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BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Jenna Truong | The Cavalier Daily



Courtesy Virginia Athletics



HIGH HOPES

Returning stalwarts, exciting newcomers stoke enthusiasm before ballyhooed No. 24 Cavaliers open 2013-14 campaign

Zack Barte
Senior Associate Editor

After a 73-68 win against then-No. 3 Duke in front of a raucous crowd at John Paul Jones Arena, it appeared that the Virginia men's basketball team could make an ACC and even NCAA Tournament run behind the hot hand of then-junior guard Joe Harris and the steady post presence of then-junior forward Akil Mitchell.

Instead, the Cavaliers were stood up for the Big Dance after dropping two of their final three games to close the regular season and getting thrashed by NC State in the ACC Tournament Quarterfinals. They then accepted a No. 1 seed to the NIT, but suffered an unceremonious exit from the quarterfinals. It was not the ending Virginia's players and coaches had in mind, and

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After injury-marred 2013 season, potent backcourt, emerging Imovbioh aim to power Virginia to first tourney berth under Boyle

Matthew Morris
Associate Editor

When Virginia women's basketball coach Joanne Boyle arrived in Charlottesville in April 2011, she inherited leadership of a program guided for the previous 34 years by the beloved Debbie Ryan. Her predecessor had shepherded the Cavaliers to 736 wins, 24 NCAA Tournaments and 12 Sweet Sixteen appearances, expecting aca-

demic dedication from her players all the while.

Boyle, the 2006-2007 Pac-10 Coach of the Year at California, hoped to continue Ryan's work. Entering her third year with the program, however, she has yet to steer Virginia to the NCAA Tournament. This season, at least at the outset, represents the chance for

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mitted to ensuring it will not happen again.

"It's never any games off," sophomore guard Justin Anderson said. "We learned our lesson last year by not approaching every game ready to play. There's no such thing as a day off in this sport, you have to make sure you come ready to play against anybody on every single night."

Last year, though the team was 8-4 against top-100 RPI opponents in the regular season, it finished a humiliating 13-7 against sub-100 RPI programs. A combination of a weak out-of-conference schedule and frustrating letdowns against inferior opponents ultimately derailed Virginia's March Madness dreams.

It won't take long to determine whether the Cavaliers are taking every opponent seriously. After losing all three of its games against CAA teams in 2012 — including

a 63-61 upset at the hands of Old Dominion, which finished 5-25 — Virginia will open its season Friday against defending CAA champion and NCAA Tournament qualifier James Madison.

Anderson — Virginia's leading freshman scorer and rebounder last season at 7.6 points and 3.3 rebounds per game — hit his stride at the end of the year, averaging a team-best 19 points during the NIT. Playing in what he deems "the best conference in the country," Anderson is looking to take on a greater leadership role this year.

"We have two veteran leaders [Harris and Mitchell], and they're great, hard-working guys," Anderson said. "But at the same time, I can help lead the team in my own way. I think my way right now is vocally, being that enthusiastic player that helps get the team going no matter what. It's something I'm trying to embrace right now."

Malcolm Brogdon, sophomore guard who sat out all of last season

due to injury, is expected to see ample time as a point guard and possibly shooting guard this year. Sophomore forward Anthony Gill, who also sat out last season after transferring from South Carolina, should also feature prominently in the post. On what is undoubtedly coach Tony Bennett's deepest Virginia team ever, these two are attracting early buzz after promising freshman campaigns in 2011-12.

This extensive depth, also bolstered by freshmen guards London Perrantes and Devon Hall, has forced many Cavalier players to compete for playing time this season, and all to push themselves harder than ever before.

"The intensity has been jacked way up ... from my first three years here compared to this year," Mitchell said. "I think the guys understand that we have high expectations, and they also understand that every one of us can play. If you don't bring it every day in practice, you've got somebody else right behind you."

After the squad faced three ranked teams last season, Virginia's preseason schedule boasts

seven currently ranked opponents. The additions of No. 8 Syracuse, No. 21 Notre Dame and Pittsburgh to the ACC will bolster the Cavaliers' strength of schedule. The Cavaliers will also host No. 14 Virginia Commonwealth Nov. 12 and No. 20 Wisconsin Dec. 4, solidifying their non-conference resume.

"This year's schedule I think is strong on paper, but we are away from home more," Bennett said. "But this year, you don't know until the season how good teams are going to be. We will have to play for every game and it is a little daunting, but I think it's what you need to find out where you are at early and to prepare you for the rigors of ACC play, which obviously is stepped up."

Playing away from home was also not the Cavaliers' strong suit last season. Although the team posted a program record 20 wins at home, finishing 20-2 at JPJ, it was an abysmal 3-8 on the road and 0-2 at neutral sites.

Bennett and his players attributed part of their success at home to the student section, which made

national headlines after storming the court when the Cavaliers upset the Blue Devils, drawing the ire of Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"We love the student section," Bennett said. "They have been great since we have been here and it has grown each year. It always impresses me how they can bounce up and down for the whole game ... We appreciate what they have done so far and hopefully, we'll put a product on the floor that keeps them jumping and bouncing."

With a schedule fit to yield an NCAA Tournament berth, it is now up to the Cavaliers to deliver. Though expectations are high, Bennett's players are trying not to pay attention to the hype.

"We try not to think about expectations or anything the media is saying," Brogdon said. "We try to just focus on what we're doing in practice and working hard every day, because ... that's what we know is going to get us to the point to where all of these expectations are true. So far we haven't done anything."

W BASKETBALL | Healthy Gerson, Wolfe return to optimistic Cavaliers

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such a berth in her short tenure. After a 2012-13 season derailed by injuries, the Cavaliers look physically sound and emotionally enthused as they prepare to visit James Madison Friday night.

"They're not afraid to talk about it [making the Tournament]," Boyle said. "I think that's their goal, and they can speak about it, because I feel like they believe that they should be there this year."

The 2013-14 Cavaliers may be thin in the frontcourt, but with senior captains Ataira Franklin, Kelsey Wolfe and Lexie Gerson starting in the backcourt, they possess a key ingredient to post-season success: veteran guard play. The return of Gerson, a steals maestro who sat out all of last year rehabbing her surgically-repaired hip, gives the Cavaliers reason for positivity. The ball-hawking guard averaged 3.1 thefts per game in 2011-12, when she was named to the All-ACC Defensive Team, and kicked in 9.5 points per game on offense. This year in practice, Gerson has shown her signature knack

for disruption within Virginia's matchup zone, quieting fears she may not be the defender she was pre-injury.

"[I've] got to calm down," Gerson said. "I'm going to be a little too excited. But I'm just thankful that I even have the opportunity to come back because a lot of people don't get that."

This year, the NCAA will introduce a 10-second backcourt violation alongside the long-used 30-second shot clock, and officials will emphasize the offensive player's freedom of movement both on and off the ball. The backcourt limit incentivizes press defense, while Boyle believes the freedom of movement rules will encourage positional, feet-first guarding.

"I think where people will really be exposed is with hand-checking," Boyle said. "I mean, they [the NCAA regulators] really want to protect the ball-handler. They want to see games that are higher-scoring ... The whole idea is just to clean up the game and make our game more exciting and more fun."

Boyle-coached teams always play lockdown defense — Virginia allowed 54.1 points per game in her first year compared with 64.5

in Ryan's last — but with final scores likely on the rise and the ACC strengthened by the arrival of Pittsburgh, Syracuse and No. 6 Notre Dame, the Cavaliers will also need to score in bunches. To that end, Boyle has returned to a scheme from her Richmond days: the Princeton offense. The perimeter-oriented, single-post system should help Virginia compensate for its lack of size.

The Cavaliers' success running the Princeton offense, however, may well turn on the play of their most prominent pivot: junior forward Sarah Imovbioh. The board-hoarding forward played her first season of collegiate basketball last year after the NCAA ruled her ineligible to compete as a freshman, and she impacted Virginia's on-court identity from start to finish, scoring a season-high 21 points in the Cavaliers' season-opening win against James Madison and posting an 18-point, 18-rebound double-double in a late-season loss to Wake Forest.

Boyle said Imovbioh "almost rebounds like she's two people," but the Cavaliers prefer to clean the glass as a group. Virginia out-rebounded its competition

by a margin of 3.6 last season. This year, with only four players above six feet, the team is particularly conscious of the need to limit its opponents to one shot per possession.

"I think in the past two years, rebounding is definitely something that we've struggled with, but we've had [graduated forwards] Simone [Egwu] and Telia [McCall] down there," Franklin said. "So, just as guards we're definitely going to have to pick up some of that slack, and, you know, we can't rely so heavily on Sarah to get all the boards."

The sweet-shooting Franklin has steadily improved through the course of her Virginia career. She earned First Team All-ACC honors for the first time last season, when she paced Virginia in scoring (14.3), minutes (36.1) and steals (2.2) per game. Franklin was even better in ACC play, averaging 15.6 points (sixth in the conference) and shooting 81.8 percent from the charity stripe (fourth) while leading the league with 38.3 minutes per game. Her continued progression as both a player and a leader could help Virginia exceed expectations in a conference with

four teams ranked in the pre-season AP Poll's top-25.

"I think that that's why you play Division I basketball, to compete and to play against highly ranked teams," Franklin said. "And, you know, there's going to be games where we're the underdogs, but, like I said, that's what you play for."

Wolfe will likely help Franklin shoulder the scoring load. She had a breakout season as a junior, averaging 10.6 points per game in 25 games after averaging 2.8 points per game in her first two years. Wolfe scored 20-plus points on three occasions before tearing her right ACL late in the first half against Maryland Feb. 17. She said she is healthy now but will need in-game repetitions to regain trust in her body.

The Cavaliers and Boyle hope to build and burnish their own Virginia legacies, and after two seasons together, they may finally be in position to do so.

"Just being around this coaching staff for three years you get to know them inside and out, and they know us," Wolfe said. "So it's just a comfort level that's completely different from their first year here."

Expectation adjustments

Last March, Virginia got thumped by a disappointment.

NC State had entered the 2012-13 campaign as the first consensus ACC favorite not hailing from Tobacco Road since roughly the Paleolithic Age. By the time the Wolfpack trounced Virginia 75-56 in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament, however, they were “only” 24-9 and had finished a “disheartening” fifth in the conference standings for their best season since 2004. I stayed with an NC State family that week in Greensboro and talked to other media who had covered the team, and they all conveyed a similar sentiment: NC State’s electric performance against Virginia underlined how egregiously the team had underachieved beforehand.

Virginia will open its 2013-14 season as the No. 24 team in the nation, with many outlets — including ESPN — forecasting the team to finish comfortably within the top-four of the ACC. Considering coach Tony Bennett welcomes back every rotation member save Jontel Evans — with sophomore transfer forward Anthony Gill, redshirt sophomore Malcolm Brogdon and freshman phenoms London Perrantes and

Devon Hall all set to enter the fold — fans and followers of the Cavaliers certainly should feel giddier than Rob Ford on a Cancun Spring Break. Yet the same cruel fate which befell NC State a year ago, when a few key missteps and mishaps rendered an objectively impressive season a letdown, could target Virginia as its next victim. The Cavaliers will play well. For various reasons, nevertheless, their final win-loss record may underwhelm.

The most cited concerns revolve around Virginia’s point guard situation. Bennett will likely start Brogdon, a 6’5” specimen who can create his own shot and held his own defensively as a freshman. If you remove 5-of-7 and 5-of-6 outliers against Michigan and Maryland from his sole season in 2011-12, however, Brogdon shot just 34.2 percent from the field. He also registered more turnovers (1.6) than assists (1.4) per game, and has played exactly zero minutes since Feb. 2012 while recovering from a fractured foot.

Redshirt sophomore Teven Jones, the only other point guard on the roster who has logged significant playing time and a sturdy on-ball defender, has yet to demonstrate consistent comfort on the offensive end. Finally, while Perrantes and Hall

have reportedly each impressed during camp, both will need to master Bennett’s pack-line defense before the coach trusts them enough to deploy them for extended stretches. Equipped with a jump-shot that would shame Philip Seymour Hoffman in “Along Came Polly,” Evans nevertheless offered Bennett a trustworthy, if flawed, two-way presence. This crop of point guards could exceed his standard, but they still have to prove it.

Far less ambiguity exists at the off-guard position, where senior Joe Harris begins the season with more accolades to collect and #swoons to induce than ever. The fawning over Harris, though, worries me just as much. Contrary to the assumptions many non-Virginia observers drew from his 36-point eruption against Duke last Feb. 28, the Cavaliers struggled more often than not when Harris shouldered a disproportionate offensive burden. In the 15 games in which Harris fired off 13 shots or more, Virginia finished 5-10 — including the losses to lowly Delaware and Old Dominion that doomed the squad’s at-large NCAA bid prospects.

The threat here is not that Harris will hoist up difficult shots willy-nilly to pad his point total. Rather, the danger will arise when, as in 2013, the offense inevitably hits a rut, and more than a year’s worth of accumulated noise alluding to Harris’ Alpha Dog status entices the Cavaliers into

letting him hoist difficult contested jumpers during critical late-game possessions. Bennett denied that Harris could be as much of a “focal point,” with the array of offensive weaponry at his disposal, while Harris himself promised not to force things at last month’s Media Day. Let’s hope they cling to those convictions when times get dicey.

Plenty of fans and pundits blamed Harris’ post-Duke victory hangover — 27-of-82 shooting in final seven games — for the team’s quasi-collapse in March. His specific struggles overshadowed a disturbing team-wide trend that has manifested in the last two seasons.

Since the start of 2011, Virginia has finished an alarming 5-11 in games decided by three points or less — including two road losses to Boston College and Florida State that severely crippled the squad’s theretofore promising NCAA chances. The Cavaliers have also compiled a combined 4-7 record the past two Marches, shooting 42.3 percent in those 11 games as compared to 45.7 percent during the past two years as a whole.

Harsh and unfair though it may sound, the empirical evidence suggests a team that has wobbled in several pressure-packed situations the past two years. In the course of a schedule featuring diabolical conference competition and non-conference games against top-25 caliber squads in VCU, Wisconsin and

Tennessee, how the Cavaliers fare in such circumstances could determine whether we remember 2013-14 as magical or depressingly adequate.

The aforementioned concerns qualify as nitpicky, and I failed to mention most of the reasons I suspect Virginia will flourish, such as a defense which may limit an entire team to fewer points in a game than Andrew Wiggins will average at some point this season. Just beware of judging these Cavaliers purely against the backdrop of their preseason expectations. As with NC State last year, there are so many contingencies and potential turns of ill fortune that could conspire to thwart this team that evaluating Virginia purely on its ultimate record stems from the same illogic suggesting Kevin Durant was a chump last year for failing to drag the Thunder to the Finals.

Though you have the right to ignore me and lambast Virginia for anything short of 25 wins, I recommend heeding the message Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle delivered to the Cavaliers in September: focus less on the end, and more on the means.

“Carlisle said that managing expectations is about the process,” Bennett said. “That is what good players do; that is how the thought process goes. Practice is getting better each day you are competing with each other, and the end result is all just a by-product.”

Talented freshmen encourage London

Squad visits North Carolina hoping to snap six-game skid, address chronic scoring issues

Kristen Cauley
Staff Writer

Searching for a silver lining amid a six-game losing streak might seem futile as the Virginia football team travels to Chapel Hill to face North Carolina this weekend, but it is not impossible to find.

Although the Tar Heels (3-5, 2-3 ACC) just registered a 27-19 victory against NC State, they lost senior quarterback Bryn Renner to a season-ending shoulder injury. North Carolina must win three of its remaining four games without Renner to be bowl eligible for the first time under coach Larry Fedora.

Trying to put a winless October behind them, the Cavaliers (2-7, 0-5 ACC) are seeking their first ACC victory of the season.

“Going into this game with [North Carolina], you look at both teams having struggled a bit,” Virginia coach Mike London said. “We’re looking at it to prepare to go on the road and play North Carolina and win that game by any means necessary.”

One of the bright spots for Virgin-

ia during a deflating 2013 campaign has been the play of its freshman class. Of the 12 freshmen seeing field time this season, seven have started.

“This class that’s coming in in the fall is a class that you start to look at,” London said. “When you can recruit talented players and they can step in right away and play, then you will afford those young men the chance to do that.”

Injuries have given young players working diligently in practice a chance to step up and gain experience down the homestretch of a season that has no hope of ending in a bowl appearance.

“I was second team for the longest time — I didn’t even touch the field,” freshman defensive tackle Donte Wilkins said. “Once I worked for it, and I actually gave it my all, and actually put work in, it felt good to actually earn my spot playing.”

Even with seven losses on the season, each game offers a crucial opportunity for development and improvement of Virginia’s freshmen. In last week’s loss against Clemson, freshman wide receiver Keeon Johnson hauled in five catches for 77 receiving yards, both career highs.

“The first week of practice I was

kind of out there like a chicken with his head cut off,” Johnson said. “Since I’ve studied the places a lot more, gotten to know how it feels in game type situations, I’m more calm and collected on the field.”

Although Virginia’s freshmen continue to gain valuable experience despite weekly losses, with only three games left in the season there is a sense of urgency as the Cavaliers search for a victory in North Carolina. To be successful against the Tar Heels, London reckons Virginia’s offense must limit the number of turnovers while converting more of its lengthy, productive possessions into points.

“There’s plenty of time possession, but not scoring is definitely an issue,” London said. “The need to score points is critical.”

The Tar Heels employ a multiple formation offense that has ignited their passing game in recent years. In pass offense, North Carolina ranks third in the ACC and 19th in the country.

“This is another offense that will have a lot of remnants to some of the teams that we played with shifts, motions, [and] hurry-up tempo,” London said. “Our job is to make



Porter Dickie | The Cavalier Daily

Freshman Keeon Johnson is hauled down after nabbing one of his career high five catches in last Saturday’s 59-10 defeat to Clemson. Johnson is one of 12 Virginia freshmen to see playing time this year.

sure we’re in a position to go up and contest balls and put a rush on the quarterback.”

Stopping junior tight end Eric Ebron, who has amassed 669 reception yards and averages 83.6 yards a game to lead North Carolina, is a major point of emphasis for the Virginia defense this week.

“Ebron is their all-everything guy,” London said. “He’s a tight end but he’s an excellent receiver that plays kind of like [junior tight end] Jake McGee does for us out in the slot position.”

Although No. 14 Miami and Virginia Tech loom after Virginia’s bye next week, London’s primary focus this week is to concentrate on the task at hand.

“The biggest thing I’d say is just prepare to win and taking it one game at a time,” London said. “For us, our bowl season is these next three games coming up, and the most important game is this game against Carolina.”

The contest will kick off at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and will air locally on the ACC Network.

Top-ranked Cavs gear for ACC semifinals, Tech rematch

A week after defeating Hokies 2-0, Swanson's group expresses wary confidence before semifinal clash; UNC-FSU winner awaits victor

Senior midfielder and defender Shasta Fisher has tallied a goal and three assists while helping solidify her team's backline this season.



Porter Dickie | The Cavalier Daily

Jacob Hochberger
Staff Writer

The No. 1 Virginia women's soccer team has been dominant for much of this season, leading the nation in scoring offense, assists and total points. But in last weekend's ACC tournament quarterfinals match against Maryland, the Cavaliers found themselves having relinquished total control after ceding a fifth-minute goal.

The top-seeded Cavaliers quickly rebounded with a goal in the 28th minute and never looked back, ultimately toppling the Terrapins 6-1. Still, the early scare functioned as a valuable caution against complacency heading into Friday's semifinal matchup against fourth-seeded No. 6 Virginia Tech.

"We're feeling pretty good, but we also know that we can get better," senior defender Shasta Fisher said. "We can't have the attitude that we're the best because we can always improve."

Virginia (20-0-0, 14-0-0 ACC), a team which has thrived on using

its experience to exploit opponents, will be able to draw on its recent history for Friday's matchup, as the Hokies (15-3-2, 9-3-1 ACC) fell to the Cavaliers 2-0 just last week.

"I think it will be helpful because they are fresh in our mind," senior midfielder Kate Norbo said. "We know we're going to get a good Virginia Tech team, but I think we're ready for it. They're a physical team and are good in the air and on set plays, so we're working on those things because we know that's where they are most dangerous."

The Cavaliers will again have to cope with the potent Virginia Tech attack headlined by senior forward Jazmine Reeves, sophomore midfielder Ashley Meier and freshman forward Murielle Tiernan. This three-headed monster has tallied 24 goals total thus far this season, spearheading the second-highest scoring offense in the ACC.

"They have some personnel that make it very difficult, especially up top," Virginia coach Steve Swanson said. "We'll have to be able to adjust to what the game dictates, and I think we've been in enough situa-

tions to where we will be able to do that."

An oft unmentioned — though significant — challenge for Virginia is the change in schedule for post-season play. Instead of the usual routine of playing Thursday and Sunday games, the Cavaliers, if they win, will face a Friday-Sunday turnaround between the semifinal and the championship games.

"[The Friday-Sunday format] is the way the NCAA tournament is geared, so this is a nice segue back into what it will be," Swanson said.

The Cavaliers can rely on a strong core of nine seniors to help lead the team as they ready themselves for what could be a hectic postseason schedule.

"This isn't something these guys aren't used to because we've done it the past couple of years," Swanson said.

The semifinal matchup will take place at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, N.C. and will be shown on ESPN3 at 5:30 p.m. The victor will face the winner of the North Carolina-Florida State semifinal in Sunday's championship match.

New swimming, dive coach Busch relishes opportunity

While praising 'legend' Bernardino, new coach vows to propel program to even loftier heights; No. 9 men, No. 11 women off to rollicking start

Robert Elder
Associate Editor

For 35 years coach Mark Bernardino confidently walked the Virginia poolside, orchestrating the Cavalier swimming and diving teams' unprecedented march to 27 ACC Championships. But this past July, to the shock of many in the swimming community, Bernardino suddenly retired, creating a coaching vacancy at one of the most storied programs in the conference.

Just more than a week later, athletics director Craig Littlepage ended the search by naming Houston women's coach Augie Busch as the new coach for the Virginia men's and women's swimming and diving programs. Cognizant of the daunting challenge of replacing Bernardino, who was the ACC Coach of the Year 31 times during his tenure at Virginia, Busch nevertheless believes he can guide the Virginia program to even loftier heights than his predecessor.

"A legend is absolutely a fair word [to describe Bernardino]," Busch said. "From day one, I thought that a) he's a legend, and b) I think I can take [the program] to even higher territory. Certainly on the

national stage, I feel like we can be better than we have ever been."

To achieve such ambitious objectives, Busch will rely on his wealth of coaching experience. Busch led Houston to a program-best second place finish in the Conference USA last season in just his second year as head coach. Prior to his stay at Houston, Busch was an assistant coach at Arizona for eight seasons, during which time the Wildcats were consistently ranked among the nation's elite programs.

"I've been able to use my experience at Arizona, because we were actually a better team at Arizona, a top-three team, year-in and year-out," Busch said. "That experience from Arizona is what really helps me now, and my experience in Houston, all the stuff that comes with being a head coach, is very unique."

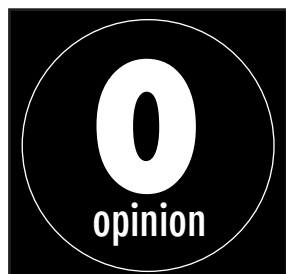
Busch brought in a strong, familiar coaching staff to ease his transition into the program. Among the new assistants are Cory Chitwood, who was coached by Busch as a student-athlete at Arizona; Sam Busch, Augie Busch's brother; and Cliff Robbins, who was an assistant coach for Busch at Houston.



Stephen Pinchback | UH Athletics Communication

Virginia swimming and diving head coach Augie Busch, pictured here while directing Houston's women's team, also served as a longtime assistant on the University of Arizona, where he helped shepherd both the men's and women's teams to national championships in 2008.

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LEAD EDITORIAL

In defense of intrinsic value

The immediacy of the humanities trumps their instrumental worth — and University leaders shouldn't be afraid to say it

Amid the thunderous headlines proclaiming the death of the humanities, it's hard to hear the students talking about Kant in the classroom next door. Before we slap a toe tag on our Shakespeare anthology, we might consider the possibility that the humanities are still kicking.

To say that the humanities are in "crisis" has become a tic in journalistic and academic circles. But can "crisis" be a perpetual state?

Current discussions about the future of the humanities — the fields of study that include history, literature, philosophy, foreign languages, religious studies and the arts — occur in the context of an economic climate straining to recover from the 2008 recession. The recession and its fallout had a painful effect on humanities scholars. An already-streuous job market grew more bearish. And when schools tightened their belts, humanities departments were often the first to get slashed.

The prospect of a U.S. economy likely to experience still more vicissitudes in the future has made many students (and their parents) view a humanities degree as a too-risky endeavor. Better to study something that will lead more swiftly to gainful employment, they think.

The decline in humanities enrollments, however, has been overstated. The proportion of American college students pursuing humanities majors boomed in the 1960s, at 14 percent. The percentage fell off in the 1970s and dipped to its lowest point in 1985.

Since then, the percentage of humanities majors has hovered between 6 and 8 percent. Some students can't stay away.

In this issue's opinion pages, students have reflected on why they care about the humanities. Each article insists, in its own way, that the humanities are something we pursue because we must: that these disciplines press us toward self-knowledge, exhilaration and new ways of experiencing the world. In other words, the humanities are good in and of themselves.

We can call this the "intrinsic-value argument" for the humanities. And we think the University's professors and administrators — who find themselves called upon to make the case for the humanities by parents, donors, lawmakers and others — should take the intrinsic-value argument seriously.

Higher-education leaders — such as the swath of academic all-stars who authored the American Academy of Arts & Sciences report on the humanities released this summer — frequently defend the humanities in terms of economic or political utility.

The economic argument for the humanities is, broadly, that students who study the humanities make for creative, independent and productive workers. The humanities benefit the economy at large by providing students with the cognitive equipment necessary for imaginative business proposals. Give a student literature, and he'll give you a start-up.

And given the U.S. economy's shifting sands, the soft skills a student (supposedly)

gets from a humanities degree — sharp written and oral communication, the ability to find the nub of an argument or problem — make these students more nimble. A history major, the argument holds, can flit from sinking industry to sinking industry as if leaping on ice floes. A computer science major, by contrast, can land a first job quickly, but the hard skills she learns in college might be obsolete in five years.

The political argument has two aspects: first, that the humanities are good for democracy; second, that the humanities bolster national security. The democracy argument has a Jeffersonian strain. Students who are able to critically assess ideas are better equipped to detect bad arguments in public discourse and hold leaders accountable. And students who read literature are better positioned to imagine the experiences of fellow citizens who come from different racial, economic or ethnic backgrounds — a necessary skill for a pluralistic democracy.

The national-security argument centers mostly on foreign languages, and, to a lesser extent, religious studies, especially the study of Islam. By gaining an understanding of foreign languages and cultures, students are better prepared to tackle complex global problems. We learn the languages and cultures of our foes in order to keep pace, and we learn the languages and cultures of our allies in order to strengthen friendships on the world stage.

These arguments are all well and good. But focusing on the humanities' instrumen-

tal benefits ignores why so many of us are drawn to these subjects in the first place.

Do the attachments we have to books and ideas come from a desire to improve the U.S. economy or our country's national interests? Perhaps on some level. But our curiosity about how human beings work — our restless self-questioning, our desire to find a vocation, make meaning and uncover the past — has no instrumental master. We study the humanities because the works we encounter enrich our lives.

For University professors and administrators to take the intrinsic-value argument seriously, for them to make it forcefully to external parties, would mean that they would be asserting another claim at the same time. They would be insisting that the purpose of college is more than just job preparation. They would be saying that college is something more: it is about creating people who can make a life, not just make a living.

This is an argument that the University cannot afford to neglect. Our school's focus on student leadership and honor point to our desire to change students during their four years here: to make them wiser leaders, attentive friends and sharper thinkers.

A faith in the transformative potential of education lies at the University's heart. And the ability of the humanities to provoke metamorphosis — to turn lives and assumptions upside-down; to enlist young people in the service of justice and beauty — is the best defense of a dying-but-immortal enterprise.

Comment of the day

"I wasn't planning on voting a few weeks ago. But now that Obama is involved, I get to vote against Obama! Most of the country is dying to cast a vote against Obama, and we Virginians are lucky to have this opportunity."

"TonyXL" responding to the Managing Board's Nov. 4 editorial, "Don't sit this one out."

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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The most wonderful time of the year

Of all the major holidays, Thanksgiving imparts the best message

Russell Bogue
Opinion Columnist

It's once again that awkward and exciting time of year. We've just finished a solid three days of Halloween festivities, Thanksgiving calls longingly to our weary hearts and Christmas is suddenly a thing again. The Wal-Mart on Route 29 has already placed a Christmas tree near the front doors to woo the seasonal shopaholics. With so much festive spirit in the air, it's time to resurface that perennial debate: which holiday is the best? Is it the raucous debauchery of Halloween? The joy of Thanksgiving? The timelessness of Christmas?

Despite the merits of each, I submit to you that we should discriminate between holidays on the basis of their motivations; that is, does the holiday stem from an admirable or virtuous desire, or does it celebrate something that perhaps ought not to be celebrated? It's a light-hearted debate, but a useful reflection nonetheless, especially when we consider how holidays represent and help to shape the values of our society. Under these criteria, Thanksgiving emerges as the best in the pack.

The most important argument I can put before you is simply that Thanksgiving is the only holiday among the full menu of options that concerns itself solely with fellowship and, well, giving thanks. The point of the holiday is to spend time with one's family, to sit around a fireplace or a dinner table and eat good food, drink bone-warming spirits and remember why we love each other. The story that inspires it — however embellished or inaccurate it may be — is a beautiful one: a tale of human cooperation, strong ties of love and gratitude and finding friends in unexpected places. We don't have to start opining on the true history of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans (it's not pretty) to appreciate what Thanksgiving stands for.

Devoting a day to reflecting on the abundance we enjoy and the blessings that surround us is an ennobling venture. Ideally, yes, we should attempt to do this every day; but our busy lives and our selfish natures often prevent such saintlike humility. A single day of gratefulness is a good place to start. Other than the expectation of delicious food and the anticipation of good times spent with family, there is nothing to selfishly entice us about Thanksgiving. The hope is that this

holiday will inspire us to take the love and gratitude we receive and go out in the world to give to those who have not and to love those who are unloved. In short, we love Thanksgiving for all the right reasons: familial togetherness, nourishment of our bodies and souls and a period of reflection on the bounty that we enjoy.

While Christmas shares many of these attributes, it is nonetheless tainted. Our love for Christmas was born from a desire to receive gifts. As children, we come to anticipate Christmas morning with such fervor not because we are jubilant at the prospect of more time together with the family, or because we can't wait to see how other people respond to what we have given them — if we have even bought presents for people — but rather because we want to know what has been given to us. Need I explain further? It's a fundamentally selfish holiday. Now, I fully appreciate the valiant efforts that we have made to make Christmas about other, nobler ideas: giving gifts to others, giving to those in need or celebrating family. I like these things. But there is no denying that Christmas as it is celebrated in America — that is, the predominantly secular version of Santa and elves and the Grinch

— would not survive if it didn't feed off of the desire to receive gifts from others. When we rationalize that we grow out of such selfish motives — that eagerly receiving gifts is the domain of children — we are lying to ourselves. We all want presents. And that's the heart of Christmas. Thanksgiving, because it lacks such a selfish underlying motive, celebrates something we truly ought to celebrate.

For similar reasons, Halloween fails to measure up. The selfish motives are less potent, perhaps, because trick-or-treating does not satisfy our egocentric desires so much as it satisfies our gluttony. Trust me, I'm all for gluttony, especially of the candy variety. But there's nothing to celebrate about it. It's a caving-in rather than a rising-above. Like Christmas, Halloween has redeeming aspects: the innocent fun of dressing up in costumes, the spooky tales that get our hearts pounding, the community cohesion that occurs when little children run from door to door in their cute little fairy costumes and more. But less savory aspects accompany these positive ones, like the Halloween mischief that ruins cars, damages property and frustrates old folk. Unlike Christmas, Halloween doesn't derive its

lifeblood from our selfish desires. Yet it is inextricably linked to our gluttony, promotes mischief for the sake of mischief and lacks any truly virtuous underpinning. It's just for fun.

Other mainstream holidays exist, of course, that would be worth examining. I think, however, you'll find that the vast majority of them derive their value from suspect moral bases or lead to unwelcome actions on the part of holiday-goers. Thanksgiving, in contrast, emerges as the single most moral of the traditional American holidays, in its roots, its motives and its celebration. Holidays are not merely days off from work or a break from studying; they represent the values we choose to promote. As such, we should actually think carefully about which holidays we celebrate and why. Should we ban all holidays that wouldn't pass Mother Teresa's standards? Perhaps not. But we should emphasize those that stand for values like gratitude, fellowship and sacrifice while recognizing the dark underbelly of some of our most cherished traditions.

Russell Bogue is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily. His columns run Thursdays.

The ethical question

The University should require all undergraduates to take an ethics course

Dani Bernstein
Opinion Columnist

The University's statement of purpose and goals includes the goal "to quicken, discipline, and enlarge ... ethical awareness" in the University's members. To pursue this goal, the University should make ethics a required course in the curriculum of all its undergraduate schools.

Undergraduate schools already have area requirements, which are appropriate; making sure students have basic knowledge in more than one academic area contributes to their abilities to understand the world through multiple perspectives. But quickening, disciplining and enlarging ethical awareness, as the University aspires to do, requires more than making students take a course or two in a diverse range of departments. Students should also have an understanding of different perspectives on morality. Requiring students to study ethics, which is the philosophy of how we define right and wrong behavior (in other words, moral

philosophy), is the most obvious way for the University to fulfill this goal.

Morality is subjective — and that's the main reason we should make ethics a requirement. Most people who think they behave ethically and understand morality often believe this primarily on the basis of whatever set of principles they grew up with. But in a massive and diverse student body such as ours it quickly becomes clear that not everyone adheres to the same code of ethics; each culture has a different perspective on ethical behavior, and it is important to respect these philosophies and learn how to interact without offending people's different perceptions of morality. The extent to which any action is "right" or "wrong" is debatable; studying ethics helps us understand this.

Studying ethics also forces us to question pre-existing social conventions. In my short time on Grounds, I've directly or indirectly heard what I consider to be offensive comments, including ones that are homophobic, sexist and racist. I've found that the re-

marks in these situations are not always from people who are inherently homophobic, sexist or racist, but rather they are sometimes from people who are somewhat unaware of how offensive their remarks are. This can be because of their upbringing or the acceptance their comments receives on Grounds. A good example of this is the chanting of "not gay" during the Good Ol' Song, which has now been formally condemned but was common practice until far too recently. From this, it is clear to me that the University is not living up to the standard it set for itself of enlarging ethical awareness.

Requiring every undergraduate to take an ethics course will help the University achieve that standard by encouraging more introspection in students. In ethics courses, after studying basic ethical principles such as utilitarianism, as well as philosophers such as Kant, students are often compelled to ask difficult questions of themselves. Is it ethical to be charitable if it makes you feel good, or is that a selfish action? How can we determine what is the greatest

good for the greatest number, and should that be our goal? Is inaction unethical, meaning, is it an ethical obligation to help someone in need, or is only actively harming someone unethical?

This last question has immediate relevance to University students. If you see a drunk student stumbling home, do you have a moral obligation to help him or her, or are you just particularly virtuous for doing so? It's clear that, though these issues might seem broad, they are actually relevant to us here and now, and having students discuss them in an academic setting will ultimately compel them to question their own systems of belief and everyday actions. This introspection relates back to the questionable comments I mentioned above — students will begin to question how their actions affect others, and maybe some of those comments will happen with less frequency.

We are all brought up with some understanding of ethical behavior, but it is important to recognize that these concepts of morality are not universal. Studying ethics

heightens our awareness of this, and it will be even more relevant to us later in life when we have influence over more broad-reaching decisions, as opposed to just our own personal actions. Ethics is not just a topic for philosophy majors: it permeates every field. There are perpetual ethical debates in science about issues such as genetic engineering; in policy-making, about what ethical obligations the government has to its citizens; in business, about what we can consider unethical behavior (such as how banks gave unsustainable loans that led to the recent U.S. housing crisis) — the list is endless. We will face ethical dilemmas in whatever professions we end up in, and studying ethics will make us better equipped to handle them. Making ethics a required course is necessary if the University hopes to produce graduates who incorporate morality into their short- and long-term plans of action.

Dani Bernstein is an Opinion columnist for The Cavalier Daily. Her columns run Tuesdays.

A long line of storytellers

Stories are essential to human experience

Sandra Menendez
Guest Columnist

I come from a long line of storytellers.

Abuela used to get her pleat-patterned skirt caught in bike pedals, tugging it gently back between her knees as she perched herself sidesaddle on the handlebars. She'd ride through Havana that way, in the 1940s, fingering crustless triangle sandwiches she'd picked up from family friends' mansions. Her little gang of ricos would put their bikes up against the granite wall that caught the sea and compare jewelry: jade-stone rings, gold bangles to cover both wrists and true-silver pocket watches. But abuela was always the most impressive. She had a three-piece set of pearls: dangly earrings, a necklace and a brooch — all held in place with a set of mini-diamonds between each link.

Castro came in 1960 and abuela smuggled her three-piece set to Queens, New York. She wore Calvin Klein pantsuits from Fifth Avenue to her new job in the transistor radio factory. She sometimes carelessly stamped numbers into hearing devices, as her sons

took out Pell grants and became somewhat comfortable with bistec panisado every night for dinner. All the while she chatted without breath. To an unhearing audience she harped on the inability to find a crustless sandwich in New York City and someone who cared about her line of pearls.

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Tía Ysa did not have beautiful hands. They were scarred and sliced from the sharp crack of machete against sugar cane. I turned her hand over in mine, poked and prodded the raised, white scars that were like spider legs crawling in her palm and asked again what would happen if you found a set of eyes while cutting.

“Ay diós — you plead that you're a peasant too and that he should put down his rebel's rifle. Porque you only took este gran trabajo, working in Castro's fields for six months, so you could leave him everything you owned except your new, creaseless plane ticket to America.”

We sat together on the floral, plastic-covered couch making it crinkle as she wove my hair into a single braid that slid down the center of my back. She pulled me close and whispered tales of girls danc-

ing with colored ribbons, Cadillacs with headlights like saucers, and lovers, pressed together against the granite barrier, who looked out over the sea and dreamed.

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My brother, sister and I were all forcibly subjected to my mother's own rendition of “summer school” from the ages of three to 13.

“I'm not going to let your minds lose what they teach you during the year,” she'd say, peeling dry macaroni from the craft table, perpetually sticky with Elmer's glue.

We'd draw too-long hour hands on “Telling Time” worksheets she'd copied herself in black ink; we'd make brown grocery bags into hats, decorated with colorful plumes for our later-scheduled parade; we'd whine when she began yet another history lesson on Jamestown.

But our favorite was always story time. We curled around Ma in blankets as she opened up another tale, reading in a spectrum of character voices. At the end, she'd hand us blank, homemade books: neatly cut and folded sheets of computer paper placed between two pieces of cardboard and a yellow, duct tape binding.

So, we wrote. There was “How to Beat the Bully, Fred” (my brother's crowning achievement), “The Robot of Uzbekistan” (my first attempt at a graphic novel), “A Collection of Short Poems about Snow,” “The Day I Beat Up Roy Cavarrubia” (a real smart ass in my fourth-grade spelling class), “How the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Turned Into Turtles” (their transformation into ninjas had been previously explained), and “What I'd Do If I Didn't Have Summer School” (Ma wasn't so big a fan).

Even when the sticky craft table was replaced by the more adult appropriate pool table in our basement, Ma begged us to still write. And when we claimed we were “too busy,” she made dinner mandatory. Over passed plates of frioles negros and platanitos, we'd share our stories of the day — pinning for the most laughter or just the right detail.

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There is a Jewish saying that reads: what is truer than truth? Answer: the story. And when I think about this in the context of human truths, I cannot help but become a believer.

We exist simply as a collection of our stories. They are the first

details we share with our friends or even with strangers who we are just beginning to meet. It is an instant connection, a shared experience, or, more often times, a surprise.

The story is entirely human — from burly Viking men spitting out bits and pieces of “Beowulf” after a clack of drinking horns to Malala Yousafzai whose words about her own life changed a good bit of the world (or at least made the majority of it begin to pay attention). We feel stories. Simple inky symbols on a page or sound vibrations of voice in the air can move us to tears, elate us or even call us to action. There is something so transcendent about the story that it only seems to function on the level of our deepest being.

The humanities matter to me because of this: the power of the story. There must be something in it — for Abuela and Tía Ysa gave up their whole country, and Ma a good portion of her summers, just so that I would have the chance to one day share my own.

Sandra Menendez is a third-year College student.

Living between the lines

Books inform our most basic modes of htinking and perceiving

Katy Hutto
Guest Columnist

A friend and I were physically swallowed up, emotionally exhausted and finally relaxed in the giant chairs of Newcomb's game room last Friday afternoon as we talked about everything from our dogs' Halloween plans to our first-year dorm nostalgia.

Before long we started bouncing between various issues that we perceived as often being met with apathy by those who consider themselves “unaffected.” We already knew that the two of us stood on the exact same plane. We thought we also knew precisely how the conversation would just flow from one example to the next in a never-ending list of reasons why we still need to rant about social justice in the first place. Race and gender and class, oh my, and then all of a sudden ... the humanities?

The second she muttered an offhand comment about how the staggering rush of everyday life

makes it so easy even for truly good people to shuffle from one place to the next as one more face in the crowd, out of nowhere I just had to know:

“Did you ever read “The Phantom Tollbooth”?”

Her face lit up immediately. At the same moment, I felt a rush of baffled delight that my nerdy inner English major had apparently not been judged — yet.

The two of us shared that moment because, as we soon figured out, we also shared the common yet immensely personal experience of recognizing this childhood favorite as one that truly led both of us to question the very nature of existence, selfhood and meaning for the first time. Strangely enough, literally half a lifetime has now passed since I first flipped through those pages. At that stage, it certainly seemed to be the deepest thing I had ever encountered (aside from the terrifying end of a swimming pool, because everybody knows that the sharks live there). One section in particular just never left my mind.

There was a place named Reality, the twin city of Illusion, and its inhabitants were in retrospect not all that different from U.Va. students at their most stressed and chronically overcommitted. Day in and day out, all these people just trying to get through Reality were so relentlessly preoccupied with traveling straight from point A to point B that they never even looked up long enough to notice something astounding: their entire city had become invisible.

Our conversation grew to include the memories and morals of many other books we greatly valued from our earliest experiences of reading. Even on the way home, I was still thinking about just how profoundly my most basic modes of speaking and perceiving are still informed by everything from “Oh, the Places You'll Go!” to oh, how many giant books I carry around nowadays for the sake of classes spanning the academic humanities.

Of course, all these simple yet extremely meaningful human moments transcend far beyond just

those classes formally constructed as “the humanities” in higher education. This particular friend is majoring in urban planning, and the fact that my roommate studies Biomedical Engineering had very little to do with a similarly fascinating conversation that we recently shared about the implications of “1984.” In extending the echoes of these deeply resonant experiences to others, regardless of the nuances tied to personal backgrounds, we find a beauty and a mystery that mean much more when shared.

In light of the depth and breadth of so many of these inspired dialogues, we as students, friends, and, of course, human beings would all do well not to undervalue the talents we label “soft skills,” as if their effects on our lives are somehow uncertain or less legitimate when stacked up against the ability to succeed on a math test. What makes us human applies to an “us” far beyond just those who are able to name at least five Dostoyevsky novels or to have an impromptu debate about

the state of nature in this or that philosopher's works. The concept of an overarching humanity is fundamentally incapable of not including every childhood book, every important friendship, every thought-provoking Friday afternoon conversation and so much more.

No matter how many things may have changed at every level of my being in the past ten years, as one small person sitting in a giant chair and feeling every bit as excited about the same text just this past week, I honestly couldn't help but feel that certain aspects of the best books in our lives really are timeless. Even in the midst of inevitable change and immeasurable chaos, all it takes to become more conscientious parts of the Reality surrounding us is the will to share pieces of ourselves with others. More often than not, ultimately we learn that those “others” are in fact surprisingly familiar.

Katy Hutto is a third-year College student majoring in English and political and social thought.

A conversation

Magic words

Language allows us to manipulate reality by assigning words to impossible concepts that cannot exist in physical reality

Matthew Diem
Guest Columnist

Imagine a square circle.

No doubt, if you are not having a hard time of it, it is because you dismissed the exercise as impossible without trying it. And you would be right to do so; what I have asked you to do is impossible. A shape cannot be both square and circular. What on earth, then, have I described? The short answer is: a logical impossibility. Those two simple, elementary words put together refer to a shape that cannot exist under any conceivable circumstances. So in a sense the phrase denotes nothing. There are no square circles, even in the imagination, and so the words are, when joined, meaningless.

But so are the nonsense-words “frumious Bandersnatch” — yet no English-speaker would ever equate the two in terms of meaningfulness, even though both ultimately mean nothing. Yes, the one is composed of two actual English words, meaningful in themselves, but the impossibility of combin-

ing the concepts they represent renders the juxtaposition as empty of significance as if neither word denoted anything real or even possible.

Still, an incompatible pair of actual words has a suggestion of meaning that a pair of nonsense words does not. We cannot imagine what a square circle would look like, but we know what its properties would be — it would have four sides and a circumference Pi times its diameter — in a way that cannot be said for frumious Bandersnatches.

With a simple verbal trick, I have devised a figure that no mathematician could ever develop. The phrase looks mundane

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With language, and only language, we can twist reality to produce concepts which on their own could not be real.

enough — “square circle” — but the construction is remarkable if you think about it. Three syllables have created something that physical reality could not.

Of course, the creation is incomplete, but the articulation of logical impossibilities in words is still more than can be managed without language. Words, as an abstract way of signifying ideas, do not, like ideas themselves, have to be compatible to be put together. The sounds and symbols that language attaches to definite concepts and realities have no inherent significance, and so may be manipulated without reference to realities. Thus we can, as I have just done, talk, though not think, of something which has both four sides and a circumference. Thanks to the peculiar human faculty of language, even that which cannot be imagined can be described.

This phenomenon appears often in literature. “Oxymoron” (the conjunction of contradictory terms) is a standard poetic device, sometimes bordering on cliché. Shakespeare lampoons its commonness in love-poetry when he has Romeo rant about “Feather

of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!” as he pines away for his first love Rosaline. Certainly oxymoron is common enough that we do not stop to think how odd it is that we can put incompatible ideas together like that. We cannot imagine what sick health would feel like, but we are willing to accept the phrase as somehow meaningful. To be sure, in instances like this, the oxymoron may just denote a confused frame of mind — but even so, this is not the same as saying, “I don’t know whether I’m sick or healthy.” Romeo wants actually to combine the ideas because, in his chaotic mental state, he feels as if he is experiencing both simultaneously, and the concrete concepts of sickness and health to be combined unless put forth in words.

A more extreme expression of this strange power language affords is seen in certain types of imaginative literature, to describe scenarios that are supposed to transcend physical possibility. For instance, H.P. Lovecraft writes in “The Call of Cthulhu” of a giant stone structure whose “geometry ... was all wrong. One could

not be sure that the sea and the ground were horizontal, hence the relative position of everything else seemed phantasmally variable.”

What does this mean? If asked to visualize it, you would have to admit that the various elements of the description are incompatible. Something cannot be fixed and in flux at the same time. But that is the point. Lovecraft uses words linked in themselves to realities to construct something outside reality. What Lovecraft describes is in fact nothing (no [real] thing), but still this nothing is given some sort of existence in language. With language, and only with language, we can twist reality to produce concepts that on their own could not be real.

It may be a trivial matter to say the words “square circle,” but it is a trivial matter that reality cannot accommodate without the power of language.

Matthew Diem is a third-year College student majoring in English and classics.

Oh, the humanity

The humanities can help us recognize life beyond a daily routine and unsettle our prior assumptions

James Perla
Guest Columnist

The humanities gave me my life. It’s not that I didn’t have a life previously, but that I can describe my life pre-humanities in the same way one might describe one’s life before college. The classic: “I used to be really good at...” whatever exceptional or prepubescent talents that got you into college and have since waned. Before the humanities, I used to be really good at separating every sphere of my life: school, work, relaxation and entertainment. Now everything has blurred together because of the new ideas percolating and infiltrating everyday experience. There is no on/off switch for the humanities because it trains a type of thinking, and there is no way to stop thinking.

My friends can attest to how I now “ruin” movie nights when I start to analyze the un-

dertones and implications of certain cinematic choices. I see this as not ruining the movie, or the good vibes, but rather applying a critical eye to what we have all shared. For someone with a humanities background this doesn’t seem like studies or school seeping into a social interaction; it seems natural.

I feel that this is linked to the discourse about college as preparation for the ‘real world.’ Everyone, myself included, loves to think about college as separate from the real world, almost as a buffer zone to give time to figure out your life. It’s a tactic that endows entitlement to have the “best years of your life.” Strangely, this puts an asterisk on ‘life’ with the implication that the university is not the ‘real world,’ that your life starts post-graduation. The humanities challenge this assumption by forcing you to look thoughtfully at the world from a different subject position.

The humanities unsettle, comment on and analyze ways to look at the world not through formulas that posit people as numbers, human beings as two-

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The humanities unsettle, comment on, and analyze ways to look at the world not through formulas that posit people as numbers, human beings as two-dimensional consumers or target audiences wanting more, but through a practice of thinking as others, with others, and critiquing the perspectives presented.

dimensional consumers and target audiences wanting more, but through a practice of think-

ing as others, with others, and critiquing the perspectives presented. One could call this practice “critical thinking.” Yet I feel that the resume-ready term is somewhat reductive because it uses a discourse that’s uncharacteristic of the humanities. In other words, it applies a schema to fit the humanities into a concept bubble on a concept map, compares the humanities’ tools to the others in the shed.

The humanities use its tools to pop the bubbles, to take apart the shed and put it back together — occupy it, learn its every panel and stand outside of it — from an outside perspective it doesn’t seem like anything is being done, but anyone in the humanities will smile because there is no instruction manual to what we do.

This weekend, there are two events that epitomize the breadth of work the humanities accomplish: The Virginia Film Festival and the first Virginia

Universities and Race Histories Conference sponsored by the University and Community Action for Racial Equality (UCARE). The film festival promises to give a creative lens to synthesize, refer to and comment on current events, like the Boston bombings, the organ trade and abortion in Virginia. The race histories conference will discuss the role slavery, segregation and discrimination played in shaping Virginia universities.

The humanities train us to think about these issues in a responsible way. The humanities focuses its attention on the world by representing it, questioning it and imagining that through this practice we might all smile, nod our heads and know something has been done.

James Perla is a third-year College student majoring in English.

on the humanities

Beyond observation

The humanities press us to new ways of understanding each other

Jackson Wolford
Guest Columnist

If alien scientists were to observe us from far away, they would probably be a bit confused by our love of gold. Even if they did learn that we valued the shiny stuff, they might not understand why we insist on melting it and reshaping it into rectangular bricks. Does it hold any special properties in bricks that it doesn't have in balls? Of course, what our observers don't understand is that we shape our gold to fit its containers — large cube-shaped boxes that can transport bricks more easily than balls.

At a university like this one, it's not inappropriate to think of each one of us as a container of knowledge, filled with the facts and truisms that have been packed into our brains throughout our education. But while we are busy filling our brains to the brim, we often forget what our extraterrestrial observers forgot — we always shape gold to fit boxes; we always shape knowledge to fit ourselves.

"Observe and analyze" is the name of the game in academia,

composing a shared set of assumptions from which many disciplines draw. First, observing a thing allows you to know that thing's characteristics. I observe that all objects fall downward. I observe that when demand goes up and supply stays the same, price goes up. Second, through logical analysis, observations can be turned into an understanding of something. With these assumptions Newton discovered his laws of motion; we discovered the world was flat and our astronauts made it to the moon.

But when we turn this approach on ourselves and observe the actions of human beings we run into a bit of a problem. Believe it or not, there is an important difference between a human being and any other object, say a rock. We can look at a rock and know all sorts of things. Maybe it's an igneous rock. Because we were all such good students in high school, we might remember that igneous rocks are formed from lava or something. So now we know several things about this rock. And we can go on and on, and know all sorts of things about it through

observation. But when we look at a human being, what can we know? You might look at me and say I'm a white male, blonde, with glasses, whose facial hair needs to decide if it's going to turn into a beard already or retreat back into my face. But these observations overlook an essential thing — "human beings" are the one thing we exist as. We all know what it's like to be human, what it means to live a human's life, to feel what a human feels, to exist as a human exists. Not so for a rock, gravity, economic phenomena or blocks of gold.

We possess a different kind of understanding of the human being, one that rests on the whole being part of "human being." There are things that this form of understanding tells us that observation would miss entirely. You can't look at me and tell that I can feel love. If you were our aliens from before, observation couldn't tell you love was something humans felt at all. Things like love, hate, the despair that comes when your laptop won't work right before you're supposed to submit an article for *The Cavalier Daily* — these are

things we don't understand from observing; we understand these things from being.

It is "understanding through being" that composes the domain of the humanities. When you read Tennyson's line, "'tis better to have loved and lost / than never to have loved at all," you understand what

essential things that make us what we are. By demonstrating through poetry or art that we understand love and hate, we know that we have a capacity to love and hate.

Observation and analysis are essential in mining the gold that composes our knowledge of the world. The humanities are essential in telling us what shape we are, as containers for that knowledge. Because we always shape things to their containers, trying to understand knowledge without understanding human beings would be like aliens trying to figure out why we shape gold into bricks without understanding that we pack it into boxes. Observation without the humanities makes us alien to ourselves.

But, perhaps, this whole article could have been finished in two sentences:

Observation and analysis tell you what there is to know.

The humanities let you know what there is to you.

Jackson Wolford is a third-year College student majoring in anthropology.

Beautiful and useless

We study the humanities because we can't help but do so

Emma DiNapoli
Guest Columnist

Why are you studying English? Why not business, economics or biomechanical engineering? Why didn't you pick a field more immediately or apparently practical? Working at a traditional consulting firm this summer, I fielded these questions a hundred times. Depending on my mood, my response went one of two ways: I either defended English majors' employability (look at me — I got a job here!) or attempted to persuade any listeners that we are not a selfish breed (reading the most important books ever written is work, too!).

Academics far brighter than me have mounted these defenses a thousand times in beautifully constructed and moving prose packages; they deploy their best metaphors for learning, rally the troops around imagined universal truths learned only through

books, and make the case that studying the humanities makes for more just, more humane citizens. Unfortunately, no one seems to find these defenses particularly persuasive. Perhaps — just perhaps — that is because these defenses shouldn't be winning.

Are humanities majors actually more humane? Recent studies argue that reading fiction can make doctors more empathetic in practice but, historically speaking, gross human injustices are permitted or perpetrated by even the most well-read. In many cases, really, those without access to the humanizing influence of books drive the most radical moments of change. Factory workers advocated for themselves without Dickens, and miners pushed for reform without Elizabeth Barrett Browning. To be clear, I don't mean to suggest that these authors (among others) played no role in social change. I only mean that the cultivation of sympathy

through literature does not necessarily lead to a sweeping galvanization of readers or a tempering of violence and exploitation.

It's also difficult, although not impossible, to argue that English

elevators. By my own admission, the work I do as an English major at U.Va. may never reach anyone outside of Grounds, except for my mother, who faithfully reads (or claims to read) most of my papers. I know this. I would bet that most English majors know it, too.

Back to the question I heard repeatedly this summer, then: why study English? If we English majors are not measurably better people, or leading the charge with 3-D printers, why do we matter?

Answer: it doesn't matter whether we matter. For four years, or eight years, or however long it takes, I will read books and write papers on them because I love to read. I love to crack an old book open and smell its pages. I love to plunder the depths of Alderman for new-to-me books. I suffer through dull books because I love the beautiful ones. I read to time-travel, to imagine what fame feels like, and to know what it is to be

hungry or profoundly lonely or persecuted.

Just as doctors choose medicine because they love their patients, and just as architects choose their craft because they appreciate the curve of a graceful arch half-hidden in shadow, I choose English because I love books. I can't apologize for that, or give you a better defense of the humanities.

The humanities exist, and will continue to exist, because we are human. Because we exist not to build bigger buildings and computers that are more powerful but just to be: to be happy, sad, angry, wistful, passionate, horrified, winners, losers, friends, lovers, parents, leaders, followers. Does it matter that the humanities serve no practical purpose, if they give pleasure? I don't think so. Do you?

Emma DiNapoli is a fourth-year College student majoring in English.



Just as doctors choose medicine because they love their patients, and just as architects choose their craft because they appreciate the curve of a graceful arch half-hidden in shadow, I choose English because I love books.

majors or professors are as tangibly productive as the innovators in Silicon Valley imagining and creating self-driving cars or space

The Cost of Going Abroad

Study Abroad programs see increase during J-Term, Summer Periods

Jenna Truong | The Cavalier Daily

Jonathan Sheppard
Staff Writer

Participation in study abroad programs by University students remains far higher for January term and summer programs than semester or year-long programs.

More than half of all students who studied abroad in the 2012-13 school year participated in summer programs, according to data from the International Studies Office.

According to the Institute for International Education's annual Open Doors report, the University often ranks as a leading institution for short-term study abroad. Participation rates in semester- and year-long programs, however, lag behind.

Participation and interest for programs of all kinds is increasing, however, Education Abroad Advisor Christine Parcels said.

"Over the three-plus years I've worked here, I have seen a great increase in the visibility and recognition in study abroad as an important part of students' education and time at U.Va.," she said. "ISO is invited to more COLA classes and more first-, second-, and third-year council events each year."

A "College" experience:

Though students in the College typically have many options to study abroad, regardless of their major, students in other schools at the University often do not feel the same way.

Engineers, for example, are often perceived as having little leeway to study abroad.

This perception is unwarranted, however, Engineering Prof. Dana Elzey said.

"[Engineering] students have dozens of partner universities globally to choose from when thinking of spending a semester abroad," he said. "This spring, 18 [Engineering] students will be spending the semester studying abroad. This is about 15 percent of the total number of students we send abroad each year."

The Engineering School's efforts to increase the number of students studying abroad in recent years has been very successful, Elzey said — increasing the number of graduating engineers with study abroad experience from 2-3 percent to 26 percent.

"We are well above average among all engineering schools in the U.S. in terms of the numbers of students engaging in study abroad, which is below four percent," Elzey said.

This increase was achieved primarily by focusing on short-term summer and January programs, but now that studying abroad is increasingly popular, Elzey said they are able to draw their attention back toward semester-long programs.

Part of this effort is known as Pathways, an initiative started by Parcels and Elzey

which aims to establish at least one semester-long program for each engineering degree program.

"Financial limitations are probably the greatest barrier now," Elzey said.

A question of finance:

Cost may indeed be one of the strongest deterrents to increasing student participation in study abroad programs. At a university where out-of-state tuition already ranks among the highest in the nation for public institutions, the additional financial burden of studying abroad may be too much for some students.

"Cost is the only thing that would stop me from participating in study abroad," first-year College student Caroline Bauserman said.

But for some students, particularly those paying out-of-state tuition, studying abroad for a semester or for the year can actually be in some ways cheaper than studying at the University, depending on the program. Conversely, in-state students will often face much higher program costs than they pay at the University.

Scott Miller, interim director at Student Financial Services, has worked with the International Studies Office to reduce the financial burden to study abroad.

"University students on need-based aid can apply that aid to study abroad, while

loans are available to other students at a low interest rate of 3.86 percent," Miller said. "These loans can be taken out in the amount of \$7,500 per semester, but we allow students to take the full loan for one semester of study abroad rather than spread it out over the whole year."

As for January term financial aid, Student Financial Services only awarded need-based aid in 2013, totaling \$140,000 spread among 50 students.

Aid for summer programs is trickier, as most of the available aid for that academic year is used up in fall, spring and January.

"Summer financial aid is only in the form of loans," Parcels said. "The ISO does offer numerous scholarships, as do a number of other U.Va. offices and departments. Students can also apply for national funding sources."

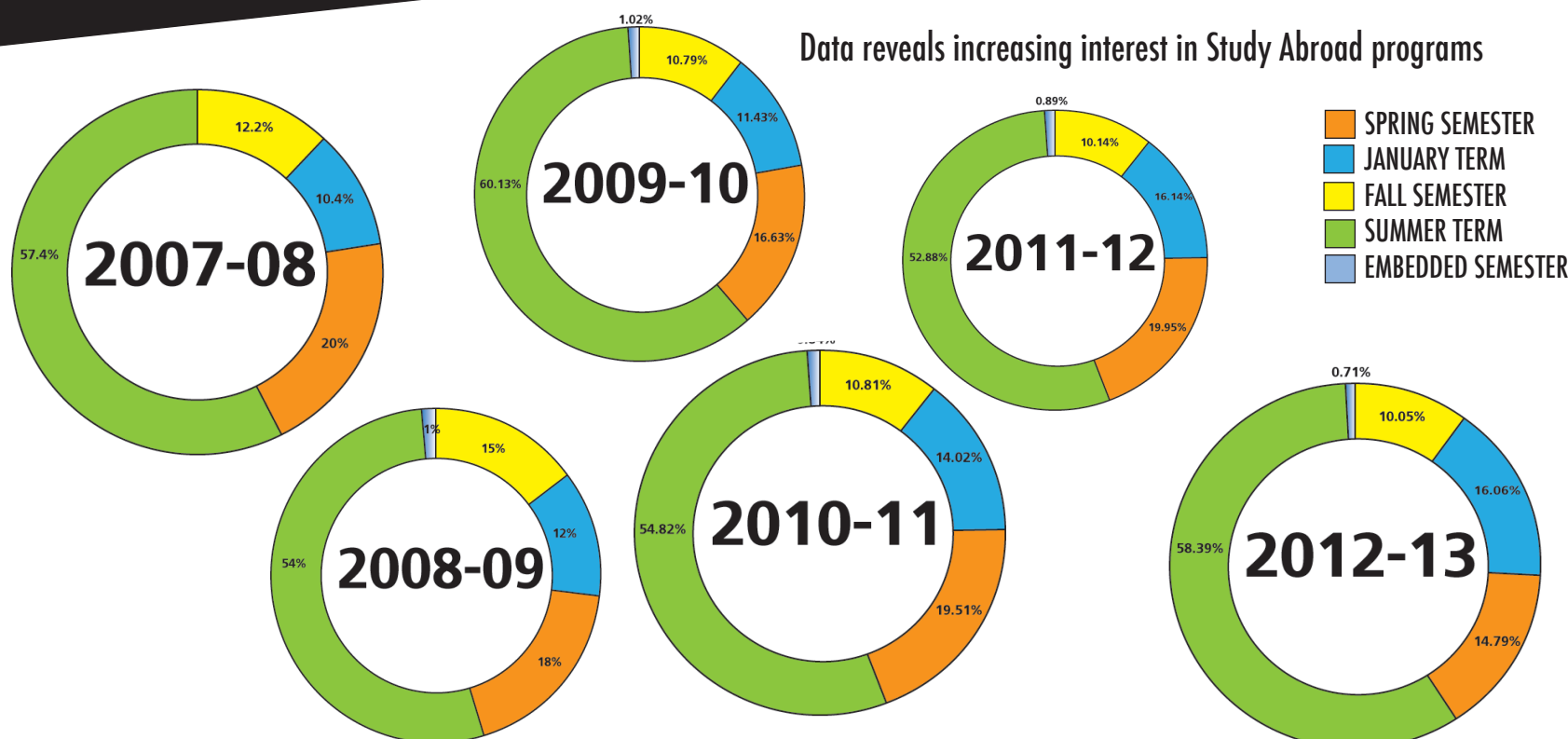
Out-of-state students ultimately studied abroad at a higher rate than in-state students: 40.95 percent of study abroad students in 2012-13 were from outside Virginia, while just 31.2 percent of undergraduate students overall hail from outside Virginia.

There's no place like home:

Beyond financial considerations, some students believe study abroad will harm

see FOCUS, page 19

Data reveals increasing interest in Study Abroad programs



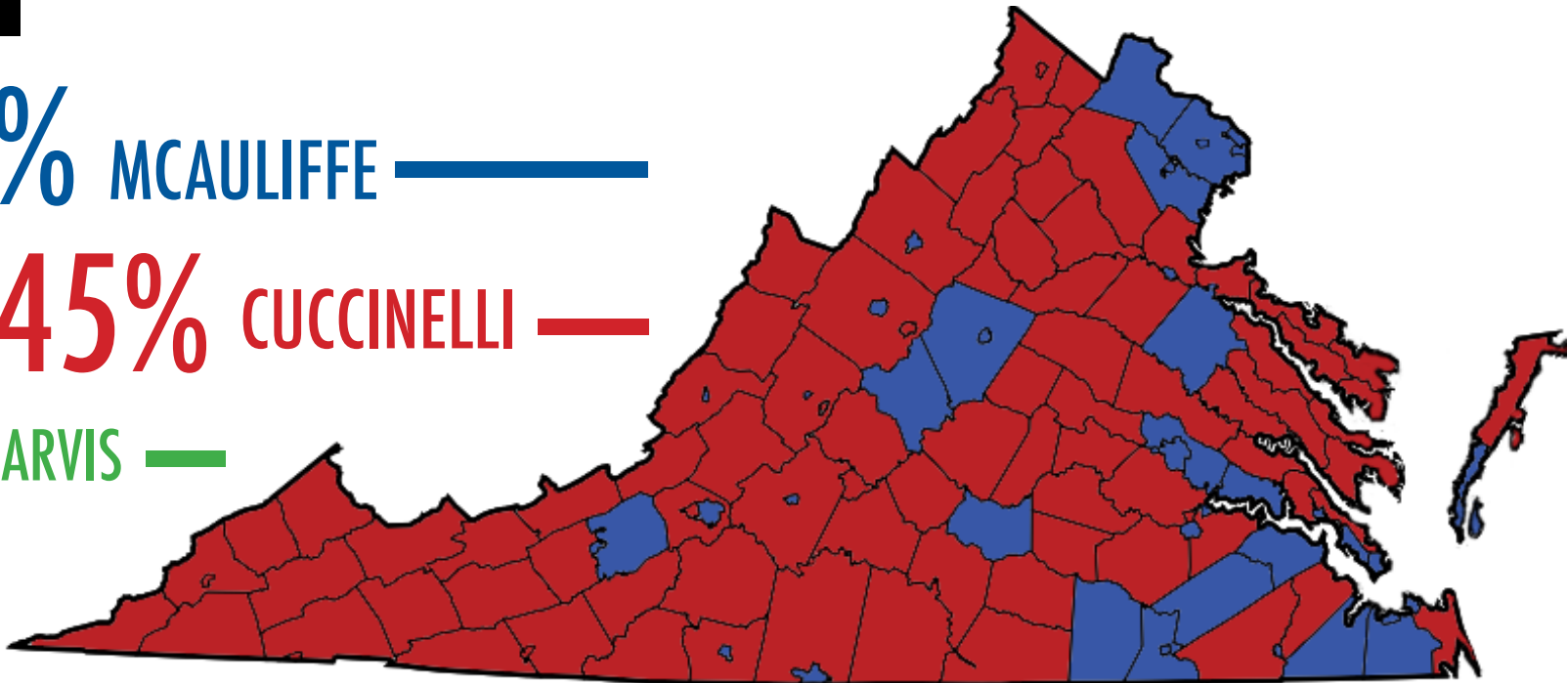


ELECTION SPREAD HEADLINE

— 48% MCAULIFFE —

— 45% CUCCINELLI —

— 7% SARVIS —



Graphic by Anne Owen

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
GEOFFREY SKELLEY
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Center of Politics Spokesperson

On the Attorney General race

"This could be the closest race since Creigh Deeds, this race could actually beat that."

On the Lieutenant General race

"Jackson was a losing candidate from the moment he got nominated. It would have taken a lot from the Republicans for him to win."

On the Governor race

"At the end of the day, money matters but is not the end all be all."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
RHODES COOK
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Senior Columnist in Center for Politics

On the Attorney General race

"This election shows the fact that either party can win in Virginia and neither party heads in to 2014 with any great advantage."

On the Governor race

"I think also that neither of the candidates were all that persuasive to voters outside their own base, and as a result you have a libertarian candidate getting seven percent of the votes"

On the Governor race

"If the race had gone on another week or two and Obamacare remained this criticized, Cuccinelli might have won."

The path to faculty tenure

Tenure Policy outlines three criteria: instruction, research, service

Sara Rourke
Associate Editor

The Provost's Office outlines three criteria in its official Promotion and Tenure Policy for faculty to obtain tenure: student instruction, research and service. But the weight of these three criteria is not always clear.

Tenure, an indefinite appointment to a university's faculty, carries the obvious benefit of job security, but it can also offer important academic and intellectual freedoms, said J. Milton Adams, senior vice provost and co-chair of the Tenure Committee.

"The tenure is to protect the faculty member's ability to ask important questions and engage

in research free from political influence and interference," Adams said.

Tenured Philosophy Prof. James Cargile said he does not think teaching is as heavily emphasized in the tenure process as the other criteria.

"My impression is that publication carries more weight than teaching," he said. "Teaching is given a lot of emphasis; it's not that it's neglected. It [simply] would be very unlikely that someone would compensate for [lacking] publication with excellent teaching; whereas it is possible that someone would compensate less than excellent teaching with publication."

Even the language of the tenure policy suggests research is a favored in decisions. In its

section on teaching, the policy stipulates that "an award of tenure will not normally be made" without strong teaching ability. However, with regards to research, the policy says "there must exist a body of original research or creative work sufficient in quality and quantity to have led at least to the beginning of a national reputation in the candidate's field."

Economics Prof. Charles Holt, a tenured faculty member, said the tenure decision-making process is flexible and teaching can carry significant weight, depending on the other tenured faculty of the department who are making the decision.

"Some of the tenured faculty put more weight on research and some are more strongly moved

by outstanding teaching and service," Holt said. "The purpose of discussions in the review meetings is for people to listen to others and take the different points of view into account."

The tenure-track process is a complex one, involving a series of reviews and recommendations by faculty within the department, by deans of the department, by a provost committee comprised of various faculty and finally by the Board of Visitors.

"It's challenging because all of us do work in different arenas," said Chris Holstege, chair-elect of the Faculty Senate and an associate emergency medicine professor. "There are objective components to it, but there are also subjective components. We're looking for excellence

in regards to teaching — what my students, my residents, my fellows saying what I'm doing — but then we also have to consider research and scholarly activity."

Perhaps the best way for professors to succeed in all three areas is to integrate their efforts into a cohesive body of academic work, Holstege said.

"In a lot of the scholarly activity that I do, I'm also involving my students," he said. "When you think about research you think of it as isolated, but it's extremely important for students as well. I've really tried to engage them so they can learn research methodology that will help them in their careers. At a top tier university like the University

see **TENURE**, page 13



Courtesy Ngan Pham



Courtesy Ngan Pham



Courtesy Ngan Pham

Brendan Rogers
Senior Writer

Following several long-term studies on the current status of the Gooch/Dillard and McCormick Road first-year residential buildings, the Office of Housing & Residence Life has come up with plans for major renovations for both of the residence areas.

Beginning in the summer of 2014, construction will start on Gooch/Dillard's 381 building. Dur-

Major renovations are slated to begin in Gooch/Dillard dorms in the summer of 2014. The renovations will include air conditioning, plumbing upgrades, and interior design improvements.

ing the 2015-16 academic year, buildings 385 to 389 are scheduled to be renovated, with work in the remaining three buildings in the complex slated to be performed during the 2016-17 academic year.

Much of the work planned

for the renovations will be "some needed systems upgrades," said Trish Romer, director of business and facilities services for University housing. This work will include upgrading the heating, cooling and plumbing systems. An upgraded fire

protection system is also scheduled to be installed.

The room interiors will also be overhauled. On the agenda are complete renovations of all bathrooms, new flooring throughout, and the conversion of some rooms from

singles to doubles.

"We've done a lot of work at the university level to figure out what best supports the first-year experience," Romer said. Feedback from students and former residents led the housing office to determine that doubles create a better residence life experience for first-years, Romer said.

Following the completion of the Gooch/Dillard renovations in the summer of 2017, work is slated to begin on the McCormick Road housing complex. In addition to basic system upgrades, such as heating, electrical and plumbing, elevators and central air conditioning are scheduled to be installed in all buildings.

"Especially the A.C. ... that would benefit everybody," said first-year College student Richard Davis, a current resident in the Kent building in the McCormick Road complex. "I think it's good that they're kind of equalizing the amenities that you get in the old and new dorms."

Because these changes will reduce available space in the ground level of several McCormick Road dorms, the current location of the offices for housing and residence life, these offices will move to Alderman Road.

The work on the McCormick Road buildings is still in the early stages of design, and Romer said it should take four years to renovate all of the buildings once work begins.

Charlottesville considers changes to public housing program

Residents, activist groups express concern new measure would privatize government-funded residences, disadvantage Charlottesville poor

Jordan Bower & Priya Bhardwaj
Staff Writers

Members of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority are examining the possibility of restructuring the city's public housing options, a move which is drawing some criticism from groups saying the change would harm residents of public housing projects.

The change is part of an appeal to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, who launched a voluntary pilot program in January known as Rental Assistance Demonstration.

For agencies accepted into the RAD program, public housing projects — which are owned by the government — would be restructured as programs known as

Section 8 project-based vouchers or Section 8 project-based assistance. Under this set-up, residents find housing on their own and use the assistance through RAD to pay for rent, rather than living in government-owned buildings.

RAD is meant to increase the sustainability of low-income housing options. Nationwide, HUD estimates that public housing units require \$26 billion in repairs — which the department lacks the requisite Congressional appropriations to pay for.

If an agency is selected as one of the 60,000 participants in the RAD program, the approved public housing projects would have to convert to one of the Section 8 assistance contracts by Sept. 30, 2015.

Constance Dunn, the executive director of the housing authority, is a strong proponent of the program's implementation in

Charlottesville. She said the program is not an attempt to privatize public housing, but rather, a necessary measure to address the fiscal deficits the city has or will encounter in maintaining and renovating its public housing.

"Ten thousand to 15,000 [housing units nationally] per year are lost to the fact that housing authorities do not have sufficient funds to do the capital improvement that are needed," Dunn said. "Also, HUD is not providing those funds at that level required to bring units up to what's considered to be habitable."

The Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents is opposed to the implementation of RAD in Charlottesville, saying the details are too unclear and the program is being implemented without the appropriate amount of time for consideration.

"One of our initial concerns

is protecting affordable housing long-term," association organizer Brandon Collins said. "Our concern was that 15, 20, 30, 40 years down the road, these units would no longer be affordable housing — that they would convert to market rate or something like that."

The association is also concerned that the RAD program in Charlottesville would force current residents to relocate, which could have serious ramifications, Collins said.

Dunn said the switch to RAD would open low-income housing projects to those seeking to invest in the rehabilitation of these public units.

"HUD has come up with a plan to assist housing authorities to bring in extra income, and it's not privatization," Dunn said. "It's the ability to go out and access non-HUD funds."

Dunn said she thinks objec-

tions to the RAD program are based upon "speculation that there is some ulterior motive."

"The program does not allow for a decrease [in public housing units]," Dunn said. "Everyone has a right to return [to their house] in the event that you might need to relocate folks for renovation."

To participate in the program, the Charlottesville public housing agency would have to have a meeting with all residents of the public housing.

During renovations, residents who would be unwilling to wait for public housing renovations to be finished would be given alternative public housing or a Housing Choice Voucher that would allow them to search for private housing.

The Charlottesville housing authority has not yet filed an application for RAD and is still in the process of receiving education from HUD.

Suspect identified in Brown murder

Charlottesville resident Tsaye Lemar Simpson has been arrested as a suspect in connection with the murder of University dining hall employee Jarvis Brown, the Charlottesville Police Department announced Wednesday.

The 21-year-old is being charged with first-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was arrested at Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail, where he was being held on unrelated charges.

Officers found 22-year-old Brown dead of a gunshot wound on the 2500 block of Woodland Drive after receiving a 911 call around 3:15 in the morning on Oct. 17. Brown worked at the Sbarro at the Crossroads Dining Hall, and was described as a friendly and hardworking man.

—compiled by Jordan Bower

TENURE | Process achieves 'very good quality control

Continued from page 12

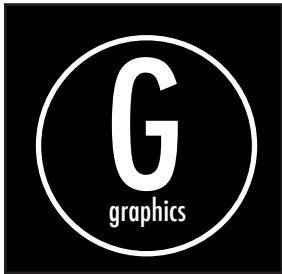
of Virginia, our students really should be learning these skills."

Each year after academic departments and deans have suggested candidates for tenure, the provost committee reviews approximately 120-150

recommendations, Adams said. "[The process offers] a very good quality control," he said. "[Faculty] have to be very good scholars of the highest quality,

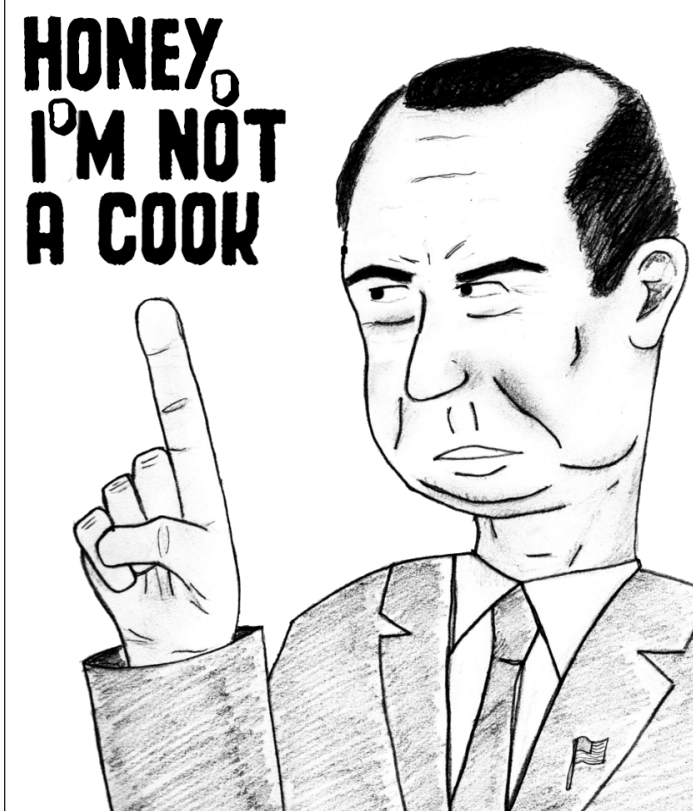
and they also have to be excellent teachers. It's not as much a weighting or proportionality as it is reaching all of these standards."

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MOSTLY HARMLESS BY PETER SIMONSEN

RICHARD, WHY DON'T YOU MAKE DINNER?



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



NO PUN INTENDED BY CHARLOTTE RASKOVICH



SOLE SURVIVOR BY MICHAEL GILBERTSON



The New York Times Crossword

- ACROSS**

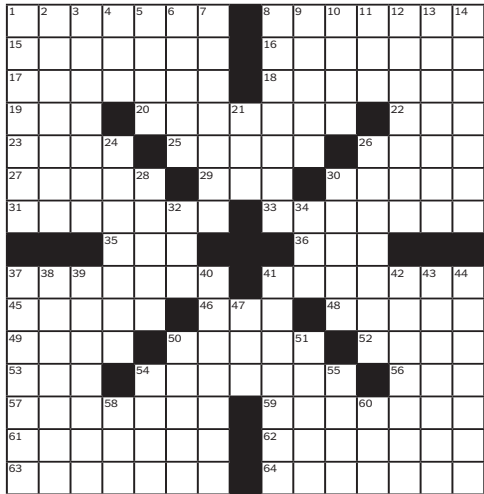
 - 1 Hall-of-Fame rock band or its lead musician
 - 8 It sends out lots of streams
 - 15 Very long European link
 - 16 Rust or combust
 - 17 It flies on demand
 - 18 Skunk, at times
 - 19 Some P.D. personnel
 - 20 One who may be on your case
 - 22 The Spanish I love?
 - 23 What a couple of people can play
 - 25 Stand-out performances
 - 26 Chocolate bar with a long biscuit and caramel
 - 27 Subject of the 2003 book "Power Failure"
 - 29 Without hesitation
- 30 Subsist on field rations?
 - 31 Its flowers are very short-lived
 - 33 Like a sawhorse's legs
 - 35 Critical
 - 36 Party staple
 - 37 Catered to Windows shoppers?
 - 41 Noodle taxers?
 - 45 Observes
 - 46 Abbr. after 8-Across
 - 48 Last band in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, alphabetically
 - 49 "The Hudsucker Proxy" director, 1994
 - 50 Columbia and the like
 - 52 French river or department
 - 53 "___ mentioned ..."
 - 54 Images on some lab slides
- DOWN**

 - 1 Like some milk
 - 2 Sashimi staple
 - 3 Changing place
 - 4 Blockbuster?
 - 5 Mediums for dummies, say: Abbr.
 - 6 Where it all comes together?
 - 7 Ex amount?
 - 8 Appointment disappointments
 - 9 Nationals, at one time
 - 10 Flag
 - 11 Tablet banner, say, briefly
 - 12 Reserve
 - 13 Inventory
 - 14 Duped
 - 21 Gradual, in some product names
 - 24 Giant in fantasy
 - 26 Bar that's set very high
 - 28 Physicist Bohr
 - 30 Display on a red carpet
 - 32 Basic solution
 - 34 Without hesitation, in brief
- 56 Lima-to-Bogotá dir.
 - 57 Frankenstein, e.g.
 - 59 Its passengers were revolting
 - 61 Theodore Roosevelt Island setting
 - 62 Destroyer destroyer
 - 63 Colorful cooler
 - 64 Makeover options

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

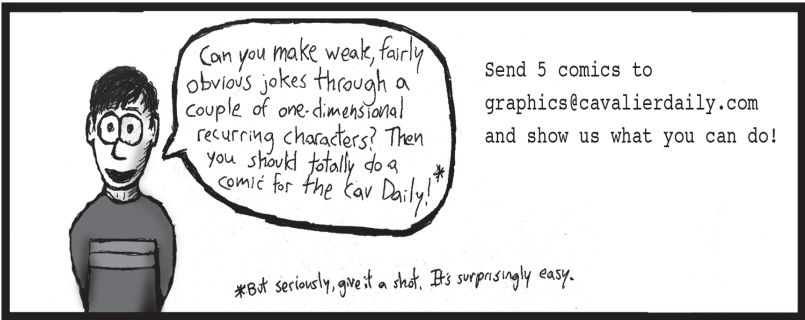
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Edited by Will Shortz No. 1004



- PUZZLE BY BRUCE R. SUTPHIN
- 37 Does some outdoor pitching?
 - 38 "Don't joke about that yet"
 - 39 Took away bit by bit
 - 40 Event occasioning 7-Down
 - 41 Cryotherapy choice
- 42 Artificially small
 - 43 What might take up residence?
 - 44 Truncated trunks?
 - 47 Zero times, in Zwickau
 - 50 Back-pedaler's words
 - 51 About 7% of it is American
- 54 Vapor: Prefix
 - 55 Apple assistant
 - 58 Lib. arts major
 - 60 Coral ___ (city near Oakland Pk., Fla.)

For answers, call 1-900-285-5556, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.





*We cover the important stuff.



I never mix drinking and politics...

Larry J. Sabato

87% of UVA students do not drive under the influence of alcohol.*



Kennedy's Legacy

Sabato-inspired documentary brings new aspects of Kennedy's presidency to light

Becca Stein
Staff Writer

People across the nation have dissected and discussed every minute detail of the day that Lee Harvey Oswald shot President John F. Kennedy in the head. You can find theories everywhere from academic books to conspiracy blogs, and Politics Prof. Larry Sabato has contributed his own perspective on the frenzy.

"The Kennedy Half Century," a documentary produced by the Center for Politics and based on Sabato's most recent book of the same name, goes beyond obsessive analysis of the brief administration itself and the exact circumstances behind the assassination. Instead, it explores the effects Kennedy's legacy had on each of his successors, exposing the late president's lasting, if increasingly subtle, relevance in American politics.

Only a few minutes at the opening of the documentary are devoted to the assassination itself. Though the story is widely retold, it lays an important groundwork — the black and white footage of citizens weeping, stills of Lyndon B. Johnson taking the oath of office, and horrific anecdotes about the blood and gore covering Jackie Kennedy's face and dress are all familiar.

The remainder of the film is segmented by administration, moving in chronological order from Johnson to George W. Bush to examine Kennedy's legacy.

The film examines the complex ripples of cause and effect, both positive and negative, created by Kennedy's early death. Former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and social activist Julian Bond argue that much of the progressive civil rights legislation passed during the late 1960s would not have been successful if

Johnson, as a more bi-partisan politician than Kennedy, had not had the opportunity to hold office.

Johnson was able to exploit his connection to Kennedy — whose early death and the period of economic prosperity he enjoyed during his term shaped him into a hero with virtually no negative associations — to strongarm his policies into effect.

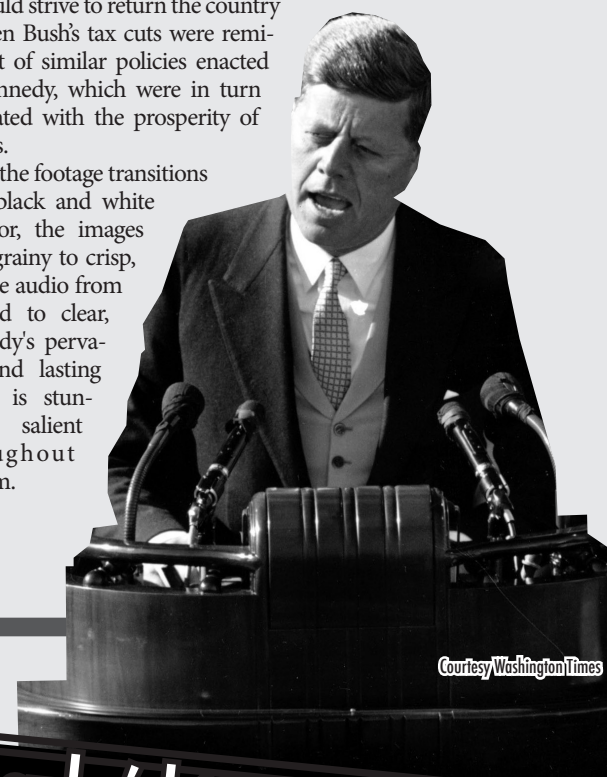
One interviewee even mentions that though Kennedy won the 1960 election with just less than 50 percent of the vote, 64 percent of American people claimed to have voted for him in a Gallup poll conducted after his death.

The efforts of various presidents since Johnson to link themselves to Kennedy and his immense popularity emerge as a recurring theme in "The Kennedy Half Century."

Ronald Reagan made a point of appearing in Berlin as Kennedy had done and invoked the Democrat's

record and legacy regularly. Bill Clinton referenced the Kennedy era as a golden age of American politics that he would strive to return the country to. Even Bush's tax cuts were reminiscent of similar policies enacted by Kennedy, which were in turn associated with the prosperity of the 60s.

As the footage transitions from black and white to color, the images from grainy to crisp, and the audio from muffled to clear, Kennedy's pervasive and lasting legacy is stunningly salient throughout the film.



Courtesy Washington Times

'Dracula' bites

NBC offers stale spin on classic tale

Robin Yeh
Senior Writer

Around grounds, students are packing away their costumes, snacking on leftover candy and catching up on neglected homework. All of this indicates one thing—Halloween is over. As we patiently await another season of ghosts, ghouls and vampires, NBC is prolonging the festivities with its new series "Dracula."

Based loosely on Bram Stoker's 1897 Gothic novel of the same name, "Dracula" follows the notorious vampire's quest for revenge after his true love is burned at the stake by the Order of the Dragons. In London, he poses under the façade of Alexander Grayson (Jonathan Rhys Meyers)—an American entrepreneur and technological innovator. In the pilot,

Grayson hosts a lavish Victorian ball with high-class attendees (some of which are far too promiscuous for the time period.) He meets Mina Murray (Jessica De Gouw), a promising young woman resembling Grayson's dead love. But as we've seen before, no vampire narrative is complete without a love triangle. Enter: Jonathan Harker (Oliver Jackson-Cohen)—Mina's long-term boyfriend and investigative journalist who questions Grayson's intentions. After a few brief encounters among these central characters, the pilot follows a fairly standard format—Dracula sucks blood, kills a few enemies, and proudly displays his

pearly white fangs.

On the surface, "Dracula" has the right components for a successful fantasy series—dramatic music, extravagant costumes, and mysterious characters. The only missing element is an enticing storyline. The pilot's beginning is intriguing, but the story barely develops in the first episode, thus providing little incentive for viewers to return. When the plot does progress, it does so slowly. Yes, there's action, blood, and violence, but the motivation behind Dracula's haphazard killings is thinly explained resulting in a confusing and poorly written sto-

ry-line. Based on the show's premise, it's clear that NBC is jumping on the vampire bandwagon that has produced successful series like "The Vampire Diaries" and "True Blood." Personally, I think the genre has been overrated ever since Edward Cullen eliminated all possibilities of there being a truly terrifying vampire. Far too often, we see vampires as romanticized creatures whose main purpose is wooing women rather than killing them. "Dracula" isn't an exception. Meyer's portrayal is sexy,

not scary, and although he ruthlessly kills others, he does so for love rather than mere thirst.

Speaking of unoriginality, many elements of the show allude to other famous works. For example, in one scene, Jonathan and Mina attend an opera where Grayson spies on them from a distant box seat—sound familiar? As a matter of fact, I found the show to be a laughable hybrid between "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Twilight," featuring fake British accents and over-the-top period costumes.

As a whole, NBC fails to redefine the vampire genre and instead presents an overdone and melodramatic story.

Courtesy Wikipedia Commons

'Abandonment' Issues

James Cassar
Associate Editor

Star-studded documentary proves irritating

I don't understand art. Scroll back through my recent articles and you'll find glowing reviews of culture tailored to teenagers. My favorite movies aren't anything the American Film Institute might approve of. I've dressed the same since the seventh grade. So when I fired up "Seduced and Abandoned," a reference-heavy documentary from the supposedly genius mind of Alec Baldwin, I was lost, with little hope of regaining my footing. This is coming from a person who, after scanning Baldwin's IMDb backlog, has only seen his performance in "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie." I can hear you laughing.

My acquaintance with Baldwin began during a tiny flirtation with a game of "Words With Friends" on an airplane. My knowledge developed just earlier this week, when a well-written episode of "South Park" lampooned the veteran actor's propensity to say anything churning in his enigmatic brain.

"Seduced" isn't too far off from that animated portrayal. Sure, it has an ensemble cast of directors and personalities, and review aggregate site Rotten Tomatoes seems to have fallen head over heels for it, but I'm going to "abandon" that praise. Let's take a voyage to Planet Alec.

Despite the frequent flyer miles Baldwin has accrued, he reveals early in the film he's never before made it to the Cannes Film Festival — until now. The next 90 minutes unfold like a road movie for cinema buffs, where conversations with everyone from Ryan Gosling to Martin Scorsese reinforce Baldwin's illusions of grandeur. It's kind of neat to see all of these auteurs in one place, even if the majority of the time Baldwin merely highlights key points of his own career.

The premise of the whole production is a satire of the mess that is financing a motion picture. Baldwin and his team de-

cide to ship out to France in hopes of securing funds for their ambitious project — a remake of Bernardo Bertolucci's "Last Tango in Paris" that updates the dizzying erotic drama's legacy of awkwardness to an Iraqi setting and rechristen it a political thriller.

The execution is clever when you think about it, and it's a unique way to offer commentary on Hollywood commerce. Hollywood pumps dollars into these vapid, action-packed movies without question. From time to time, even art-house fare, some as pornographic and controversial as "Tango," can get studio funding. The film's band of brothers attempt to marry these two cinematic camps. Will it blend? I'm still in the dark on that one.

Though the documentary doesn't play out like the cerebral cataclysm of an Aaron Sorkin production, and it goes without the charm and wonder of a Wes Anderson film, there's definite personality here. In the scenes where Baldwin sits sternly in front of a rolling camera, spewing his associations with famed creative types and asserting his own creative strengths, we're introduced to a man who demands attention and artistic legitimacy. Alright, already! We get it. You're a big Hollywood player. Take a number and get in line with the rest of the so-called hot shots.

It's a shame that this incredible gathering of silver-screen personalities gets sidelined by one man's maniacal vision of himself and his craft. Because of this, "Seduced and Abandoned" seems to seduce and abandon the viewer with an empty portrait of the film world. It's worth a viewing if one's knowledge of cinema trumps one's stomach for narcissism. Mine definitely didn't.



Fresh 'Start' For Fallen Band

Ryanhood makes triumphant return with latest album

Courtesy Lane Allen

Jacqueline Justice
Staff Writer

Returning from a surprise two-year absence from the music scene, Tucson-based duo Ryanhood released its new album "Start Somewhere" on Nov. 2.

The band published a heartfelt letter to fans in October to explain its sabbatical, detailing the story of the duo's upward slope to fame and the downward spiral that followed. Between debt and unsuccessful label deals, the two band members, Ryan Green and Cameron Hood, were faced with repeated trials and little triumph, driving them into a languid state of depression.

Thankfully, the group's light did not burn out completely. "We learned that we are artists who make art, singers who sing," the band said in the letter. "We are only fully alive when we are writing and singing and creating."

The two men picked each other up and began making new music, recognizing the many people who had been supporting them through their darkest times.

"Start Somewhere," like the duo's journey itself, addresses issues of disappointment and failure, but it also highlights the band's success.

Where "Summer Rain" soothes with a ballad that likens a summer storm to the struggles the band has faced, "The Moon" offers a sing-songy melody that revives the positivity of Ryanhood's albums from the early 2000s. Despite serious and dark themes, the whole album has an upbeat, cheery sound. "Sickbed Symphony" tells the story of a dying man offering advice, which seems to be the words the band itself needed to hear to come out of

its darkest days. "Every broken arm and broken heart and promise/ Is a movement in a symphony/ And you can choose to hear the beauty or the blues/ It's up to you," the man tells listeners.

The final song on the album, "Start Somewhere," is a perfect ending to the band's creative masterpiece. The verses address different moments of the members' lives, beginning with their graduation and continuing to their touring together, while the chorus optimistically declares, "If anybody told you/ What you gotta go through/ You have to start somewhere." This song precisely embodies the notion that Ryanhood is trying to get across to listeners — to push on after failure and to pursue your dreams relentlessly.



'Phantogram' Entrances

Millicent Usoro
Staff Writer



Since the release of their debut studio album “Eyelid Movies” in 2009, Phantogram has built a noticeable grassroots following through extensive touring campaigns, playing with the likes of The Antlers, The xx, Beach House and Ra Ra Riot. Since then, the synth-pop duo from New York has released “Nightlife” in 2011, an EP that spawned the critically acclaimed “Don’t Move,” collaborated with Outkast’s Big Boi and The Flaming Lips; and now have landed a song on “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” soundtrack.

The group brought an audience brimming with anticipation to its performance to the Jefferson Saturday night, having just released the self-titled four-song EP “Phantogram” in September. The tracks mark the group’s impressive return to the music scene and serve as a sample of their second studio album, “Voices,” out sometime early next year.

But the most surprising element of Saturday’s performance wasn’t the band’s new material, but the opening act: San Francisco producer Giraffage, whose sample-based pop mixed with R&B undertones puts him with the likes of Ryan Hemsworth or RL Grime. His danceable, confectionary beats kept the audience entertained until the highly anticipated appearance of the headline act.

Of the new material Phantogram performed, a standout was “Howling at the Moon.” The audience, while unfamiliar with the new material, appreciated Phantogram’s electric rock and shoegaze thumping signature sound.

“Black Out Days,” the single from their self-titled EP, was a captivating piece — the warped vocal sample synched with the stellar flashing lights, combined with Sarah Barthel’s steadfast vocals and the group’s signature ominous electronics was one of the best performances of the night. The duo’s set list was a satisfying combination of crowd-pleasers — “Don’t Move,” “When I’m Small” — and the more subtle new material.

Barthel was clearly the audience’s favorite — at one point a group of fans declared their love for the talented singer by screaming, “You are a goddess Sarah!” Watching her dance feverishly across the stage and listening to her dreamy vocals, it was hard to disagree. Her shadowy street-style rhythms fits in seamlessly with the honest lyrics of the band’s songs, drawing a collective emotional outpouring during “Celebrating Nothing,” as she sang “How many times can I blow it all/How many times can I burn it down.”

Saturday may have been Phantogram’s third stop in Charlottesville, but it resonated just as deeply with the crowd — and perhaps the group itself. At one point an audience member wanted his vinyl autographed and Josh Carter, the band’s guitarist, passed it around to the entire group to sign. Here’s to hoping that crowd member — and the rest of us — get to appreciate Phantogram’s talents again soon.

Courtesy The Windish Agency

Lame 'Game'

Star-studded sci-fi adaptation falls flat

Flo Overfelt
Staff Writer

Orson Scott Card’s novel “Ender’s Game” is an engrossing, passionate tale of Andrew “Ender” Wiggin progression from a young, naive child into a battle-hardened military commander. The book is gripping, touching and multi-layered. Director Gavin Hood’s film adaptation of the novel, however, does little but retell the story of a kid who kills aliens. The movie oversimplifies a classic, fantastic story, stripping away the creative nuances of the book and leaving behind a flat narrative with even flatter characters.

The story follows boy-genius Ender Wiggin, who has been recruited by the International Fleet to train to serve as chief-commander of their space vessels in a counterattack against the “Formic” aliens. If that sounds like little more than a typical sci-fi alien story, that’s because it is. What made the book so beloved — its in-depth exploration of Ender’s character — is absent in the film. The once strong characters that make the book unique have become caricatures, and Ender is one-dimensional at best.

Ender, played by 16-year-old Asa Butterfield, is bland and barely displays any emotion. When he does, it’s either too overt or incredibly shallow. Admittedly, the script does little to help the young actor, as it forces him to dish out seemingly endless angst-ridden clichés: “I thought you were my friend,” “Do you still love me?” and “Why me?”

The other child actors simply seem confused. Ender’s sister Valentine, played by Abigail Breslin, seems to break into tears spontaneously with no rhyme, reason or background to explain her sadness. Even more disappointing than Breslin, however, are the film’s other young supporting actors, who seem devoid of humanity as they deliver their lines with deadpan faces and monotone voices.

The only believable character is Harrison Ford’s portrayal of the embittered Colonel Hyrum Graff. Whether he’s angry at the aliens, Ender, the other children or just the world in general, Ford gives the audience his best “grumpy old man” from start to finish with beautiful execution. Unfortunately, Ford can’t hold up the entire film on his own.

The moving soundtrack and stunning visuals at least provide a welcome distraction from the actors. The music underscores each scene perfectly and adds tension and excitement to scenes that would otherwise have fallen completely flat. Even so, most of the time the dramatic music is paired with actors gazing blankly at the camera, drooling out their lines.

When coupled with the film’s stunning visual effects, the music synchronizes with the film flawlessly. Never before have space ships duking it out looked so good or been so fun. But if all you’re looking for is an imaginary battle royale, find some toy spaceships from your childhood and play with them for an hour and 44 minutes while Bach or Vivaldi plays in the background. You’ll get a similar effect, but save 13 bucks.



FOCUS | Summer, J-Term more popular than semester programs

Continued from page 10

their chances of graduating on-time. "My biggest worry with study abroad is not being able to complete my classes on time," first-year College student Emory Yearwood said.

In an effort to combat this con-

cern, the ISO encourages students to pre-approve courses for transfer credit before studying abroad, Parcels said.

For direct credit options during the 2012-13 school year, the University offered 11 during the January term, 25 during the summer, two embedded spring programs and four semester-long

programs, including Semester at Sea.

There are also about 280 outside programs which the University has approved, Parcels said.

But there may be less tangible concerns keeping students in Charlottesville.

"I had planned on doing study abroad for a long time, but was

initially told I couldn't study abroad and be a resident advisor," second-year College student Vanessa Ehrenpreis said. "This turned out not to be true, but you do miss out on certain opportunities and clubs when abroad."

The thought of missing a football season, Foxfield or other classic University cultural events may

be too much to seriously entertain the thought of semester-long programs. There may then always be students like fourth-year Engineering student Adam Wise, who opted for a summer and January study abroad experiences.

"I have too much fun at U.Va. during the year," Wise said. "I didn't want to miss any of that."

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No. 4 field hockey opens ACC tourney

Quarterfinal round pits determined Cavaliers against fiesty No. 7 Blue Devils

Matt Comey
Associate Managing Editor

The No. 4 Virginia field hockey team begins ACC Tournament play Thursday in an 11 a.m. game against No. 7 Duke.

The Cavaliers (15-4, 3-3 ACC) finished the regular season in a three-way tie for third place in the conference with the Blue Devils (13-5, 3-3 ACC) and No. 3 North Carolina, but were awarded the fifth seed as a result of a tie-breaker determined by goal differential.

"The attitude of the team going into the tournament is a lot of excitement," senior back Lane Smith said. "Everyone is really excited to get out there and actually play. We've worked really hard in these past two weeks getting ready, knowing that we would be going up against some really stiff competition, so we're excited to prove that we're a top team in the nation."

Every team in the conference is ranked in the top 15 nationally, including the top four ranked teams in the country.

"The ACC is definitely the strongest conference this year," coach Michele Madison said. "I've never been in a conference where the top four teams are the top four in the country. The level of the ACC makes you

prepared for the tournament because you have to play at such a high level. It would be no surprise if the national champion came out of the ACC."

Virginia has not played in a game since a 4-1 loss to Maryland (18-1, 6-0 ACC) nearly two weeks ago, having a bye last weekend while every other team in the conference still had games to play. Madison said the time off was very helpful for preparation.

"We worked on some areas of the game that we really wanted to address — on the attack and the defense," she said. "The communication on the team has improved as have situations where they're outnumbered defensively."

The team used part of that time off to work on team bonding by participating in the Challenge Course — a high ropes course on Grounds.

"That was the first time we had done the Challenge Course," Smith said. "It was a decision that the coaches made, knowing that we had so much time off. I think they made the right decision to do the ropes coach, where you are challenged and pushed as a team to overcome these situations using the same skills you use to overcome challenges on the field."

Three Cavaliers were awarded All-ACC honors this week — senior

forward Elly Buckley was awarded first team honors, while freshman Lucy Hyams and senior Carissa Vittese were named to the second-team. Buckley became just the 11th player in ACC history to capture All-ACC honors four times.

Buckley, whose 20 goals and 47 points both lead the ACC, spearheads a Virginia offense that has been mostly driven by freshmen. Hyams, second on the team in points with 20, ranks fifth in the conference in assists with 10. Freshman Riley Tata ranks second on the team in goals with 10, and classmate Caleigh Foust is right behind her with nine.

The Cavaliers defeated Duke at home 4-3 earlier this season, despite squandering a 4-1 lead in the second half. But after Duke brought the game within one score, the Cavalier defense clamped down, only allowing one more shot for the final 26 minutes of the game. Buckley scored a hat trick in the game, while Hyams contributed with three assists.

"It's nice that you can play them once and can see things, but that game was really close," Madison said. "[Winning] 4-3 is not something we can bank on happening again. We have to address our strengths and the ways we were able to beat their defense and their goal-



Senior back Chloe Pendlebury, a native of Perth, Australia, has yet to score this year, but ranks second on the team with eight assists.

Jenna Truong | The Cavalier Daily

keeping."

Duke, like Virginia, enters the tournament on the heels of a blow-out loss to the Terrapins. The Blue Devils are led on offense by senior Emmie Le Marchand, who ranks eighth in the ACC in points per game and seventh in goals per game. Though Duke has had mixed results against ranked opponents this season, they were able to knock off then-No. 1 North Carolina in penalty strokes in late September.

If Virginia emerges from Thursday's game victorious, they will face top-seeded Maryland in the tournament semifinals on Friday. Maryland, who eliminated the Cavaliers from the 2012 ACC Tournament,

has yet to drop a conference match-up this season. Looming on the other side of the bracket is defending ACC Champion North Carolina and defending Big East Champion Syracuse.

"Even though this is the ACC tournament and you're going to come up against teams like that no matter what, we do have something to prove — it would be naïve to say we don't," Smith said. "We come up [against] these teams every year, and I think it's time for us to prove that Virginia can take on teams with multiple national championships."

The tournament will take place in Newton, Mass. on the home turf of No. 11 Boston College.

SWIMMING | Team traditions, customs endure from Bernardino era

Continued from page 4

"It's nice to have familiar faces that you know what their personalities are, so there's really no discomfort in the way we share our ideas," Busch said. "So the fact that that we know each other so well, and we're so comfortable around each other, makes it an easier environment for us to share thoughts, ideas, trainings, and all that."

With a new man at the helm, it would have been fair to expect changes in Virginia's workout and practice routines. Busch's changes have been relatively minor, how-

ever, and after victories for the men against Navy and the women against Navy and Yale two weekends ago, the swimmers have collectively bought into Busch's coaching style.

"As far as swimming goes, I think the approach is just a tad different in the aspect of dry-land [training]," senior Parker Camp said. "Augie definitely stresses weights and what we do out of the water a lot more than Mark did. That's really the only huge difference. They're both huge technique oriented guys. It's a different formula for success, but it seems to be working just as well, and we're all

happy with it."

Busch was very pleased with the results of Virginia's first meet in Annapolis, with the No. 11 women winning all 16 of their events and the No. 9 men winning 14 of theirs. He said his favorite part of the meet was feeling the camaraderie and mutual support among the team, as well as witnessing the rituals carried over from Bernardino's tenure.

"The first thing that stood out is how awesome their traditions are," Busch said. "That was really fun to watch not just at Navy, but at the intra-squad meet. Every team has its own little unique cheers and

traditions — pre-meet, post-meet, all that — so I thought it was really fun to watch."

The swimmers credit their cohesiveness with much of their recent success, which includes six consecutive ACC championships for both the men's and the women's teams. It would take far more than a coaching change, they said, to erode those bonds.

"Honestly, [at] U.Va., we've always honored hard work and integrity," Camp said. "We keep each other honest, in and out of the pool, and I think that is what continues the tradition of excellence here at U.Va."

In a season of many firsts for Busch, he will complete another one this weekend in coaching his first home meet in Charlottesville Friday and Saturday. The Cavaliers will face the men and women of perennially ranked Texas and Penn State and a much-improved West Virginia team in a rare quad meet, an opportunity that excites Busch.

"This is a special meet just because of the competition, the fact that there are four teams," Busch said. "... I'm looking forward to seeing what kind of crowd we can get. So this is one we've been looking forward to."

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