

The Cavalier Daily

WEEKEND EDITION

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Jurors find Va. Tech negligent

Wrongful death suit verdict says university did not respond adequately during April 2007 shootings



A gunman at Virginia Tech killed 32 students and faculty members during April 2007 and then shot himself. A jury ruled yesterday the university did not do enough to inform the community of two morning killings.

By Joseph Liss
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Jurors for the wrongful death case filed by the parents of slain Virginia Tech students Erin Peterson and Julia Pryde ruled yesterday the university had not done enough to inform the school community about the two shootings which occurred the morning of April 16, 2007. Seung-Hui Cho, the gunman who committed the morning shootings, killed another 30 people later that afternoon, but Virginia Tech maintains its officials did not act improperly. “The heinous crimes committed by Seung-Hui Cho were an unprecedented act of violence that no one could have foreseen,” Virginia Tech spokesperson Mark Owczarski said in a statement yesterday. “The extended Virginia Tech family, particularly those on campus that horrible

Matt Gentry | Roanoke Times

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WEEK
in Review

City Council

Charlottesville City Council Tuesday evening discussed raising the minimum wage of Charlottesville employees to \$13 an hour from the current rate of \$11.67. Mayor Satyendra Huja, however, said he did not know whether \$13 an hour was the “right number” for a living wage.

In the Court

The Virginia Supreme Court ruled this month that state Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli does not have the right to review former University Environmental Sciences Prof. Michael Mann’s research produced during his time at the University. Cuccinelli requested the information April 2010, allegedly to determine whether Mann had committed fraud during his research.

At the University

Professors at the University Medical Center announced Monday they had stopped 8-foot-3 Turk Sultan Kosen from growing. Kosen came to the University for treatment in 2010 where University endocrinologist Mary Lee Vance and University neurosurgeon Jason Sheehan prescribed medicine designed to inhibit the excessive production of growth hormone, which had led to his gigantism.

Sports

The Virginia men’s basketball team earned an NCAA bid Sunday for the first time since 2007. The Cavaliers (22-9, 9-7) received the No. 10 seed in the NCAA Tournament’s West Region and will play No. 7-seeded Florida (23-10, 10-6 SEC) tomorrow in Omaha, Neb.

Rankings

The Law School placed seventh in the U.S. News and World Report law school rankings released Tuesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Batten School enters ranks

The Batten School entered the U.S. News and World Report rankings for the first time yesterday, placing 46th among the nation’s top graduate public affairs programs. The Batten School was established during 2007 as an accelerated bachelor’s and master’s in public policy program for undergraduate students and also offers a two-year master’s program. University Executive Vice President and Provost John Simon said in an email yesterday the Batten School has worked during the past several years to improve its national standing and the quality of instruction it provides students. “We built our reputation initially by utilizing some outstanding faculty from other units here at U.Va. to teach... here in the Batten School, and increasingly by recruiting our own first-rate full and part-time faculty from off-Grounds,”

Simon said in the email. The program’s curricula emphasize the connection between leadership and public policy, which Simon said has helped attract strong students and bolstered the school’s reputation. “[The Batten School offers] a distinctive and innovative curriculum focusing on the changing context of public policy in the 21st century and above all on the skills necessary for effective civic leadership, as well as on rigorous analytical skills,” Simon said. “We have attracted some extraordinary students who have already achieved some impressive placements upon graduation and are building our reputation among employers.” Simon said the Batten School plans to continue its current strategy for improving the school’s national standing. “[We will continue] recruit-



Thomas Bynum | Cavalier Daily

U.S. News and World Report ranked the Batten School for Public Policy 46th in the nation, marking the first time the school has ever been ranked. ing great students and faculty, enlarging our innovative curriculum, and also using our faculty, alumni, and a growing program of public events to spread the word about the school,” he said. U.S. News and World Report also ranked the Law School seventh in the nation, the Darden School seventh, the Education School’s graduate program 23rd, and the Engineering School’s graduate program 39th. —compiled by Alex Evans

Kaine leads Allen among local residents

University survey finds regional citizens support Democrat for U.S. Senate

By Kelly Kaler
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Former Gov. Tim Kaine, the Democratic candidate for one of

Virginia’s U.S. Senate seats, holds a significant lead among residents of western Virginia against Republican candidate former Gov. George Allen, according to a poll released this week by the University Center for Survey Research. The poll surveyed 1,096 adult residents from the greater Charlottesville area in January. The

poll showed 59.3 percent of voters who expressed a preference would vote for Kaine, and 40.7 percent would vote for Allen. The remaining 15.6 percent did not express a preference. University Center for Politics spokesperson Geoff Skelley, however, said Kaine’s advantage was likely affected by the area the University Center for Survey

Research analyzed. “The area that this survey polled is a fairly Democratic area, at least in the sense of Charlottesville and Albemarle,” Skelley said. “There’s basically [a population of] 150,000 in these two areas and 90,000 in the rest of the areas [surveyed], so [Kaine’s advantage] only makes sense.” Skelley said if other counties

had been polled, such as nearby Orange County, the results may have been different. The poll also surveyed Albemarle, Greene, Nelson, Fluvanna and Louisa Counties. Allen received majority support in only two of the counties selected, earning 65.2 percent

Please see **Poll**, Page A3

Stimson Center Senior Advisor Mona Yacoubian addressed the International Relations Organization yesterday evening about the situation in Syria and how it affects the anniversary of the Arab Spring.



Scott Miles
Cavalier Daily

Syria expert talks politics

Stimson Center senior advisor addresses Arab Spring developments

By Donald Sensabaugh
Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

Stimson Center Senior Advisor Mona Yacoubian spoke yesterday about the current Syrian uprising one year after the Arab Spring at the weekly meeting of the International Relations Organization.

The discussion centered on Syrian politics, including concerns about the nation’s deteriorating domestic situation and the possible collapse of Pres. Bashar al-Assad’s regime. Yacoubian also speculated about the possible futures of other nations involved in the Arab Spring, including Tun-

sia, Egypt, Yemen and Libya. “If the Assad regime collapses, which I believe it will, it will have a ripple effect on the diplomacy of its neighbors,” Yacoubian said. “We are on the verge of signifi-

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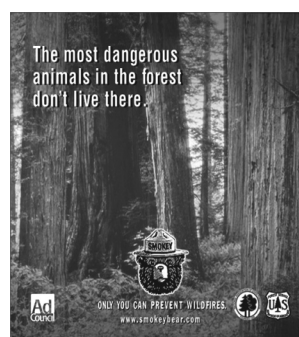
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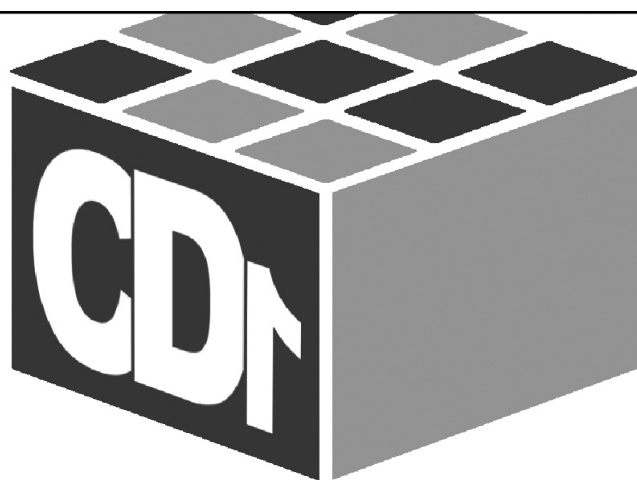
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Clouds start to roll in today with a chance for intermittent showers through tomorrow. We hang on to some clouds and a slight chance for showers into the weekend, with temperatures dropping slightly into the 70s yet staying unusually mild for this time of year.				To receive Cavalier Weather Service forecasts via email, contact weather@virginia.edu

Shootings | Decision disappoints Tech administration

Continued from page A1

day, will always remember and honor those we lost.”

Peterson and Prydes’ families alleged Virginia Tech did not properly warn the university community about the initial shootings at West Ambler Johnston Hall, a campus dormitory. The suit claimed such an alert could have saved the lives of their children and others.

The jury awarded \$4 million to each of the families, but damages paid to the families must be capped at \$100,000 according to the Virginia Tort Claims Act.

The U.S. Department of Educa-

tion fined Virginia Tech \$55,000 in 2010 for failing to respond appropriately to the shootings and provide adequate warnings to students.

“Under the Clery Act, institutions must issue timely warning to the campus community to inform affected persons of crimes considered to be a threat to students and employees,” according to a Dec. 2010 report issued by the Department of Education. “Virginia Tech failed to comply with the requirements relating to a timely warning.”

Virginia Tech has maintained university officials responded correctly when they waited to

issue a warning to the entire campus community after the morning shootings. Those shootings were followed by the more deadly shootings at Norris Hall hours later.

The Department of Education report said Virginia Tech had not issued its warnings quickly enough or followed its own policies when issuing the warnings.

“First, the warnings that were issued by the university were not prepared or disseminated in a manner to give clear and timely notice of the threat to the health and safety of campus community members,” the report said. “Second, Vir-

ginia Tech did not follow its own policy for the issuance of timely warnings as published in its annual campus security reports.”

Virginia Tech’s Continuing Education School, Government Relations Office and Veterinary School were locked down by 9:15 a.m., according to the Department of Education report.

“If the university had provided an appropriate timely warning after the first shootings at [West Ambler Johnson dorm], the other members of the campus community may have had enough time to take similar actions to protect themselves,” the report said.

Despite the decision yesterday, Virginia Tech officials maintain they acted promptly and efficiently to minimize the damage done on a day on which 33 people died and 17 were wounded.

“We are disappointed with today’s decision and stand by our long-held position that the administration and law enforcement at Virginia Tech did their absolute best with the information available on April 16, 2007,” Owczarski said. “We do not believe that evidence presented at trial relative to the murders in West Ambler Johnston created an increased danger to the campus that day.”

Poll | Area leans ‘slightly more liberal’ than state, Skelley says

Continued from page A1

in Greene County and 51.9 percent in Louisa County. He also received a small majority of support among citizens more than 64 years old, 50.8 percent of whom said they would choose him instead of Kaine. Voters whose highest level of education was a high school diploma also favored Allen.

Almost 65 percent of female respondents indicated they would support Kaine. He also received the majority backing from the poorest and wealthiest citizens, and non-white voters gave him 84.8 percent of their support.

Skelley said because Kaine is a Democrat, his large advantage with minority and female groups is unsurprising.

“In 2008 Obama won the Latino vote, the vote of people between the ages of 18 to 29, and 56 percent of women,” Skelley said. “It’s generalizing but it’s true... if Democrats want to win, they had better be winning with those groups.”

Kaine’s campaign spokesperson Lily Adams said these initial poll numbers are encouraging.

“We’re thrilled by the support

that Gov. Kaine has received in this grassroots campaign,” Adams said. “We will continue to build support as we travel across the state until November.”

Skelley said the current results might not be a reliable way to evaluate the statewide race, as the majority of Virginians surveyed live in areas which lean slightly more to the left.

“Albemarle used to be more

Republican but in recent years it has been trending Democratic,” Skelley said. “The rest of the counties with smaller populations [may be] slightly more Republican but they are outnumbered.”

The spokesman for Allen’s campaign could not be reached for comment.

The U.S. Senate election will take place Nov. 6.

Syria | Syrian situation differs from Egyptian uprising, Quandt says

Continued from page A1

cant change in the Middle East. There are great challenges, but with them come great opportunities.”

Yacoubian said Syria likely faces one of three possibilities: a peaceful transition to a different regime, a military uprising similar to the one which took place in Tunisia or preemptive reforms. She said, however, the relatively secretive nature of the Syrian regime makes it diffi-

cult for analysts to evaluate the political situation.

“Unlike the other uprisings, this one has been the most cut-off from foreign journalists and the press,” Yacoubian said. “It is very difficult to even tell what is happening.”

Apart from the Syrian uprising, the upcoming May Egyptian elections pose another challenge to the Arab Spring’s legacy. The Egyptian military, which currently holds power, has promised to return control to a civil-

ian government following the election, but there are questions about whether this transfer of power will actually occur, Politics Prof. William Quandt said.

“The Parliament is working with the military to draft a new constitution before the election of the president, so the voters know who they’re voting for,” Quandt said.

Quandt said the two most likely candidates are former Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and Dr. Abdel Moneim Aboul

Fotouh, a former member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Constructing the idea of the Arab Spring creates problems, Quandt said, because each of the countries involved have different histories and have followed different trajectories since last spring. Syria’s situation does not compare exactly to the conditions in Egypt a year ago, he added.

“In Egypt the military separated itself from the leader, to keep its own prerogatives,

and later allied with a popular uprising,” Quandt said. “This did not happen in Syria. The military comes from a minority group within the country and fears retribution. The leaders also fear there will be no soft landing.”

Yacoubian said ultimately the fate of the Middle East will likely hinge on economic integration and diplomacy with Syria.


“The window has not shut on the potential for diplomacy to solve this issue,” she said.



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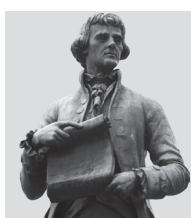




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The Cavalier Daily

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Kiss and tell

Universities should not ask about students' sexual orientation without good reason

In the wake of a proposal which first made waves in January, the University of California system is moving forward with the idea of asking the sexual orientation of its incoming students. California is of course the leftmost state geographically, and almost as far left politically. But we in Virginia find things less sunny and not just because of our being to their right. Regardless of sexual orientation, all points on the map should see this is a plan heading the wrong direction.

The UC system is admittedly under pressure from the state government of California, which requires them to collect information about students' sexual orientation. And knowing such information about incoming students could help the universities provide resources, officials said. As paraphrased by ABC News, Chair of the UC Academic Senate Robert Anderson said "The question will not be asked on applications to the schools because students may feel uncomfortable filling out the forms in front of their parents." Because everyone knows what you do not feel comfortable telling mom and dad you'll tell a big brother.

It is unclear how exactly such information would be used; a question about sexual orientation could be prejudicial if applied incorrectly, and if unused seems unnecessary. The architects of the UC plan have therefore plotted their intentions without laying out the consequences.

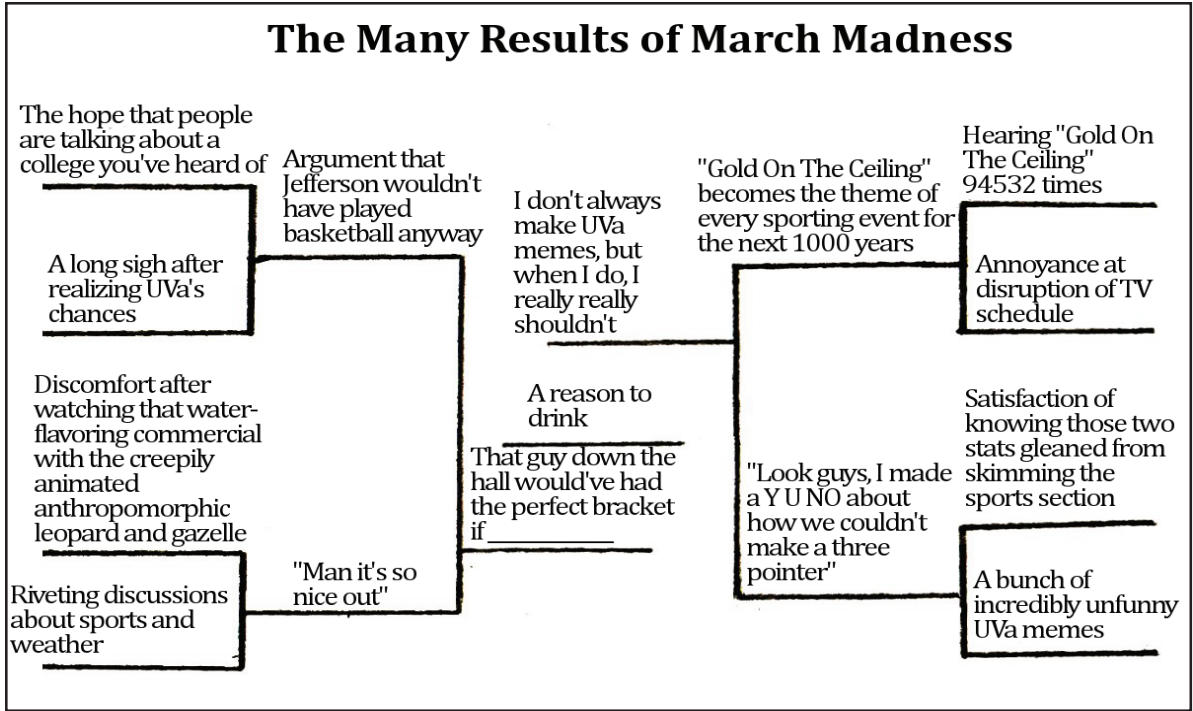
One blueprint example, to which we draw their attention, is housing. As ABC News writes, "Anderson was not sure whether the information would factor

into roommate assignment decisions for incoming freshmen." We are sure, however, applying this information to the roommate ordeal would make things even messier. One possibility they should definitely avoid is segregating housing based on sexual orientation. For gay and straight students to be housed apart would be a textbook formulation of separate but equal. This does not mean rooms should not be disturbed, but it would be more hospitable for colleges to knock down the door of antiquated same-sex dorm rooms.

Unlike Elmhurst College in Illinois, which last year was the first college to include the orientation question on its application, the UC system has not yet broken the seal on its forms. Elmhurst College raises another question: whether classifying sexual orientation should be a part of the admissions process. But colleges should not ask such a question without spelling out the fine print and consequences. Once posed, questions about sexual orientation cannot be avoided, as skipping says something and even "Questioning" is an answer.

There should undoubtedly be a welcoming atmosphere for LGBTQ students at universities, but the decision of how they come out should be made at their discretion. Regardless of sexual orientation, students should be accepted everywhere, but only admitted to the universities they are qualified for academically. Until then, incoming students of whatever orientation should follow the gay Oscar Wilde who knew, "I have nothing to declare but my genius."

Editorial Cartoon by Peter Simonsen



Volunteer ventures

Students should seek out unconventional service opportunities

MOST OF the friends which I have made at the University volunteer in some way in the Charlottesville community, be it via tutoring or through the hospital. Unfortunately, therein lies the problem: When people think of avenues of giving back to the community, they usually turn to traditional ways of volunteering, like going to the hospital or tutoring. There are many more ways of contribution which can potentially have just as much of an impact on the community and carry just as much importance. But people seem to remain unaware of these alternative service programs, or simply ignore them because they perceive them as unimportant.

I am not criticizing those who volunteer in either of the traditional ways I mentioned above; volunteering is a good deed regardless of where or how one does it. What I am saying is that people should not limit themselves to simply those two options. In fact, Madison House provides a wide array of programs in which students can participate, such as the Hoos Assisting with Life Obstacles (HALO) program. Under this program, students can volunteer at places such as The Haven, a homeless shelter located downtown, which offers services including laundry and shower facilities.

Actually, I myself volunteer there. When I first began, I was a little unsure of what I was doing; one of the main places I had volunteered in the past was the hospital. Yet the longer I have volunteered at The Haven, the more I have enjoyed the

experience, and the more I have learned about The Haven's community and residents. Program Director for The Haven, Max Grant, offers similar sentiments.

"I began volunteering at The Haven because it was an opportunity to step out of the U.Va. bubble and form connections with people

with a diverse range of experiences and backgrounds," he stated in an email. "I loved my volunteer experience, and became the program director in my second year in order to expand my relationship with Madison House and The Haven." Unfortunately, few people seem to know this program exists. When I tell people that I volunteer there, they simply give me a blank stare because they have no idea what The Haven is. I don't mind explaining, but it is unfortunate the program remains unknown.

Through Madison House, there are other programs such as the Albemarle Housing Improvement Program, where volunteers work together to fix houses and ensure people in the community are living comfortably. Programs like these provide an opportunity to better understand not only the Charlottesville community, but people in general. It is a chance to meet people who have interesting stories to tell; stories from which we young college students could learn.

Another program, Bridging the Gap, provides college students the chance to interact with refugee children in the community. Volunteers spend time with these children by helping them with homework, playing games and other activities. It is a way to help those children better acclimate to life in the United States.

All the programs I have mentioned thus far are Madison House programs. When I say to volunteer in different places, I am not saying that we should try to develop new programs but rather we should explore what

kind of programs are available instead of simply deciding that the hospital is the best place to volunteer. Madison House has many unique programs like Bridging the Gap and The Haven, which are just as necessary as work in the hospital.

The problem is that people often do not seek out programs like these because it is easier to volunteer at the traditional options. Nevertheless, taking the initiative to try a different volunteering experience is definitely worthwhile, even if it takes a little more time. I took the risk and volunteered at The Haven, and now, I love it. Try a different program; it might end up being an experience you treasure.

Fariha Kabir's column appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at f.kabir@cavalierdaily.com.

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Giving our all

Invisible Children's awareness programs have been successful in raising money to aid central Africa

I ASSUME the only people who do not yet know what all this “KONY 2012” noise is about are those of you not on Facebook. To briefly catch you up: A non-profit called Invisible Children (IC) released a slick, 30-minute video about the many war crimes of Joseph Kony, the man whose Lord’s Resistance Army terrorized Uganda and brutalized its children for years. The video went viral and received more than 70 million views in less than a week. Within that same time frame, hundreds of highly critical articles were shared about Invisible Children. Criticisms targeted the group’s financial management, its seemingly self-serving attitude and its failure to address the other serious human rights problems in Uganda.

It is great when a charity’s financial practices are being scrutinized — they can only be improved with public attention. It is also fully appropriate to question IC’s tactics, as no well-intentioned cause is above critical examination. But a number of critics are wrong in saying that IC does more harm than good. To say the world is worse off with the presence of this charity and the renewed attention it has brought to the condition of central Africa is absurd.

SAM CARRIGAN
OPINION COLUMNIST

One of the easiest attacks to make against IC is that it spends most of its money on raising awareness. Visible Children, a blog which critiques IC’s latest campaign, notes that 37 percent of IC’s budget goes directly to programs in Africa, compared to 43 percent which goes to awareness programs. Critics cite this to display what they believe to be a shocking lack of priorities, but what it really shows is the sad reality behind most Westerners’ knowledge of issues in Africa.

Before last week, millions of ordinary people in the United States had no idea about a single problem plaguing Uganda. Without raising awareness of Kony’s bloody legacy, IC would not have any money to use for its work on an actual solution. Visible Children points out IC raised \$9 million in 2011. So, going by the percentages previously stated, this group put a little more than \$3 million into direct action that year. Does this mean the awareness funds were squandered? Of course not.

Within a week of the launch of their expensive awareness campaign KONY 2012, IC had brought in a staggering \$15 million. If the organization only spent a third of that money on helping people in Africa, IC’s revenue from a single

week has contributed more to programs in Africa than it did all of last year; it is also more than its expenditure last year on awareness. This may come as a shock to some of the more idealistic critics of IC, but the old adage “you have to spend money to make money” applies to charities, as well.

Of course, this is only one of the many points of criticism against IC. The other major Western criticisms against IC are presented in The Atlantic by Max Fisher. In his article “The Soft Bigotry of Kony 2012,” Fisher says the “damage” done by IC is twofold: First, it is likely to lessen the amount of aid going to central Africa. Second, the campaign reinforces the idea “that well-meaning Westerners need to come in and fix” Africa, perpetuating a perverted, updated version of colonialism. We can ignore the contradiction inherent in holding these two premises simultaneously — people will not actually help, but then they will go and help with the wrong attitude! — and take their flawed reasoning apart separately.

Fisher’s first argument seems to hinge on the assumption that the

people giving to KONY 2012 would be instead giving to better causes in Africa if IC did not exist. Is it really safe to assume that people who were only just made aware

“Americans have a lot of power and money. Using those things wisely to assist the less fortunate is the only humane option.”

that they would be doing better without IC? Slim chances.

As for charity being the new “white man’s burden”: The idea that the white men behind IC may be a little in love with themselves can be safely drawn from their video. But IC’s website specifically points out that they act “with continuous input from, and in respect of the knowledge and experience of, local communities and their leaders.” A broader point about helping those in need is behind this issue. Philosopher Peter Singer famously defended foreign aid in his classic essay “Famine, Affluence, and Morality.” He compared donating to those in need to wading into a shallow pond to save a drowning child — if it doesn’t cost you anything significant, how can you refuse to do it? Singer is clearly not being a neo-imperialist or hoping to deprive Africans of

agency. He simply presents a notion that, if widely held, would vastly improve the world: those with power — or money — ought to help those in need. Americans have a lot of power and money. Using those things wisely to assist the less fortunate is the only humane option.

The voices speaking out against IC are numerous, and the criticisms that advocate for alternative actions are by far the strongest. I cannot refute those Ugandan critics who suggest that IC misrepresents their national situation, but I do think there is some reason for optimism. This campaign has caused millions to show an interest in Uganda and will hopefully lead to further notice. The problems of Uganda, including the human rights abuses of its sitting government, are terrible in their own right and more than worthy of attention. If anything, the KONY 2012 campaign has provided a blueprint of success for other humanitarians: If you want to make people aware of your cause, you’ve got to advertise it attractively and succinctly. People want opportunities to do good. Give them that opportunity, and you can change the world.

Sam Carrigan's column appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at s.carrigan@cavalierdaily.com.

Mann-dated inspections

Political agendas to discredit scientific work impede the progress made by experimental investigation

I N “THE Descent of Mann” (March 14), Sam Novack provided his opinion on the recent court decision against Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, the work of climatologist Michael Mann and anthropogenic — not “anthropomorphic” as he wrote — global warming. I would like a chance to point out the blatant misinformation in Novack’s article. First, Novack mentioned Mann’s hacked emails of 2009 known as Climategate. Emails taken out of context, especially the mention of a “trick,” were used to doubt Mann’s findings and justify the belief of a global warming hoax. However, Novack failed to show that investigations by multiple independent organizations, universities and countries have shown that there was no fraud or scientific misconduct. The criticisms against Mann’s work are simply unfounded and unscientific.

Novack also argued that Mann should have taken this opportunity to “legitimize his research and further prove his point” by yielding to Cuccinelli’s investigation. Yet Cuccinelli was demanding documents not from Mann himself, but from the University. These documents include all email and correspondence between Mann and 39 other scientists. Such a demand is

EVAN BROWN
GUEST VIEWPOINT

not only a gross violation of academic freedom and an overreach of power, but also an obstacle to the open exchange of ideas among colleagues. An environment in which your thoughts could be acquired and published at any time, and then subjected to public misinterpretation and criticism, can only foster fear and hinder our pursuit of knowledge.

Novack wondered why Mann “does not welcome the closer look at his methods?” The answer is that they already have been. In the ‘publish-or-perish’ world of science, peer review is one of the most important aspects of validating evidence. Research methods and findings are carefully scrutinized for possible errors before and after publication. Not only has Mann’s work undergone this rigorous inspection — which is probably even more closely examined due to the public controversy around global warming — but has been independently validated and confirmed by other climatologists using different data sets and methods of analysis. If Cuccinelli’s sole intention was to see Mann’s methods, all he has to do is Google “Mann 1998.” No, the Attorney General’s Inquisition is not based on rational inquiry, but rather a political agenda to

discredit anthropogenic global warming (AGW).

This leads me to my next point, that AGW is a real, empirically measured phenomenon accepted among the vast majority of climatologists. Novack has made some serious false claims in this department. He writes that “many scientists and climatologists dissent when it comes to the theory of man-made global warming” and that a scientific consensus “does not yet exist.” This is unequivocally false. A survey of climate-related papers’ abstracts from 1993 to 2003 has shown that not one rejected man made global warming (Oreskes 2004); another shows that 97-98 percent of climate experts support the consensus (Anderegg 2010). Such consensus, while indicative of the majority professional opinion, is not the reason scientists accept AGW. Scientists accept AGW because of the overwhelming lines of independent evidence which supports the theory. For this reason, any one scientist’s position on the theory is not really important — however, Novack listed three notable deniers, one of whom received a

Nobel Prize in an unrelated field.

Finally, Novack referred to acceptors of AGW as “believers” and AGW as a “belief.” This is a commonly used tactic to make deniers seem as justified in their beliefs as those who accept AGW. However, this is a false equivalence. I have found that deniers often come to their beliefs via misinformation, misunderstanding, politics or emotions. They fail to realize that people do not “believe” in AGW the same way they reject it. Rather, scientists who “believe” do so because of overwhelming evidence which justifies their belief. It is knowledge and fact. Members of the scientific community, as Novack put it, “ignore those who challenge the idea” because the deniers’ objections are not based on legitimate scientific reasoning. If a true skeptic were to come out with a flawless, peer-reviewed study which demonstrably falsifies the concept of AGW, he would be praised as a brilliant researcher from all climatologists for his advancement of science! However, no such event has occurred because deniers fail to properly provide falsification and instead resort

“We cannot let infringements, such as those of Cuccinelli, obstruct the free and open nature of scientific discourse which is so vital to producing reliable, honest and sound research.”

to extreme rhetoric, fear-mongering and simple close-mindedness. Denying reality is much easier than facing the cold, or in this case warm, hard facts.

Science is a dynamic and progressive process which may be one of humanity’s most important advancements. We cannot let infringements, such as those of Cuccinelli, obstruct the free and open nature of scientific discourse which is so vital to producing reliable, honest and sound research. Nor should we give credibility to the voices of denial which hamper our progress, who merely object with emotion, with misinformation and without evidence of their own. No, we should be vigilant in our pursuit of knowledge, examining all proper evidence and learning all that we can about the effects on climate in order to better understand this important aspect of our planet. We cannot do this if we fail to move beyond these politically-fueled petty arguments which deny well-supported, evidence-based facts. Reject the theory of gravity and you will stay anchored to the earth. Reject germ theory and you will still get sick. Reject the theory of evolution and life will still change. Reject the theory of anthropogenic global warming and the earth will still warm.

Evan Brown is a second year in the College.

Digitizing the Dow

Technology which emulates human thought could significantly improve the profitability of the stock market

T ODAY, high frequency trading is exciting, but not sexy. Traders currently use computers with blistering connections to markets to take advantage of momentary market inefficiencies and, through tremendous volumes, may work up a sizable profit. It is exciting because these high frequency trading (HFT) firms have computers which are able to spot patterns on ticker tapes and make about 70 percent of the entire market’s trades on any given day. But such practices are still not sexy, because the computers by themselves are as socially perceptive as a herd of cows. The computers have the technology to trade faster than a human being ever could, and consequentially have been programmed with algorithms which make them the masters of technical arbitrage. Where computers fall short, however, is in understanding the relationships which drive humanity, and more specifically, business.

At the University, we first think of a relationship as something like a friendship, platonic or otherwise, but we do not acknowledge the complexity of interactions. There are relationships between superiors and inferi-

ors, between enemies, between groups and organizations and internally, within ourselves. However different these relationships may seem, they all boil down to the desire to give and get attention.

The phenomenal success of Facebook and Twitter is the outcome of this desire. We are a society which is addicted to attention through “likes,” “retweets” and instant, always-ready information. Perhaps it is necessary to step back in order to realize that we are constantly exuding information about our political preferences, dietary opinions, skills and mood because of our love for attention.

Besides social networking, some of this digital information driven by attention can be useful in making decisions about future stock prices. But knowing that this information is available does not automatically make it usable data. The problem with HFT computers is that they must trade based on parsed data, such as binary commands. Since they cannot fully understand relationships among human beings, they have had no way to decipher our wealth of dynamic, always-ready information. I think this can be changed.

The saving grace for the computer is that a growing number of the interactions humans have are taking place on their playing field: the Internet. What I am currently researching is the abil-

“Instantaneous human decision making ability, which reflects the sentiments of a large sample of the consumer population, combined with the computers’ ability to execute trades could make markets much more efficient.”

ity to take in this user information, turn it into data and automatically make arbitrage decisions with high levels of correctness. Instantaneous human decision making ability, which reflects the sentiments of a large sample of the consumer population, combined with the computers’ ability to execute trades could make markets much more efficient. Wall Street’s financial prosperity could dramatically improve.

Both Twitter and Facebook have application programming interfaces (APIs) which can greatly facilitate that translation between human information — such as tweets, likes and hashtags — and data such as frequency and number count. For example, on Twitter, popular topics are often denoted by hashtags which can be aggregated automati-

cally through use of the API. It is common sense, then, that you can tell how “popular” a topic is by the number of people talking about it on Twitter. This information, which is instantly available through human expression, may not be instantly reflected in the stock market because computers have been unable to bridge information about popular human interests to a company’s stock price.

I believe computers have the ability to decide what information on social media and news aggregating sites is relevant to certain companies on the stock market. Consider IBM’s Watson, which, according to IBM, “can rival the greatest human contestants” on Jeopardy! and can “comb 10-Ks, prospectuses, loan performances and earnings quality while also uncovering sentiment and news not in the usual metrics...” This type of natural language processing technology is precisely what

can be applied to data from social media to make decisions about what is relevant to a company’s stock price, in addition to whether the information is credible and what outcome the data may have. And, most importantly, such technology could have the ability to learn from its mistakes.

Such information processing, under the umbrella of artificial intelligence, has been experimented with before, including the example of an Artificial Neural Network (NN). An NN employs bio-mimicry, the engineering of man-made items to mimic nature, to replicate the function of neurons, which help make decisions in the human brain. Like a human brain, the NN is adaptive and can learn from patterns in data. I am excited to see how this technology could be used in a HFT application.

Human decision making ability combined with the instantaneous capability of computers certainly has the potential to eliminate inefficiency in the stock market and yield a profitable result.

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

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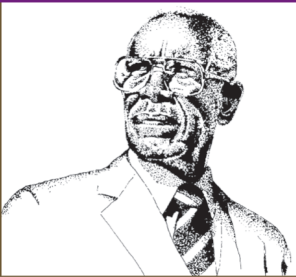
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Jenna Truong | Cavalier Daily

On the heels of a career-performance against N.C. State, sophomore forward Akil Mitchell hopes to stymie Florida's 6-foot-9, 247-pound center Patric Young.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

March Madness begins

After snagging first NCAA bid since 2007, No. 10-seeded Virginia looks to avoid early exit during match-up with No. 7 seed Florida tomorrow

By Matt Welsh and
Ashley Robertson
Cavalier Daily Editors

The Virginia men's basketball team checked off a big box on its 2011-12 season to-do list by earning a coveted spot in the NCAA Tournament field. Now the No. 10-seeded Cavaliers (22-9, 9-7 ACC) must survive a scary opening-round match-up against No. 7-seeded Florida to avoid the fate which awaits more than half the original field by the end of Friday.

"Because it's my first NCAA Tournament it's definitely going to be hard to keep all the emotions down," senior forward Mike Scott said. "[But] the leaders, the captains — myself, Sammy and Assane — we're taking this as a professional, business approach, and I think everyone else is taking that approach as well."

While earning an NCAA bid

has elicited an understandable amount of relief for Virginia — particularly for a senior class which came close to graduating without one — the Friday match-up in Omaha, Neb. is business as usual for Florida (23-10, 10-6 SEC).

The contest marks the Gators' 12th tournament appearance with coach Billy Donovan since 2000 and a chance to capture a third national title in seven years. In contrast, Virginia is making its third appearance in the same span and has not advanced past the second round since 1995.

Florida also boasts a diverse and up-tempo scoring attack, a markedly different style than Bennett's patented slow-paced, defense-first approach. The Gators get double-digit scoring from five different players including junior guard Kenny Boynton and freshman guard Bradley Beal. The two All-SEC first team members

average more than 30 combined points per game and helped Florida drain almost 40 percent of its 328 three-point regular season attempts, the most in the country.

The Gators use their speed and spacing to average 9.9 treys and 76.3 points per game — more than 20 points above the 53.7 points allowed average of Virginia's second-ranked scoring defense.

"We are going to try to push the tempo and try to get [Virginia] out of their comfort zone," Beal said. "[We want] to get them to play fast and at our pace."

Despite Florida's rich recent legacy of postseason success and up-tempo offensive philosophy, this year's Gator squad shares several similarities with the Cavaliers as well. Virginia lost starting senior center Assane Sene

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BASEBALL

Cavs sweep midweek set

Offense explodes for 28 hits, downs Marist 8-5, 10-2 during two-game series

Daniel Weltz

Cavalier Daily Senior Associate Editor

The Virginia baseball team found its footing at home during a midweek match-up with Marist, quickly erasing a four-run deficit Tuesday to earn an 8-5 victory and then routing the Red Foxes 10-2 yesterday.

The Cavaliers (11-5-1, 2-1 ACC) received a breakout performance from freshman outfielder Derek Fisher, a pair of gutsy starts by junior righty Branden Kline and freshman pitcher Barrett O'Neill, as well as a strong showing by the bullpen to extend their winning streak to four.

"We're starting to understand what it takes to win," senior

infielder Keith Werman said. "To understand that we have to bring it 100 percent every day and we have to be in it every pitch."

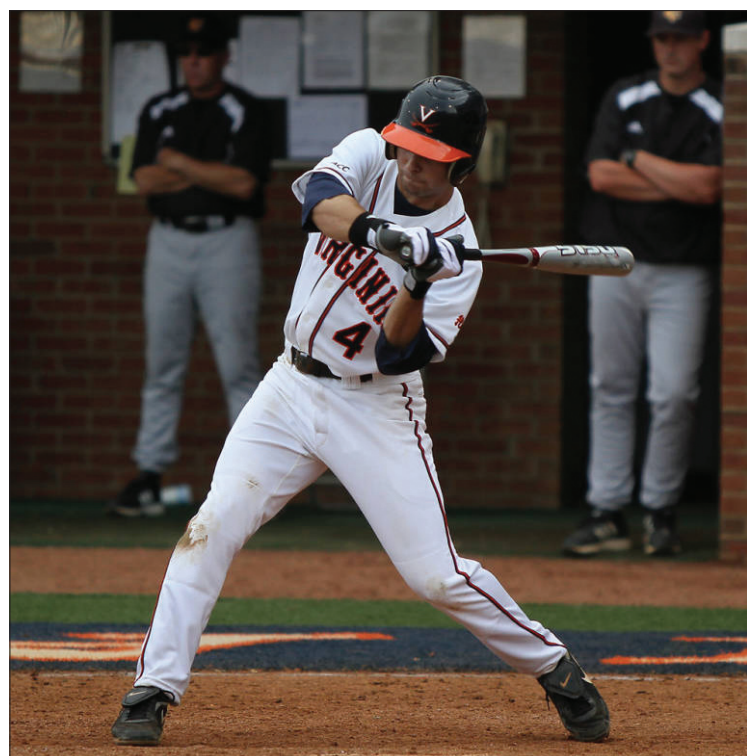
The series started inauspiciously for Virginia as Marist capitalized on two errors from the usually sure-handed junior third basemen Stephen Bruno to pour in four runs in the second and put the Cavaliers in an early 4-1 hole. Kline, whose ERA sits at 4.62 for the season despite starting opening day, did little to bail out the defense, allowing two hard-hit doubles and hitting a batter.

"Branden is really just a tick off right now," coach Brian O'Connor said. "I think he was going through a period where

he was trying to overthrow and try to throw too hard and he just needs to find his rhythm out there. I think his fastball is even better than it was last year... It's more his mentality on the mound right now and him finding that consistent form that he showed for us in the past."

The bats battled back in the bottom half of the inning, scoring four to give the Cavaliers a lead they refused to relinquish. Junior shortstop Chris Taylor hit a bases loaded single to score two before Bruno made amends for his defensive mishaps by belting a two-run, two-out double to

Please see **Baseball**, Page B6



Courtesy Virginia Athletics

Sophomore second basemen Reed Gragnani tallied five hits and three RBIs against the Red Foxes to raise his average to .370 for the season.



Courtesy Virginia Athletics

Redshirt senior Nick Nelson returns to his third NCAA Tournament as a seven seed after capturing the ACC title at the 141-pound weight class.

WRESTLING

Six matmen enter NCAAs

Group aims to avenge disappointing ACC tournament with wins in St. Louis

By Zack Barte

Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

Following an underwhelming second-place finish at the 2012 ACC Wrestling Championships, the Virginia wrestling team will send six wrestlers to St. Louis today for the NCAA Championships.

Those wrestlers hope to improve from an ACC tournament in which favorite Virginia only sent three Cavaliers to the conference finals.

"It is a little disappointing because we didn't achieve our goal," No. 11 redshirt junior Matt Snyder said. "It's just tough to swallow. We have six top two seeds and only get three guys in the finals."

Snyder entered the ACC tournament as the top-seeded wrestler at the 125-pound weight class and earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament after claiming his first conference title.

"This was my third time in the

finals and I came up short the past two times," Snyder said. "It's just good to get the weight off of my shoulders."

No. 7 redshirt senior Nick Nelson and No. 12 redshirt sophomore Jon Fausey also claimed the first individual titles of their careers and earned automatic bids to the national meet.

"It's a long time coming," Nelson said. "A lot of hard work and a lot of hours in the gym have finally

Please see **Wrestling**, Page B6

MEN'S TENNIS

Virginia confronts trio

Players return home to face No. 35 Oklahoma, B.C., Eastern Kentucky

By Zack Barte

Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

The No. 3 Virginia men's tennis team took a pair of 4-3 victories from No. 12 Mississippi State and No. 16 Mississippi last weekend, and returns to Charlottesville Friday looking for similar results against No. 35 Oklahoma, Boston College and Eastern Kentucky.

Against Mississippi State (12-4, 3-1 SEC), Virginia (9-1, 2-0 ACC) dropped the doubles point to trail early but fought back to even the score at 3-3 with one match still in progress. No. 8 junior Jarmere Jenkins lost his first set 6-2 against No. 27 senior Artem Ilyushin, but he won the second set 6-3 and then rebounded from a 4-3 deficit in the final to clinch the

Cavaliers' win.

"I thought about all of the work that we put in over the summer and how we've been progressing as a team," Jenkins said. "With the guys on the sideline cheering for me, I just wanted to get it done for them."

Ole Miss swept Virginia during the doubles matches and won the first two single matches to take a 3-0 lead. With their backs against the wall, Virginia's No. 1 freshman Mitchell Frank and Jenkins both came back to win their singles matches, leaving the team's fate resting on No. 72 sophomore Justin Shane's third-set tiebreaker. Shane did not disappoint and bounced back from a first-set loss to ice the match with a 7-4 tiebreaker

win against No. 97 senior Chris Thiemann.

"I thought the opportunity that Justin took advantage of to clinch the match for us against Mississippi was really impressive," Virginia coach Brian Boland said. "He did a great job dealing with a tough moment down in Mississippi and I think it was a big step forward for him as well as our program."

Jenkins was named ACC Tennis Player of the Week Tuesday for his stellar play during the weekend, marking the second time he's achieved the honor this season.

"I was really pleased with how Jarmere stepped up in both matches under some

Please see **M Tennis**, Page B6

SPORTS

IN BRIEF

Team routs Tribe; snaps losing streak

The No. 10 Virginia women's lacrosse team throttled unranked William & Mary 10-3 yesterday evening on a balmy evening in Williamsburg.

The Cavaliers (4-3, 0-2 ACC) snapped their three-game losing skid by relying on a balanced offensive attack to thwart the Tribe (2-5, 0-0 CAA). Redshirt freshman midfielder Liza Blue, senior midfielder Julie Gardner and sophomore attacker Katie Slater chipped in two goals apiece for Virginia, which scored its highest goal total since Feb. 22 against Richmond. Senior attacker Josie Owen, meanwhile, steadied the offensive attack by dishing out a game-high five assists.

Anchored by a crisp performance from its offense, Virginia never trailed after jumping out to an early

3-0 lead midway through the first half. With a blown lead against No. 2 North Carolina still fresh on their minds, the Cavaliers remained poised and steadily built a comfortable lead against their cross-state foes throughout the night.

Virginia took control of the clash during a second half in which it scored seven goals and held William & Mary to merely a single score.

Overall, the Cavaliers outshot the Tribe by a 26-14 margin and held their opponents to a season-low three goals — also the fewest goals allowed by Virginia since the 2009 season opener.

The Cavaliers continue their road stint Saturday against No. 14 Princeton.

—compiled by Stacy Kruczkowski

(NO SUBJECT) BY IANE MATTIMOE



HOROSCOPES

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0209

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tableau

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NEXT WEEK

Sports goes to the movies

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Courtesy Touchstone



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In with the old, out with the new

by conor sheehey

"That's what the present is. It's a little unsatisfying, because life's a little unsatisfying," Owen Wilson's Gil explains to his 1920s-era love interest near the end of Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*. After longing to live in the "golden age" of early twentieth-century Paris for most of the film, Gil comes to realize his nostalgic escapism is more a threat than a source of salvation, as it hinders his potential for personal progress and genuine contentment.

If 2011 is any indication, then Hollywood seems to be suffering from a similar outbreak of nostalgia. The ordinarily forward-thinking film industry has begun to look backwards, attempting to reclaim the former glory of the cinematic form.

This February's Academy Awards, from its ceremonial proceedings to its winners, clung to conservatism. Unfortunately, however, in the midst of Billy Crystal's old-school hosting style and the Academy's apparent adoration of old-world methods and storylines, innovation and creativity fell by the wayside.

Michel Hazanavicius' Best Picture-winning *The Artist* proved an old-fashioned silent movie, however silly and one-dimensional, could still captivate today's starry-eyed critics; and Martin Scorsese's five-statue winner *Hugo* suckered audiences into accepting film history les-

sons and Dickensian plotlines in lieu of strong filmmaking. Even beyond these big winners, though, the Oscars hinted at a significant shift in the attitudes of the so-called "liberal elites" of the movie industry.

Many of the year's heavy-hitting blockbusters bought into this nostalgic trend. Stephanie Meyer's neo-propaganda piece, the penultimate installment of the Twilight series, broadcasts the sanctity — and steaminess — of matrimonial sex, and advocates an endearingly modest code of personal and sexual ethics. While the year's other top grossers strayed a bit from these chauvinist and fundamentalist Mormon messages, sci-fi and adventure hits such as *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *The Adventures of Tintin* and *Super 8* all draw from the big-budget thrillers of the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

Just as 1981's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* capitalized on the public's nostalgia for the exciting serials and war epics of the pre-Vietnam era, films like *Super 8* use the seemingly carefree settings of the late '70s and early '80s to simultaneously thrill young people and transport older audience members to their childhood years, when adventure flicks such as *The Goonies* and *E.T.* were popular.

Even as these new films extract from the old, they also have the opportunity to recreate and reinvent tired and outdated

formulas, concepts and characters.

Steven Spielberg's *War Horse*, for example, may look like an amalgam of 1940s-era battlefield epics and Black Beauty-esque horse dramas at first glance, but the film's quirky structure, awe-inspiring special effects and ambivalent attitude toward war allow it to both embrace the past and seize the opportunities of modern filmmaking.

Similarly, this year's *Chronicle* revisits two age-old themes — the corrupting nature of power, à la *All the King's Men*; and the acquisition of super-powers by a seeming weakling, à la *Spider-Man* — and melds them together within the framework of the 'found-footage' filming style made popular by *The Blair Witch Project*.

Like *War Horse* and this past winter's *The Woman in Black*, *Chronicle* fuses, twists and distorts elements of the past, and in doing so crafts a creative and "new" work of art.

Despite the fact *Midnight in Paris* seems to stand in favor of evading escapism and limiting nostalgia, much of the movie's appeal stems from its transportation of the audience from the woe-filled present to the magic of 1920s Paris. As long as it doesn't destroy progress or stifle creativity, a nostalgic look backwards may be just what the doctor ordered for the film industry. ■

Jim Carrey aces '90s comedies, defines bygone era

Everyone's favorite pet detective films set high comedic standard, depict over-the-top antics, goofy gags

by sofia economopoulos

As I attempted to pack for Spring Break last Friday I turned on the television for background noise. To my surprise, an *Ace Ventura* special movie event was playing, and naturally, I dropped whatever clothes I was holding to give it my undivided attention. *Ace Ventura* was a part of my childhood I rarely get the opportunity to revisit, and the trip down memory lane was worth putting packing off to the last second.

The premise of the movie is simple: Ace Ventura, a private investigator, is paid to look for missing animals and, in the process, finds himself in the most hilarious circumstances. Ace's character, played by Jim Carrey, is a mix of kooky, fabulous and stark raving mad, which completely makes up for the film's mediocre script and plot. In *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, directed

by University alumnus Tom Shadyac, Ace is hired by Miami Dolphins publicist Melissa Robinson (played by a young pre-*Friends* Courtney Cox) to find the team's mascot dolphin, Snowflake, who has been kidnapped weeks before the big Superbowl game. As you watch Ace run through a sanatorium in a pink tutu, deal with his landlord — "Yes Satan?" — and cruise the streets in his jalopy of a car, you end up laughing in spite of yourself.

The romance which blooms between Cox and Carrey is also engaging, especially in hindsight, since both actors enjoyed substantial success on the screen after this film: Cox with the smash hit show *Friends*, and Carrey with blockbusters such as *Liar Liar* and *Bruce Almighty*.

The 1995 sequel, *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*, won Carrey

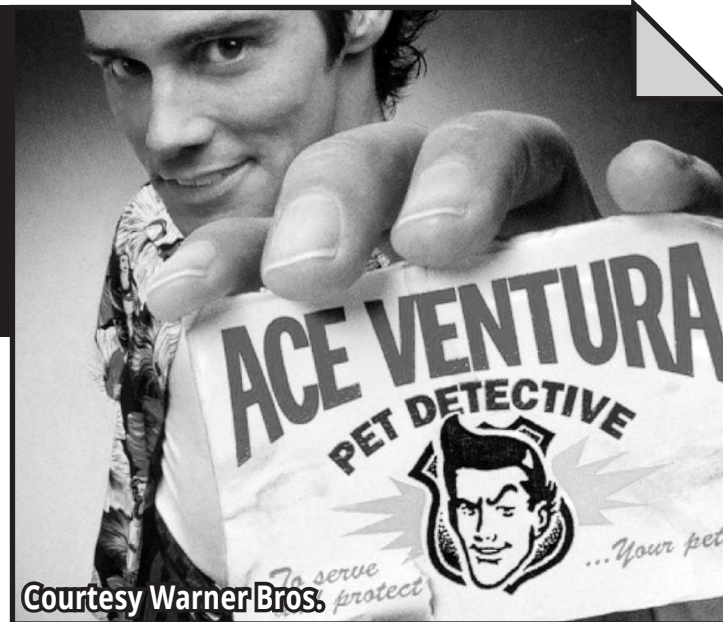
two MTV awards. In the film, Ace travels to Africa to find the great white bat, Shikaka, which was snatched days before the crucial marriage of an African prince and princess each from rival tribes.

Ace pairs up with chubby Fulton Greenwell (Ian McNeice) and again hilarity ensues. Ace ends up saving the day, but not without learning some African phrases, "Bumblebee tuna!"; dancing with African tribes, "Come on girls show 'em what you got!"; escaping out of a rhinoceros' bottom; and employing some stellar parking skills.

My personal favorite of the two movies, *When Nature Calls* allows Carrey's energy and comedic genius to really shine. This is not to say *Pet Detective* isn't entertaining, but *When Nature Calls* adds an international twist, giving the film both an edge and a broader level of

appeal.

These two movies epitomize the kookiness which defined '90s-era comedic classics like *The Mask* and *Liar Liar*, both of which also starred Carrey in their leading roles. Nostalgia and pity well up inside of me when I think about how much our notion of comedy has changed with recent releases such as *Knocked Up* and *Bridesmaids*. This new genre continues to test the boundaries of overdone sexual and toilet humor, which scrape the bottom of the barrel of slapstick comedy. Granted, if it weren't for Carrey's excellent interpretation of Ace's character, the *Ventura* films could also have gone horribly wrong, and I doubt the second one would have been made at all. Still, although some may disagree, the genius of the *Ace Ventura* movies will always be my idea of cinematic gold. ■



Courtesy Warner Bros.

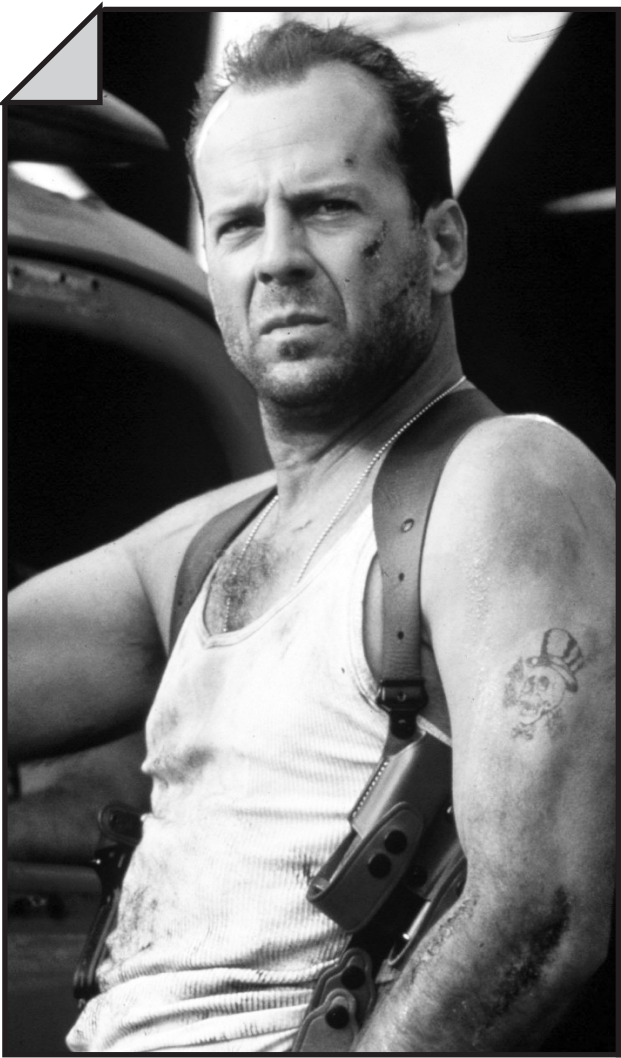
Spring cleaning: tableau goes old-school

In preparation for a brand new season of arts and entertainment news and reviews, *tableau* is cleaning house. Instead of our usual modern take on pop culture happenings, this issue features some of our staff's favorite pre-millennial entertainment gems. We hope our nostalgic streak brings back fond memories of simpler times, when John McClane had a full head of hair and the Backstreet Boys were actual boys. And enjoy the breather while you can — lulls in the entertainment world never last long. ■





Courtesy/20th Century Fox



Yippee ki-yay, moviegoers: ‘Die Hard’ still delivers

by ben willis

Even on those awful, rainy, just-got-dumped, have-two-finals-tomorrow days, we all have favorite films we can turn to for comfort. But whereas most people opt for nostalgic classics such as *The Wizard of Oz* or *The Muppet Movie*, I need to see a movie with some explosions! For that reason, and so many others, my favorite film of all time is *Die Hard*, which set a golden standard for action films yet to be surpassed, or even equaled. No other movie has come close to matching the bloody adrenaline rush which unfolds on the screen in this perfect piece of pop-filmmaking. The plot can literally be summed up with one sentence: Bruce Willis kicks ass. For the sake of clarity I will elaborate. Willis plays John McClane,

a tough New York cop who is visiting his estranged wife in Los Angeles. As soon as he arrives at her office party in the sinister Nakatomi Tower, a group of mysterious terrorists crashes the whole shindig led by the menacing Hans Gruber, who is played by the awesome Alan Rickman in his first movie role. McClane, who narrowly avoids being taken hostage himself, then proceeds to eliminate the terrorists, one by one. What more could you ask for from action entertainment? What truly makes *Die Hard* a classic are the performances of Willis and Rickman. As McClane, Willis is the ultimate badass, spouting off cheesy one-liners as he takes out the trash. He also brings a frantic and fearful sensibility to the proceedings, grounding what could

have been a cartoon caricature with genuine humanity. But as everyone knows, you can't have a great hero without an equally great villain, and Rickman delivers his antagonistic role with gusto. His Gruber is a cool and calculating businessman, who just so happens to have a disregard for human life. As McClane racks up the body count Gruber begins to come apart at the seams, and you see panic creep into Rickman's performance. No one would claim the stars deliver Oscar-level acting, but both Willis and Rickman create characters who are deeper than the typical action-movie archetypes. Besides the acting, though, the other huge draw of *Die Hard* is its violent yet goofy screenplay. Acts of ultra-vio-

lence are followed by moments of silly humor. To get a cop's attention during one scene, for instance, McClane throws a dead terrorist onto the policeman's cruiser, while sardonically quipping, "Welcome to the party pal!" In another classic moment, as a terrorist falls to his death, the deputy chief of police delivers an off-hand, "Oh, I hope that's not a hostage." It is this morbid sense of humor which gives *Die Hard* its personality. The actors all seem to be having a blast during the film, and this sense of self-awareness, evident especially in the movie's comedic moments, keeps *Die Hard* from being downright depressing. With all of the violence, action and humor this film supplies, I have just one thing to say. Yippee ki-yay. 🇺🇸

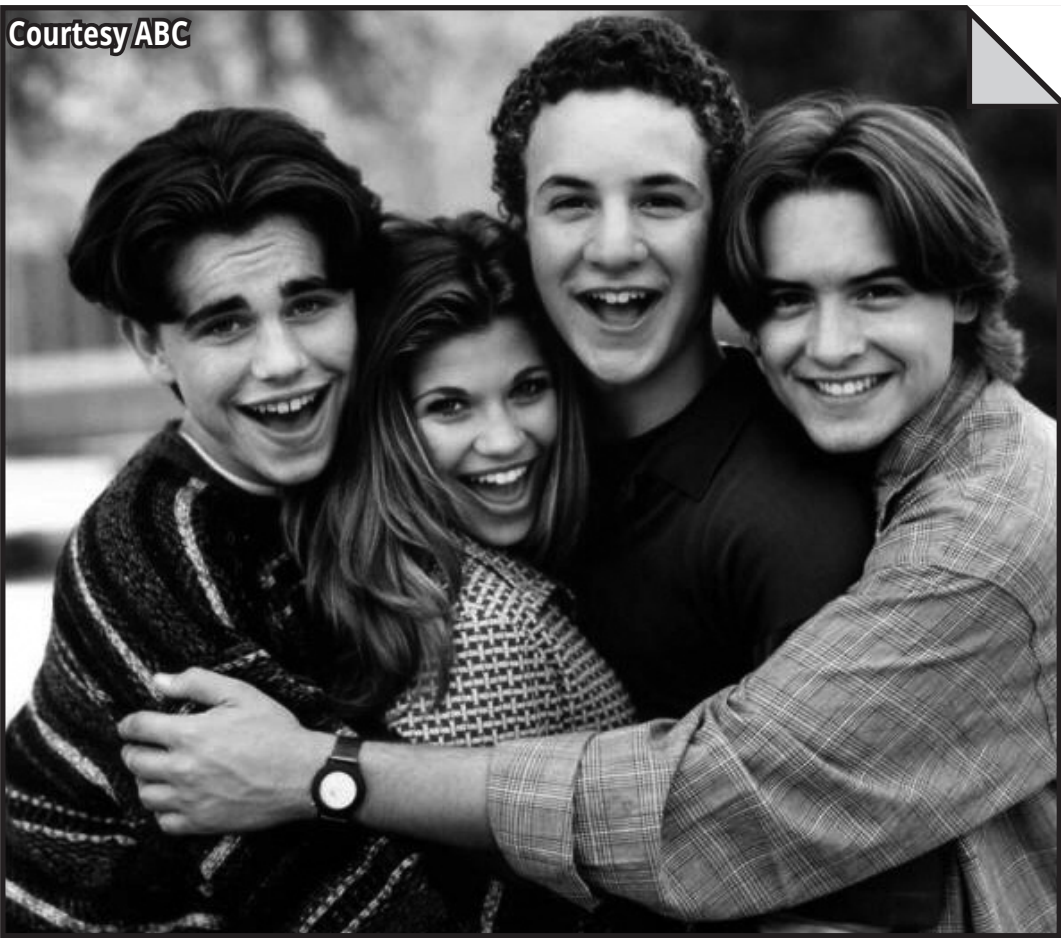


Courtesy The WB

College drama remains class act

by caroline gecker

College is a time when youthful exuberance meets unprecedented freedom — sounds like great TV to me. For some reason, however, television tends to avoid series which focus on the college years. While there are an abundance of shows depicting the awkward angst of high school and the existential crises of post-grad life, TV has largely steered clear of the magical four years in between. Even the few current shows which have gone the university route haven't figured out how to traverse the beer-tainted waters of collegiate life, usually relegating college to either a stereotype — ABC Family's *Greek* — or an afterthought — the CW's *Gossip Girl*. As with many aspects of entertainment culture, however, things were looking up during the 90s when *Felicity* debuted on The WB, now The CW. Before Oceanic Flight 815 was a glimmer in his eye, J.J. Abrams co-created this college-centered teen soap. With a dramatic tone surely influenced by *Dawson's Creek*, the series revolves around Felicity Porter's (Keri Russell) time at the fictional University of New York (UNY). During its four-season run, the show fully embraces its collegiate trappings — its season one DVD set, for example, is labeled "Freshmen Year DVD Collection." The series begins on high school graduation day, when shy Felicity makes an uncharacteristically rash decision to follow popular Ben Covington (Scott Speedman) across the country to UNY after he writes a thought-provoking note in her yearbook. Shirking her own plans to follow the pre-med track at Stanford University and ignoring the wrath of her strict parents, Felicity enrolls in UNY only to discover she misinterpreted Ben's "special" note, and she is stuck 3,000 miles away from home at a school she didn't choose. Luckily for Felicity and the viewer, the show is about much more than her romantic entanglements, although a love triangle between Ben, Felicity and her unassuming resident advisor Noel (Scott Foley) is a major plot point in the series finale. The strength of *Felicity* is the self-reliance of its heroine and the complexity with which Russell portrays her. Felicity genuinely cares about her grades, often stressing about her sophomore-year decision to become an art major. She is genuinely loyal and caring to all those around her, even when her best friend Julie (Amy Jo Johnson) starts dating Ben and, perhaps most endearingly, she has a number of glaring flaws ranging from naivety to indecisiveness. Her rapid-fire shifts between self-assurance and self-doubt make for a wonderfully relatable representation of the average college student. As realistic a protagonist as Felicity is, the series still falls into some familiar traps with its depiction of the college lifestyle: dorm rooms are three sizes too large, parties are either way over-the-top or far too tame, sex is treated — for better or for worse — as a much larger deal than most modern co-eds consider it to be. But what the show gets right outweighs its misrepresentations: Its characters actually study, they actually have financial troubles and they often worry about their futures. In *Felicity*, college is not a year-long party, but a delicate time for young people on the brink of adulthood to develop their identities. The majority of us do not live like those on TV; the best television recognizes this disparity and reflects it. Kudos to *Felicity* for handling college with class. 🇺🇸



Courtesy/ABC

‘World’-class ‘90s teen sitcom stands the test of time

by katie cole

It's no secret growing up is often confusing and frustrating, but what better way to spend those awkward years between *Barney* and *Desperate Housewives* than with our dear friends Cory Matthews (Ben Savage), Topanga Lawrence (Danielle Fishel), Shawn Hunter (Rider Strong) and, of course, Mr. Feeny (William Daniels)? *Boy Meets World* was one of the defining shows of our generation. The half-hour comedy was so much more than the average youth sitcom. The series followed a group of average kids in Philadelphia as they found their way through life, and brought pre-teens and teens running to their television screens throughout the '90s. You might think my nostalgia would weaken as *Boy Meets World* quickly fades into my seemingly distant childhood past, but in a world dominated by shows like *Hannah Montana* and *Gossip Girl*, it seems more important than ever to remember the wholesome ABC hit. These characters were our role models — and what fantastic idols they were! To be like Cory is to be a caring, sweet and gentle person. And all little girls should aspire to be Topanga — an intelligent, driven and loving character. The more rebellious could relate to Shawn, whose rough upbringing often put him in morally compromising situations. But it was the relatability of not just the characters but also the storylines which truly drew me to the series. The show was down-to-earth. The first season began with Cory, Shawn and Topanga as sixth graders, just as they were

starting to understand what it means to grow up. In this season they deal with problems any other budding teenager would face. Do I have romantic feelings for girls? How do I get along with my parents and my siblings? How do I help my best friend deal with a difficult home-life? As the six remaining seasons passed by, we watched Cory and Topanga's budding young romance grow into a mature relationship and Shawn work to find success — and himself — in a tough world. The love and relationships which they shared were heart-warming, and every problem the characters faced taught a valuable life lesson. Characters like Mr. Feeny, the high school principal and the Matthews' next-door neighbor, offered priceless advice which every viewer should take to heart. The show ended in 2000 on a high note, with the old crew still together and ready to face the adult world head-on. Even after the show's finale, I enjoyed watching the re-runs broadcast on ABC Family and MTV2, reliving the characters' transformations from pre-pubescent kids to bashful teenagers and all the way to blossoming adults. Despite the many problems these teenagers encountered, they managed to pull through with endearing wit and enduring friendship. Each episode had a new experience, and a new lesson to learn. *Boy Meets World* was a joyful example of the type of show every kid should be watching. 🇺🇸



Dark teenage film kills it

by monica mohapatra

The '80s were a glorious time for the teenage film. But while every good film fanatic has embraced the famed John Hughes teen sagas of sixteenth birthdays as seen in *Sixteen Candles*, and high school detentions — the basis of '80s classic *The Breakfast Club* — few have even heard of 1988's dark teenage masterpiece, *Heathers*. The film, directed by Michael Lehmann, takes an arguably "refreshing" look at the dark canvas which is teenagedom.

Headed by Winona Ryder, the story follows a dark-haired, fast-tongued wallflower named Veronica, who makes it into the clique of Heathers, an elite group of high-school girls. Despite the obvious popularity associated with being a member of the group, Veronica can't seem to accept the dark politics and ridiculous drama of the high-school dynamic. Even before joining the clique, Veronica hates the Heathers and wishes they were dead, although she's initially hesitant to play any sort of murderous role. Yet even she can't predict the way a chance meeting with resident sociopath J.D. (Christian Slater) turns into a string of school murders. This is *Mean Girls*, only with guns and much less pink.

In *Heathers*, Lehmann takes the soul of the '80s teen film — the all too familiar tale of the bad boy/good girl — and turns it on its head. The film is one giant theatre of satire, keeping a tongue in its cheek for all 90 minutes.

From the film's eccentric title to Veronica's odd position in a group of girls all named Heather, the film is rife with contrived surrealism.

During the movie's very first moments, for instance, J.D. simply stands up and fires a BB

gun at two jocks, proving to Veronica and the audience this is going to be far blacker than the average teen romance.

J.D. is able to tap into Veronica's dark side, which has been stifled by the pressures of popularity and conventionality. In this sardonic fashion, the movie carries out its sinister promises with glee, yet at no point do we feel as though the film's humor trespasses into forbidden territory.

Subtle yet substantial details abound. For example, the characters wear one color throughout the entire movie, and as power is transferred, the hues change. Even the odd wide-angle lenses and dark vignettes give the film a dreamlike feel, creating an interesting interplay with the gravity of its themes.

Heathers imagines a world where the outcasts reclaim power. In the universe of this film, they can put cleaning fluid in coffee, serve it to a popular girl, and frame her for suicide. This scene portrays perhaps the darkest element of the movie, which is relevant even now, as it parodies the nonchalant way in which schools and media handle issues of death.

The murdered students become martyrs and are respected for being tragic and courageous. The reasons they die supply the central irony of the movie. As the Heathers die one-by-one the group claims that each dies because of the insufferability of high-school melodrama, but this is the exact reason J.D. and Veronica murder them. *Heathers* proves to be an insightful, albeit weird, satire of the teen fantasy of the '80s, criticizing the societal image of teenagers. 📺



'Bends' it like Thom

by andrew shachat

The year was 1995. While consumers were mourning the loss of Nirvana — and should have been finding solace in the fact Justin Bieber hadn't started talking yet — five Brits took the musical world by storm. Radiohead, a band which had been struggling for 10 years and had caught its first big break with *Pablo Honey* just two years earlier, released its sophomore album, *The Bends*, to an eagerly awaiting public. The world of music hasn't been quite the same ever since.

Whereas *Pablo Honey* flits between classic alternative music and the post-grunge high of the '90s, *The Bends* began Radiohead's unwavering legacy of changing its musical style for each new album. Featuring intricate layering of sound, increasingly complex guitar effects and entrancing lyrical progressions, *The Bends* took the seed which *Pablo Honey* planted and developed it into a vibrant, dynamic, living organism.

From the very start of the album's first track, "Planet Telex," there is a strong sense something epic is coming. And it does. The sheer emotional force of lead singer Thom Yorke's voice, combined with the forceful strumming of Jonny Greenwood's guitar, creates a sound which dances between the gritty force of rock and an unprecedented level of intimate alternative warmth. This momentum is maintained throughout the rest of the album, establishing *The Bends* as a musical masterpiece.

To put the work's masterful quality into perspective, even Pitchfork Media, notorious for its pretentiousness and music elitism, rated a re-release of *The Bends* with a perfect score. You literally can't beat that.

The Bends is both timeless and very much of its time. It is unquestionably a product of the '90s, capturing Radiohead's struggle to find a place for its music in a world desperately trying to escape the siren-esque musical train-wreck of the '80s, while not quite willing to accept grunge as a lasting substitute. While Radiohead would move on two years later, changing its tune again to a less accessible sound for the average public with *OK Computer*, 1995 music lovers were blessed with all that *The Bends* had to offer.

Every song, from "Just" to "Fake Plastic Trees" to "My Iron Lung" to "High and Dry," is so unforgettable in its musical style and lyrical content, it seems almost redundant to highlight specific tracks. To neglect to listen to *The Bends* in its entirety would amount to aural high treason. Listed in The Observer's "50 albums that changed music," the album deserves nothing less than universal praise.

Seventeen years later, it might seem almost impossible, if not for the iconic vocals of Thom Yorke, to match the Radiohead of *The Bends* with the Radiohead of today. If this isn't blatantly apparent, just take a quick listen to its newest album, *The King of Limbs* (2011). While each new incarnation of Radiohead is inimitable, we still haven't heard anything like the '95 revolution. So if the current musical landscape just isn't doing it for you, open up *The Bends* and give it a listen. It won't leave you "High and Dry." 📺



Silent 'Sunrise'

by kevin vincenti

This past Oscar season has seen a number of films pay homage to the classic Hollywood era. Such pictures as *The Artist*, *Hugo* and *My Week with Marilyn* have made metaphorical sacrifices to the gods of cinema, and took home golden calves of Oscars because of it. But these films did not avoid criticism for worshipping at the altar of The Golden Age of movies, particularly *The Artist*, which won Best Picture at this year's Academy Awards ceremony.

As if filmed with a rose-colored lens, *The Artist* captured a romanticized and charming version of silent cinema. This in no way undermines the quality of the film, but it fails as a holistic representation of the silent era, especially in its depiction of the era's more poignant uses of cinematic devices. Compare *The Artist*, for example, to 1927's *Sunrise*, one of the greatest silent films ever made, and you will find *The Artist* artistic director Michel Hazanavicius's tribute to be sorely lacking pictorial power.

Directed by a pillar of the silent era, F.W. Murnau, *Sunrise* preceded the heyday of the Hollywood studio system by just three years. The film was made during the tumultuous transition from silent to talking movies seen in *The Artist*, with much of the structure which would come to dominate the talkies of the '30s already in place.

Using highly stylized mise-en-scene and subtle décor, Murnau was able to trigger different tones throughout *Sunrise*. Compare, then, this visual variety to the style of *The Artist*, and you will find an influential cinematic movement, German Expressionism, com-

pletely ignored by the latter film.

Another shortcoming of *The Artist* is its use of the moving camera. Used throughout the entirety of the picture, it fails to heighten or truly bring to life the movie's emotional core. When you consider this stylistic flaw alongside one of the most famous tracking sequences of silent history, which is found in *Sunrise*, the audience suddenly finds itself wanting. Instead of capturing the power of the tracking shot, *The Artist* plays on the charm of what it portrays as a bygone art.

The Artist does, however, usurp *Sunrise* in its level of acting. Jean Dujardin, the leading man in *The Artist*, delivers a wonderful performance which embodies the oxymoronic subtle caricature. And as Dujardin's feminine counterpart, the equally skillful and physically eloquent Bérénice Bejo presents a performance which is arguably superior to the film's male lead. In contrast, George O'Brien and Janet Gaynor, the two protagonists of *Sunrise*, deliver highly stylized and overly dramatic performances, especially in O'Brien's case.

When I first reviewed *The Artist* four months ago, I described it as an instant classic. It captures the eloquence of the silent era but establishes itself as a modern gem, which is exactly what the film is — modern. *The Artist*, as displayed through its narrative, characterizes silent film as belonging to a romantic past which must necessarily be abandoned in the face of modern advances. But despite being an immensely entertaining and well-crafted film, *The Artist* fails to live up to silent masterpieces like Murnau's *Sunrise*. 📺



Battle of the boy bands



by madie macdonald

Although the Backstreet Boys have an album due out later this year, most girls who grew up during the '90s and early 2000s would argue the five-piece boy band fell off the map a long time ago — about the same time their bleached and gelled hair went out of style.

Regardless of their relevance — or lack thereof — to the current music scene, the Backstreet Boys remain firmly ingrained in the pop culture memories of millions of college-aged females. To this day, fans of '90s boy bands often question each other's allegiance to either the Backstreet Boys or their rivals, *NSYNC.

The similarities between the two groups are striking: both bands formed in Orlando, Florida during the early '90s, both bands' popularity peaked at the turn of the millennium, both disappeared from the charts around 2002 and both of their careers started out at Jive Records.

The Backstreet Boys first hit the music scene in 1996 with a self-titled full-length album, featuring hit singles "Get Down (You're the One for Me)" and "We've Got it Goin' On." The Justin Timberlake-led boys of *NSYNC hopped on board in '97, debuting with their own self-titled album, which featured "Tearin' Up My Heart" and "I Want You Back". Ringing some bells yet?

Jump forward five years, and each band had produced three additional albums. Apparently, the new millennium did not hold much for pop boy bands, however, as both groups fell apart just a few years into the decade.

So other than their names, were the two groups really different at all? According to

their passionate, semi-obsessive fan bases, yes. As far as who really was the better band, that's an issue which even the heated debates of 90s girls can never decide.

During my preteen years, I was a fervent supporter of the Backstreet Boys. I recall my excitement leading up to the release of their *Millennium* album and the hours I spent with my girlfriends belting out the lyrics and making up dance moves to "Larger than Life." But as I approach my twenties, whenever I feel nostalgic, I find myself scrolling down my iPod past the "B's" all the way down to the "N's." It's not that I never get the urge to blast *Millennium* on my car speakers when I'm in the car alone, but *NSYNC somehow has proved more appealing to my "grown-up" senses than the Backstreet Boys.

Perhaps it's my appreciation for the only lasting talent out of the ten boys: *NSYNC's Justin Timberlake. For starters, J.T.'s current net worth is valued at \$70 million, whereas the Backstreet Boys made \$60 million between the five of them. Since his days with *NSYNC, Timberlake has created his own solo recording label, has acted in multiple films — including the Academy Award-winning movie *The Social Network* — and has proved his comedic chops with scene-stealing performances on *Saturday Night Live*. With his sultry vocals and suave dance moves, Timberlake added an additional spark to his pop boy band, a star the Backstreet Boys never had. The "best boy band ever" debate will never truly be resolved, but maybe now, a decade after their last big hits, is a good time to do some reevaluating of your own. 📺

M Bball | Bennett seeks contributions from Atkins, Jespersen

Continued from page B1

— ultimately for the season — following an injury to his ankle Jan. 19 against Georgia Tech. Two transfers in December and several subsequent injuries meant shallow Virginia sorely missed the seven-footer's inside presence, leadership and 20.9 minutes per game, as the Cavaliers could not close out single-digit losses against North Carolina, Florida State, Virginia Tech and most recently N.C. State during the ACC tournament.

“We were close to really having a great record,” coach Tony Bennett said. “You look can look back and say, ‘Boy, Assane, Malcolm, if guys hadn’t transferred, but what good does that do?’ The stage is set... to even make this more memorable because of what we’ve faced, and we’ll go down swinging if we’re going down.”

Florida similarly lost 21.9 minutes, 4.4 points and 6.3 rebounds per game when sophomore forward Will Yeguete went down with a broken left foot Feb. 21. The Gators have also lacked the finishing touch, losing four of their last five games — two of which came against No. 1 Kentucky.

“I think our team has played pretty well, I just don’t think the end result of winning the game has happened for us,” Donovan said. “I do think we’ve had to change our identity a little bit with Will being out [but] some of the losses have to do with some good quality opponents that we played coming down the stretch here.”

Virginia has also lost three of its last four games as its numbers have dwindled and now relies on a seven-man rotation. Freshman forward Darion Atkins began the season as a marginal role-player and freshman guard Paul Jespersen started with a redshirt, but the two now serve as Bennett’s only go-to bench players. Both Atkins and Jespersen were held scoreless during the team’s past two tilts, but they must give more than just minutes against Florida.

“Darion and Paul are going to be called upon, they’re going to get opportunities,” Bennett said. “We’ve got to convince them that they’ve got to go out there and not be afraid to make a mistake... they have to go out there and play with a freedom of trying to help the team, not do anything crazy, but they’re going to be important. We need everyone to give in this one.”

As Bennett emphasizes a collective contribution, he will also look to sophomore forward Akil Mitchell to play to the potential he’s shown in recent games. Mitchell averages 4.1 points and 4.4 rebounds but posted his first career double-double while playing active defense during Virginia’s ACC tournament game against N.C. State.

The Cavaliers will need him to repeat that performance against Florida, as Scott said Mitchell will likely start off matched against the Gators’ 6-foot-9, 247-pound sophomore center Patric Young, who tallies 10.3 points and 6.4 rebounds per game.

“[N.C. State] was one of the best games I’ve ever seen Akil play,” Scott said. “He made the right choices, he let the game come to him, and if he plays like that, he has so much potential and that would be great for us.”

Although Virginia will be decidedly short-handed against Florida, Scott shrugs off the disadvantage. The Cavaliers have faced taller, deeper opponents all year and still punched its prized NCAA Tournament ticket. One more handicap only makes them hungrier to capitalize on that bid.

“We’ve been fighting through adversity the whole year, this is something we’re used to doing,” Scott said. “It just adds a little bit of motivation for us each time we got out to play.”

Baseball | Fisher homers twice for first career long balls

Continued from page B1

left field. Virginia tacked on an insurance run in the third with Fisher’s first career home run and another during the fourth on an RBI single from junior second baseman Reed Gragnani.

Kline settled down after the shaky opening to pitch six strong innings, allowing five runs — two earned — and striking out five to earn the win. Senior closer Justin Thompson then killed a ninth inning Marist rally, recording two outs to leave the bases loaded and earn the save in the 8-5 win.

“I think this team is going to continue to improve as we progress throughout the season,” O’Connor said. “It hasn’t been as easy as it’s been in previous years but it’s certainly been enjoyable, and I think we’re going to have a lot of good things happen to us this year.”

The rematch yesterday began in familiar fashion as senior first baseman Jared King’s first error of the year allowed an unearned run to cross against O’Neill, who was making his first career start after four solid relief appearances. Virginia answered back in the bottom of the first with a Bruno RBI single, but Marist regained the lead with a run in the second.

That tally would give the Red Foxes their last lead of the night, however, as O’Neill tossed a five inning gem, allowing one earned run on seven hits.

“It was obvious that there was a difference from when he was down in the zone, which he was in the third and fourth innings, and when he was not consistent with that in the first and second innings,” O’Connor said. “He certainly proved tonight that he’s someone we can count on.”

As O’Neill settled in at the mound, the offense got comfortable at the plate with back-to-back three-run innings in the third and fourth. With two on and two out during the home half of the third, Fisher belted one of the longer home runs in the history of Davenport Field for his second long ball of the weekend. The ball clanged high off the scoreboard past the right-field wall, which sits 377 feet away from home plate, to give the Cavaliers a 4-2 lead.

“Derek Fisher is starting to show why he was such a highly regarded hitter out of high school,” O’Connor said. “He’s as talented of a hitter as we have and the more experience he gets, the better he’ll be.”

The Cavaliers tacked on three more in the fourth as Gragnani drove home a run on a single to right and came around to score along with Taylor on a two run double by Bruno. Gragnani went 5-for-9 in the series with three RBI, Bruno went 3-for-8 with four RBI and Taylor went 4-for-8 with three RBI to buoy an 18-run outburst in the two-game set.

The bullpen once again took care of business yesterday with freshman pitcher Nick Howard keeping Marist off balance in 2.1 scoreless innings before freshman Nathaniel Abel and junior Joel Effertz closed out the game without allowing a run. Howard, who is also batting .320 in 11 games in the field as an infielder and backup catcher, is one of two two-way players in the Cavalier bullpen. Senior outfielder and pitcher Shane Halley has shown 1.64 ERA in 11 appearances out of the pen.

“The pitchers that threw on the weekend against Virginia Tech — Halley, Thompson and Crockett — all threw the ball very well,” O’Connor said. “This game is a game of 27 outs and your starter might go out there and give you 5 or 6 innings and those guys that follow up need to continue pitching good baseball. Those guys out of the bullpen certainly have.”

The Cavaliers next travel to No. 6 Florida State (14-2, 3-0 ACC) Saturday for a three-game series which will be televised on ESPN.

“We’ve had four positive games in a row and hopefully that’s something we can build on going down to Florida State, who’s got a very experienced, high-quality ball-club,” O’Connor said.

Wrestling | Cavaliers earn program-best three Tournament seeds

Continued from page B1

paid off.”

Other Virginia top-two seeds didn’t fair as well.

Redshirt senior Matt Nelson suffered a semifinals upset, and redshirt freshman Nick Sulzer dropped a tight 8-5 match. Both rebounded, however, to take third and secure an automatic bid.

Top-seeded sophomore Gus Sako suffered a shocking upset at the 149-pound weight, and redshirt junior Jedd Moore lost in the semifinals and the consolation bracket, both falling short of automatic bids.

Then came the waiting. Four days after the ACC Tournament the NCAA announced at-large bids for the tournament. Sako was the only Cavalier to receive one, meaning Moore, an NCAA qualifier in 2009, will have to wait until next season to return to the national stage.

Of the six Virginia wrestlers, only Snyder, Nick Nelson, and Fausey have previously competed in the NCAA Tournament. All three wrestlers qualified last year, and Nelson also qualified in 2009. Snyder finished one win away from All-American status last year and Nelson was within one win of the honor in 2009.

“The experience definitely helps,” Nelson said. “Knowing what that defeat feels like and never wanting to experience it again is definitely an advantage.”

All three Cavalier ACC champions earned seeds for the NCAA Tournament, giving Virginia its most seeded wrestlers in program history. As expected, Nick Nelson and Snyder received the seven and 11 seeds, respectively. Fausey, who coach Steve Garland was unsure would be seeded after the ACC Tournament, earned a 12 seed.

“Getting a seed at the NCAA Tournament doesn’t mean anything really,” Snyder said. “But it does help.”

Snyder will wrestle Ohio State freshman Johnni Dijulius in the first round, and Fausey will confront Michigan State senior Ian Hinton. Nick Nelson will meet Appalachian State senior Mike Kessler for the second time this season, after defeating him 3-0 in Boone, N.C. Feb. 11.

“I’m indifferent,” Nelson said of his previous victory against Kessler. “Every match is a new match; last time... isn’t going to make any difference. You still have to wrestle seven minutes as hard as you can every time you step on the mat.”

Two first-time qualifiers drew seeded opponents for the first round. Matt Nelson will wrestle undefeated Edinboro No. 7 redshirt freshman A.J. Schopp and Sako will wrestle Oklahoma State No. 2 senior Jamal Parks.

Sulzer will meet the winner of the pigtail match between Maryland No. 7 junior Josh Asper and Buffalo redshirt junior Mark Lewandowski. Sulzer lost a hard-fought 4-3 bout to then-undefeated Asper Jan. 29 which came down to riding time. He also lost to Lewandowski 4-3 Nov. 19.

Garland said he plans to prepare the wrestlers by holding another minicamp, very similar to the one the team used to prepare for the conference tournament.

“It preps guys to fix their weaknesses and maximize their strengths — ‘What are the things you can do for you own style personally?’” Garland said. “The second component is how do we scout and prep for that particular guy you’re going to have.”

Beyond that, however, Garland said he needs little in the way of motivational tactics and only scheduled a half-week of practice leading up to the national tournament.

“To be honest with you, it’s the NCAA Tournament,” Garland said. “If I have to get them motivated for it, we’re in trouble. There’s 16,000 people, it’s a fantastic environment, I don’t think we’ll have any problems with motivation.”

The opening round will begin 11 a.m. Thursday at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis, and sessions continue until the finals, which take place 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

M Tennis | Paval, Jenkins clash in marquee match with Sooners

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really difficult adversity,” Boland said. “It’s not surprising to me because... he deals with pressure and adversity as well as anybody I’ve ever coached.”

Although the Cavaliers escaped with wins, last weekend’s doubles losses continued a disturbing trend for Virginia. The team has lost four of its last five doubles points since beating No. 10 Stanford Feb. 18, but Boland minimized the shaky double play.

“It’s too early in the season to concern me,” he said. “Our doubles continues to get better. We’re focused on it and certainly there’s no panic button with the team, we just need to keep working on the little things and we’ll be fine.”

All 11 of the Cavaliers’ opponents this season rank in the Top 50 nationally, including eight ranked in the Top 20. Virginia may catch a break this weekend, however, facing only one ranked opponent in Oklahoma (6-2, 0-0 Big 12). Like the Cavaliers, the Sooners boast five nationally-ranked players, whereas Boston College (3-5, 0-3 ACC) and Eastern Kentucky (24-0, 7-0 OVC) do not have one.

“Oklahoma’s as good as anyone we’ve played,” Boland said. “Oklahoma will certainly pose a great challenge for us with five ranked players. Boston College keeps getting better and they’re just another ACC team, but right now our focus is on Oklahoma.”

No. 9 junior Costin Paval spearheads the Sooner squad. Paval will most likely face Jenkins in the day’s marquee match-up, but even facing such a challenge, Jenkins showed little anxiety.

“We’ll prepare pretty much the same as all the other matches,” Jenkins said. “We just use it as a tool to get ready for May, that’s when we want to play our best tennis. Just keep working on our game and hopefully we’ll be ready by May.”

Like the Cavaliers’ Frank, the Sooners have a phenom freshman of their own in No. 67 freshman Dane Webb. Boland, however, only embraces the challenge.

“I’m hoping that we get every team’s best effort,” Boland said. “This adversity at this point in the season is great for us.”

Virginia’s match against Oklahoma will begin Friday 3 p.m. at the Snyder Tennis Courts. The Cavaliers will take on Boston College 1 p.m. Saturday at Snyder, followed by Eastern Kentucky 6 p.m. at the Boar’s Head Sports Club.

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