

Board of Visitors: 4 things to know

Committees to convene Thursday, Friday for September meeting

Chloe Heskett
Managing Editor

The Board of Visitors will convene for its fall meeting this Thursday and Friday.

The Board's eight committees will meet over the next two days to plan, review and discuss issues from science and technology investment to sustainability to Rotunda renovations. The Cavalier Daily

has highlighted the four most important things for students to watch.

The University's "wish list"

The Finance Committee will review amendments to the 2016-18 budget before submitting funding requests to the governor's office for approval.

The amendments must be approved by Gov. Terry McAuliffe before they are presented to the General Assembly.

The asks are more of a "wish list," University President Teresa Sullivan said. The governor does not have to agree to any of the requests.

The requests for funding include an increase of nearly \$11 million in enrollment growth, nearly \$46 million in building research capacity and nearly \$14 million in security enhancement programs, among other requests.

Security enhancement fund-

ing would be used primarily for IT, to harden the University against further attacks such as the hack that took place over the summer, Sullivan said.

Rotunda, Final Exercises 2016: An open question

The Building and Grounds committee will hear an update on the status of construction projects around Grounds, including the Rotunda renovation.

Rotunda construction is scheduled for completion by July 2016 and not by final exercises, according to a University major projects status report updated in August.

The exterior should still be ready for Final Exercises, though construction was delayed after workers hit a vein of granite.

The project deadline was always Summer 2016, with the hope that it could be done before Final Exercises, Sullivan said. Completion in time for graduation activities was "never promised," she said.

Accountability for science and tech investments

The Audit, Compliance and Risk Committee will review a report from a state auditor that looked into the University's finances.

The report, though largely positive, highlighted a few issues for the committee to address, including a recommendation that the University, "establish quantifiable metrics or benchmarks associated with the University's investment in STEM."

The University's investments in science and technology include faculty hiring in these subject areas, renovation of labs and purchasing new equipment, Sullivan said.

see BOV, page 3

Matthew charged in Harrington case

Defense counsel same in Harrington, Graham cases



Nora Neus | The Cavalier Daily

Gil Harrington, Morgan Harrington's mother, said she "knows and believes" Matthew is her daughter's killer.

Chloe Heskett
Managing Editor

Jesse Matthew appeared in Albemarle County Circuit Court Wednesday afternoon. He was appointed counsel after being charged Tuesday with first-degree murder of Virginia Tech student Morgan Harrington.

Matthew will use the same defense counsel in both the Harrington case and in the case of late University student Hannah Graham, for which Matthew faces charges of capital murder.

Both cases also include charges of abduction with intent to defile.

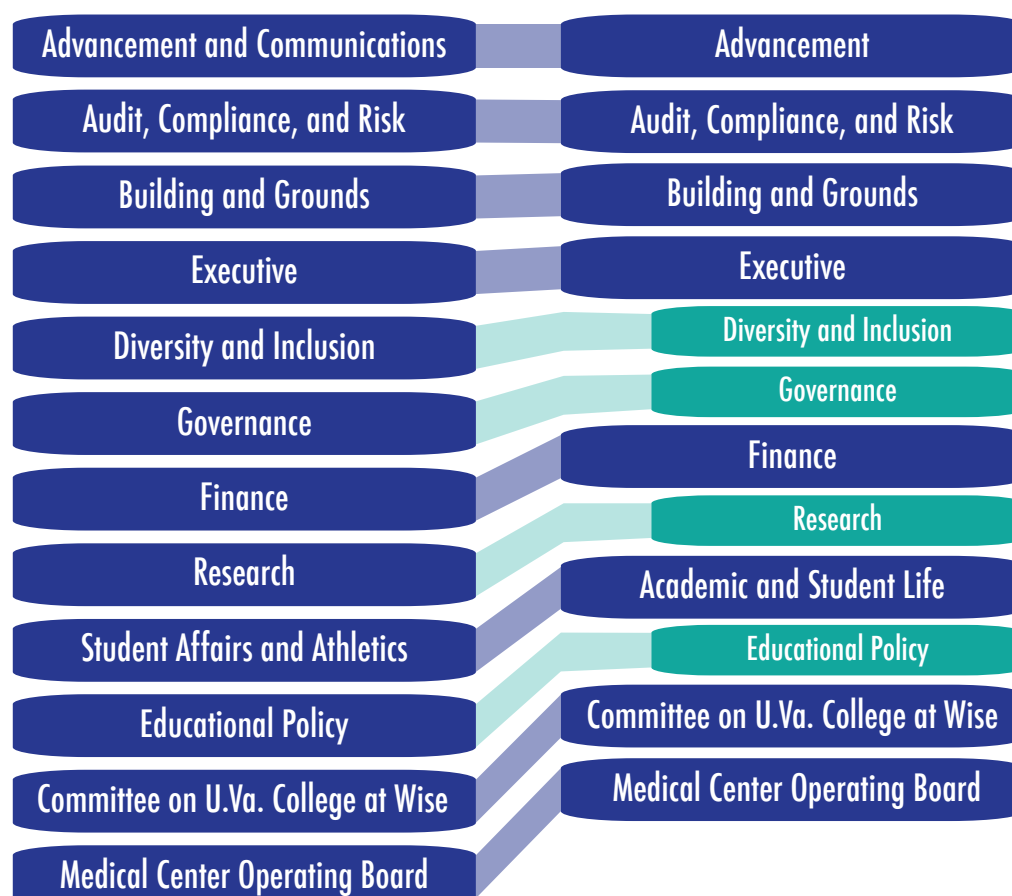
Virginia Capital Defender Douglas Ramseur and Michael Hemenway, a private attorney in Charlottesville, will defend Matthew.

The lead prosecutor in both cases, Commonwealth's Attorney Denise Lunsford, said the cases will remain separate.

see MATTHEW, page 3

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE (12 Committees)

NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE (8 Committees)



*The Board of Visitors has streamlined their committee structure to allow for greater Board participation and longer meeting times.

Graphic by Anne Owen and Cody Simms | The Cavalier Daily

'48 HOURS' PRODUCES
GRAHAM PODCAST
PAGE 4

Q&A WITH
'SAD VIRGINIA FAN'
PAGE 5

FOOTBALL VS. TRIBE:
KEYS TO VICTORY
PAGE 6

OPINION: TAKING
VOLDERMORT SERIOUSLY
PAGE 11

NEW SUDOKU PUZZLE,
CROSSWORD SOLUTION
PAGE 13



MATTHEW

Continued from page 1

There are currently no plans to upgrade the charges in the Harrington case to capital murder, she said.

Harrington disappeared from a Metallica concert at John Paul Jones Arena Oct. 17, 2009.

Graham, who disappeared almost exactly one year ago, was last seen on the Charlottesville Downtown Mall in the early hours of Sept. 13, 2014.

Gil Harrington, Morgan Harrington's mother, was present at the hearing. She said she has no doubt that Matthew is her daughter's killer.

"I have known and believed for some time that he killed our Morgan," Harrington said.

The prosecution has not offered an explanation for the timing of the charge against Matthew in Harrington's case.

Gil Harrington said she does not have any information about such behind-the-scenes consid-

erations.

"In a way it makes it more real that Morgan is dead, and was murdered," Harrington said. "We have lost so much, but we have received blessings and love in equal measure."

A status hearing date for both the Graham case and the Harrington case is set for Sept. 30.

RECYCLE



BOV

Continued from page 1

Though the University is taking steps to address the report, she said defining a successful outcome is difficult.

"Lots of physics and math majors in recent years have taken jobs on Wall Street," she said. "Does that count as a failure or

does that count as a success? We'll have to think about that."

A different board

The Board, attempting to streamline its structure, has restructured to include fewer committees, which will meet one at a time so that each board member can attend every meeting. Previously, two committees

met at a time.

The executive committee, comprised of the rector of the University, the vice rector and five elected members of the Board, will receive specific assignments relating to governance, advocacy and diversity and inclusion.

This is a significant change in structure, Sullivan said. The

Board has also implemented a structure for crisis communications, "which I hope they never use," Sullivan said.

The Advancement, Academic and Student Life and Executive Committees as well as the Medical Center Operating Board and the Committee on U.Va. at Wise will also meet over the course of the next two days.

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State audit: U.Va. must track STEM investments

Sullivan says University is tackling problem

Anna Higgins
Associate Editor

An audit by the state inspector general has identified problems with how the University is measuring its return on investment for science and technology programs.

“Without a clear definition of what needs to be tracked and evaluated, the University cannot ensure alliance with strategic goals,” said a performance review spanning July 2013 to June 2014.

Currently, the only measurable goal the University holds for science, technology, engineering and math programs is to

increase the percentage of students involved in STEM majors and schools to 33 to 40 percent of total student growth.

University President Teresa Sullivan said the University is working to address the issue, but notes it is inherently difficult to track STEM outcomes.

“Does it mean that the STEM major has to take a job in a STEM industry, for example?” she asked.

Building renovation may incentivize student participation in STEM programs, particularly in the chemistry, biology and psychology departments housed in the Chemistry Building and Gilmer Hall, Sullivan said. Both of these buildings are scheduled

for renovation.

The University should focus on increasing student engagement so they can utilize equipment and new buildings, Biology Prof. Robert Kretsinger said.

“It’s still nice to have renovations, but that should never get ahead of the intellectual development,” Kretsinger said.

Requiring science majors to minor in a fine arts or humanities course, and conversely requiring humanities students to study science more in depth, could facilitate student understanding of how their disciplines fit into the broader context of society, Kretsinger said.

“The University could take

more initiative to encourage these interactions of STEM students having this awareness of the clinical, sociological, behavioral implications that are at work,” he said.

In order to encourage increased involvement in STEM programs, the Engineering School has hosted multiple events to connect K-12 students in the community with different fields of engineering.

However, increasing the number of students within the Engineering School comes with its own difficulties, said George Cahen, an associate dean in the Engineering School.

“If we were to increase the number of Engineering students,

we’d have to cut the students in the College,” Cahen said. “We don’t make that decision.”

Funding for the School of Nursing is not considered STEM funding. However, its science-based curriculum has made efforts in recent years to increase student engagement in research and clinical experience, said Dr. Christine Kennedy, an associate dean at the School of Nursing.

“We have the third and fourth years really intimately involved in a lot of different ways to use research as it relates to their future career and profession,” Kennedy said.

—Lucy Whitney contributed to reporting

Compensation a key factor in faculty retention

Diversity remains core value in hiring process

Alex Hickey
Senior Writer

The hiring, compensation and retention of faculty at the University is in the midst of several changes.

University yield rates — the percentage of job offers accepted — have improved since 2013, rising from 63.5 percent to 77.3 percent. Tenure and tenure-track retention rates have remained steady around 94 percent since 2012.

Faculty salary is a key factor in the acquisition and retention of faculty. Following the 2008 recession, University faculty saw no salary increases for five years.

However, in recent years the

University has sought to make itself more competitive with other upper-tier institutions by implementing a four-year program to raise salaries by an average of 4.75 percent annually. This measure is part of the 2013 Board of Visitors resolution to bring average faculty compensation at the University to a spot in the top 20 among institutions in the Association of American Universities.

The University is closing in on its target at 27th place — a seven place improvement since fiscal year 2013.

Dean of the School of Engineering Craig Benson noted the salary increases were an important step in the right direction, but they might not be enough to make the University as competi-

tive as it needs to be in an international market.

“What we really need to pay attention to is whether we are creating the right environment, the right compensation packages, the right family accommodations — like spouse accommodations for example,” Benson said. “The ability to be successful hinges on the ability to provide the right start-up package, the other part is we mentor our young faculty.”

Start-up packages provide funding to faculty for needs such as laboratories, equipment, research staff and training, and are estimated to total around \$25 million for fiscal years 2014-2017. Though they comprise a massive expense, both Benson and Curry School Dean Robert

C. Pianta said the significant return on investment these packages provide in terms of hiring and faculty research makes them a success.

As the University strives to improve its compensation and retention, the improvement of faculty diversity remains a core value and a parallel goal.

“The diversity is something you should never be pleased with because you should always be working at it,” Pianta said. “Right now each search we are conducting has a particular focus on trying to diversify the pool of candidates and faculty.”

Faculty search committees completed a workshop on implicit bias as recently as last week, University President Tere-

sa Sullivan said.

To measure faculty satisfaction and sentiment, the University uses periodic surveys conducted by the Faculty Senate and the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education. These surveys were the driving force behind changes in recent years to salaries, dean appointments and performance review processes.

The Engineering School is not nearly as diverse as it needs to be for the sake of innovation and creativity, Benson said. Both he and Pianta stressed the centrality of diversity to the landscape of their respective school’s leadership and future as well as its importance across all departments on Grounds.

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CBS produces podcast on Hannah Graham case

Program will lead up to season premiere of true crime show '48 Hours'

Grayson Kemper
Senior Writer

The popular CBS program “48 Hours” released on Wednesday the third of five podcasts recounting the disappearance and murder of late University student Hannah Graham in September 2014.

Graham’s disappearance in the early hours of Sept. 13 and the discovery of her body on a rural road in Albemarle County a month later shocked the University community and garnered national media attention.

Following Graham’s disappearance, Jesse Matthew became the prime suspect and was eventually arrested and charged with capital murder and abduction with intent to defile in Graham’s case. If convicted, Matthew could face the death penalty.

The podcast, the first of its kind created by the CBS program, serves as a lead up to “48 Hours” season premiere titled “Hannah Graham: Deadly Connections,” a two-hour show airing Sept. 26.

The podcast is produced in conjunction with WTOP, a Washington-based news radio network, and is being led by news correspondent and tech editor Neal Augenstein. Augenstein — who has reported on Graham’s disappearance and Jesse Matthew’s subsequent

flight, arrest and conviction in September 2014 — vowed he would bring his 20 years of journalistic experience to the table when producing the podcast.

“I know that 48 hours takes very seriously their responsibility of telling true crime stories,” Augenstein said.

Augenstein also said the program gave him free reign over the production of the podcast and dismissed any ethical concerns.

“People online want to hear as many details as reporters can share,” Augenstein said. “I think telling the story about what we know to this point, in great detail, that’s a valid storytelling and journalistic project.”

Gil Harrington said she had confidence in the program’s ability to appropriately handle Graham’s story.

Harrington’s daughter Morgan, a Virginia Tech student, disappeared in 2009 after attending a concert in Charlottesville. Matthew was recently charged in Harrington’s case with first degree murder and abduction with intent to defile, charges which each carry maximum sentences of life imprisonment.

Harrington said she has not heard the podcast but that the trailer is “well done”. She said the reach of “48 Hours” could help avoid further abductions and sexual assault like those of

her daughter and Graham.

“Young people want information faster,” Harrington said. “The national reach and exposure that a show like ‘48 Hours’ has carries a wide breadth of awareness with it when it covers abduction, rape and murder of young women.”

Student Council President Abraham Axler, a third-year College student, said the production of both the podcast and the program are transforming a tragedy into a profitable sensation.

“It makes a gross sensation out of human tragedy; it does nothing to support friends, family, or University community,” Axler said. “It is making television out of one of the most tragic things that has ever happened to the University of Virginia.”

Axler said his experience with the media last year leaves no doubt the story has received ample coverage. Axler said the program from CBS and WTOP is “unethical.”

“I think [the release of the program] will upset people,” Axler said. “I had about 35 television interviews last year about Hannah Graham, so I cannot imagine that [the case] did not receive adequate media attention. I think it is unethical to profit on others’ tragedy.”

New episodes of the podcast will be released on a daily basis until Friday, Sept. 18.



Courtesy Sofie Appelkvist

The podcast, the first of its kind created by the CBS program, acts as a lead up to the release of the “48 Hours” program titled “Hannah Graham: Deadly Connections.”

ITS works to improve security measures following hack

Hackers present in University server since spring 2014

**Hannah Hall
and Alexis Gravely**
News Writers

The University will update security for its information technology services after discovering a June data breach was present in University servers for more than a year.

University administrators announced in August that a cyber-attack “originating from China” targeted two University employees whose work has a connection to the country.

Now, the University is requesting \$12.9 million from the state for security enhancement

services relating to IT.

Long term plans will build off stopgap measures implemented in June. A cyber security forensics firm, Mandiant, was hired immediately after the attack was discovered, Chief Information Officer Virginia Evans said.

After pouring through a year and a half of logs, the firm found the hackers were in the system as early as Spring 2014.

“We saw them have a couple active periods during that time through Aug. 14 when we kicked them out,” Evans said.

Mandiant and ITS met in the weeks following the initial discovery and planned methods of

eliminating the hackers from the server.

A short term plan removed the hackers from the system and prevented them from re-entering.

Part of the solution was a “safe-dome,” created to hold important systems. Meanwhile, compromised servers were rebuilt, passwords were changed and the hackers’ IP addresses were blocked.

Future plans include hiring a monitoring company to identify a hacker’s presence more efficiently, Evans said.

The University is vetting multiple vendors for a monitoring

software, Evans said.

However, some security solutions will have to be carried out by the individual users.

The University will require passwords be changed at least once a year.

In addition to the two-step authentication process already required to access accounts, ITS is considering implementing the use of a physical token, a small piece of hardware used for authentication. This will make it more difficult for hackers to access an account even if they have the associated password.

While many aspects of ITS are being replaced, the student in-

formation system, known as SIS, will remain the same, Evans said.

The system will, however, receive some enhancements. These will include improvements to SIS mobile and a more user-friendly interface.

Improving ITS security will be a two to three year program and will require involvement from everyone in the University community to ensure its efficacy, Chief Information Security Officer Kathleen Kimball said.

“Security really requires everyone to be vigilant,” Kimball said. “It is a very intense environment, and people need to learn as much as they can.”



Men's soccer faces NC State Friday

Rozhansky, Lennon boosting Cavalier offense early

What: No. 6 Virginia (3-0-2) vs. NC State (5-1-0)

Where: Kenan Stadium

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

The Skinny: The No. 6 Virginia men's soccer team looks to continue its undefeated season as it hosts the NC State Wolfpack in the Cavaliers' second ACC match.

Friday night's clash will be the 72nd meeting of the two teams since 1949, with the Cavaliers owning a 46-17-8 series record. However, beating this year's NC State team will not be an easy task.

The Wolfpack finished the 2014 campaign with a 7-7-4 record but, at 5-1-0, are off to one of the team's best starts in coach Kelly Findley's five years at the helm. They have displayed grit this season in winning two overtime games, including last Friday's 2-1 double overtime victory over ACC foe Boston College.

The team is led by sophomore midfielder Zach Knudson, NC State's leading goal scorer, and has been boosted by the play of emerging freshman midfielder Julius Duchscherer, a talented newcomer from Weilburg, Germany.

Virginia will look to counter NC State's scrappiness with its tenacious midfield play. Looking especially dominant in Tuesday's 2-0 win over James Madison, the Cavalier midfield has been consistently able to control ball possession and tempo against its opponents. The midfield is led by sophomore Jake Rozhansky, who has scored in the past two games, as well as by junior Riggs Lennon, who has netted two goals this season.

The two teams last faced off in 2013 in a thrilling match that resulted in a 3-3 tie. Both teams expect another close match on what should be an exciting night of soccer.

—compiled by Jack Gallagher

Q&A with 'Sad Virginia Fan' Bunting

Fourth-year Engineering student talks Virginia football fandom, Fuller's TD and more

Matthew Morris
Sports Editor

Fourth-year Engineering student Mike Bunting was one of nearly 60,000 fans at Scott Stadium Saturday, when the Virginia football team suffered a last-minute defeat against FBS powerhouse Notre Dame. But after Bunting leaned over a white ledge following Irish junior wide receiver Will Fuller's 39-yard touchdown with 12 seconds to play, he became Internet famous.

A son of two Virginia Tech graduates, a double major in Computer Engineering and Computer Science and a believer in coach Mike London, Bunting chatted with Sports Tuesday night, touching on his Cavalier fandom and his emotions leading up to the big play, among other subjects.



Courtesy Bethany Prichard

Computer Engineering and Computer Science double major Mike Bunting reacts to Notre Dame junior wideout Will Fuller's late touchdown Saturday.

Q&A

Fuller touchdown?

Mike Bunting: The entire game was sort of a rollercoaster of emotions. ... Late in the game, I realized that a win over a top-10 team was probably unlikely, and so my hopes were dwindling, but my spirit was still full-fledged.

[My friend Dagoberto and I] sensed that — amidst the hubbub of anticipation of winning — we saw Notre Dame push, and so we got very serious, because we've been fans for three years, going into our fourth year now, and we know that the game's not over until it's over. And we put our hands at 90-degree angles sort of matter-of-factly on the ledge, and we were kind of just hunched over watching every single movement on the field.

They were making [first downs] play after play, and then in the last 12 seconds, as you know, that connection occurred for the 40-yard touchdown by the Irish. And that's when my arms went from being sort of mat-

ter-of-factly positioned on the ledge.

CD: Why do you think the media has focused so much on your reaction to Fuller's touchdown?

MB: From the cameraman's perspective it was probably a no-brainer to kind of pan over to me because I was [an] orange shirt kind of juxtaposed against a white background that normally doesn't have anything hanging from it. So it was probably a natural reaction for the cameraman to kind of direct his attention towards me.

And whoever is in charge of the TV room is a comedic genius because they timed it absolutely perfectly with the celebration for the Notre Dame touchdown — and then immediately panning over to my slumped body language in that moment captured the entire feeling of the Wahoo fans in the stadium.

CD: How would you describe your experiences as a Virginia football fan?

MB: I came into U.Va. with 18 years of experience being a Virginia Tech fan. Both my parents graduated there in the 1980s. My grandfather also graduated there in 1954 ... and my uncle as well. So ... I came in [to U.Va.] with sort of a clean slate and

no expectations really but just enough drive to become a really loyal fan. And then after our first couple of wins my first two weekends my first year, I was convinced that our program was a force to be reckoned with.

Attending every event and living play-by-play with our team has really been what's caused me to build up my fandom. I get to every game approximately an hour early with my friends through ... CRU, a Christian fellowship on Grounds.

And so we get there early. It's a great time to socialize and to watch the other team and our team prepare for the game, and it's a great venue. ... And if you do that enough times, then you become a loyal fan, despite the outcome of every game.

CD: Do you think Virginia will win this weekend against William & Mary?

MB: Absolutely. This is the make-it-or-break-it moment in U.Va. football's 2015 season. This is where it all comes down to. If we don't win this game, I think our chances for a bowl game go to near zero. But after this, if we win this game, I think our chances for going are better [and] are still within the realm of possibility.

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Marshall Bronfin | The Cavalier Daily

Courtesy William & Mary Athletics



IMPACT PLAYERS

Tribe

Four standouts who could leave a mark on this weekend's game

MATT JOHNS

Johns continues to reward the Virginia coaching staff for its trust. Through two games, and against two solid defenses, Johns has completed 64.4 percent of his passes for 527 yards and three touchdowns. The Cavalier signal caller was near-immaculate against No. 9 Notre Dame — going 26-for-38 with two passing touchdowns and one more on the ground.

CANAAN SEVERIN

Severin set a career high with 11 receptions against the Fighting Irish and had 153 receiving yards. The senior from Marlborough, Ma. is riding the momentum of a career season in 2014, and the connection between him and Johns, who is also his roommate, is obvious.

QUIN BLANDING

Blanding, a 2014 Freshman All-American, remains a tackling machine for Virginia. Last season, Blanding was second in the ACC with 123 tackles. The Bayside High alum also led the Cavaliers with three interceptions. Look for Blanding to make plays left and right against William & Mary.

STEVE CLULEY

William & Mary's junior quarterback torched Lafayette in the Tribe's opener last week. Cluley completed 20 of his 30 passes, racked up 289 yards, and threw for two touchdowns. The Manasquan, N.J. native has multiple targets around him that he trusts — his 20 completions were spread among seven different receivers.

MIKAL ABDUL-SABOOR

Abdul-Saboor averaged 115.1 rushing yards per game for the Tribe last season. The senior running back appears ready to repeat that gaudy average after gashing Lafayette for 103 yards last week.

LUKE RHODES

Rhodes is the lone FCS player on the Butkus Award Watch List for the nation's best linebacker. Last season Rhodes led William & Mary with 93 tackles and four sacks. Rhodes is a playmaker and will be of major concern to the Cavaliers' offensive line.

3 KEYS TO A VIRGINIA VICTORY

1. Start out strong














































Against Notre Dame, Virginia managed only 28 yards of offense in the first quarter and trailed the Fighting Irish 12-0. After scoring 14 unanswered in the second quarter, the Cavaliers were flat once more coming out of the break and allowed 12 third-quarter points. Virginia showed resolve, but ultimately dug itself too deep a hole.

2. Win the turnover battle

Virginia has yet to force a turnover this season and has coughed up the ball once in each of its two games. Last season, the Cavaliers scored 109 points off turnovers. The matchup with FCS competitor William & Mary presents itself as the perfect time to begin taking the ball away.

3. Don't overlook the Tribe

Games against FCS teams always look easy on paper. That is not always the case; just ask Virginia Tech ca. 2010. The Cavaliers need to put forth the same effort they did in their nail-biter against Notre Dame or else Saturday could become an embarrassing blight on the team record books.

<div>Sports Editor</div> <div>ACC Forecast:</div> <div>Week Two</div> <div>Who'll win? Who'll lose?</div>	<div>ROBERT ELDER</div> <div></div>	<div>MATTHEW MORRIS</div> <div></div>	<div>RYAN TAYLOR</div> <div></div>	<div>MATTHEW WURZBURGER</div> <div></div>
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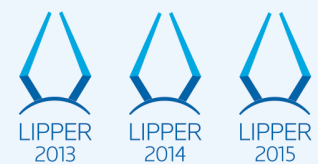
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Comment of the day

“Your statements are a bit hypocritical and demeaning when you denounce a religion and then continue to tell the reader what the religion stands for.”

“BeInformed:)” in response to Ben Rudgley’s Sept. 11th article, “Christianity and the GOP in opposition.”

LEAD EDITORIAL

The Safe Campus Act won’t make campuses safer

Congress’ sexual assault bill will have negative repercussions for survivors

In July, members of Congress introduced the Safe Campus Act, which aims to provide students with due process protections and bring campus sexual misconduct boards up to par with the criminal justice system. Among other changes, the act would require survivors to report their assaults to the police in addition to their universities; if a survivor does not wish to involve law enforcement, her school cannot pursue disciplinary action against the accused.

Last March, the General Assembly passed a similar sexual assault bill. Its bill requires school personnel to report evidence of a sexual assault to that school’s Title IX committee within 72 hours and also requires that any case deemed a felony assault be submitted to the police or for review by a local commonwealth attorney. When the bill passed, we argued mandatory reporting to the police or a local attorney

could be harmful for survivors. The police, as a whole, have not demonstrated an ability to respond to survivors’ needs when questioning them: according to Claire Wyatt, a 2013 University graduate and organizer for advocacy group New Virginia Majority, 90 percent of assault survivors who go to the police have a retraumatizing moment during initial questioning. The fear of interacting with police — and of bringing criminal charges against someone — could deter survivors from reporting their sexual assaults. A drop in reporting rates would undermine the value of mandatory reporting, since if survivors don’t report their assaults, then no steps can be taken to discipline the accused and make campuses safer.

The national application of the General Assembly’s bill could have similar effects. If law enforcement has a more prominent role in universities’ cases, survivors may be

hesitant to pursue charges, either due to their own trauma or because they don’t wish to launch a criminal investigation or harsher sanction than a school would provide. Of course, someone who has committed a rape deserves a criminal prosecution — but if a survivor won’t come forward for fear of criminal prosecution, with this bill, her rapist will get no prosecution at all, since the school can’t pursue its own adjudicative process.

The Safe Campus Act also confuses standards for various illegal activities; under it, colleges would still be allowed to punish a student for illegal acts like selling drugs regardless of police involvement, whereas sexual assault and battery would specifically require police involvement. It seems illogical to hold schools to different standards for different illegal activities. The issue of due process is often brought up when it concerns schools’ adjudication of sex-

ual assault, and due process is incredibly important — but national legislators aren’t questioning whether due process is met in the adjudication of other illegal activities, singling out sexual assault.

According to The Huffington Post, 27 advocacy organizations have publicly declared opposition to this bill. Together, the president of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the executive director of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault and the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence wrote a letter opposing the bill in August. Experts in this field recognize that school processes and the criminal justice process are two distinct systems with different missions, and a school should be able to sanction an offender separately from a criminal process. If schools cannot move forward with their own sanctioning processes, their campuses will remain unsafe.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

The Cavalier Daily

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End the penny

There is no good reason to keep producing our smallest coin

Everyone has it. That jar back home filled with hundreds of pennies that will never see the light of day. At least, until you decide one day that enough is enough and proceed to dump the coins haphazardly into a Coinstar. Pennies are for tossing in the center console of a car. They're for getting stuck between couch cushions and for seniors paying exact change in line at CVS. The rise of credit cards, Venmo and Apple Pay has highlighted an urgent new reality: it is time to discontinue the penny.

BEN YAHNIAN
Viewpoint Writer

tion, the penny's value is drastically different than its value at its inception in 1793. To reduce the time cashiers spend doling out pennies, Chipotle has decided to round to the nearest nickel, joining the ranks of institutions like the U.S. Army, which hasn't used the penny overseas since 1980. Chipotle, vending machines and parking meters are all screaming the same message: pennies are useless.

There genuinely used to be a time when people would take the time to stop and pick up a penny off the ground. And that time was 1793. In a New York Times Op-Ed, David Owen calculated that picking up a penny today "pays less than the Federal minimum wage, if you take more than 4.9 seconds to do it." In the amount of time it would take someone to pick up a penny, she could have spent the time with family or friends, which at this point is a far better use of those five seconds.

In this supposed penny "debate," history is on the side of

elimination. In fact, it reveals this change is long overdue. Remember the half-penny? Of course you don't, because the U.S. government discontinued it in 1857 after it became irrational to use. At the time of removal, the half-penny had an equivalent 2014 value of 14 cents, worth more than even our third lowest currency. The penny's demise is not only overdue, but it's costing us more every day. According to Robert Whaples, a professor of economics at Wake Forest, we

Since the U.S. penny is actually 97.5 percent zinc and only 2.5 percent copper, there is understandable resistance from the zinc industry. Jarden Zinc Products, the supplier of zinc to the U.S. mint, and many other companies spent over a million dollars since 2006 to fund a lobbyist group called Americans for Common Cents. While I will give them bonus points for a clever name, ACC has effectively used its massive war chest to kill every anti-penny bill in Congress behind the

façade of misleading justifications and self-conducted polling. First, ACC cites a 2014 poll administered by the group itself which states that 68 percent of adults support keeping the penny. Despite the fact that a YouGov/Huffington Post poll found that

number to be 51 percent, it actually is a little concerning that so many Americans either don't care or are genuinely against the



We lose over \$900 million a year on the production of pennies. That's not chump change."

lose over \$900 million a year on the production of pennies. That's not chump change.

So what's been preventing the necessary demise of the penny?

The problem with affirmative consent

The new policy doesn't do justice to the complexity of human interaction

After the Rolling Stone article "A Rape on Campus" came out last year, sexual assault became a heated topic around Grounds. The University has responded with steps such as asking students to complete a sexual assault module. More significantly, it adopted affirmative consent into its sexual assault policy. Naturally, the University needs to respond in some way, but affirmative consent is not the answer. In fact, the concept itself could have numerous problematic implications for how we view sexual assault.

ALYSSA IMAM
Viewpoint Writer

feating characteristic of this policy: what purpose does a policy serve the community if we would generally classify so many interactions that violate it as unworthy of being reported, and possibly even silly? Furthermore, categorizing such interactions as sexual assault is dangerous because it trivializes attacks under more violent and traumatizing circumstances.

Affirmative consent fails to recognize that, while violent assault crimes are an ever-pressing issue, humans are still able to make mistakes concerning sex that (although they may regret them later) were not necessarily forced. The University website's Sexual Violence page describes affirmative consent as verbal or nonverbal, and states it can be obtained through "clear words or actions." The website also states consent is knowing, and that someone "should be able to clearly understand the who, what, where, when, and why they are consenting to anything sexual." This is an ambiguous

guide at best, especially when placed in the context of the bar and college party scenes, where alcohol can impair one's judgment regarding what one is willing to do in the moment, and affect one's ability to both read and receive "clear" signs. So, even when the partner correctly reads the other person's nonverbal, "clear" signs as consent, if that person later realizes otherwise, the interaction could be viewed as an assault.

Additionally, even if true



Humans are still able to make mistakes concerning sex that... were not necessarily forced."

affirmative consent is given, it can then be taken away if the other person goes further without a clear "No," since this view of consent requires it be given

each time a deeper level of intimacy is reached. The concept of "checking in" with your partner is not only unrealistic when considering that few people's tastes involve a verbal confirmation that each level of intimacy is acceptable as it is reached, but also unfairly places most of the burden on the male counterpart (assuming this is a heterosexual relationship). If the man in the situation were to think consent was implied based on non-verbal signs from how the partner is reacting to the current level of intimacy and so tries to take it further, the woman should feel free to try and stop him. Since affirmative consent can include non-verbal signs, it results in even further blurred lines regarding consent, as shown in the guy's misunderstanding of her signs.

This is not to mention that in a culture where men are normally expected to make the

penny's logical elimination. This opposition is in part a testament to the ACC's ability to pervade the notion of impending economic doom should the United States terminate the penny. Secondly, ACC alleges consumers could be hit with a "rounding tax." In practice, there hasn't been any conclusive evidence that eliminating the penny places an added tax on consumers or causes increased inflation. Whereas the United States has quivered before the almighty power of corporations and special interests, recently, New Zealand and Canada have followed the widespread support of businesses and economists by eliminating their lowest currencies. Their proactivity to remove a forsaken inefficiency provides our country with a proven strategy to save time and money.

It's time for the United States to follow in the footsteps of the U.S. Military, Chipotle and dare I say it, Canada. To the penny, I say goodbye and good riddance. Our time is just too valuable. It's worth every nickel.

Rethinking law school

Undergraduate law programs would be more beneficial than law schools

For those who dream of becoming lawyers, the path to that destination has become tougher and riskier than ever before. Over the past several decades, law school has become more expensive, while the job market has become increasingly saturated with lawyers. Law students are expected to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars, and three extra years in a classroom, for an education that has become increasingly less fruitful in its payoff, which is certainly an odd trend. For some, the money, time and rigor are worthwhile obstacles in the end. Yet for many, even those most passionate about the legal profession, the sacrifices law schools ask of their students make attaining a law degree just too arduous. This is precisely why the study of law should be formulated into its own undergraduate program, both here at the University and in other institutions across the nation.

For instance, universities in Holland — among other countries — offer a legal studies program as part of a typical bache-

lor's education. At age 22, when most American college graduates are gearing up to take their LSAT with hopes of simply getting accepted to law school, Dutch students are suiting up and entering the professional world of law.

Creating an undergraduate school of law would make the decision to attain a law degree less financially risky. The average debt held by law school graduates is exorbitant, as law students graduate, on average, owing between \$84,000 and \$122,000 in loans, depending on the law school. Most shockingly, this figure does not take into account undergraduate debt, which burdens around 70 percent of all college graduates, or opportunity cost, which would be about \$150,000 if a student were making the University's median graduate salary over three years.

While creating this program would have serious financial benefits for students, it would not detract from the educational curricula found in current law school programs. Take, for

instance, the degree requirements set by the University's Law School. The school requires that a number of crucial classes be taken the first year, such as Contracts, Torts, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Civil Procedure, Property and Legal Research. These courses are essential to a legal education, and thus should not be eliminated. Yet, students only need to take these classes their first year; so then, what are they paying \$100,000 for during their next two years of law

can choose from a range of course options." So essentially, students are paying \$100,000 for electives. While these courses might be thought-provoking and helpful for determining a future legal specialization, are they really worth it? Another possible solution would involve a curriculum similar to that of the Batten or Commerce Schools. Prospective students must apply to these schools during their second year after fulfilling their College requirements. Then upon being accepted, these schools require their students to take core degree classes during their third year, and related electives during their fourth year, while still paying undergraduate tuition.

An undergraduate school of law could look exactly the same. After being accepted into the program during their second year, students could take essential law classes during their third year,

and valuable electives during their fourth year. This curriculum would effectively give law students the foundational education they need to be successful lawyers, as well as an entire year of courses with which they could further explore their own areas of legal interest. Like students at the other two schools, law students would only be paying for undergraduate tuition.

Ideally, the goal of an undergraduate law school would be to give the law student the skills and means necessary to pass a state bar exam, secure a job and excel in the legal profession. Whether a curriculum follows the European open-access model or the Batten and Commerce School models, there is nothing that suggests current law school programs are superior to these hypothetical undergraduates schools of law in terms of their ability to prepare and educate their students. Perhaps, when enough prospective lawyers choose not to jeopardize their financial futures by attending law school, undergraduate law schools will no longer be hypothetical.

JESSE BERMAN
Viewpoint Writer



The goal of an undergraduate law school would be to give the law student the skills and means necessary to pass a state bar exam, secure a job and excel in the legal profession."

school?

The Law School website claims "after first-year course requirements are met, students

Taking Voldemort seriously

Trendy courses can be academically enriching

In recent years, a new strain of learning has emerged in the ever-evolving sphere of American higher education: "trendy" courses, where the focus of the class material is centered on some prominent element of popular culture. These courses cover a wide range of topics, from "Politicizing Beyoncé" at Rutgers University to "Battling against Voldemort" at Swarthmore College to "Game of Thrones" at our very own University.

Naturally, these courses immediately draw students in with their captivating titles and relatable subjects, enticing them to enroll in the class over one that covers more "boring" material. It can certainly be argued, though, that a course on battle tactics against a fictional character is not nearly as vital to the educational experience as is Locke or Euler or Newton. Thus, the proliferation of these course offerings at colleges and universities across the country raises an important question: is it "worth it" to take a trendy course over one that is more traditional?

Education is grounded in the idea that the more students care

about the material, the more they will learn. This notion is evident in a study performed at an English university, in which the researchers found "creatively"-taught courses were extremely effective in facilitating independent thinking and building knowledge for students. "Creative teaching" was evaluated in this study as an educational strategy centered on the professor's passion for the broader subject, where the professor leveraged this passion toward an "imaginative approach" to teaching the material.

Trendy course offerings fit exactly into the mold of "creatively"-taught courses that were proven so effective in the study: professors apply their passion for a specific subject (e.g., cinema, fantasy literature, politics) into an imaginative classroom setting that fosters student engagement. These courses are specifically designed, above all, to target passion in a way that traditional subject matters and classrooms simply cannot; students come to class with an emotional investment in what they are about to learn — a distinct interest in the subject material that naturally

breeds a heightened educational experience.

Students operate the best and most efficiently when they actually feel connected to the subjects they are learning. A "Game of Thrones" course, for example, may not be concerned with an inherently practical idea, though it succeeds as an academic course primarily because it bridges the gap between a highly relevant cultural phenomenon among college-age students and the very core of a liberal arts education: critical thinking.



Neither students nor teachers are rewarded nearly enough for encouraging creative innovation."

In an article published last semester, I discussed the stigma surrounding liberal arts education and the travesty of repressed creativity that has transpired at institutions of higher learning. Students in

America are discouraged from taking courses or majoring in liberal, creative arts, primarily because the corporate job market insists that students fit into certain — and often rigid — academic molds prior to being hired. I would argue this fact is one of the main roots of lagging social and economic change in the nation — neither students nor teachers are rewarded nearly enough for encouraging creative innovation, resulting in a large majority of students being "manufactured" at their institutions to perpetuate the current modes of production and business, not change them.

Trendy courses, while they may not directly address the fundamental injustices that exist in American higher education, are certainly a step in the right direction. Feeding on cultural passions to encourage learning is not a "joke," as engineers and business majors may like to say; rather, it is the newest method designed to ignite a spark in the young, malleable minds of

college-age students. It allows a student enrolled in "Politicizing Beyoncé" to think critically about politics and socio-cultural trends in America, not struggle to remain attentive in a prerequisite "17th Century Politics" lecture. It is a breath of life into the decaying perception of what learning should be in this nation.

Above all, the proliferation of trendy courses is a message to administrators and business leaders across the country: just because a student finds it beneficial to blend his academic interests with popular culture doesn't mean he is worthless to society. This nation's innovators will arise from a style of education that stimulates their creativity and encourages them to make real-world connections through their acquisition of knowledge. If trendy courses are indeed successful in breaking down the terrorizing force that career interests impart on our nation's colleges, maybe everyone needs to learn how to defeat Voldemort.

Ryan's columns run Thursdays. He can be reached at r.gorman@cavalierdaily.com.

RYAN GORMAN
Opinion Columnist

An open letter to fashionable people about your ugly sandals

I should preface this letter by admitting you and I have never understood each other: ever since you wore that sparkly Limited Too poncho in fourth grade, I knew I'd never understand your trends. That said, I doubt any reasonable person could comprehend why admittedly "ugly" things are now in style. To clarify, ugly things becoming in vogue isn't just my imagination: "grunge" has been a legitimate clothing style for years now and "ugly sandals" are stepping out all across grounds (your cool Eng-

ANNELISE KOLLEVOLL
Humor Writer

lish TA is wearing them as you read this). Unfortunately, this is not just a U.Va. epidemic: PRADA makes ugly sandals (I'm not BSing you — check Google Shopping and you can grab a pair for the bargain price of \$725 and your dignity). Picture Meryl Streep's Miranda Priestly in "The Devil Wears Prada" wearing ugly sandals from Prada. . . YOU CAN'T because even she would know this is ridiculous, right? Let's ponder some possible explanations:
I know many girls choose to partake in the "ugly" trend be-

cause they find oversized men's clothing and Birkenstocks comfy, so I sincerely apologize to the one person reading this article who wears ugly sandals because of her actual foot problems. I suspect, however, that most of you wearing ugly sandals with the dress you bought because it looked *just like* the one from Taylor Swift's "Style" video don't have planter fasciitis. So, I pose this question: if you know something is "ugly," why do you wear it? What makes you — a person society looks to as stylish — think admittedly "ugly" sandals would look good with a sundress?

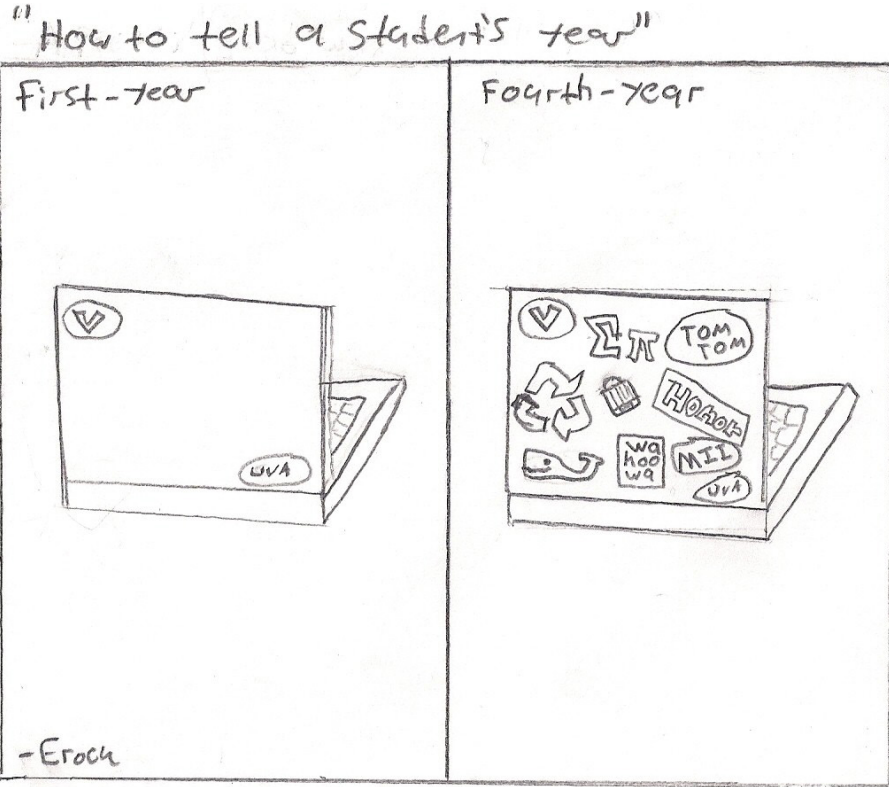
A writer for Vogue UK, perhaps Miranda Priestly's spirit animal, explains it best when she writes, "just as when things are so bad, they're good, these walk the line of being so ugly, they're acceptable. They're cool." To clarify, you trendy people ran out of styles the mainstream found confusing, so you decided to make OBVIOUSLY UGLY things stylish in order to further perplex the public about what is "cool."
Jerk move, guys.
I beg you, fashionable person, to consider the consequences of your actions. Employing a logical device

intellectuals and Republicans have used regarding more well known issues, I argue you and your ugly sandals are headed for a slippery slope: If you — the trendsetter — don't start wearing cute sandals with your cute dress, it's only a matter of time before women walk out of their houses wearing sports bras and leggings when they're not going to work out yet believe they're wearing an outfit. Oh wait. . .
Sincerely,
Girl-who-wears-things-she-actually-finds-pretty

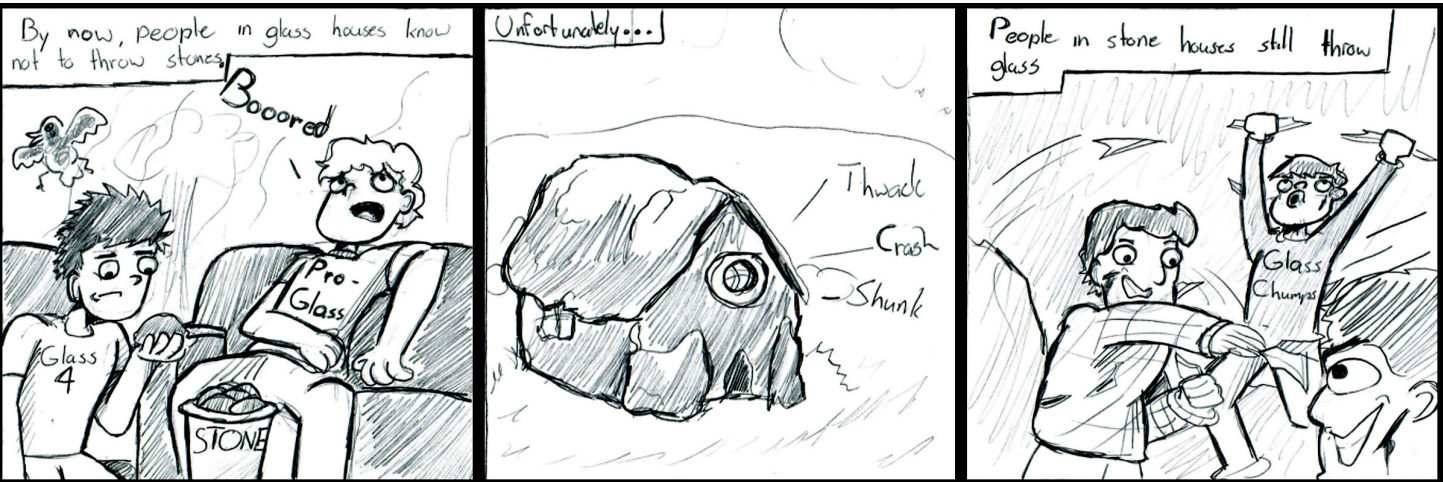
REVERB BY SESI CADMUS



FREQUENTLY FUNNY BY ERIC HELMOLD



MORE AWKWARD THAN SOME BY CHAUNCEY LEE



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 9/17
Constitution Day: A View from the Newsroom, 12-1:30 p.m., Garrett Hall
Second Year Transfer Welcome Dinner, 5 p.m., Garden 9
UVA Global Leadership Program Information Session, 5 p.m., Newcomb Hall Room 389
UPC Presents: Open Mic Night, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m., Open Grounds

Friday 9/18
Recomposing the Humanities with Bruno Latour, 9-5 p.m., Minor Hall
Franklin D. Roosevelt: An American Life in the American Century, 12-1:30 p.m., The Miller Center Forum Room
China's New Governing Party Paradigm: Political Renewal and the Pursuit of National Rejuvenation, 3:15-5:00 p.m., Clark 107
Bubble Soccer, 3-6 p.m., Nameless Field
Field Hockey vs. Duke, 6 p.m., University Hall Turf Field
Men's Soccer vs. North Carolina State, 7 p.m., Klöckner Stadium
UPC Presents: Mad Max: Fury Road Screening, 7 and 10 p.m., Newcomb Theater
Public Night at McCormick Observatory, 9-11 p.m., Leander McCormick Observatory

UPC Presents: Lip Sync Battle, 10 p.m., The PAV
Saturday 9/19
4th Annual Cville Pride Festival, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Lee Park
Football vs. William & Mary, 3:30 p.m., Scott Stadium
UPC Presents: Mad Max: Fury Road Screening, 7 and 10 p.m., Newcomb Theater

Sunday 9/20
Women's Soccer vs. Syracuse, 2 p.m., Klöckner Stadium
Monday 9/21
TEDxCharlottesville Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., The Jefferson Theater
Field Hockey vs. William & Mary, Monday 9/21, 6 p.m., University Hall Turf Field
UVA Career Center Presents: Acing Your Interview Workshop, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 3-4 p.m., Bryant Hall

Tuesday 9/22
Wednesday 9/23
UVA Career Center Presents: Graduate & Professional School Fair, 4-7 p.m., Newcomb Hall

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD SOLUTION

By Sam Ezersky

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*NEXT WEEK'S PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN MONDAY'S ISSUE

WEEKLY SUDOKU PUZZLE

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

*THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN MONDAY'S ISSUE

KEITH SAYS

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...or he'll eat you. Duh.



Freddie Lee
Staff Writer

'The Mask You Live In' sparks self-reflection

On-Grounds organizations collaborate to challenge gender roles

increased aggression and homicidal tendencies in early manhood, increased rates of suicide within all strata of male development and the acceptance of rape culture and male domination as a sexual practice.

"The Mask" attributes these repercussions as the weight of the masculinity mask, a connection reiterated when a group of teenage boys in the film are asked to write what they want people to see on the front side of a paper mask and what they don't want people to see on the flipside. Most of these boys used markers of strength, power and other stereotypically masculine compliments on the face of the mask, yet beneath the mask all wrote either the word 'pain,' 'weak' or some effect or variation of either of these emotions.

Neuroscience presents evidence supporting the claim that performative gender roles and their respective social and emotional expectations often steer the brain toward painful, disingenuous and sad experiences. This documentary does well



Courtesy the Representation Project

The Representation Project presented a documentary this past week analyzing societal pressures affecting gender roles and their negative consequences.

presenting statistical evidence and professional commentary to trace such hidden feelings of weakness and pain and evaluate the repercussions.

Viewers come to the conclusion that these unaddressed emotions from a boy's childhood are often causal agents to an upsurge of destructive emotions like anger and prolonged depression later on in his physical development. This

can potentially lead to suicidal and homicidal tendencies.

Once this is outlined, an obvious question emerged during the discussion of this film, which took place directly after the viewing and was led by University WGS Prof. Lisa Speidel — Why do so many men carry the weight of this mask if it is so destructive?

One logical explanation is fear of rejection by male peers,

which was supported by anecdotal evidence in the film. From early childhood, many boys are told to simply "not feel" pain and are called "fag," "sissy," and other marginalizing slurs. These slurs are still rampant throughout all tiers of male development, and viewers came to an understanding that the common use of these names has created negative pressure to perform one's masculinity correctly or else be disparaged.

The discussion followed with another big question: "So what can we do to help or fix this problem?"

One answer was to point out when men acted with aggression — an indicator of a masculinity mask. A less confrontational approach suggested was to personally shed our own daily masks.

As one can see through this documentary, the consequences of an emotional mask outweigh their benefits. The film urges viewers to leave these masks at home and emerge as our honest selves everyday.

Greensky Bluegrass returns to the Jefferson

A&E previews the bluegrass band's upcoming gig with member Michael Bont

Courtesy Wikimedia Commons/Schultz

Noah Zeidman
Senior Associate Editor

For the past 15 years, Greensky Bluegrass has been crafting unique, genre-bending songs. The band will be returning to the Jefferson Theater Sept. 23, almost exactly a year after its last Charlottesville performance. Arts & Entertainment chatted with founding member and banjo player Michael Bont to preview the upcoming show.

Arts & Entertainment: You guys have been touring pretty non-stop for a while now, right?

Michael Bont: Yeah, we just kind of came off of summer festival season, where we played lots of festivals during the weekend. But essentially, I think we've been on tour for the last few years!

A&E: What kind of sets have you been doing lately? Lots of songs off the newest album or mixed up from night to night?

MB: We generally mix it up from night to night. I mean, we're more than likely going to play songs from the new album, but we'll also play older stuff along with some covers, so I wouldn't come to the show expecting to hear every song from the new al-

bum.

A&E: Are there any covers you're particularly excited about?

MB: We've a couple times done "Big Shot" by Billy Joel — that's a fun one we just started doing.

A&E: Can you talk about your approach to making a song like that, which is so outside of the bluegrass genre, work with your style?

MB: We kind of twist the song ... for myself playing the banjo, like a song has a piano part or a cool melody ... that could be a banjo part ... Especially a song that has drums, we don't have drums in the band, so a lot of times the mando-

lin and the bass will kind of emulate the drum kit. We kind of look at the songs as individuals and find a piece of that song that [we'd] like to make [our] own, and then we go from there and bring it to the band and say, "I have a good idea about something!" But generally, our goal is to recreate the song, the feel and the texture of the song, without the drums. [It] isn't always easy, but it's a fun process to figure out how to play it!

A&E: What's the vibe like at your shows? What would you say a first-timer should expect?

MB: Great musicianship, and ... these kinds of shows, they re-

ally feel like a place to meet people and make friends. I feel like our fans are just really, really nice people for the most part! The other night, there's a lady who's come to a bunch of our shows in the front row, talking to another girl whom I recognized from coming to a bunch of shows, and they introduced each other and then became friends throughout the show. It'd be nice to see that kind of thing happen every night. It's great to see people establishing relationships and making friends — having some beers and a good time with good music. It's a real family vibe!

BØRNS is back in 'Emotion'

Lead cut from "Dopamine" promises new lyrical romance

Dylan Bedsaul
Staff Writer

Back in August, indie pop's new kid on the block, BØRNS, gave a sampling of his 11-song LP, "Dopamine," slated for release in October. If his single, "The Emotion," is any indication of what can be expected from his debut LP, the album's going to be a good one. This release follows the singles "10,000 Emerald Pools" and the popular "Electric Love" — which received an Instagram shout out from Taylor Swift, so basically BØRNS is the real deal.

"The Emotion" has certainly met the high expectations BØRNS set last November when he released his EP "Candy." "The Emotion," with its twinkling, fluttering opening section ac-

centuated with electric guitar, creates a nostalgic atmosphere, one in which a sad person staring out a car window in deep reflection would find themselves. Frontman Garrett Børns delivers lyrics that are, quite frankly, emotional. "Shadows fill my mind up / Zeroes tell me my times up / I lost count so long ago / maybe my heart's numb / don't hold my hands accountable / they're young and they're dumb," he spills into the song in high pitch, gentle Lorde-esque vocals.

The song slightly, and only slightly, increases in pace and percussion during the chorus, which repeats the song's charged title. "The emotion's inside of me, out of me / The emotion's building up inside of me / And what you're looking for is suddenly out of reach / The emotion." The

song tells the story of an introspective, defeated man diving into his own complex emotions after a depressing event.

These dark yet romantically inspired themes are not abnormal for this artist, as they were present in all four songs on "Candy." However, it may be interesting if BØRNS explored other topics alongside his psychedelic, L.A.-inspired pop sound. In an interview with Refinery29, Garrett Børns gave insight into the ground covered on "Dopamine," stating, "There's more substance to it ... [I've] definitely stepped up the lyrical romance."

Does "The Emotion" deliver on this increase in lyrical romance? Absolutely.

"Dopamine" will be released Oct. 16. Will the rest of BØRNS' new LP heighten his own songwriting stakes?

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Miss America entertains, but falls short of full potential

Miss Georgia crowned winner in 95th annual pageant

Malory Smith
Staff Writer

The Miss America Organization celebrated its 95th anniversary Sunday night with a pageant, which delivered a healthy dose of big hair, big earrings and big goals. Though better than expected, the pageant still left something to be desired. Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell was ultimately crowned the 96th Miss America after multiple rounds of competition.

The program began in the way these affairs normally do — with contestant introductions. As usual, this segment was teeming with awkward dancing and state puns. Miss Montana took an early lead with her introduction: "Though Rocky Mountain Oysters are our delicacy, I'm here to grab the bull by the — horns."

The carefree fun stopped shortly after it started when Vanessa Williams, Miss America 1984 and this year's head judge, took to the stage for a performance. Williams was forced to give up her tiara after she took part in a well-publicized nude photo scandal. The CEO of the Miss America Organization, Sam Haskell, issued a formal apology to Williams for the circumstances surrounding the former pageant winner's surprise resignation. This was intended to be a meaningful moment but didn't have the intended effect, at least on those who aren't familiar with mid-80s pop culture.

The apology, though, represents a step forward for the organization. It shows the organization recognizes their mistake in forcing Williams to give up her tiara following the scandal. It creates a cleaner slate for the pageant program and gives room for growth. As Miss South Carolina said, "Miss America is back."

The top 15 contestants in the Miss America competition were selected based on preliminary competition, which considerably cut the field down from its original 52 participants. Miss Virginia Savannah Lane, a third-year College student, was unfortunately eliminated after the first round of swimsuit modeling.

The swimsuit portion of this year's Miss America, while generally entertaining, was nothing to write home about. Each woman was confident, toned and tanned as they strutted down the runway to Fifth Harmony's girl power anthem, "Worth It."

The eveningwear segment followed the swimsuit portion, with only a few ladies taking a real risk with their gown selection. Miss South Carolina Daja Dial stunned all wearing a lace mermaid gown that perfectly complimented her skin tone. The new Miss America 2016, Georgia's Betty Cantrell, wore an on-trend two-piece dress, which may have secured her victory. However, the evening's best dressed had to be Miss Oklahoma Georgia Frazier who sported a white long-sleeved



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

"Miss America" is nearing a century of extravagance as contestants talk politics, Tom Brady, Donald Trump.

ball gown with a jeweled bodice.

Cantrell was a clear winner in the talent portion of the competition. Her operatic vocal performance of "Tu Tu Piccolo Iddio" was refreshing and definitely highlighted her voice. Miss Colorado, Kelley Johnson, gave a meaningful monologue on her life as a nurse, a story complemented by her scrubs and stethoscope. Her performance gave the competition greater depth, as she tackled difficult subjects such as Alzheimer's disease.

The field was further narrowed to seven candidates, and things got interesting during the on-stage question and answer portion. Pageants are famous for their controversial social and political questions and 2016 was no exception. Miss Alabama Meg McGuffin vehemently warned the Republican party of

Donald Trump the "Entertainer" while Miss Tennessee voiced her support for the continued funding of women's care through Planned Parenthood.

Cantrell, however, gave one of the worst answers of the night: When asked if she thought Tom Brady's football scandal made him a cheater, she responded, "If there was any question to be had I think that he definitely cheated, and that he should've been suspended for that." Her answer seemed less informed and more unsure than the other candidates' and it could be said she had somewhat of an advantage in having her question repeated for her.

So why did Cantrell win? She has the beauty and the charisma crucial to a Miss America. Even her name is reminiscent of a "Mad Men" era

beauty queen. However, what really made Cantrell likeable was her flaws. When she couldn't hear her on-stage question, she recovered gracefully. When she stumbled while modeling eveningwear, she continued on with a smile, and she claimed she lost an earring twice during the competition. Who doesn't want a relatable Miss America?

Though the pageant's viewership has declined in recent years, the Miss Americas have been role models to many young girls and public figures. They garner media attention and have some influence within society.

The only thing missing from the Miss America 2016 festivities was a more focused effort to include each contestant's community service platform and an emphasis on the scholastic opportunities intrinsic to their program. For an organization which touts service as one of its four main values, not much emphasis was placed on it for the live competition. Miss America has an opportunity to spread awareness about several great organizations to millions but instead missed the opportunity.

This year's competition was entertaining, fun to watch and, in many ways, a step in the right direction for the organization. However, improvements still need to be made in order to give viewers a more well-rounded look into what Miss America stands for behind the scenes rather than just emphasize outer beauty.



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