

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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LEON ARCEO, ADAIRE BURNSED, LEXIE GAGNON & HONOR WOOD | THE CAVALIER DAILY

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This week in-brief

CD Staff

University community reflects on two-year anniversary of Nov. 13, 2022 shooting

Hundreds of students and community members gathered on the Lawn Wednesday night for a candlelight vigil and moment of silence in honor of the victims on the anniversary of the Nov. 13, 2022 shooting that killed three students and left two injured. The University Chapel bells rang three times to remember the loss of University students and Virginia football players Lavel Davis Jr., Devin Chandler and D'Sean Perry.

Members of the University community came to South Lawn at 7 p.m. to pay their respects to those lost two years prior by placing a candle on the steps of Old Cabell Hall. The steps were adorned with the football numbers of Chandler, Perry and Davis — 1, 15 and 45 respectively — as well as flowers brought by members of the crowd. Students donned orange ribbons, harkening back to the memorial service hosted two years prior.

This student-led “moment of silence” lasted over forty minutes as community members mourned and students reflected on the loss of their fellow Cavaliers. This candlelight vigil has become a University tradition, as students also came together to grieve in front of Old Cabell Hall last year and gathered on the South Lawn to gain a sense of community the day after the shooting in 2022.

Faculty Senate discusses future of college athletics after NCAA reforms

The Faculty Senate discussed the future of athletics at the University in light of NCAA reforms changing athlete payment rules, as well as how anticipated changes to higher education-related federal policies under the incoming Trump administration could impact the University, at their meeting Friday. The packed agenda also included updates on ongoing investigations into allegations of administrative misconduct in the School of Medicine and events related to the May 4 police clearing of a pro-Palestine encampment on Grounds, as well as University advancements in artificial intelligence and other research.

A significant portion of the meeting centered on the future of college athletics, shaped by a historic \$2.78 billion antitrust settlement in the House v. NCAA case. The settlement ended the NCAA's long standing model of amateurism, which required that student athletes be unpaid in order to be eligible to participate in the NCAA. Schools in the NCAA, including those in the Power Five conferences — five major Division I athletic conferences in the NCAA — have committed to the \$2.78 billion settlement to compensate student-athletes who were barred from receiving payment under the previous rules. Under the new structure, schools, including the University, will be allowed to pay athletes directly for playing for their teams.

University President Jim Ryan outlined the potential impact of these reforms by explaining key changes that he said the University's athletics division is considering. According to Ryan, these reforms give the University the option to share a portion of their revenue with student-athletes, potentially amounting to around \$20 million paid to University athletes annually.

II.13

II.15

THE CAVALIER DAILY

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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The ‘Batten Curve’ — what’s the big deal?

Students say the policy dissuades prospective students from applying to the school and hinders their postgraduate plans

Nina Broderick and Bennett Galper | Staff Writers

The Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy is competitive — already a selective school, its academics are rigorous. On top of it all, it uses a grading policy which “suggests” that all courses be curved to a 3.5 GPA, something which ensures a distribution that limits the number of “A” grades given in any class. The “Batten Curve,” as it is known colloquially, has drawn skepticism from Batten students who question whether it truly serves their best interest — with some advocating for its change or even removal.

Batten’s undergraduate program offers students the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree in Public Policy and Leadership, as well as a minor in Public Policy and Leadership or Social Entrepreneurship. Most undergraduate students apply in their second year and begin the program in the fall of their third. The school also offers graduate degrees with a Master’s and Accelerated Master’s degree program.

The Batten school grading policy, included on all Batten course syllabi, states, “The Frank Batten School has a grade normalization policy, with a suggested grading distribution. Batten courses should aim to have a mean grade that does not exceed a 3.5 grade point average with an emphasis on a well-distributed range of grades.”

This grading policy applies not only to the core classes which Batten students are required to take for their degree program, but also to special topics and electives classes offered by the Batten school.

Eileen Chou, associate dean for academic affairs and Public Policy professor at Batten, told The Cavalier Daily in an email statement that the Batten grade distribution guidance for faculty was implemented in 2017 — 10 years after the school was founded. In Spring of 2019 it became a required statement in syllabi.

Chou said that the purpose of the grade distribution guidance is “to support consistency” across classes while also maintaining rigor for Batten students.

“Balancing academic rigor with care is fundamental to our values,” Chou said. “We are dedicated to advancing academic excellence while also supporting the well-being of our community.”

Chou also said that faculty have the option not to use the “Batten Curve” in their courses if they “feel a pedagogical need to deviate from [the target of a 3.5 GPA average].”

“We routinely have conversations with faculty to ensure that their teaching methods are supported effectively and align with our shared goals for student learning,” Chou said.

While Chou described the policy as a suggestion rather than a requirement, faculty who wish to preemptively abandon the curve for their classes must first receive approval from Chou.

Not all students see the curve as beneficial to their academic experience. Wyatt Carter, Batten Undergraduate Council president and fourth-year Batten student, said he has identified several problems with the grading policy while pursuing his B.A. in Public Policy and Leadership — including that it unfairly distributes grades and makes postgraduate applications for Batten students more difficult.

Alongside being BUC president, Carter also works as a Batten Ambassador — a current Batten student who informs prospective students about the program and shares their experiences to help them determine if the school is the right fit. He is also a teaching assistant for a Bridge to Batten course — a program that supports low-income University students through advising and mentorship.

Carter said that, in both contexts, he has heard first-hand the worries of potential Batten students that a potentially lower GPA resulting from the grade normalization policy could negatively affect their career prospects compared to if they pursued a different course of study.

“In both of these positions, I hear from prospective Batten applicants and in both arenas students are overwhelmingly concerned about how the Batten Curve will affect their future outcomes,” Carter said.

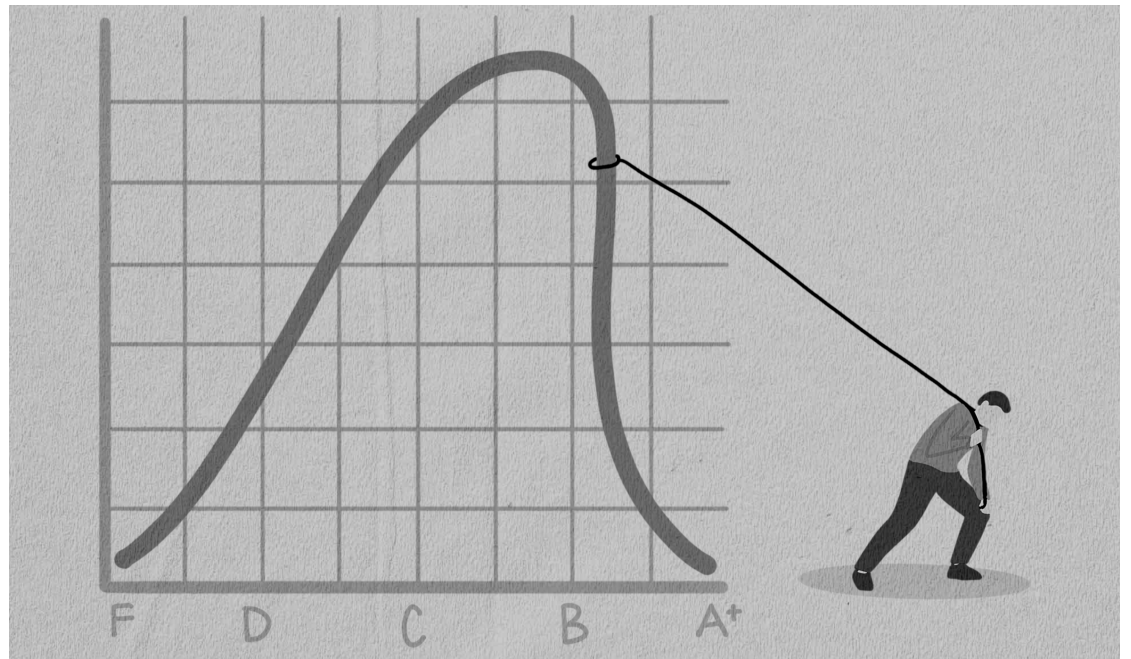
As someone with plans to apply to law schools after graduation, when determining her course of study, third-year Batten student Anna Bartlett said she considered majoring in history with the less daunting College grading scale.

“[The Batten Curve] might kind of dissuade some people from doing Batten, especially if you’re interested in programs like law school, where GPA is so important,” Bartlett said.

Carter mentioned that there is a section on law school applications that allows an applicant to discuss unique aspects of their undergraduate experience. Here, a Batten student could explain their potentially lower GPA as a result of the grading curve. But, Carter said that this remedy might be insufficient.

“That whole process is reliant upon another person taking the time, seeing your GPA ... and trying to understand why your academic performance may appear to be at a certain level, when you actually feel like it’s better than what it may seem,” Carter said.

Beyond dissuading prospective



SARAH ST. JOHN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Batten students, Carter also said that the grading system is generally unfair to students within Batten — a lot of students who perform well and expect their grades to reflect that performance have issues with the grading methodology, according to Carter.

In classes offered in the College, for example, if all students perform well on their assignments and earn high marks, they can all end the semester with a high final grade. With the “Batten Curve,” however, even if a class exceeds expectations and performs well as a group, the system will still pull the average grade down to a 3.5.

Additionally, Carter said that some students perceive the “Batten Curve” to create a “lack of transparency” around academics. According to Carter, students who ask professors about their grades or the policy in general are often met with dismissive, uninformative responses.

“Those responses really leave students feeling shut out of the meaningful dialogue,” Carter said. “I think the lack of clear, accessible information about how the curve is applied, and also why, makes it really difficult for students to trust that the policy is in their best interest.”

Despite criticism from students like Carter, others, like third-year Batten student Maya Amman, say that the curving system has not negatively affected them in terms of their plans for postgraduate education.

Before entering Batten, Amman said she was worried about the school’s downward grade curving reputation because of her own plans to apply to law school. But after nearly completing her first full semester in Batten, Amman said that

her concerns have been quelled, and she believes that the curving policies have been more helpful than harmful given the academic rigor of Batten classes.

According to Amman, on one of her midterm exams this semester, anyone with an 82 percent or higher had their grade on the exam curved up to an A.

“I don’t see myself ending with a grade that I don’t think I deserve,” Amman said. “Right now, I’m at a maybe for law school ... but based on my current experience in the Batten school, [the grade curving system] is not the major factor that’s deterring me [from applying].”

Further, some Batten students think the prestige that comes with a Batten degree and its appeal to postgraduate admission officers outweighs the potential downward curve of their GPA. During training to be a Batten Ambassador, Bartlett said she was reassured of the school’s prestige for her further plans.

“Law schools and other programs, when they see Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy ... they know the rigor that comes with that,” Bartlett said. “So even if your GPA might be a little bit lower, you know that’s not necessarily going to make or break you.”

Similar to Amman, Bartlett also does not see herself ending up with a grade she did not earn at the end of the semester.

“Will I have a perfect 4.0 GPA at the end of the semester? It is not looking like it,” Bartlett said. “But I don’t think that’s because of the ‘Batten Curve.’ I think that’s just the rigor of Batten in general, and I think that the grades that I will get will just reflect that.”

The Cavalier Daily reached out to

15 Batten professors for comments on their experience with the Batten grading system and why they do or do not use it in their courses. At the time of the article’s publishing, three responded saying they were unavailable for comment, and one responded saying they are involved in the conversations regarding potential changes to the policy, and as such declined to comment.

Batten students are also involved in conversations about potential policy changes, with some taking an active role in advocacy efforts. When campaigning for president of Batten Undergraduate Council last semester, one part of Carter’s platform was the elimination of the curve, and he said he is currently using his platform to achieve this goal.

Carter said he spoke with the Batten Faculty Executive Committee — who assist the dean in developing educational, instructional and research policies for the school — to express his concerns with the “Batten Curve” Sept. 11. While the policy has yet to see any changes, Carter said he still remains optimistic for future conversations on the subject.

“I really look forward to the rest of this year and in future meetings, using my platform, using BUC’s platform, to do whatever I can to foster the change that we really desperately need,” Carter said. “I think it’s really clear to faculty and administration how immediate of a concern this is for the Batten community, and I hope that’ll inspire change.”

Student journalists discuss retracted “Rolling Stone” article

How an unsubstantiated story shifted views on campus culture, gender violence and journalism itself

Merrill Hart | Senior Writer

Mairead Crotty, news writer during The Cavalier Daily’s 2014-15 term and Class of 2017 alumna, remembers reading the “horri-fying” article in the library. The news made its way across Grounds, spreading between glowing screens as students passed the link to Facebook friends.

Another former Cavalier Daily staffer’s first reaction was visceral: “Holy s—, that’s really intense.”

Ten years ago, “Rolling Stone” published its shock-inducing and now-retracted article, “A Rape on Campus” by Sabrina Erdely. The report featured a University student named Jackie who claimed she was violently gang-raped at a Phi Kappa Psi fraternity party during her first year. But what happens when a story so consequential is proven untrue?

The graphic narrative ignited protests both on Grounds and at a national level. It also stoked fears of toxic University culture, as Jackie alleged that her friends discouraged her from reporting the assault. Jackie also shared her experience navigating the sexual misconduct reporting process, overseen at the time by Assoc. Dean of Students Nicole Eramo, whose competence Erdely questioned in her article. In response, protestors demanded better treatment for sexual assault survivors along with structural change in the University’s case reporting process.

Warranted or not, Erdely’s use of sensationalism sent shockwaves across Grounds. Thrown into the center of this journalistic implosion and activism on Grounds were student editors, writers and other staffers at The Cavalier Daily. A decade later, several shared what it was like reporting on such a high-profile controversy as both developing journalists and students themselves.

Anna Higgins, news writer for The Cavalier Daily’s 2014-15 term and Class of 2018 alumna, said every time she opened Yik Yak — an anonymous location-based conversation app — she saw people talking about the “Rolling Stone” article and the graphic violence it alleged.

“As an 18-year-old girl coming to college for the first time, it definitely made me and my friends feel a little unsafe and a little uneasy,” Higgins said.

Those fears were only heightened by news cameras interrupting daily walks to class as reporters flocked to Charlottesville in search of a scoop, according to Dani Bernstein, opinion senior associate for the 2014-15 term and Class of 2017

alumna. While many in Charlottesville were sorting through trauma, one Cavalier Daily staffer who requested to remain anonymous said professional journalists began knocking on doors and cold calling students.

After receiving national attention and scrutiny, further investigations and fact checking caused Jackie’s testimony to unravel. “Rolling Stone” partially retracted the article Dec. 5, 2014, then issued a full retraction April 5, 2015, citing a loss of faith in its main source. The Columbia Journalism Review condemned the reporting as some of the year’s worst journalism.

The debunking created a complex situation for advocates against gender-based violence. While Jackie’s story could not be substantiated, sexual assault was — and still is — an issue at the University and college campuses across the nation. In an era before the “Me Too” movement took off in 2017, many activists were still looking to bring these issues into mainstream conversations.

The University and other colleges were entering uncomfortable conversations surrounding Greek life, privilege and sexual assault even before November 2014, alumni said. Charlottesville was already on edge after the kidnapping and murder of student Hannah Graham just two months earlier. One former Cavalier Daily staffer said that these events created an especially volatile atmosphere, which set the stage for the article’s explosion.

All five former Cavalier Daily staffers interviewed said that while certain elements of Jackie’s story felt extreme and some details appeared misinformed, most students trusted the initial reporting. “Rolling Stone” was a reputable publication, after all. And anecdotes of hazing and other unsavory elements of Greek life on Grounds added credibility to Jackie’s claims, several alumni said.

Many groups on Grounds responded swiftly to the story. The Phi Kappa Psi fraternity voluntarily suspended chapter activity Nov. 20, 2014. University President Teresa Sullivan then requested a Charlottesville Police Department investigation into the allegations and temporarily suspended all fraternities Nov. 22.

Students and Contracted Independent Organizations held numerous demonstrations, including a “Slut Walk” — a type of march meant to protest victim-blaming and raise awareness about sexual violence. Faculty hosted a “Take back the party” protest where they

marched in robed academic regalia in solidarity alongside hundreds of students.

Much of the activism focused on perceived failure from administration, both in its handling of Jackie’s case and other incidents. Chloe Heskett, news senior associate for the 2014-15 term and Class of 2016 alumna, described an “incredibly tense” atmosphere.

“There was so much outrage, so much anger — and rightfully so, it’s an issue to be angry about,” Heskett said. “As became clear later, a lot of that anger, rightful as it was, was misdirected. And I think there were hints of that pretty early on, but nonetheless ... that anger was there and it needed to find [a] channel. And the wildly misreported story unfortunately gave it a very clear channel.”

Covering the aftermath of the “Rolling Stone” story often became an emotionally difficult task, according to several alumni. Writers and editors said they took on increased responsibility and high stress projects, often with significant burnout. The Cavalier Daily centered its reporting around students connected to the issue at hand, offering an embedded perspective that professional outlets often lacked.

“For those following the story outside of our community, whether in the greater Charlottesville area or much further beyond ... we could offer that perspective, that embedded lens, much more so than any national reporter coming into our community could,” Heskett said.

Beyond just being University students during this time, many Cavalier Daily staffers said that unprecedented national attention made their lives even more stressful. Thanks to the paper’s recent digital-forward efforts, it was easy to share articles online. This meant that certain staff members involved in the coverage faced intense scrutiny and, sometimes, personal attacks from readers due to the controversial topic.

“It was hard, and I think not just because [Cavalier Daily] staff were getting negative attention online, but also because they were part of the student body in this really emotionally charged environment at the same time that they were reporting on it,” the anonymous former staffer said.

When Cavalier Daily members gathered to discuss the article’s claims and plan next steps for coverage, Heskett remembered being drawn to the office “like a magnet.”

“You have your own personal reaction of shock and upset, and at

the same time, you kind of put your news or your editor hat on, and are like, ‘Okay, how do we interpret and parse this information for our community? How do we cover this responsibly?’” Heskett said.

In the immediate aftermath of the “Rolling Stone” story, Cavalier Daily staffers said the paper focused on documenting the University’s response. Many writers said they felt a responsibility to provide insightful coverage on their community, especially in a time when national media — dropping in for quotes from activists and administration — drove much of the narrative.

The paper’s student journalists shed light on press conferences, student activism and administration’s response. Opinion columnists weighed in on solutions to sexual violence and changes in fraternity regulations. One news reporter even interviewed Jackie’s friends, who were falsely quoted in “Rolling Stone” but never directly contacted by Erdely.

Bernstein penned The Cavalier Daily’s first subjective response — a Nov. 20, 2014 column titled “Starting at the top.” While recognizing that the University had a problem with its approach to sexual assault, she wrote that the University represented one of roughly 90 other higher education institutions under federal investigation for their handling of sexual violence reporting that year, with critics alleging that administrators often allowed students found guilty of sexual assault to remain at the University.

Erdely’s “Rolling Stone” story had not been debunked at the time Bernstein’s column was published. Looking back, Bernstein said Erdely’s reporting misrepresented the issue of sexual assault on college campuses.

“I just thought it was a real dereliction of duty in the first place to seek that most extreme narrative at the expense of the much more common version of events that happens to people on campuses all the time,” Bernstein said.

Bernstein’s column also took issue with Erdely’s depiction of the University’s student body as lacking in feminist activism, arguing instead that responsibility for reform ultimately fell on the University. She referenced advocacy groups like One Less and One in Four — two organizations that worked to prevent sexual assault on Grounds — which were already supporting survivors, along with “Take Back the Night,” a student-run organization well-known for raising awareness about sexual violence.

The aftermath of “A Rape on

Campus” overlapped three managing boards and multiple recruitment cycles. Looking back ten years later, several former members of The Cavalier Daily still struggled with the student paper’s role in 2014. Should student journalists have used their insider status to scrutinize Jackie’s claims?

The staffers interviewed noted, however, that hindsight is 20/20.

“I think part of the reason that we didn’t [probe more] was in response to how tense things were on campus, and the fact that we were a part of that community,” Heskett said. “But in retrospect, knowing what we knew, I wish that we had at least considered whether we should sort of raise those red flags publicly.”

The anonymous former writer said they used to be harsh on themselves about not pushing harder against the narrative presented in Erdely’s article. Now, however, they recognize the extent of the scandal was almost impossible to predict.

“We did get criticized a lot for not being the ones to break that the story was false,” they said. “But also, in hindsight, I think we need to give ourselves a little bit of grace about what our reporting priorities were at the time, the assumptions we made at the time, and also the fact that we were 18 to 21-year-olds trying to figure out how to navigate this very intense topic, and all the national media attention, and all the chaos that was associated.”

After the retraction, many at The Cavalier Daily worried the backlash might discourage other survivors from sharing their stories. Heskett said, although likely not Erdely’s intention, the “Rolling Stone” article felt like a step in the wrong direction — a “huge blow” — for the cause of supporting women and believing accusations of sexual assault.

“A Rape on Campus” influenced her approach to journalism, she said, and led her to rethink the field’s core purpose.

“To come in ... already knowing the story that you want to tell is an irresponsible way of reporting,” Heskett said. “You really have to do the reporting and figure out what the story is, not the other way around.”

UJC sees “major influx” of cases with 38 adjudicated so far

Case processing times have remained relatively stable across this term and decreased dramatically compared to past years

Ford McCracken | Senior Associate

The University Judiciary Committee has already adjudicated 38 cases since its term began April 1. Violations of Standards 2 and 6 — threats to health and safety of students and violations of University policy, respectively — make up a large share of the cases, according to the UJC’s Executive Committee. The details of organizational cases will be made public in December with the release of the semesterly statistics report.

Comparing this term to ones from the past few years, Harper Jones, UJC chair and fourth-year College student, noted that the 38-case figure is abnormally large for this point in the term. In fact, some terms never reach that number of cases, and this term still has four months remaining. In the Fall 2024 semester alone, the UJC has adjudicated 20 cases — 18 against individuals, two against organizations — as of Nov. 19.

Despite the increase in cases, Jones said she was pleased with the UJC’s ability to handle this increased course load.

“[It’s] exciting and I think [it]

proved to all of us that even as we get more cases, we’re still able to handle an elevated caseload,” Jones said.

Jones added that when case numbers fluctuate between terms it is not necessarily a sign that there are more violations, just that the volume of reports has increased, which she said is a sign of engagement with the UJC.

“I think the big push in the past three or four terms is really to get in front of students and administrators and present the Committee in a way that people are continuously willing to engage with our process,” Jones said. “We’ve seen considerable success with that in the past several terms.”

With the high volume of cases, processing times have increased slightly from 27.17 days in Spring 2024 to 31.36 days this semester, excluding breaks. Still, the 31.36 days is a significant decline from Spring 2023, when the average time to process a case, excluding breaks, was 97 days.

Allison McVey, vice chair for sanctions and third-year College student, said the increase in

cases is partly due to the volume of hazing cases the UJC has adjudicated during this term. In addition to cases being brought against an entire organization for hazing, separate cases can be brought against individuals as well. Hazing cases typically implicate a large number of individuals at one time according to McVey, thereby increasing the total number of cases.

Alongside an increase in cases, the Committee saw increased interest during recruitment. The Committee received 213 applications during the Fall 2024 recruitment cycle, higher than the 138 received in Fall 2023 and more than 2.5 times the number of applications in Fall 2022.

The Committee received 34 applications for the educator pool this recruitment cycle, higher than the 11 received last year and the four received in Fall 2022. Melinda Wong, vice chair for trials and fourth-year Batten student, cited the higher recruitment numbers as demonstrated interest in improving the Committee’s internal oversight.

Other large spikes in appli-



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In the Fall 2024 semester alone, the UJC has adjudicated 20 cases — 18 against individuals, two against organizations.

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12-05 | BOY NAMED BANJO WITH WILL OVERMAN

12-12 | STEVEN WILSON JR.

12-13 | BIRTH-TAY PAR-TAY DANCE PARTY (18+)

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12-20 | LOVE CANON

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11-29 | PALMYRA + RAMONA & THE HOLY SMOKES WITH CHARLIE SHEA
PRESENTED BY 106.1 THE CORNER

12-06 | LA LOM

12-07 | WILLIE WATSON WITH VIV & RILEY

12-13 | THE WILSON SPRINGS HOTEL WITH HOLLER CHOIR

12-14 | ANDREW MARLIN STRINGBAND

12-21 | MAYDAY WITH PAXTON HENDERSON AND THE MISFIT TOYS

12-27 | LIVE AT THE FILLMORE 'THE WORLD'S GREATEST ALLMAN BROTHERS TRIBUTE BAND'

01-17 | EMO NIGHT KARAOKE

01-21 | CHUCK PROPHET & HIS CUMBIA SHOES

EAT AT THE SOUTHERN CAFÉ

CAFÉ OPENS 2 HOURS PRIOR TO PERFORMANCES

cations compared with last year are in the investigator pool and the First Year Judiciary Committee — the branch of the UJC that handles cases involving first years — with each receiving 104 applications.

Alongside the higher number of applications, acceptance rates have remained more or less the same. The overall acceptance rate was 39 percent, higher than last year's 34 percent. The Committee accepted 34 percent of counselor applicants, a 10 percentage point increase from the previous year, the FYJC acceptance rate was 12 percent, a six percent decrease from Fall 2023, the investigator acceptance rate was 22 percent, a three point decrease from Fall 2023 and the educator acceptance rate was 47 percent, a 11 point increase from Fall 2023.

Wong attributed higher interest in the UJC to the bolstering of the educator pool by assigning more responsibilities to that role. The educators are responsible for informing students about the UJC and sitting in on trials to give the executive committee an impartial look at these proceedings, a way to provide internal oversight.

Jones said the educators have not previously sat in on trials, but will now do so for the first time, giving UJC more oversight

in typically private proceedings.

“[The educators will] help on our internal committee improvement and do a lot more outreach that, in years past, has been undertaken by members of exec,” Jones said.

The educators’ outreach will be aided by increased funding as well. Jones said UJC received \$20,000 from President Jim Ryan’s office this year for outreach efforts and co-sponsorships, events put on by other organizations on Grounds that the UJC provides funding for to boost their reputation. That contribution from Ryan’s office will continue the next two years as well to total \$60,000.

Final data about case counts and the details of organizational cases will be published in the UJC’s Fall 2024 statistics report, which is expected to be made public in early December.

SPORTS

This Thanksgiving, Virginia fans have a lot to be thankful for

Discussing wins over the Hokies and world-class Cavaliers

Stephen O'Dea, Eleanor Lynch and Theo Moll | Staff Writers

Thanksgiving approaches — the leaves have fallen en masse, the air has cooled and the Cavaliers are making their mark on the national stage. 2024 has been a rollercoaster of a year from a national title in women's swimming and diving to an up-and-down football season, but one thing is for certain — there have been plenty of moments throughout Virginia Athletics that fans are grateful for.

In reflecting upon this eventful year, three Cavalier Daily staff writers sit down at a hypothetical Thanksgiving table to share their thoughts.

It's turkey season. Which 2024 victory over Virginia Tech has been your favorite?

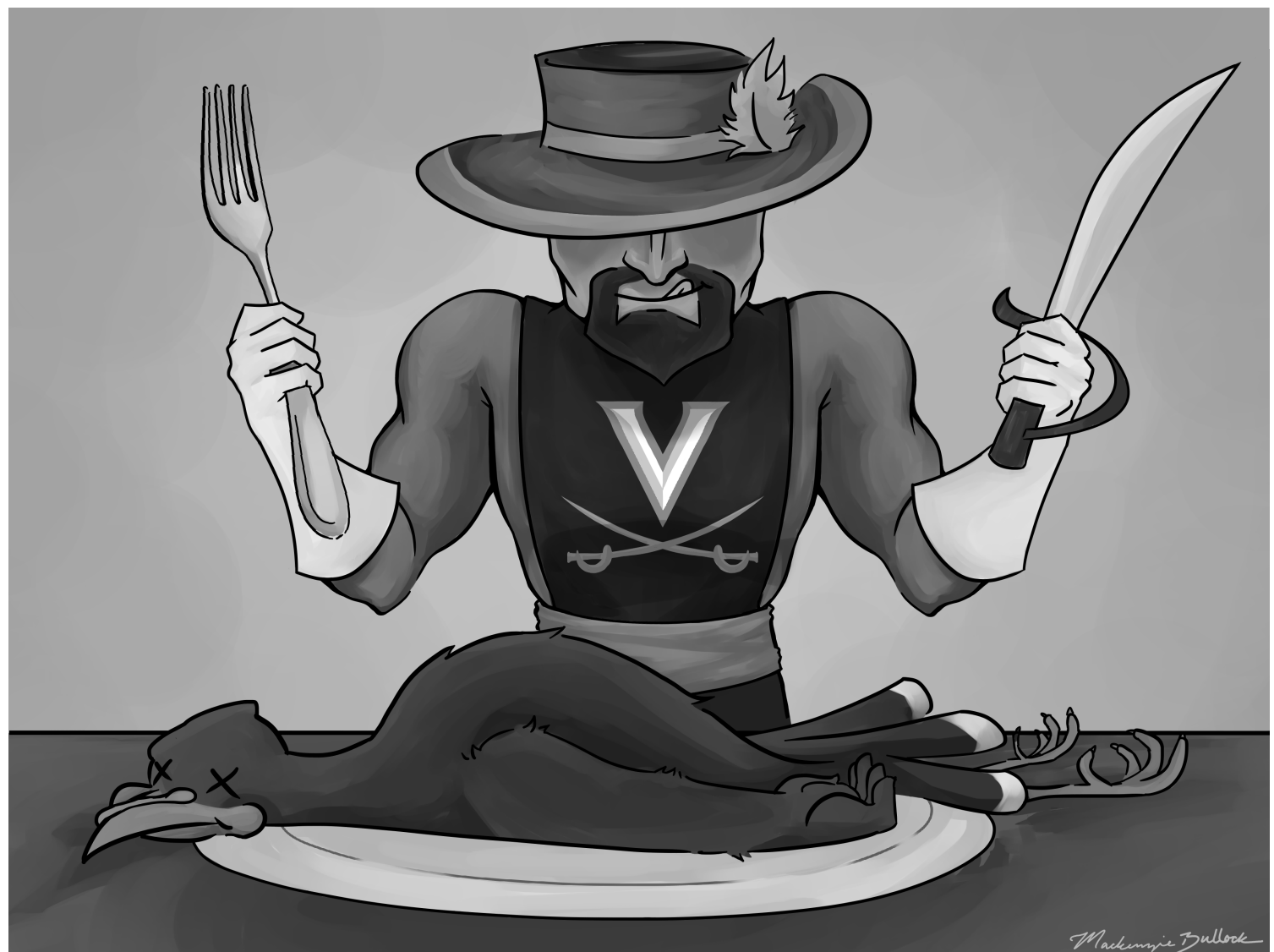
Stephen O'Dea, Staff Writer: The Cavaliers' 3-0 victory in volleyball Nov. 8 has been the highlight of the rivalry this year. From the first point, Virginia had its way with an inferior Hokies squad. What made the win even sweeter was that it was a complete drubbing in front of a Blacksburg crowd. There have been a lot of great wins so far this year, but none of them have been nearly as decisive as this one.

Eleanor Lynch, Staff Writer: The best win has to be in women's lacrosse, who pulled out a gritty 14-12 victory April 17. It was a close, hard-fought game with both teams trading goals until Virginia pulled ahead for good in the final minutes. The Cavalier defense held strong under pressure while the offense rose to the occasion down the stretch. The intensity and resilience the team showed throughout four quarters that day made it a memorable victory and a defining moment in their season.

Theo Moll, Staff Writer: Men's soccer's Oct. 4 defeat of the Hokies stands out. The Cavaliers, ranked No. 13 before the season, had gone six straight games without a win and fallen out of the top 25. At just 2-4-3, they were skidding and deeply in need of a spark. After eking out a 2-1 win over No. 19 Virginia Tech at Klöckner Stadium, Virginia was certainly ignited — from that contest on, the Cavaliers would go 4-1 against ranked opponents, essentially rescuing a season which was close to slipping away.

Which Cavalier coach are you most thankful for?

SO: I am thankful for Interim Coach Ron Sanchez of the men's



MACKENZIE BULLOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

basketball program. It is no easy task to fill the shoes of an all-time great coach like Tony Bennett, so Sanchez should be commended for taking on that responsibility. There is no doubt that growing pains will come to pass at some point this season, but I think that it is important that fans refrain from throwing any undue criticism at a young coach who is facing perhaps the toughest entry situation in college basketball. We should all be thankful to Sanchez that the Cavaliers are staying afloat — and even thriving — after Tony Bennett's surprise retirement.

EL: I'm especially thankful for Coach Ole Keusgen, who has revitalized the field hockey team with a fresh energy and strategic approach in his first season. His leadership brought immediate impact, evidenced by a nine-game winning streak to start the year. Keusgen's extensive experience and focus

on teamwork have quickly built a cohesive unit that has competed strongly against top programs all the way up to their overtime defeat in the NCAA quarterfinals. Keusgen has given Cavalier fans a lot to look forward to for next year and beyond.

TM: Swimming and diving Coach Todd DeSorbo has brought more success to the program than anyone could have imagined. In six years, he has taken a relatively successful Cavalier swim team and turned it into a buzzsaw, mowing down anything and everything in its way. Prior to DeSorbo, Virginia swimming had never won a national championship. DeSorbo brought number one, number two, number three and number four while also coaching a few Cavaliers at the Paris Olympics. With top 2025 recruits Thomas Heilman and Maximus Williamson, DeSorbo may soon replicate that success on the men's

side.

Plenty of Virginia athletes have stood out this season, but who has feasted the most?

SO: It may be Thanksgiving, but Malachi Fields' production on the gridiron so far this year really harkens back to Halloween. The senior wide receiver has feasted on the souls of any defense that dares to confront him. He currently sits third in receiving yards in the ACC, and he has shown no signs of slowing down. Inheriting massive shoes to fill from a recent receiver lineage that puts most schools to shame, Fields has done more than enough to carry the load and has become the catalyst for the Cavalier offense.

EL: Senior swimmer Gretchen Walsh has undoubtedly been feasting in the pool this year, both in Charlottesville and abroad. She now has multiple NCAA, Olympic and American records under her

belt, proving that Walsh is one of the best swimmers in the world. Her performances are a clear testament to her work ethic and dedication — successes which have elevated Virginia's reputation in collegiate athletics and added an electric feel to every meet in which she competes. Walsh is truly in a league of her own.

TM: Senior outside hitter Elayna Duprey has been key to the volleyball program's historic improvement this year. This is Duprey's first and only season in a Cavalier uniform, having spent the past three years at Virginia Tech. It feels as if she has spent several years in Charlottesville though, as Duprey leads all Virginia players in kills. Her elite play has earned her distinction, as she has been recognized on multiple all-tournament teams and received a tournament Co-MVP honor in what is already Virginia volleyball's winningest season since 2006.

After turnaround, men's soccer rockets into NCAA Tournament

A No. 11 seed and a first-round bye seemed fanciful a month ago, but now they are a reality

Michael Liebermann and Mofeoluwa Akande | Senior Associate and Staff Writer



MAC DOUCETTE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Junior midfielder Albin Gashi battles with a Stanford defender Sept. 27.

It started with one goal. An isolated burst of fortune midway through a season bereft of any.

The free kick deflected off the wall of defenders and into the net, providing the opening goal in Virginia's 2-1 home victory Oct. 4 against No. 19 Virginia Tech. The win ended a period of 36 days and six games without a win, a near-record dry spell for the program. The Cavaliers went the next 21 days and five games without a loss — or even a draw.

Virginia ended up winning eight of its last 10 games, sprinting through the rest of the season. Even after falling to Wake Forest in the ACC Tournament semifinals Nov. 14, the Cavaliers claimed the No. 11 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament. Coach George Gelnovatch's team, with a first-round bye, will host a second-round match Sunday at Klöckner Stadium against the winner of Thursday's game between West Virginia and North Florida.

Virginia's NCAA Tournament run could stretch for almost another month, taking the team well into December. Or it could end Sunday.

The bracket, released Monday, somewhat shafted the Cavaliers. The first hurdle, Sunday at 5 p.m., will

stand a little taller if the opponent is the Mountaineers, as expected.

West Virginia, the first-round game's hosts, ranked No. 10 in the latest national poll. It defeated No. 8 Marshall, the NCAA Tournament's No. 13 seed, to win the Sun Belt Tournament on penalty kicks. It has lost only once all season, this perennial soccer power that can reasonably shout about getting snubbed for a top-16 seed.

Last week's ACC Tournament for No. 9 seed Virginia marked a promising prelude — at the beginning. The Cavaliers took down No. 8 seed NC State in the first round thanks to two second-half goals that arrived 20 seconds apart. Then they barricaded the back line against No. 1 seed Pittsburgh in the quarterfinals, bursting forward to score twice in 25 seconds.

No. 5 seed Wake Forest, however, injected Virginia with a taste of its own medicine. It dumped in three goals in an 11-minute span on its way to a 5-1 win. Virginia deployed the same defensive formation it did against Pittsburgh, except this time with disastrous consequences. Wake Forest Coach Bobby Muus described the formation as a "4-1-4-1, dropping off a little bit, pseudo pressure, but

staying organized."

"I thought [Virginia's formation] allowed teams that played good football to find a rhythm," Muus said. "And I thought we were able to find a rhythm early."

Virginia recovered from a blow-out loss once before, shedding the memory of a 4-1 drubbing at Pittsburgh's hands. It will now attempt to do so again Sunday.

That begins with remaining healthy, which has been an issue this season. In September, Virginia lost junior defender Reese Miller for the season due to an ACL tear. More recently, injuries to sophomore forward AJ Smith, freshman forward Joaquín Brizuela and senior goalkeeper Joey Batrouni have plagued the team.

There is hope, though, as the NCAA Tournament approaches. Smith returned from a month-long absence to score against Pittsburgh. Batrouni entered the Wake Forest game at halftime, after missing the previous game and a half.

He pulled off one ridiculous save, blindly hurling himself to the back post to deny what seemed a tap-in goal. The amazing play, though, got lost in the blowout.

While Batrouni should be healthy

for Sunday, the status of Brizuela remains uncertain. The freshman scored four goals in three games to close the regular season but missed the Wake Forest game. Getting him back would be huge for a team that has struggled to identify a reliable option from its revolving cast of forwards.

The Cavaliers' attack has been inconsistent in 2024, but they have usually been able to trust their defense and midfield. Junior defender Nick Dang and senior defender Paul Wiese landed on the ACC All-Tournament team, while sophomore midfielder Brendan Lambe remains an emblem of consistency.

Virginia will need it all to shove past likely second-round opponent West Virginia in the NCAA Tournament. That could set up a voyage to No. 6 seed Penn, which has lost just one game at home all season. Potential quarterfinal opponents include No. 3 seed Denver and No. 14 seed Indiana.

But Virginia is accustomed to the unrelenting struggle of competing against top programs. After all, it plays in the ACC.

"It is [the best conference]," Muus said after the semifinal. "There's not a day off, right? There's not a day off at

all, and especially now with the three new teams that came in."

The conference claims nine of the tournament's teams, seven of the 16 seeded teams. Only five programs have notched a top-16 seed in each of the past three tournaments. All five reside in the ACC.

But only one program has earned multiple top-eight seeds in that time. That is Virginia, and it hopes, this time around, to finally turn its high seeding into a deep run.

The Cavaliers have won just one tournament game in the last two years, tumbling out in the third round last season as the No. 7 seed and in the second round the year before as the No. 4 seed. Getting past the first few rounds would deposit Virginia in the College Cup for the first time since 2019 as it seeks its first national title since 2014.

Virginia has eyed a return to that stage for months. Gelnovatch acknowledged as much in a preseason interview.

"It's time," he said then, "to get over the hump."

Elijah Saunders can guide Virginia to victory

In the midst of a chaotic couple of months, the junior forward has been a steadying presence

Xander Tilock | Sports Editor

Most — if not all — Virginia men's basketball fans are accustomed to seeing No. 2 donned by Reece Beekman, a program legend. But like most hallmarks of this program these days, things change. No. 2 is now worn by junior forward Elijah Saunders, who shares little in common with Beekman, except that they both represent the Cavaliers with pride and class.

In this program, a Cavalier who embodies the five pillars of humility, passion, unity, servanthood and thankfulness will always win — regardless of the final score of any given game. Saunders' journey has been far from linear, but his experience, selflessness and talent might just be the key to a successful season.

After former Coach Tony Bennett's departure thrust Virginia into the national spotlight, many were quick to write off the 2024-25 Cavaliers. Nevertheless, Saunders and company have been humming along to the tune of a perfect 3-0 start. Friday's victory over Villanova provided an opportunity to win on national television — and it became clear that Virginia has a few promising pieces like Saunders.

"I feel like something our team

wants to prove is that even though we lost our coach leading up to the season, we still have a really good team just improving every day," Saunders said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily.

This team has certainly demonstrated that it is on the right trajectory. And Saunders is at the core of it all, even though he is new to the program. He transferred to Virginia in May after spending two years at San Diego State, where he reached the national championship game in 2023 and the Sweet Sixteen in 2024. He left San Diego and came to Charlottesville in order to join a program with better development and a more developed NIL scene in the hopes of improving his chances at playing in the NBA.

Unsurprisingly, the University is very different from what Saunders was used to. Adjusting to a new school has been a challenging but rewarding experience for Saunders.

"It's been a lot, you know, especially moving all the way across the country," Saunders said. "You know, me and Jacob [Cofie] talked a lot about how much different the east coast is than the west coast. But I feel like I've done a good job of adjusting. [There are] re-

ally good people around us."

Just like Saunders, this program is also on the early goings of a new chapter post-Bennett. Thankfully, the five pillars are clearly alive and well under Interim Coach Ron Sanchez. Even before Bennett retired, it was Sanchez who primarily recruited Saunders back in the offseason.

"Immediately, after talking to [Sanchez], I could tell that this was somewhere that I wanted to be," Saunders said.

Still, this team has endured a tumultuous offseason, and Saunders has walked into a rocky situation. Virginia's embarrassing loss in the First Four back in March still looms large, as does the fact that the Cavaliers have not won an NCAA Tournament game since the 2019 national championship.

Across the entire roster, only two players have ever won an NCAA Tournament game, and both of them are transfers. Sophomore forward TJ Power won three last year at Duke. Saunders has won seven — highlighted by a national championship appearance with San Diego State in the 2022-23 campaign. Saunders has played in a bevy of postseason games, while no other Cavalier except Power has

ever played in the Round of 32. Saunders' experience matters, especially as these new-look Cavaliers embark on a strange journey.

The path back to the NCAA Tournament leaves little margin for error, but if anyone on this roster has what it takes to lead, it is Saunders. On a strenuous journey, Saunders' experience and talent could carry this team through a stormy night and into a promising dawn for the new era of this program.

And just as Saunders wanted to start a new chapter and join Virginia, this program wanted him as well. At a muscular and athletic 6-foot-8, Saunders is the prototypical small forward that the Cavaliers have sorely lacked since the days of Trey Murphy III in 2021. Saunders and Virginia have been a perfect match, especially on the leadership front. In talking with Saunders, he exudes Beekman's inspirational leadership style. Saunders explained that sacrifice is key, as playing for the name on the front of a jersey is always more important than the name on the back.

"[It is about] sacrificing yourself — that was one of the biggest things that our older guys talked about that year,"

Saunders said. "Sometimes the way the team needs you to play to win is not always the way you want to play. We've got a younger team, and guys accepting that role, that's going to be big."

That process of figuring out the team dynamic is essential — and it is going to have to happen immediately. The Cavaliers' upcoming schedule is an absolute nightmare, and they will have to be at their best. They face No. 11 Tennessee Thursday, and eventually No. 10 North Carolina, No. 12 Duke, No. 21 Florida and other daunting opponents throughout the next two months.

Now on a different coast, plus over a year and a half removed from the 2023 Final Four, Saunders finds himself as a core leader of the Cavaliers — and that arduous schedule awaits. This program has been through a lot, but with Saunders' veteran experience, there is a promising path forward. Perhaps that path ends with Virginia's first win at the NCAA Tournament since the 2019 national championship.

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

ACROSS

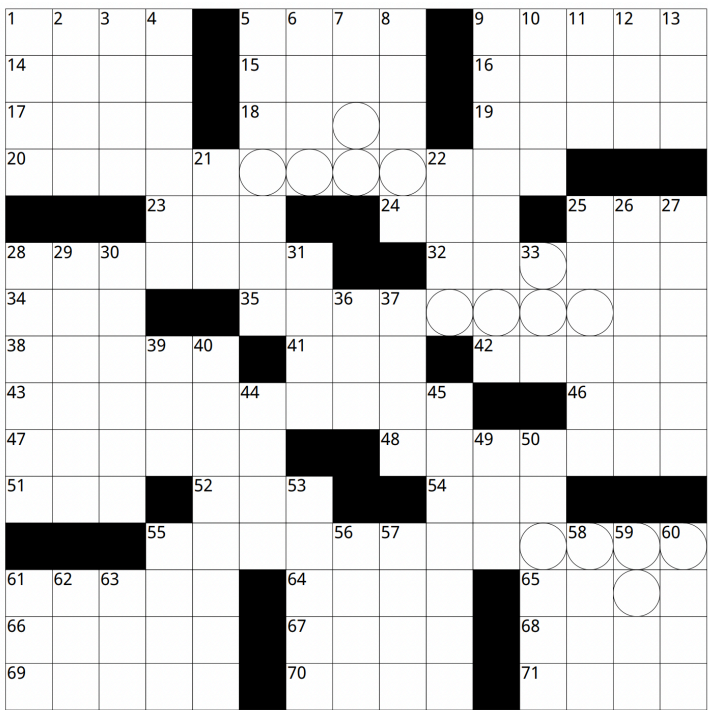
- 1 Soulja Boy’s “Turn My ____ On”
- 5 ____ one’s time
- 9 New addition to the Smithsonian’s National Zoo
- 14 Zeus’s wife
- 15 In awe
- 16 1,708 for Grounds
- 17 Straight person at a 4-Down, hope-fully
- 18 Like some manzanas
- 19 Fruit featured in “Call Me by Your Name”
- 20 Harlem athlete
- 23 The “A” of IPA
- 24 Knight’s title
- 25 ____-Locka, Florida
- 28 Carpenter in a Catholic Church controversy?
- 32 Rechargeable rides
- 34 That, in Spanish
- 35 Like John Force and Trixie Mattel
- 38 “It’s _____!” (“Piece of cake!”)
- 41 Rank below capt.
- 42 Silliness analogues
- 43 Thursday morning athletic event hosted by the University president ... or a hint to the circled letters
- 46 In favor of
- 47 Chord struck by Drake

- 48 Disagree, as a Justice on the Supreme Court
- 51 Word following graphic or golf
- 52 Dr. Holly’s daughter on “Dance Moms”
- 54 Car-stealing video game franchise, for short
- 55 Game downloaded on calculators to avoid paying attention in math class
- 61 Jazz but not Bulls
- 64 Djungelskog producer
- 65 Smallest U.S. coin
- 66 “_____ in the court!”
- 67 Jazz improv style
- 68 British prep school on the Thames
- 69 Speaks up?
- 70 Ozone layer concern
- 71 Worn before riches, proverbially

DOWN

- 1 Layered hairstyle
- 2 Wishing place
- 3 Singer Parks
- 4 Stonewall, famously
- 5 Work at Boylan, say
- 6 Tyler, The Creator’s 6th album
- 7 Ken’s “Mojo ____ Casa House”
- 8 Like Elton John and John Legend
- 9 Fiona Apple’s 1999 hit

- 10 Dell competitor
- 11 Second Amendment advocacy org.
- 12 NYE month
- 13 Pikachu’s trainer
- 21 QB Manning
- 22 Level
- 25 “Working Hands” brand eponym
- 26 V.I.P. section?
- 27 State with conviction
- 28 Pirate, in old slang
- 29 Take on, as responsibility
- 30 Clyde’s partner in crime
- 31 QB Manning
- 33 Rocks at the bar
- 36 Word that modifies a n.
- 37 Crossword pattern
- 39 Barley bristle
- 40 Groundbreakers
- 44 Alvin and the Chipmunks, e.g.
- 45 Fly south for the winter
- 49 Pig’s place
- 50 More melancholy
- 53 Powerless group?
- 55 Like a cloudy London day
- 56 Kitchenware brand
- 57 Greenish blue
- 58 Popular subreddit for relationship args.
- 59 Urban pollution
- 60 Chick tenders

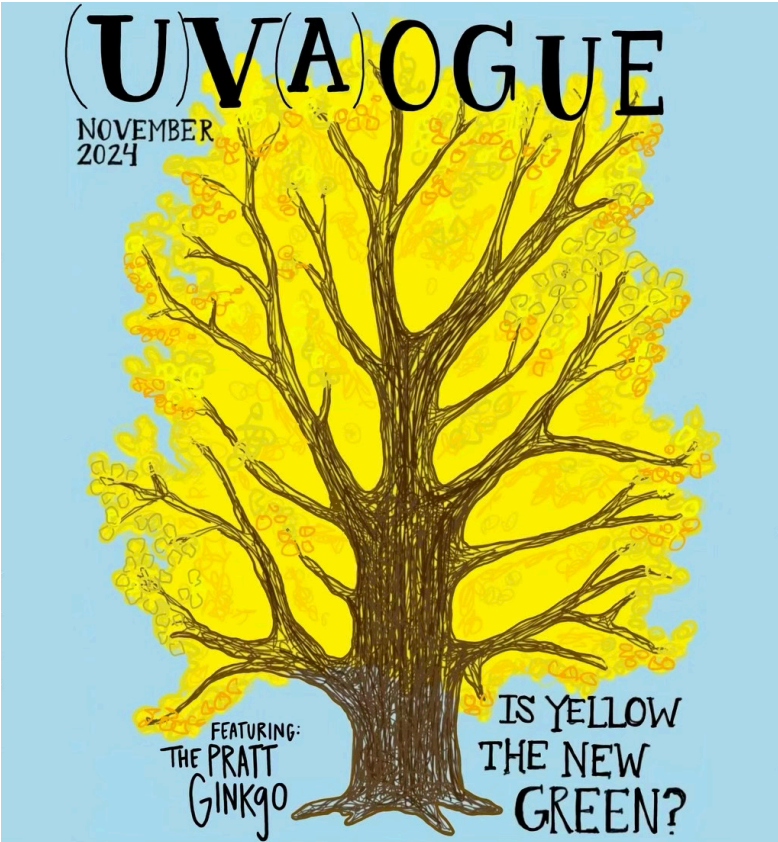


- 61 Republican org.
- 62 Mess up
- 63 Important doc for celebrity relationships

CARTOON

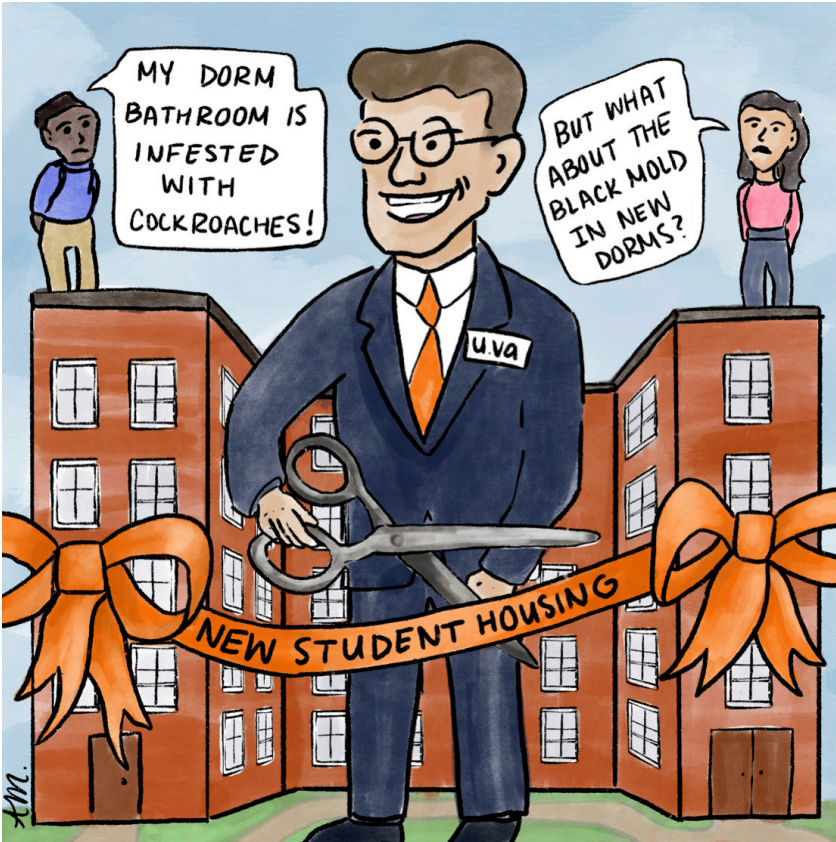
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OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

Reckon consistently with our history

Despite recent positive change, the University and Charlottesville alike have failed to consistently uphold the values they promote

It has been over a year since the melting of Charlottesville's statue of Robert E. Lee. The statue's removal and re-creation are just the latest action in a trend of communities reckoning with their history, often by renaming buildings or removing statues of problematic figures. More recent in our minds is the renaming of Alderman Library, deplatforming a man who dedicated his career to advocating eugenics. Despite these positive steps, much work remains to be done. Yet, the advocacy toward such change seems to have stagnated — and the result is a series of dissonant half measures.

The University, in the past, has prioritized ensuring that the names of our buildings reflect our values. In spring of 2022, the University renamed Maury Hall to John W. Warner Hall. Two years before that, the University renamed Ruffner Hall to Walter Riddle Hall. And in 2016, the University renamed Jordan Hall to Pinn

Hall. In each instance, the University deplatformed controversial figures of Virginia history in favor of those who had yet to have their stories told and legacies honored.

Which is why it is so puzzling to see some of the names still populating Grounds. Consider New and Old Cabell Hall. It is hard to forget that Joseph Cabell would disapprove of nearly all the courses offered in his building. Moreover, papers in Shannon Library show that Cabell and his family owned 1,200 enslaved laborers and were avid believers in the continuation of enslavement. That Cabell's name has eluded the critical conversations faced by other namesakes around Grounds represents a profound inconsistency in the attempt to reckon with our past.

This dissonance touches not just the buildings we walk past but also the streets we walk on. South of Grounds, two streets bear names which will seem familiar to students — Maury and Alderman.

It is true that any renaming would take an act from the Charlottesville City Council. However, it is University students traveling along these roads, and it is the logo of the University painted proudly on the asphalt. We, as a University community, have reckoned with these names and come to a resounding conclusion — they have no place in our institution.

Both University administration and City Council must be consistent in their efforts to contest values in the names of places. To their credit, the University already has a body dedicated to this mission — the Naming and Memorials Committee. However, the work of this committee seems, from the outside, to be deeply inconsistent. Shannon Library should not be the culmination of this committee's work. There are more spaces on Grounds which demand the committee's attention.

Similarly, the City Council's past actions reflect an understand-

ing on their part that the names of Charlottesville's streets reflect our community's values. There are a dozen streets in Charlottesville that have been ceremonially renamed with the expressed desire of honoring the recipient. So, why then has the reckoning been inconsistent? City Council should follow through on their commitment to honoring the figures of our history that reflect the values of today — and that means removing Maury and Alderman's names.

Until these bureaucracies have proven willing to commit to change outright, it is up to us, students and Charlottesville residents, to continue pushing for that change. Whether a building or a street, the problem was never just with individual names. Rather, the process of renaming was meant to be one that initiated a continued reckoning with our checkered history. But by failing to consistently commit in earnest to that process, the University and the City of

Charlottesville have cast doubt on the sincerity of their past actions and the legitimacy of the process writ large.

In fact, failure to consistently reckon with the names which populate our streets and adorn our buildings implies that this work is not important — it adds fuel to the fire that this work is merely performative. This is especially the case when the renaming emerges only in the wake of extensive public pressure. But we cannot forget how important this work is to our collective ability to evolve over time.

THE CAVALIER DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD is composed of the Executive Editor, the Editor-in-Chief, the two Opinion Editors, their Senior Associates and an Opinion Columnist. The board can be reached at eb@cavalierdaily.com.

One year later — a local zoning ordinance proves its worth

The new ordinance is a step towards more affordable and available housing — a necessity for the City

In December of 2023, the Charlottesville City Council approved a revised zoning ordinance, designed to combat the housing shortage in Charlottesville. Key changes to the ordinance included expanding the number of multi-family residence zones and prioritizing affordable housing and economic diversity in a process known as upzoning. The decision was contested, with some particularly disgruntled locals filing a lawsuit against the City of Charlottesville. Their argument was bureaucratic in nature and, as of right now, three of the four counts have been thrown out with a ruling on the fourth coming soon. In the meantime, the City is allowed to continue operating under the guidelines of the new ordinance. One year removed from the drama, the current progress being made signals optimism for Charlottesville's housing market.

Last year's new zoning ordinance was overdue. The median home price in Charlottesville is currently \$643,000, which is a 43 percent increase in price since 2020. In addition, there was a shortage of more than 4,000 affordable homes

for lower-income households in 2022. Moreover, local overnight shelters routinely reached their capacity last winter. Essentially, Charlottesville was in dire need of increased housing density, specifically for low-income individuals, which is what the new ordinance

was designed to assist with. Moreover, local overnight shelters routinely reached their capacity last winter. Essentially, Charlottesville was in dire need of increased housing density, specifically for low-income individuals, which is what the new ordinance

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“We cannot expect the moon and stars from this ordinance immediately — progress on matters of this nature is slow.”

was designed to assist with.

Nevertheless, instead of looking at the benefits of the ordinance, some critics choose to focus on quality of life concerns such as a theoretical increase in traffic congestion. Any concerns about a massive increase of traffic are unfounded, as a glance at the ordinance itself shows the majority of the city is still zoned for the lowest density. Even if traffic congestion did increase slightly, this ordinance would still be necessary. Without it, Charlottesville would continue to price out its most essential work-

would do well to avoid.

Of course, we cannot expect the moon and stars from this ordinance immediately — progress on matters of this nature is slow. However, we can look elsewhere to see that the likelihood of this ordinance paying dividends is high. Consider the Minneapolis 2040 plan which was an initiative for sweeping changes to land-use and zoning passed in 2018, including upzoning and a more robust public transportation system. Since then, over 1,000 units of housing have been constructed with more high-density projects

lottesville.

It is also important to acknowledge one of the groups placing great strain on Charlottesville's housing availability — ourselves. It is a simple calculus to see how tens of thousands of students in a city of roughly 50,000 place additional pressure on an already strained housing market. Given that we contribute to the problem, the University must also add to the solution. The lack of upperclassmen housing has resulted in pressure on the Charlottesville housing market, and the University's

2030 Plan, while admirable in its efforts to increase student housing, also requires the purchase of land on the Emmett-Ivy corridor for further expansion. It is necessary for the University and students to closely monitor their expansion and impact if they wish to actually be “Good Neighbors.”

In its current situation, Charlottesville is an early adopter of the upzoning movement, giving the City the unique opportunity to act as a shining example of its benefits for cities similarly suffering from housing shortages. Students and residents alike still suffer from the shortage, but as more and more and more housing developments are built, the new ordinance shows promise. Although it is still too early to fully ascertain the benefits and drawbacks of Charlottesville's new zoning ordinance, it is safe to say that the zoning changes are a strong step in the right direction.

CONALL CASTAGNO is a viewpoint writer for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com.

The truth about nuclear power in Northern Virginia

Youngkin has encouraged nuclear reactor production in Northern Virginia without telling the public the whole story

Homer Simpson once said, “Lord, we’re especially thankful for nuclear power, the cleanest, safest energy source there is ... except for solar which is just a pipe dream.” Gov. Glenn Youngkin agreed — in July, at a press conference, he said something similar and followed it up by facilitating a deal that promises nuclear power plants in Virginia. While Youngkin has tried to frame these deals as a benefit for the economy, these plants will not actually be providing cleaner energy for civilians. Youngkin is trying to entice data centers to move to Northern Virginia for his own political gain, and presenting this to the taxpayer as a service to the citizen is deceiving.

At best, Virginians will feel the effects of this project indirectly — the primary goal of this deal was to draw data centers to Northern Virginia. These large data centers require huge sources of electricity to remain operational, and placing them near neighborhoods without building new power plants would drive electricity costs through the roof. Thus, the so-called “Data Center Alley” is forced to bring their own power into the area, which

is what this new deal will work to do.

Youngkin claims that these plants would help keep energy prices stable, but in reality, his aim is to encourage more data centers to move into the area. While building the plants, the increase of data centers and the commitment to efficient energy sources are all laudable, the way

the plants in the affluent northern area. Electricity is not being shipped across the state, and the plant’s jobs are not likely to draw workers from poorer areas of Virginia. Why should taxpayers pay for one large, wealthy company to build a power plant for another large, wealthy company?

One might argue that there might be indirect reasons to

plants than in Northern Virginia. His actions contradict his rhetoric, and Virginians should not be fooled.

In short, this plan is at best neutral and at worst harmful to employment rates in Virginia. But beyond that, Youngkin has also been misleading in how he describes the feasibility of the new construction. Nuclear ener-

the project. SMRs are certainly innovative, but they come with an expensive, inherent risk of failure — something that Youngkin conveniently forgets to mention in his address on the future of Virginian energy.

Virginia could benefit from nuclear power plants, but the current proposal that Youngkin advertises hardly achieves its promised benefits. If Youngkin explained the potential downsides of the plants, he could ease concerns that the project is not feasible. Indeed, nuclear power can be a sustainable solution in Northern Virginia. However, taxpayers have a right to know the full details of the projects their government is approving. Mr. Burns from “The Simpsons” may be secretive about the operation of his nuclear power plant, but Youngkin need not be.

“Nuclear energy is clean, efficient and safe — but in this case, it is not cheap and, thus, is not a sure thing.”

that Youngkin has sold this idea to the public is misleading — most of the benefit will be felt by larger corporations.

In fact, the direct gains of these plants may be nonexistent for the average Virginian. Youngkin signed a law in July allowing Dominion to use tax money to help pay for power plant construction. We are subsidizing a project that does not improve quality of life. Even if it did help some Virginians, it would help only the areas closest to

build the nuclear plants like job creation. This idea would be reasonable in many areas — but not Northern Virginia. By state, Virginia has the 8th lowest unemployment rate in the United States. By county, Virginia’s most well-employed counties are concentrated in the North. Focusing on building up low paying jobs in an already prosperous area is a ludicrous goal. If Youngkin was concerned with providing jobs to poorer areas of Virginia, there are better spots to build these

gy is clean, efficient and safe — but in this case, it is not cheap and, thus, is not a sure thing. Youngkin has tended to focus on bringing Virginia into the next generation of energy. Rhetoric like this is certainly inspirational, but it is by no means realistic.

For example, Youngkin has promised Dominion a small modular reactor. China and Russia are the only places with SMRs as of now, and when Utah tried to build one, the costs soared to \$10 billion, leading to the scrap of

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HUMOR

U.Va. begins to lease out the Lawn

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

The University unveiled its new plan to rent out the Academical Village’s green space to students on Wednesday in hopes of addressing the housing crisis. This decision comes amidst President Jim Ryan’s struggle to ensure that all second-years live on Grounds. Students who are accepted to live on the Lawn will be given tents and an Easy Bake oven.

The plan came as a shock to students, as the Lawn is one of the University’s most historical sites. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Lawn has stood as the centerpiece of the University — until now, when it will serve as a camping ground.

“Building Gaston and Ramazani took too long, and if we’re to get all second-years living on Grounds by 2030, we need to start utilizing the resources we have now,” Ryan said.

Ryan expanded upon the logistics of how the Lawn would be usable for housing, given its size, and

concluded that the close quarters would increase student bonding. To facilitate this, the Lawn will be divided into 300 plots, each of which will have a tent. Deans will be designated as each student’s landlord.

The deans will impose graded consequences for housing infractions. Students will also be held to stricter standards than the surrounding on-Grounds housing options due to the Lawn’s historic nature. For example, to prevent fires, students will lose one decimal point off their GPA for every candle they light. Campfires are still permitted.

Varsity athletes, students with a GPA over 3.8 and Engineering students will receive “luxury” plots. These are only slightly larger but come with an air of superiority.

The University is working to ensure students living in tents experience the same levels of stress as their off-Grounds peers in hopes that more students will be persuaded to live on Grounds. The University plans to do this through releasing acceptances to the new

Lawn spots a day after all other on-Grounds housing placements and giving landlord-deans special training.

“Housing stress has proven important to students’ development,” Ryan said. “We wanted to make it as complicated as possible, so students living on Grounds still get the experience of baring their heart to their landlord via email and being met with an ‘Ok.’ sent from their iPhone message weeks later.”

Attendees of the press conference raised concerns about students living in tents on the Lawn due to the University’s new policies. Ryan explained setting up these tents will conveniently comply with current University guidelines as long as students don’t engage in any political speech inside of them.

The University also addressed how it would differentiate students in Lawn rooms from students in Lawn tents, with a focus on ensuring the prestige of Lawn rooms will not be squandered. While students living in Lawn rooms will

keep their endearing “Lawnie” nicknames, students living on the new plots will be addressed as “Tentie,” dean and future landlord Lou Tenant explained.

Additionally, while Lawnies will be able to access Lawn-only bathroom facilities, Tenties will share one porta-potty and will shower when it rains. And while Lawnies receive their personal robes for their bathroom treks, Tenties will receive a singular dish towel.

Tenant went on to discuss the importance of preserving the meritocratic environment at the University, along with the prestige of living in a Lawn room.

“We wanted to preserve the egos of our cherished Lawn room students. We don’t want them believing they aren’t special because they’ll have more of their equally talented peers alongside them,” Tenant said.

However, the decision faces backlash. The concept of students housed on the Lawn is putting University traditions in jeopardy.

Streaking the Lawn is one custom that will be impacted by this new plan. Streakers will no longer have a clear path to Homer’s cheeks, but rather an obstacle course of their classmates to nakedly parkour through.

Despite the pushback, many students who were rejected from living in a Lawn room can experience tour groups gawking at them when they return from “the shower” — only now with nowhere to hide. Student Council representative Noah Idia reveled in the idea.

“Each generation of students has redefined the Academical Village in hopes of making their mark on the University,” Idia said. “I am so excited that this generation will have the same chance.”

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Early Visions facilitates creativity through artistic mentorship

The program at the Fralin provides a creative outlet for children in the Boys and Girls Club and University students alike

Delaney Coppola | Staff Writer

Through compelling exhibits and engaging events, The Fralin Museum of Art has made great strides to evoke an appreciation for creativity, and community among University students, local residents and Charlottesville's youth. But beyond its displays of noteworthy artwork, the Fralin commits itself to empowering children through the arts. This is evident in its Early Visions program — a 10 week-long after-school program that brings together children from the Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia with University student-artistic mentors.

From reflecting on various pieces in the Fralin's collection to creating personal masterpieces of their own, both the mentors and the mentees in the program develop a greater sense of confidence in their artistic abilities.

The Early Visions Program began in 2005 as a partnership between the Fralin and Charlottesville High School before moving to partner with the Boys and Girls Club in 2007. The program encompasses mentees from the Cherry Avenue, Albemarle Campus and Southwood Clubs. The artistic journeys that these kids embark on are guided by a dedicated team of University students. Angela Corpuz, director of the program and manager of Studio & Docent Programs at the Fralin, said students from all backgrounds and majors at the University volunteer every year.

"We'll oftentimes see a lot of people who are in the A-school, but then there's people in studio arts ... or as far-flung as commerce, lots of people from the Education school [and] pre-med," Corpuz said.

The application to be a mentor — which opens on the Fralin's website every fall — is a two step process including the application itself and an interview. University students who continue past the application and interview stages then become mentors for the spring semester. The diverse backgrounds of the student mentors enrich their respective mentor-mentee relationships. Each mentor brings a unique perspective to the creative and educational experiences, like perusing the museum and gaining inspiration before delving into the day's planned art activity.

The program offers a family style atmosphere — a few mentors and multiple mentees sit together at each table so everyone has a chance to collaborate and learn as a group. Beginning with an exploration of the museum's art offerings followed

by an engaging personal art project, each meeting strives to inculcate an environment where everyone feels comfortable and creative.

Second-year College student Emily Tran, who served as an Early Visions mentor this past spring, said that this structure cultivates a strong sense of mutual growth and belonging among the entire program. Tran said the nurturing environment and engaging activities allowed her to create a meaningful and lasting bond with one of her mentees, Aranza.

"Early Visions became more than just a program for me. It's a space where I can connect, learn and create without expectations," Tran said. "I grew very close with Aranza, and even after the program ended, we kept in touch, exchanging little gifts and messages that kept our bond alive."

These activities, which integrate pieces and exhibitions from the museum into interactive and hands-on initiatives, allow children to use art to explore and express their individual identities. The activities also allow mentees to gain exposure to a variety of mediums, techniques and styles of art over the course of the 10 weeks.

One example of a project well-loved by the participants was the creation of clay mascots based on a lesson which highlighted the Fralin's own mascot — Fralin the Bull.

"We have a replica of Fralin the Bull right outside ... so we take the kids out there ... then we go back into the classroom and do the reverse and make their own mini mascot for themselves and express something that they like or something about themselves through their own designed character" Corpuz said.

Above all, Corpuz emphasized that a main goal of the program lies in helping the kids to believe that they are capable of creating art, not only as a skill but also as a powerful outlet for expression.

Early Visions also provides kids with a chance to hear firsthand from successful artists in order to demonstrate the possibilities of art as a way to express emotion in a personal or professional manner. Past guests have included Patricia Michaels — a fashion designer featured as a competitor on Project Runway — as well as photographers like Sarah Maple, best known for her award-winning self-portrait collection titled "SIGNS," and Tokie Rome-Taylor, whose work, celebrated for its rich symbolism and exploration of identity, was featured in the Fralin's 2022



HANNAH LEE | THE CAVALIER DAILY

"Power Play" exhibition.

"It's really gratifying whenever we have visiting artists come because the kids get to see contemporary working artists who've had their artwork displayed and exhibited at the museum," Corpuz said. "[Early Visions gives] these kids lots of opportunities to see artists and also see themselves as artists."

Corpuz said that the Charlottesville community has also been very supportive of the Early Visions program. For example, at the conclusion of the 10 weeks, Welcome Gallery — located in the New City Arts initiative, which is an organization on the Downtown Mall that connects local creators with the broader community — sponsors an exhibition that highlights work the students have made during the program. Corpuz said this culminating presentation allows the mentees to see their artwork in a real gallery setting, but also lets them share their journey as an artist with family and friends.

"We give the kids invitations, and they invite all their friends and their teachers," Corpuz said. "Last year, there was one kid [where] her entire teacher squad came ... the reading specialist, her classroom teacher, everybody just came."

Corpuz said that incorporating more events which increase community engagement is one of her many goals as director. She said that she believes it gives the children a chance to develop interpersonal skills in addition to honing their creativity.

In an effort to strengthen this mission, Corpuz said she has brought on new staff to the Early Visions team to best support the holistic learning of the participants from the Boys and Girls Club. The approach emphasizes a balanced curriculum designed with opportunities for social, emotional and practical life skills that mentees can apply to other aspects of their lives.

"I've hired a social emotional learning specialist to help make sure that our curriculum doesn't just say that we help [the kids] with life skills and self-regulation, but really just digs into the core and foundation of what we're doing," Corpuz said.

According to Corpuz, the most rewarding aspect of the program is being able to provide more children the resources to freely explore the arts.

"Anything I can do to get more people making artwork, that's my whole goal and purpose," Corpuz

said. "Art and creativity [are] a part of the human experience and that should be free and available to everyone."

Corpuz's dream has become reality for program participants like Tran, who said that working with the mentees through Early Visions has changed her own mindset around making art. She said that it has given her a new-found sense of creative freedom.

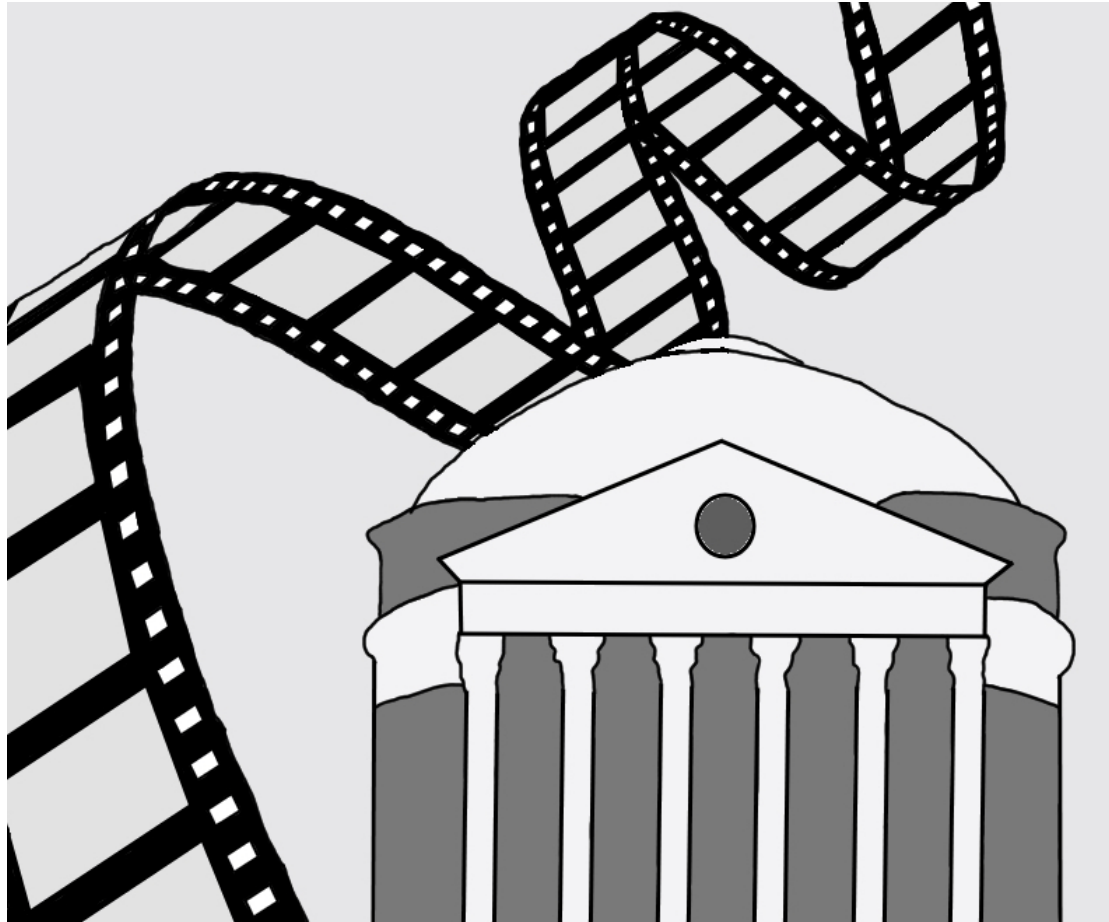
"There's something so refreshing about being around kids. They bring a kind of honesty and perspective that makes me see things in new ways," Tran said. "Working with them reminds me of the importance of staying curious and open-hearted."

An uplifting and mutually beneficial program, Early Visions provides an artistic outlet for kids and mentors alike. The opportunity for creative expression proves a space to decompress and bridge a relationship between University students and the greater community. The program accepts applications for the spring cycle throughout the fall semester, and students interested in joining can apply through the Early Visions mentorship application to learn more.

The Filmmakers Society is heart of student filmmaking

This club takes a holistic approach to filmmaking, from bolstering prolific production to illuminating the behind-the-scenes business

Zach Geller | Staff Writer



PRATHA RAVANI | THE CAVALIER DAILY

In the burgeoning film hub that is Charlottesville, there are a number of outlets for members of the community to be exposed to the world of film. Especially in the wake of the Virginia Film Festival, which recently premiered more than 100 films to sold-out crowds over five days, there is truly no shortage of art being produced and appreciated by the local community. However, the driving force behind the student film scene in Charlottesville is the Filmmakers Society.

The Filmmakers Society, or FMS, is the University's only filmmaking-based Contracted Independent Organization. The CIO provides students a creative voice to be shared on Grounds and beyond — its members care deeply about the importance of understanding, making and sharing film, not only as a form of media or entertainment, but as uniquely beautiful pieces of art.

The club hosts discussions with prominent figures in the film industry, coordinates classic movie screenings around Grounds and, most importantly, hopes to elevate the platform of independent student filmmakers at the University. The club meets weekly on the fourth floor of Newcomb Hall to work on their projects, hone their filmmaking skills and gain a great-

er appreciation of film and the film industry in a group setting. The projects are collaborative efforts, involving the input, review, and often direct production support of the club's leaders as well as from peers within the organization.

Tasked with the immense responsibility of being the only filmmaking-oriented CIO on Grounds, FMS has undergone a myriad of changes in recent years. Currently led by John Barnes and Henry Pallatroni, club co-presidents and fourth-year College students, the organization has experienced a resurgence of support and enthusiasm as of late.

Barnes, now in his fourth year of involvement with FMS, said that he and the other club leaders took it upon themselves to revitalize and reinvent the club for a newer, wider body of students after noticing lower attendance numbers at club events and recognizing the need for such an organization on Grounds. The club gained a second wind with the goal of giving more practical experience to film students through its leaders dedicating more time and energy to meeting consistently and scheduling regular programming.

"It's been really rewarding just this year already, to see how many more people are attending, and how many more people are willing

to step up and really make a lot of great events happen," Barnes said.

A recent development that the club has introduced is their noteworthy speaker series. At meetings throughout the year, industry professionals speak to the group, discussing their role in the entertainment world, giving students a glimpse into the life of a few prospective careers. With speakers ranging from high-ranking officials at IMAX to programming heads at HBO, FMS has drawn in talented professionals from the film and entertainment industry to impart their wisdom onto the club.

This undertaking has largely been a direct product of Barnes and Pallatroni's desire to revamp the club and provide more professional guidance to its members. Having experience working in the industry and drawing upon their own personal and professional connections, the club leaders seek to convey how truly vast and expansive jobs in and around film can be. Barnes himself has worked in a variety of different positions in and around film, including post-production work, film and television development and brand representation for industry-leading companies.

"There's so many different roles that you don't know about, from

online, social media and especially in school, that you don't know you can pursue," Barnes said. "Obviously, our main focus is filmmaking, but you can still be a filmmaker and work more of a traditional corporate film job, if that's something you're interested in."

While those less familiar with the film industry may only think of directors, producers, writers and actors as part of a film crew, FMS has introduced its members to the wide world of jobs in the industry at all stages of production. From marketing to post-production officials, content curators to brand ambassadors, the film industry provides a myriad of opportunities for passionate, creative individuals — such as the members of FMS.

By combining firsthand industry expertise with a comprehensive view of the flexibility and opportunity that the film industry provides, FMS blends the best aspects of the professional and creative organizations on Grounds to create a truly unique CIO.

The speaker series is just one of the many initiatives the organization has promoted as a part of its recent resurgence. The club also works to teach students filmmaking techniques in a practical sense, applying the skills they learn in club meetings to create more advanced, stronger pieces of art.

For example, by utilizing the tools found in the Robertson Media Center and the Digital Media Lab located in Clemons Library, FMS takes full advantage of the wealth of resources and opportunities for up-and-coming creatives to make and develop their projects. From camera equipment to video editing software, the University provides a centralized location for FMS members to apply the techniques they learned in the club to their own films.

The club is not solely made up of students interested in pursuing film, either academically or professionally, however. In fact, it is quite the opposite according to third-year Engineering student Ansh Pathapadu who intends to double major in computer science and studio art with a concentration in film.

"FMS is not just for filmmakers necessarily," Pathapadu said. "Even though that's what it's called, it's just for people who are interested in any aspect of film, so that they can hop on a project and do the role that they want to do."

By drawing students from all disciplines, every school on Grounds and any particular interest or level of experience, FMS

offers an interdisciplinary club experience that makes for a diversely creative body of members.

One of the most exciting projects that FMS is taking on this year is the group's effort to bring back the Student Film Festival on Grounds, an event previously focused on showcasing the films made by students at the University. For the first time since 2017, the organization is seeking to revive this initiative in order to elevate the creative perspectives and works of passionate students of the craft.

The Student Film Festival committee, headed by Pathapadu, is currently working as a division of the overall club. The committee leaders are focused on securing funding and programming for the event, with a tentative premiere in the spring of 2025. Reviving such an event is no small feat, but the club is well-organized and dedicated to bringing this dream back to life.

This spring's festival is primed to be an event that transcends the University. Pathapadu hopes to incorporate films made by student filmmakers from around the country into the festival and is looking to host the event at one of Charlottesville's significant movie theater locations to provide filmmakers a wider platform upon which to share their art and creative voice with the world.

"It's a very ambitious thing," Pathapadu said. "We don't know how many [films] we're gonna get. But my mindset when I'm leading these types of passion projects is, I would rather shoot super high and then fall rather than settling for less."

The passionate blend of creativity, entrepreneurship and professional development makes FMS a truly singular CIO on Grounds. Combining the logistical, business side of film with the creative, technical side is a massive undertaking for a single organization, but each member of the club is up to the task. And, by sharing each member's creative vision with a larger community, be it the club, the University, or the city of Charlottesville and beyond, FMS is a wholly practical, results-driven group as well. FMS has established itself as a rising star among the CIOs on Grounds, with more to come in the future.

LIFE

Top 10 Thanksgiving break moments

It wouldn't be Turkey Week without these iconic traditions

Sam Saks | Top 10 Writer

Get your tastebuds ready — after a long fall semester, Thanksgiving break is only a few days away. It's almost time for quick turnaround travel, taboo table talk, good eats and familiar company. Whether you're spending break near or far, here are some of the most iconic moments destined to befall your Thanksgiving next week.

1. Manufacturing an extended break

Thanksgiving recess starts on a Wednesday every year, much to the chagrin of University students who would rather enjoy the week off. Most professors predict low attendance on Monday and Tuesday and either cancel class, abbreviate a lesson or record the lecture — so why bother holding classes at all? Though the nonsensical scheduling of Thanksgiving-week classes may weigh students down, it doesn't stop some of us from defining our own terms for break. Congratulate that one friend who leaves for break today — they've either finessed their schedule in such a way that they're not missing much, or they've adopted a “my break comes first” attitude.

2. Managing travel tizzies

For many, Thanksgiving is a time to visit family across the states and abroad. For those of you driving home for break, brace yourself for traffic. Highways will be filled with Turkey-Day travelers, so make sure you've got a solid playlist to keep the ride bearable. For those of you opting for locomotive transportation, don't count on Amtrak's timeliness — there will almost definitely be some kind of delay, so download some mobile games to play while you wait. If you're traveling by plane, you're going to have a lot of time to kill once you've checked your bag, passed through security and walked to your gate. Try reading a book — or falling asleep with one on your lap. I know I'll be cracking open a classic mystery thriller from Dan Brown.

3. Perusing the parade

There's always that moment on Thursday morning when you suddenly remember that the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is on, and regardless of your thoughts on the quality of this programming, you can't help but flip it on. Once you've sat on the couch to watch, you become entranced by the goofiness of the parade and the festive energy on the streets of New York, and it's difficult to look away. Whether you watch for the floats — I hear Minnie Mouse will be making an appearance this year — the Broadway performances, the pop stars or the high school bands, there truly is something for everyone.

4. Setting the mood with football

It's uncanny, the way the football game finds its way onto our screens in the background of the chit-chat of Thanksgiving afternoon. I know it's no accident, but the game feels like it's part of the Thanksgiving ambience. Having the game on can be somewhat of a necessity, either for that uncle who must know the score at all times, or for an easy conversation starter with that relative who you don't know too well. The Thanksgiving game also presents the perfect opportunity for rookies to learn the rules of football — once the wine starts flowing, people are generally in a good enough mood to want to teach you. This Turkey Day, tune into an NFL game or watch our Hoos as they take on Virginia Tech.



MACKENZIE BULLOCK | THE CAVALIER DAILY

5. Serving sides

The best part of the Thanksgiving dinner spread is undeniably the sides. Look, turkey and turducken are fine and well, but you know them and their predictable ways — their generally dry, bland taste, only palatable with a smothering of gravy. The real “mouth-waterers” are the sides, whether they're a longtime staple of your Thanksgiving menu, or they're trials of New York Times Cooking recipes that have mainstay potential. When I make my plate on Thanksgiving night, I'll plop some turkey onto my plate, but I'm really excited to scoop some marshmallow sweet potatoes and cut a slice of pumpkin bread.

6. Preparing for the “what are you thankful for” circle-round

Brace yourselves for one of the most predictable of all Thanksgiving traditions. If all of your family and friends are laid back and just want to have an organic conversation, then lucky you — you are a rarity. I think most of us have that one dinner guest who, every year without fail, asks everyone to share what they are thankful for. While the question is on theme, there seems to be this pressure to craft the best, most thoughtful and most original answer. I make sure to think about multiple answers the Wednesday before so that I'm prepared.

7. Changing the topic after that awkward conversation

Oh, how we look forward to the inevitable discussion of politics at Thanksgiving. There's certainly a lot to talk about this year, what with the election and the recent news from Washington. If the people at your dinner table are all over the political spectrum, buckle up for a bumpy ride. Even if your guests are politically aligned, I hate to say it, but I doubt you will make it out of dinner unscathed. There is always that one stand-out, socially inappropriate comment that prompts a much-needed change in conversation. Keep a few harmless talking points in your back pocket — my go-tos are encouraging my younger brother to explain his science fair project and discussing new movies that are coming out. If I've exhausted these options, sometimes I'll even share what I want to do after college. Scary.

8. Game planning for Black Friday and Cyber Monday

Shopping is no laughing matter from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2. It's an honorable undertaking that requires the utmost preparation, from drafting lists to mapping out where to shop. The latter is what requires the most strategy — should you dash from one store to the next, or stay in one store and zig-zag through the clothing racks? Neither is for the faint of heart. For a more relaxed way to shop, stick to online vendors for Cyber Monday deals. Regardless, get your shopping carts ready — it's go time. to strike up conversations with any party goers who catch your eye.

9. Doing something memorable outside of dinner

Thanksgiving break isn't just about Thanksgiving. You've got a couple of days off, so spend some time doing something fun with family. Enjoy the crisp air and walk through a Christmas lights display — or stay in and watch A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving if the cold isn't your thing. Head to your favorite restaurant Friday night and rejoice in your favorite entrée, or break out the board games for a competitive game night. This break, I'll be decorating my house for the upcoming Christmas holiday and heading to the movie theater to see Wicked with my family.

10. Preparing for the end-of-semester chaos

Break comes at both the best and worst time of the semester, and it's only during break that this realization hits you. The end-of-semester grind has most of us itching for an escape from work, and for this, Thanksgiving break lands at a great time. Nothing beats the carefree attitude you adopt at the start of break because, well, you're on break, and you're spending time with friends and loved ones. However, once Thanksgiving has passed and you approach Saturday, fear strikes as you recall all of the projects due the following week and final exams looming ahead. Channel your calm and call upon your grit — winter break is only a few short weeks away.

Corn pudding — the easiest Thanksgiving side dish

This Midwestern-style cornbread is as effortless as it is delicious

Kate Johnson | Life Editor

Corn pudding, a Midwestern comfort dish, has been a fixture of my family's Thanksgiving table for years. I like to describe corn pudding as cornbread, but better — it's made with a velvety sour cream batter filled with corn kernels that pop with sweetness. As corny as it sounds, the resulting dish brings dinner guests together over a shared sweet-and-savory experience.

My dad grew up eating corn pudding in Iowa with his family during the holidays. Some years ago, he introduced the dish to my mom's New York relatives, and they fell in love with it. Corn pudding has since become a part of our Long Island

Thanksgiving. My cousins eye the pudding the moment it's set on the dinner table, and they let out a collective "ooh" as we dig into the tray.

It's hard to find a dish that's as foolproof as this one. Corn pudding takes less than 10 minutes to prepare, and if you buy the ingredients in the amounts listed below, you won't have to measure a thing. Look no further than this recipe if you need a last-minute accompaniment to your turkey next week.

Prep time: 10 minutes

Bake time: 45 minutes

Yields: 1 8x8-inch pan

Ingredients:

1 8.5-oz box of Jiffy corn muffin mix
2 extra-large eggs
½ cup salted butter, melted and cooled
8 oz sour cream
1 15-oz can of creamed corn
1 15-oz can of corn kernels

If you'd like, you can add one cup of shredded cheddar and 3 tablespoons seeded, chopped jalapeños to the batter for a cheesy kick.

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8x8-inch baking dish with butter or cooking spray.

2. Drain the corn kernels using a fine mesh strainer. Set aside.

3. In a large bowl, beat the eggs into the melted butter. Whisk in the sour cream.

4. Stir the creamed corn and the drained corn kernels into the egg mixture. With a spatula, fold the Jiffy corn muffin mix into the mixture until just combined.

5. Pour the batter into the baking dish. Bake for 45 minutes or until the top of the pudding is golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

6. Remove the pudding from the oven and let cool for 15 minutes. Scoop to serve.

For even easier dinner prep on Thanksgiving day, make a tray of corn pudding up to two days in advance. Once the pudding has cooled, cover the baking dish with plastic wrap and store it in the fridge. Then, just before Thanksgiving dinner, reheat the pudding at 300 degrees for about 15 minutes.

This dish is best served fresh out of the oven when the edges are slightly crisp, the pudding is warm and the aroma of sweet corn fills the air. It'll bring a kernel of joy to everyone seated around the table, from your doting grandma to your picky baby brother.

A look into expanding Native American resources on Grounds

With Native American Heritage Month underway, University community members work to increase visibility of Native American cultures

Mia Tan | Life Editor

In recent years, University community members have spearheaded several initiatives to amplify Native American voices. Specifically, student organizations, activist groups and academic programs have focused on highlighting individual differences among Indigenous students and bridging the gap between the University and Virginia tribes.

In the United States, Native American students are one of the most underrepresented groups in postsecondary education, a trend that has been attributed to cultural isolation, financial stress and a lack of campus support, among other factors. In 2022, the national college enrollment rate for 18- to 24-year-olds who identify as American Indian/Alaska Native was 26 percent, which was considerably lower than the overall national average rate of 39 percent.

A similarly disproportionate enrollment rate is apparent in the University student body. Among the 3,989 first-year students in the Class of 2028 who arrived in August, 38 identified as American Indian/Alaska Native, 14 identified as Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and six were enrolled citizens of a Native Nation, according to self-reported data collected by the University.

Even within the broader Native American community on Grounds, students may not necessarily find peers who share their nation's culture. As a member of the Monacan Nation, Joseph Lilly, co-president of the Native American Student Union and fourth-year Architecture

student, said meeting people of the same heritage is a rarity for Indigenous students — he, for one, can count the number of Monacan students he knows at the University on one hand.

Lilly recounted a rare experience that occurred when he was an underclassman at the Activities Fair — while he had set out to join a Native American organization, he ended up meeting a member of NASU who was part of the Monacan Nation.

"I started talking to a person at [the Activities Fair]," Lilly said. "She introduced me to the club, and eventually, we started talking more at different events ... about our family history and ancestry — turns out we're cousins."

While he found a family member at the University, Lilly said Native American students are still spread thin across Grounds. He acknowledged how every Indigenous nation has its own culture and politics but that students must set aside these differences to build solidarity in an already small community.

"Even within smaller states, there's multiple nations and sometimes, even within those nations, you get different group politics, so there's always division," Lilly said. "But at UVa., we don't really have the luxury of a large enough community that we can have those divisions. There's not a ton of us at all."

Still, Lilly said University organizations aim to highlight the diversity of Indigenous cultures and traditions. NASU, an educational and activist organization, welcomes non-Native students and students of

Native Nations alike, with members hailing from Indigenous nations of present-day Canada, the U.S., Central America and South America. NASU's annual Powwow, one of its largest events, has previously featured the cultures of Powhatan tribes, the Monacan Nation and the Chickahominy tribe.

To celebrate Native American Heritage Month this November, NASU is spotlighting various Indigenous cultures through a series of events. Last week, members of the organization watched "Retablo," a Peruvian movie that features Indigenous communities of South America. Members also plan to host a beading event Thursday where students can make their own earrings. According to Lilly, these events, while educational, primarily serve as opportunities for social bonding.

"We're trying to provide a place where ... [Native American students] can come and talk to us," Lilly said. "We try to have different educational events throughout the year, but the majority of our events are just community-focused."

Besides NASU, the University's Native and Indigenous Relations Community, a collection of faculty, staff, students and alumni, is engaged in ongoing projects and partnerships with the goal of supporting Indigenous communities. In one initiative, NIRC has worked with Virginia tribes and the Presidential Committee on the George Rogers Clark statue to create a garden on West Main Street where a statue of Clark, a Revolutionary War military officer, once stood. The statue had

referred to Clark as the "Conqueror of the Northwest" and displayed him confronting three unarmed Native Americans. It was removed in 2021.

In the past two years, the University has also taken steps to strengthen its connection with Virginia tribes. The Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion created the Tribal Relations website to provide a resource for those of Native Nations who are interested in learning more about the University. The website includes a video acknowledging the Monacan Nation, whose land the University is built on.

A notable addition to University staff is the inaugural tribal liaison position, which was developed in partnership with the seven federally recognized tribes in Virginia. Kody Grant took up the position in June of 2023 with the goal of increasing the presence of Native Americans on Grounds. He described his position as a "switchboard" that facilitates communication between Native Nations and the University.

"One of the main things that tribal leadership asked for was a liaison — somebody they could call and have available for them," Grant said. "[The position] serves as that middle point ... to put people in touch."

Grant said a significant portion of his work centers on outreach, as he strives to inform tribal communities of possible paths they can take at the University. He highlighted the UVa. Facilities Management Apprenticeship Program, a four-year program which provides individuals the opportunity to learn a skilled trade.

"A lot of my focus is outreach, making sure that folks are aware of UVa. because they might not know exactly what specific programs we offer that might be of value or interest to them," Grant said.

For Lilly, having Grant as a resource is a step forward for the University. Lilly cited other initiatives that have impacted Indigenous students, such as the minor in Native American Indigenous Studies — which was first offered when Lilly was an underclassman — and the Multicultural Student Center's collaboration with Native American students.

"I would say UVa. is moving on the right track. It's kind of in between not enough and right where it needs to be. It's moving in the right direction, and that's been happening over at least the time I've been here for the past four years," Lilly said.

With more work to be done in supporting Native American communities on Grounds, Lilly said one way people can effect change is by truly recognizing Native American individuals. For Lilly, this gesture means setting aside misconceptions of Indigenous culture and seeing Native Americans as real, ordinary people with a rich history.

"I think the big thing is realizing that Native Americans aren't only confined to history books. We are still present [and] active in communities," Lilly said. "We're normal people, we have a history, and we're still here."



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GHAITH AL-OMARI

Ghaith al-Omari is the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute, focusing on the U.S.-Israel strategic relationship. Formerly executive director of the American Task Force on Palestine, he advised the negotiating team during the 1999–2001 permanent-status talks and held various roles in the Palestinian Authority.

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