeffersonian ideals. We talk all the time about how important honor is as a component of our school identity, and many take pride in how that sepa-

rates us from other schools. But for that pride to be justified and that talk to be useful, we need to actually engage in debates on what can be changed and improved in the system to ensure it works, and doesn't become an outdated relic that is eventually discarded. I know that the Committee and those involved in the system will do that, but their work is only useful if it is part of a larger dialogue within the whole University. As we saw last year, their views do not always coincide directly with the student body's, but there is no way for them to know that if we don't make our voices heard. So please, talk to your friends, talk to your honor representative, and talk to your professors, and see what you can do to be an active part of the community of trust here at the University. The future of that community is in our hands.

Forrest Brown is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily.

A life half full

Optimism does not equal naivete

By Ashley Spinks
Opinion Columnist

Expectation is the root of all heartache. These oft-quoted cautionary words, while they may be cliché, are not inaccurate. When you attach expectations to a person, an experience, or an event, you are mentally creating demands that may or may not be fulfilled. Even if the experience overall is positive and rewarding, it may not match your personal vision. It may be different than you hoped it would be. People of all kinds know this experience well. But when you're an optimist, you don't have mere expectations—you have high expectations. You have dreams. And far from the bitter taste of disappointment or the small twinge of resentment that most may feel when they are let down, optimists will feel so much more. Rather than heartache, we will feel heartbreak.

I say "we" because I see myself as an optimist; or at the very least, the optimist's cousin, an idealist.

And it is hard work to remain optimistic in today's world, which is so colored by cynicism, greed, selfishness and cruelty. Whether you feel discouraged by corrupt politicians or simply hurt that the cute boy from your discussion section didn't say hi today (yet again) being an optimist can often feel like receiving a constant stream of slaps in the face from the universe. The worst part is that optimists do it all with a smile on their faces, confident that the next day will be better than the last, despite the plethora of evidence to the contrary. To remain hopeful in the face of adversity is not as easy as we make it look—it is very, very difficult.

Another trial of being an optimist is being constantly mistaken for naive. Toeing the line between optimism and naivete is a delicate process. Some would call it an art. Is expecting the best when the world has taught you to pre-

pare for the worst optimistic or is it pitiable? When you tell me that something great has happened and my default inclination is to believe



Sometimes, being an optimist just requires viewing a situation from a new angle.

you, does that make me charmingly sanguine or gullible? Here's a real-world example to try to demonstrate the difference: If you take an incredibly difficult test and hope for a B instead of a C, that's optimism. If you tell yourself that there will "definitely be a curve," so that your 65 percent will magically become an A, that is naivete.

Perhaps it would be easier to be a pessimist. Maybe we optimists should lower our expectations. Adjusting my attitude to mirror one

of a pessimist would make life a lot more bearable, especially if current predictions about the unemployment rate of my generation are reliable. Everything from the job application process to dating to co-existing with colleagues would be simplified if I abandoned my optimism. Didn't get the job I wanted? That's okay, I wasn't expecting to. A guy rejected my dinner invitation? No big deal, it was more likely he would say "no" than "yes" anyway. That jerk at my office didn't do her share of the work, and I would have to stay late? People are sure to disappoint you. I shouldn't expect her to come through.

Sure, life as a pessimist would be devoid of a lot of disappointment. But would I be willing to sacrifice the rollercoaster ride that is existence just because the sudden drops gave me a stomach ache? Is a life without passionate, idealistic, slightly stupid faith (even if it means avoiding the heartwrenching let-downs as well) worth living at all?

I think being an optimist is

worth it. Because when people do live up to their inherent goodness or experiences are as thrilling as you've imagined, nothing makes you feel more validated or alive. Sometimes, being an optimist just requires viewing a situation from a new angle. For instance: yes, technology is permeating our lives and arguably making us less articulate or less able to form meaningful bonds with other humans. But the proliferation of amazing technology and science also means that we know more about the world than anyone has ever known. People are able to be more productive, live healthier lives and create beautiful art and tools. The world is amazing; expect it to be, and while you may occasionally be disappointed, laughed at, or doubted, you will also be happier than those who don't allow themselves to dream. You'll have a wish to make up to in the morning.

Ashley Spinks is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily.

Bring back the literacy test

A mandatory voter literacy test would improve civic community, improve the political system

By Russell Bogue
Opinion Columnist

Many politically inclined writers these days—your columnist included—have bemoaned the dearth of political participation in the United States, citing depressingly low voter turnout rates and a demonstrated lack of interest in political issues that touch on virtually every member of society. From elections as local as who will be on our Honor Committee to those as national as the presidential race, the pattern is familiar: a small minority of citizens are actively engaged, and the rest look on with apathy at best, hostility at worst. Many Americans today pin their frustrations on Congress when part of the problem is an electorate too lazy or preoccupied to engage each other in substantive political conversation. But today I want to discuss an issue I mentioned only in passing when I last wrote about voter participation, in my March 6 article “Tip the vote over”: ignorant voting. Voting without knowing fully who or what you’re voting for. In that spirit, I want to propose that the U.S. institute a form of nationwide literacy test for federal elections.

Now, literacy tests have a shady history. In the past, such tests were widely used in the south to disenfranchise black voters, using the pretense of encouraging enlightened voting to keep an unpopular minority from expressing a political voice. The tests were often administered by white males who had sole discretion over who passed and who didn’t, and the questions were tailored for each voter. White voters might receive questions concerning the identity of the first American president, while black voters were required to name all county judges in the state. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 officially banned using literary tests—and similar qualifiers—to discriminate between voters on the basis of race or color, and rightfully so. Any test that doesn’t apply equally to all races is a farce. But the misuse of the literacy test in the past should not taint the concept in general. Applied properly, requiring voters to demonstrate knowledge of the candidates and issues—and perhaps United States history as well—could significantly improve the quality of our democracy.

Before we can talk about just how we can “properly apply” a literacy test—and I should admit at the

outset that I certainly don’t have all the answers here—we should first determine whether such an idea is reasonable. Voting has long been conceived as both a right and a responsibility, something that can be deprived of an individual if he or she proves incapable of acting as a member of society. We require immigrants to pass a literacy test in order to become U.S. citizens, and we deprive certain criminals of their right to vote. In *Lassiter v. Northampton County Board of Elections* (1959), the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of requiring all citizens to pass a literacy test before voting, provided that the tests applied to all races equally. While there is a case to be made that citizens should have the absolute freedom to vote however they please, including ignorantly and against their own interests, there is a better case to be made that the marginal freedom given up by requiring literacy tests is more than compensated for by the public good that comes from fewer, better-educated voters.

What would such a test look like? I propose that it have the following characteristics. First, it should require voters to demonstrate at least a rudimentary

knowledge of the platforms of the candidates on the ballot. This could mean matching various fundamental policy positions—on social issues like immigration or economic issues like financial regulation—with the proper candidate. Second, the test should evaluate voters on basic economic knowledge. If taxes are raised or government spending cut, economic growth will likely slow; heavy government borrowing tends to crowd out private investment by raising interest rates; etc. Third, and finally, the test should cover basic American history, with an emphasis on the last 50 years, similar to the citizenship test.

Implementing such a test will pose significant challenges, but tackling them will prove fruitful for the American public. The government should freely provide the answers to all the questions online and via an informational brochure—the point of the test is not to assign grades, but to make sure that people know the basics of what they’re doing when they enter the polls. Similarly, voters should be able to take the test indefinitely until they pass. All competitors in the election should agree upon the content and phrasing of the ques-

tions before they are published, and experts should ensure that the content is indeed factual and not ideologically contentious. Collecting, evaluating and recording the results of the tests in order to qualify citizens for voting will inevitably require time and resources.

Despite these costs, the benefits of implementing literacy tests for federal elections—and eventually all elections—will be manifold. Politicians will be held accountable to a sharper, more discerning public. Prevalent misconceptions, which are allowed to proliferate during tightly contested elections, will be dispelled. Voters will be forced to better understand the ramifications of the policies they espouse, especially concerning the economic future of the country. And, perhaps more importantly, the concept of voting as a duty and a responsibility that must be earned will be brought back into focus. It takes work to be a member of a democracy, and too often we forget that simple truth. If we force ourselves to do that work, our communities will be better for it.

Russell Bogue is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily.

A slap on the wrist

The U.S. response to chemical weapon attacks in Syria will not end the war any faster

By Walter Keady
Opinion Columnist

In a speech about the Syrian civil war, Secretary of State John Kerry said that the use of chemical weapons against civilians by the Bashar al-Assad regime is now “undeniable.” The Obama administration has begun “weighing a military strike” in the country. It appears that this strike will consist of firing cruise missiles from the Mediterranean at suspected chemical weapons laboratories within Syria.

The thought of an intervention by the West against the Assad government may conjure up thoughts of a swift defeat of the dictator, similar to the situation in Libya. The conflict in Syria, however, demands a more nuanced assessment. Even if one assumes an external military response provoked by a chemical-weapons attack will help the Syrian rebels, it is not a strategic move for changing the conflict in favor of the rebels and ending the war.

In a column this past March, I

stressed the importance of the United States remaining uninvolved in the conflict, excluding the instance of a verified chemical attack. My viewpoint stemmed from the thought that a military intervention would only amplify the troubling violence of the conflict, as opposed to solving it.

Evidence for chemical attacks, however, has surfaced. Videos of victims on social media websites, interviews with Syrian doctors and the fact that the Syrian government suspiciously delayed a U.N. investigation of an alleged chemical weapons site, and then shelled it before investigators were allowed in, is unquestionably worrying. It seems, at least in the eyes of the American government, the time for action has come. The scope of this action, however, will not be enough to change the situation on the ground. Any hopes that the United States’ response to chemical weapon attacks will help put an end to the more troubling problem—the conflict itself—should be reconsidered.

First, the proposed use of cruise missiles would not adequately de-

stroy all of the Syrian government’s stockpiles of chemical weapons. One expert from the Center for Strategic and International Studies claimed “even the most successful cruise missile strikes would not destroy Syria’s holdings,” and that the only “credible” option for destroying these weapons would be through “a massive air campaign” with “presence on the ground.” Both of these options, at least in the meantime, are not being discussed. Without them, it seems the military action against the Assad regime will largely be for show, rather than defeat.

The Obama administration’s plan surrounding the use of cruise missiles is more indicative of the United States’ (as well as many other nations’) moral standpoint on the use of chemical weapons than of its willingness to help the fractured rebel forces. In fact, these missile strikes could serve to draw more combatants into the fight. An American military demonstration may serve to delegitimize the rebellion as being aided by foreign meddlers in the eyes of anti-American moderates, whose opinions may

harden following this kind of action.

The second reason is that the U.S. destruction of chemical weapons will not bring about the end of fighting is that whether or not these weapons are in use, the conflict in Syria is still extremely bloody. Targeting chemical weapons caches only removes the most horrifying weapons from the fight. With an estimated 120,000 dead and more than 200,000 injured before the chemical attacks surfaced, these precisely targeted strikes would not substantively diminish the conflict’s potential for violence.

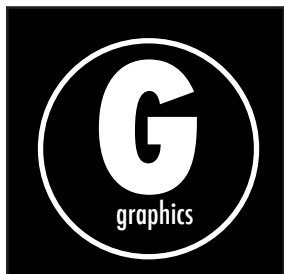
What’s more, the use of chemical weapons, by nature, has escalated the scale of the violence in the war. Thus we may see fighting increase in frequency and brutality as a means of justification by those affected by these weapons, regardless of whether or not the weapons are destroyed.

The final reason the United States’ proposed plan will not put the civil war on a track for conclusion is that there is no internationally favored figure for Assad’s replacement. The political crisis resulting from Assad’s

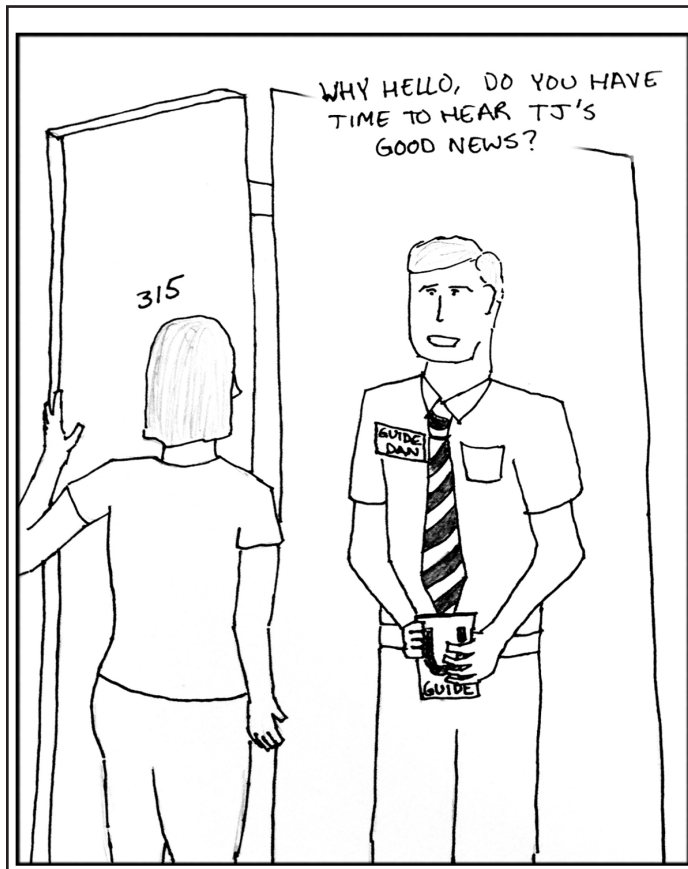
military removal at the time being could plunge Syria into more violence, as competition for power would emerge. Fearing this consequence, other nations that are siding with the rebels will refuse to intervene forcefully enough to alter the current stalemate until such a leader emerges, if at all. In this light, it is clear that the United States’ response will be less about aiding rebel forces toward victory, and more about reprimanding the Assad regime.

I do not mean for these reasons to come off as cynical. While the chances of the violence in Syria being brought to an end with a solution fair to all Syrians seem distant, they are not gone. Perhaps a retaliation to chemical-weapons use on the part of the U.S. will not end the war, but it may put it in a new context: one rooted in a refusal to allow the use of some of the most heinous weapons. At the very least, this is something to hope for.

Walter Keady is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily.



MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN

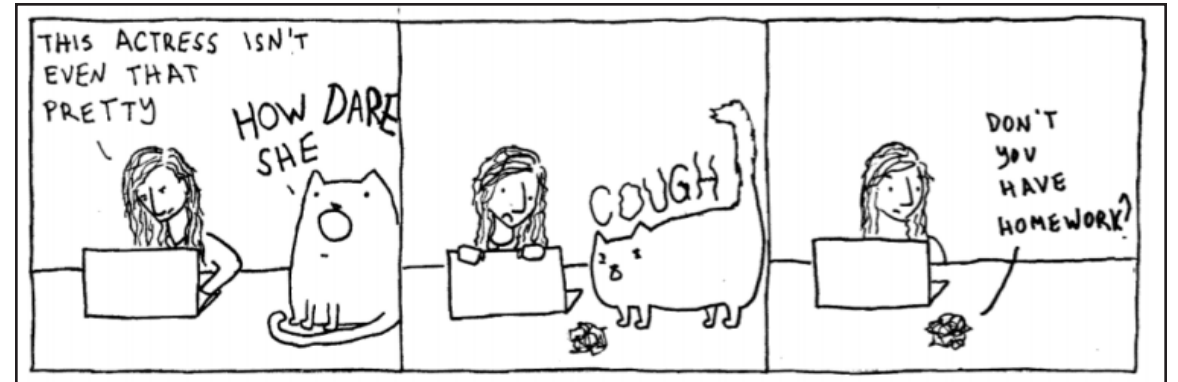


First-year solicitors

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



NO PUN INTENDED BY CHARLOTTE RASKOVICH



SOLE SURVIVOR BY MICHAEL GILBERTSON



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0725

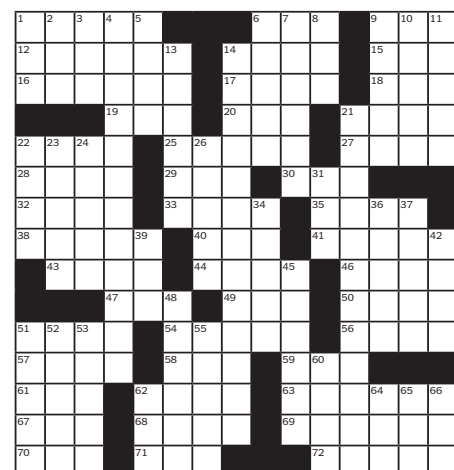
- ACROSS**
- 1 One of the three dimensions
 - 6 Pro bono promo, for short
 - 9 It may have many jets
 - 12 Tight squeeze
 - 14 Pirate portrayer of film
 - 15 Keyboard key
 - 16 "I was wrong ... big whoop"
 - 17 Abbr. accompanying O
 - 18 "___ luck?"
 - 19 Pound, as potatoes
 - 20 Milk, in a way
 - 21 Nasties
 - 22 Captain von ___ (musical role)
 - 25 Overzealous
 - 27 Some arm exercises
 - 28 Something requiring little study
 - 29 Sick
 - 30 Mind
 - 32 Mary of early Hollywood
 - 33 Says, informally
 - 35 Garden spot
 - 38 Wetlands birds
 - 40 "V" vehicle
 - 41 Grab suddenly
 - 43 Broadway's "Me ___ Girl"
 - 44 Burrows, e.g.
 - 46 Grab suddenly
 - 47 Note
 - 49 Carpenter ___
 - 50 Annual literary award
 - 51 ___ Carpenter
 - 54 Horny devil
 - 56 Psychoactive drug used in medicine
 - 57 Insurance worker
 - 58 Mainframe brain, for short
 - 59 Nabisco offering
 - 61 Cooking spray
 - 62 Diane of "Numb3rs"
 - 63 Perk for a pool party?
 - 67 Dangerous sprayer
 - 68 Soft cheese
 - 69 Outstanding
 - 70 Cowboy moniker
 - 71 Chain part: Abbr.
 - 72 Some close-ups

DOWN

- 1 Scale abbr.
- 2 Classified intis.
- 3 2012 rap Grammy nominee for "Life Is Good"
- 4 14-Down starring Jack Lemmon
- 5 Keeps one's mouth shut?
- 6 Beverage introduced as Brad's Drink
- 7 Maker of the LZR Racer suit
- 8 Loan letters
- 9 Football Hall-of-Famer Bart
- 10 Comic part
- 11 Bottomless pit
- 13 Triple Crown winner of 1934
- 14 Drive-in theater draw ... with a literal hint to 4- and 21-Down
- 21 14-Down starring Frank Sinatra
- 22 Brewed beverages
- 23 Bob Marley, e.g.
- 24 Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
- 26 Viva voce
- 31 A.L. East team, on scoreboards
- 34 Little fella

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

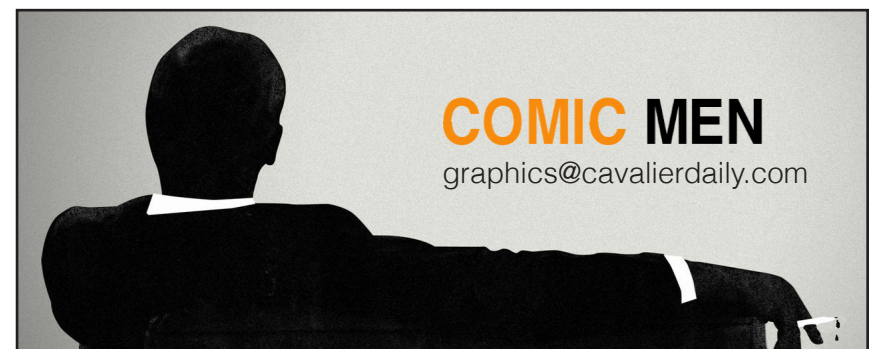
FIB ATTN EMPLOY
IDI TARO SALINE
NEZ IRIS PLANET
DAKOTAFANNING
SLIM LIIL CUKE
STEPHENHAWKING
GEE TIVO SEA
PALATAL LIMITED
EVA ERIC EEL
ROBERTBROWNING
KNOX BAR ACUE
HENRYFIELDING
STEREO TOME SSR
IAMTOO ELMO LIE
DOESNT DEAN ATT



PUZZLE BY PATRICK BLINDAUER

- 36 "Let's give ___"
- 37 Get rid of
- 39 Prefix with pathetic
- 42 Juno, to the Greeks
- 45 Brew whose name is an article of clothing when read backward
- 48 Star-studded show, with "the"
- 51 Utterly dead
- 52 Goggling
- 53 Dance version of a record, often
- 55 You may be fooled at its beginning
- 60 ___ de boeuf
- 62 Org. whose motto is "Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity"
- 64 Brewed beverage
- 65 Music writer Hentoff
- 66 R.N.'s are in them

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COMIC MEN

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FALL RECRUITMENT 2013



Information Session | Newcomb Theater | Sunday, September 1 at 4 p.m.

Open House | The Cavalier Daily Office

September 1 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

September 4 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.



Locked on Lock'n

By Will Mullany
Arts and Entertainment Associate Editor

Looking to get a little taste of the music festival experience, but missed out the big names like Bonnaroo, Coachella and Lollapalooza? Don't fret. The Charlottesville area will play host to its own smaller festivals this fall which promise to offer stellar music and local food.

The first such festival is Lock'n, which will be hosted at Oak Ridge farm just 35 miles south of Charlottesville Sept. 5 - 8. Formerly called the "Interlocken" festival, the sets at the main stage will be uniquely structured. Each will transition seamlessly to the next, making for a continuous and unbroken musical experience during the weekend.

Lock'n will feature jam band veterans like the String Cheese Incident, Gov't Mule, Warren Haynes and Widespread Panic, Reggae legend Jimmy Cliff, as well as New Orleans funk outfits the Dirty Dozen Brass Band and the Soul Rebels Brass Band. Additionally, roots rock greats like the Black Crowes and Grace Potter will make appearances throughout the weekend. While the lineup is shorter than those at more established festivals, Lock'n emphasizes quality over quantity — promising longer sets and multiple performances from single artists throughout the weekend.

Student tickets are \$180 for the entire weekend, and \$59 for individual days. Convenient daily shuttles will run from both Fashion Square and the Downtown Mall to the festival, making it an attractive venue for students wishing to dip their toes in the vibrant Virginia festival scene.



If you can't make it to Lock'n, however, The Festy Experience is another great festival happening not far from Charlottesville later this fall. Running Oct. 11-13 in Nelson County, the festival will be curated by legendary bluegrass fusion band The Infamous Stringdusters, and will feature Virginia festival frequenters Railroad Earth and JJ Grey. As founders, the Stringdusters say that the "experience" of the festival is crucial and they work to bring in the best local art, music and food. This includes the on-site restaurant and brewery at Devils Backbone Brewery Company and many other micro-breweries from the local area.

In contrast with other more intense festivals, The Festy seeks to provide festival-goers with a variety of quaint outdoor lodging options, making the festival ideal for patrons of all ages. Camping passes for the weekend begin at \$150, but single day tickets are also being sold for \$39.

It's true that big name festivals offer a wider selection of nationally renowned artists, but don't count these festivals out just because you don't recognize most of the performers. The atmosphere at smaller festivals is unparalleled, and because of their reduced size, they give festival-goers a more intimate experience with music and the local arts scene.

'Newsroom'stillsnoozefest

HBO drama's second season continues to disappoint with preachy punchlines, mediocre characters, undeveloped relationships

By Ryan Taylor
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The words “pompous” and “pretentious” are bound to come up in any discussion of Aaron Sorkin, given the award-winning writer’s propensity for stuffing his characters’ mouths with the sort of pseudo-intellectual babble you might expect to hear in a high school politics classroom. That said, virtually every project to bear the Sorkin brand name has met with some level of success, whether through a cult following, as was the case with the short-lived “Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip,” or a full-blown mega-fanbase, as we have seen with films like “Moneyball” and “The Social Network.” One exception to this rule, however, arrived last year in the form of HBO’s highly anticipated “The Newsroom,” which seemed predestined to serve as this generation’s “West Wing,” a critical smash that would breed more popular quotes than “The Godfather.”

Season one of “The Newsroom” generally underwhelmed critics and audiences alike, as many justifiably took the show’s script to task for its “holier than thou” attitude and one-dimensional or otherwise dull characters. Season two, which began this past summer, promises to continue the show’s streak of mediocrity, albeit with fleeting moments of insight and charm.

“The Newsroom” hones in on the professional and personal lives of anchor Will McAvoy (Jeff Daniels) and his colleagues at the fictional Atlantic Cable News channel’s “News Night,” a nightly news show with delusions of grandeur. Will, a good old-fashioned “funnyman” who sees himself as “speaking truth to power,” struggles to balance his lofty aspirations with his tumultuous off-camera relationships. Meanwhile, the other members of the news team do their best to manage their own dull affairs and to come across as anything deeper than what they truly are: cardboard cutouts and ripoffs of ensemble members from smarter shows.

This season, as Will and his faithful executive producer (Emily Mortimer, in top form) seek to expose a political scandal and then cope with the fallout, John Gallagher Jr.’s hopelessly misogynistic and obnoxious Jim Harper steals a ride on the Romney campaign bus, presumably for the purpose of allowing Sorkin and his team of writers to lambast the defeated candidate. Other over-the-top subplots attempt to tackle African politics, drone strikes and the Occupy Wall Street movement. Most end in preachy and simplistic lessons fit for an “After School Special” or a Michael Moore documentary.

In one particularly grating sequence, Will

confronts an Occupy-touting teacher outside of her classroom after grilling her on live television. As the two figures exchange brief and forgettable lectures about the merits of the movement, Will comes to acknowledge his own boorish tendencies, and he ultimately asks to audit the young woman’s class, presumably demonstrating to us that even wise old men still have a lot to learn. Without the shallow dialogue, the peculiar romantic overtones and the on-the-nose symbolism of the classroom setting, a scene like this could have brought nuance and vulnerability to Will’s character. As it were, however, this moment, like so many others, concludes on a note of shattered potential.

The central problem with “The Newsroom” is that it tries too hard. Rather than take on a typical newsroom setting, the show insists that “News Night with Will McAvoy” belongs to a league of its own, transcending the schlock that allegedly dominates the world of broadcast news today. Even as the “News Night” team mis-edits audio footage, delivers panels that the producers admit to be biased and offers fairly ordinary coverage of major events, the show’s smug ‘heroes’ and ‘heroines’ become all the more self-satisfied and convinced that their unexceptional program somehow deserves a pedestal.

Arguably, viewers could conceive the show as an epic tragedy in which its central characters rise to the top, in their minds, only to eventually recognize that they amount to nothing more than any other news team and that they offer no more truth or courage than the next crew. Unfortunately, at least to this point, neither Will nor his staff has come close to this realization, and so a tragic reading seems premature. On the other hand, interpreting the show as a silly soap that simply employs newsroom politics as a background for dramatic affairs and feuds also proves problematic, since few, if any, of the relationships on display offer intrigue or excitement.

A television program need not be intellectually astute or provocative in order to make for a pleasant viewing experience — I enjoy MTV’s “Teen Wolf” as much as anyone. That said, in order to hit its stride, a show must find a cohesive identity and, more importantly, it must deliver, regardless of how shallow its goals may seem.

Unfortunately, “The Newsroom” lacks the political savvy of Netflix’s “House of Cards,” the soapy drama of USA’s “Political Animals,” and the narrative intensity of Sorkin’s pride and joy, “The West Wing.” Jeff Daniels and the other cast members do their best to elevate the material, but HBO’s news night spectacle falls flat, yet again.



Photo courtesy of film-social.com

Photo courtesy of huffingtonpost.com

A new kind of jailhouse rock

By Ryan Taylor
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Everyone is talking about “Orange Is the New Black,” the Netflix original series released in mid-July and based on a memoir of the same name. Taylor Schilling, familiar from her recent role in the Nicolas Sparks adaptation “The Lucky One” plays Piper Chapman, the doe-eyed blond girl no one expected would end up in jail. In the pilot episode, we meet Piper as she prepares to serve her time in jail for carrying drug money.

Though our hearts break when Piper must say goodbye to her fiancé Larry (Jason Biggs), our concerns quickly shift to Piper herself as she suffers the initial trials associated with prison rivalry, judgment and violence. Even the most casual Netflix-viewer can be hooked by the roller coaster of emotions packed into every episode.

As the season — and Piper’s prison sentence — progresses, we learn more about her past. She is serving time in the same prison as the ex-leader of an international drug cartel, who also happens to be her ex-girlfriend Alex Vause (Laura Prepon, “That 70’s Show”) and the reason Piper was carrying the drug money in the first place. Alex’s presence causes friction both inside and outside the jail — as Piper initially hides the fact from Larry.

A defining quality of the show is that it explores narratives of fellow inmates, perhaps just as deftly as it ex-

plores Piper’s narrative. Each episode takes on a new inmate’s backstory in addition to Piper’s narrative. Creator Jenji Kohan, who also created Showtime’s “Weeds,” is a master at crafting dramatic scenes, employing frequent flashbacks to inmates’ pasts to highlight the provocative and deeply human circumstances that guided these women behind bars.

We get to know Sophia Burset (Laverne Cox), the prison’s hairdresser, a transgender woman in jail for credit card fraud. Through flashbacks, the audience learns she used stolen cards to pay for her medical bills and kept the fraud a secret from her son and wife, who are still struggling to accept her transition. Flashbacks also show us the humanity of Miss Claudette (Michelle Hurst), Piper’s roommate, who ran a cleaning service of young illegal immigrant girls, a service she herself worked for as a child.

The show also paints a poor picture of the Department of Corrections. The director of the “correctional center” is over-indulgent, driving a Mercedes while the GED program is closed for “budget reasons.” The correctional officers are self-involved and crude, purposefully ransacking living quarters on inspections, sexualizing inmates and constantly covering up their tracks. The few comparatively good officers are punished for being too weak or too emotionally-involved.

The show deserves credit not only for taking on the controversial policies of penitentiary systems at large, but also for its distinctive focus on a women’s prison. While public images of prison are stereotypically male,

a television show about the female experience is a bold move. The same issues of sex, race and violence pervade the female-driven narrative. At meals and in group activities there are clear racial groups, though most discussion of race in the show is playful. The show’s true drama come from the emotional turmoil between individuals — as the women come to terms with each other’s egos, sexualities and personal agendas.

Though Piper’s daily conflicts are intense, it is in her sexual and emotional identity that she struggles with the most. When she is forced to face her ex-girlfriend Alex, Piper must decide whether she blames Alex for her incarceration, still loves her or both — all while maintaining her strained relationship with Larry. She is forced to strike the balance between adjusting to her life in prison and working to sustain her life outside of prison for when she is released.

Though it might seem that way at first glance, the show isn’t about pitying Piper, but instead about telling a story about inherently flawed humans. Family and friends on the other side of the bars constantly try to assure her she is not meant to be in prison — that she is different from the riff-raff she’s spending time with.

“You aren’t like these people”

But these words prove only a source of more frustration.

“I’m not any different,” she counters.

But no one, neither inside nor outside of the jail, seems to believe it.

Maddening ‘Vineyard’ withers on the vine

By Ryan Taylor
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The old adage goes that television rots the brain, but I never believed this to be true until I flipped through the channels and came across ABC Family’s “The Vineyard.” After less than one episode, I could already feel my intelligence withering away as I sensed its contrived and shallow premise. If anything, the show portrays a beautiful and historic island as nothing more than an area filled with washed-up Barbie dolls.

As its title suggests, “The Vineyard” takes place on Martha’s Vineyard, a well-known island off the coast of Massachusetts. The show focuses on a handful of 20-somethings as they spend the summer working at The Black Dog, a popular restaurant and souvenir shop. The show is structured like a documentary but is clearly scripted. Like MTV’s “The Hills,” conflict originates from love triangles and compromised friendships, and at the center of the drama is Katie, a bleach-blond “girl next door.” She develops a relationship with her childhood friend Luis, but their relationship grows complicated when other members of The Black Dog house question her romantic involvement with another man.

Contrasting these summer “wash-a-shores,” are the

island’s natives, Ben and Cat. Unsure about their future on the vineyard, their relationship also becomes compromised when others arrive at The Black Dog. The cliché romantic entanglements would already drag the show down, but the unlikable characters and juvenile acting turn a sinking ship into a Titanic disaster.

It’s not surprising that ABC Family picked up “The Vineyard.” The network is known for airing shows focused on teen drama and relationships — enough to earn the label as the “teenage soap opera” channel. But even as shows like “Pretty Little Liars” and “Greek” gained a strong fan base from viewers, other programs like “The Secret Life of the American Teenager” faded out because of stale acting and thin storylines. There’s no question that “The Vineyard” will follow suit.

Though it may seem like an advertisement for Martha’s Vineyard and The Black Dog at first, it actually gives the island a bad name. Filled with cheesy lines, selfish characters and melodramatic “reality,” the show fails to highlight any of the elements that make Martha’s Vineyard special.

The farcical drama could be set almost anywhere, though thankfully it’s not — the only positive aspect of the show I can think of is the scenery. But while the location is visually appealing, the terrible acting, shallow characters and unrealistic script is overpowering.



Photo courtesy of abcfamily.go.com

Miley Cyrus 'Can't Stop'

By Katie Cole
Arts and Entertainment Associate Editor

Miley Cyrus has been a household name since "Hannah Montana" aired on Disney channel. But the girl who was once on the front of every eight-year-old's lunch-box in a blonde wig has, to put it gently, lost her charm.

When "Can't Be Tamed" came out in 2010, we realized that the little girl with the funky country accent had grown up. Watching her dance around a cage with feathers on in the music video was odd and provocative, but we saw her point. She was not a teenybopper anymore. In the wake of Cyrus' Video Music Awards performance, however, it has become clear that the late Hannah Montana has taken her newfound "adulthood" too far.

Cyrus is not the first Disney star to make this transition; she may be the first to make us wonder if she will star in an X-rated film in the near future. Demi Lovato and Selena Gomez have both transitioned from Disney pop stars to more seductive female artists. I admit I very much enjoyed Lovato's latest "Heart Attack" and Gomez's "Come and Get It" — despite being a generation removed from enjoying their Disney hits "Sonny with a Chance" and "Wizards of Waverly Place," respectively. Cyrus, on the other hand, has taken this trend too far.

Cyrus' performance highlights the now-famous transition from budding, youthful actress to scantily-clad fiancé — let's not forget she is in fact engaged to Liam Hemsworth. She begins her act by emerging from a larger-than-life robot teddy bear — who thinks of this stuff? — and then straddling the bear as she exits. She then slowly crawls down the stairs with her tongue sticking out. As if she hadn't made her point yet, she starts combing her invisible long hair, which she cut about a year ago to show that she was not the lovely long-locks teen who starred in the Nicholas Sparks movie "The Last Song."

If only she had "stopped" there. Cyrus' newest anthem "We Can't Stop" continued as she escalated from provocative dancing to uncomfortable hip movements. I could go on and on about the inappropriate motions Cyrus displayed throughout her VMA performance, but really I can sum it up by saying only Liam didn't want her to stop, especially when she ripped off her teddy-bear leotard to reveal a skimpy bikini.

Of course Cyrus is not the only artist to dance around in barely-there costumes. Lady Gaga is famous for it and few give her slack. Lady Gaga, however, has the chops to back it up. Gaga is an extremely skilled vocalist, instrumentalist and dancer. Cyrus, however, lacks the range and tact of a successful musician. The fact that she feels the need to call attention to herself through such a scandalous spectacle merely highlights her inadequacies as a performer. Here's hoping she is able to get her act together, have performances that don't make me want to cover my eyes and come out with music that sounds like she might have written it sober.



Photo courtesy of celebsvenue.in



Photo courtesy of ontheradio.net

'Spectacular' coming-of-age story soars

Few movies have the ability to be both charming and grittily realistic, but August's limited release indie flick "The Spectacular Now" pulls off this feat masterfully. Directed by James Ponsoldt and written by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber of "(500) Days of Summer," this adaptation of Tim Tharp's coming-of-age novel truly sparkles.

Shailene Woodley, who made her film debut alongside George Clooney in 2011's "The Descendants," plays Aimee, a kind-hearted and intellectual high school senior from a small rural town. Her male counterpart Sutter (Miles Teller) is a life-of-the-party student who lives life without regard for his future or that of others.

The film begins with Sutter waking up on Aimee's neighbor's lawn after attempting to drink away the pain of a recent breakup. The pair get along easily, but, unlike in most movies in the genre, there is no instant romantic spark. Aimee is quiet and sweet, whereas Sutter is charming yet unreliable — and secretly alcohol-dependent.

At first, the bond seems one-sided, with Aimee easily forgiving Sutter for his mistakes. But Sutter grows and ultimately falls in love with Aimee as well, though he maintains an abusive alcohol addiction that begins to accompany him in every scene. Both characters have absent fathers, and Sutter's search for his old man comes crashing down when he realizes that the father he used to look up to has transformed into an alcoholic womanizer, a terrifying window into Sutter's own potential future.

The film provides a refreshingly down-to-earth approach to their relationship. Aimee and Sutter aren't perfect for each other, and the ways they live, dress and act don't conform to the premise of the cookie cutter romantic movie. As much as we in the audience want time to stop for them — accepting for a moment Sutter's conviction to live in the moment — we know it cannot.

Woodley and Teller are both relatively new to the movie industry, but their magical on-screen chemistry beats that of the most seasoned actors and actresses.

The film has its share of humor and surprises, but it is at its best when it reminds the viewers of their own high school experiences as vulnerable youths firmly convinced of their invincibility.

By Ryan Taylor
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor



Photo courtesy of redcarpetcrash.com